

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 1979

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

ESSENTIAL SERVICES BILL

Assent reported by Mr. Speaker.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

RESIGNATION OF MR. T. G. NEWBERY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that a vacancy exists on the Standing Orders Committee consequent upon the resignation of Mr. Thomas Guy Newbery from that committee.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. C. A. WHARTON

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

“That Mr. Claude Alfred Wharton, member for the electoral district of Burnett, be appointed a member of the Standing Orders Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Newbery.”

Motion agreed to.

FEES PAID BY CROWN TO PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 28 August last, on the motion of Mr. Austin, showing all payments made by the Government to public relations agencies or consultants and advertising agencies or consultants during the 1978-79 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received separately.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under The Sugar Acquisition Act of 1915.

Orders in Council under—

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1979 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979.

The Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.

Meat Industry Act 1965-1977.

Milk Supply Act 1977-1978.

Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923-1978.

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1979.

Wheat Pool Act 1920-1978.

Water Act 1926-1979.

Harbours Act 1955-1979.

Regulations under—

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966-1978.

Agricultural Standards Act 1952-1972.

Fruit and Vegetables Act 1947-1972.

Meat Industry Act 1965-1977.

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1979.

Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1976.

Health Act 1937-1978.

Cremation Act 1913-1978.

Radioactive Substances Act 1958-1970.

Queensland Marine Act 1958-1975.

By-laws under Meat Industry Act 1965-1977.

Report of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations for 1978-79.

Certified copy of the Financial Statements of the Metropolitan Transit Authority for 1978-79.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

ALFRED GRANT GROUP OF COMPANIES

Hon. W. D. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.7 a.m.): I wish to inform this House of certain aspects of a major issue which has been discussed here on a number of occasions. I refer to the operations of and events surrounding the Alfred Grant group of companies.

Some years ago, the Alfred Grant group of companies was engaged in the development and sale of land situated in Queensland. Much of this land was contained in real estate developments in the Sunshine Coast region. Bundilla Lakes was a major area involved in these developments. A considerable number of contracts for the sale of this land were entered into by purchasers situated outside Queensland.

The Alfred Grant group of companies had apparently entered into an agency relationship with a company known as Capricornia Finance and Marketing Corporation Limited, which was incorporated in the Channel Isles. Many sales in the United Kingdom were made by a company known as Australian Land Sales Limited.

As the House would be aware, the activities of companies operating outside the State of Queensland are not subject to Queensland's legislative control. In a typical case, a sale would be conducted by Australian Land Sales Limited in the United Kingdom. The funds arising from that sale would then be transmitted to Capricornia Finance and Marketing Corporation Limited in the Channel Isles and there, in accordance with the agency agreement between the Alfred Grant group of companies and Capricornia Finance

and Marketing Corporation Limited, a sum of 45 per cent of all proceeds of such sales would be deducted by way of commission. If the sale was a terms sale, a further sum of 5 per cent would be deducted to cover handling fees.

It was then envisaged that the balance of the proceeds of the sales would be transmitted to Australia, where they would be held in trust accounts operated by the Alfred Grant group of companies until such time as the Alfred Grant group was in a position to give clear title to the purchasers of such blocks of land.

On 24 March 1976, Messrs. W. G. Jameson, K. H. White and P. D. R. Isherwood, members of the accounting firm of Messrs. Coopers and Lybrand, were appointed joint and several receivers of the Alfred Grant group of companies by the group's major creditor, Partnership Pacific Limited.

On 12 July 1976, Messrs. J. G. A. Tucker and R. H. Peldan, members of the accounting firm of Messrs. Hungerfords were appointed liquidators of Alfred Grant Pastoral Properties Pty. Ltd., a major member of the Alfred Grant group of companies. Since then, the receivers and liquidators have been attempting to reconcile the affairs of the Alfred Grant group of companies. However, major problems have been experienced by the receivers and liquidators in attempting to achieve a reconciliation.

Amongst major contributing factors to the difficulties experienced by the receivers and liquidators was the fact that there appear to be substantial discrepancies between the accounting records maintained by the Alfred Grant group of companies in Queensland and records maintained by that group's agents, Capricornia Finance and Marketing Corporation Limited. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange rates between the United Kingdom and Australia affected the value of sums of money transmitted to Queensland from the United Kingdom.

The receivers and liquidators are now in the position that they hold approximately \$500,000 in trust in Queensland on behalf of persons who have purchased land from the Alfred Grant group of companies.

Insufficient funds are now available to develop the proposed subdivisions to the position where an individual certificate of title would be able to be granted to purchasers. In these circumstances, the receivers and liquidators now find themselves in a position where there is no course of action readily available to them.

The receivers and liquidators have received extensive legal advice from senior counsel, but no appropriate course of action is available to them. This legal advice has been examined by the Solicitor-General who has advised that there is no course of action readily available to the receivers and liquidators to distribute the trust funds currently held in Queensland on behalf of purchasers from the Alfred Grant group of companies.

In order to resolve the dilemma and in order to provide a mechanism whereby purchasers from the Alfred Grant group of companies may receive at least a partial refund of sums paid by them outside Queensland, and currently held in Queensland on trust, for the purchase of land from the Alfred Grant group of companies, Cabinet has agreed, on my recommendation, to introduce specific legislation.

The purpose of this legislation will be to establish a scheme whereby persons claiming to be entitled to receive a refund of trust monies currently held in Queensland on behalf of the Alfred Grant group of companies can make application to the receivers and liquidators, furnishing at the same time appropriate supporting evidence.

It is envisaged that advertisements seeking claim to such funds will be lodged in appropriate overseas newspapers. In addition, the receivers and liquidators will write to persons who potentially have a claim against these trust funds at the last addresses known to the receivers and liquidators.

Once all such claims are received, it is envisaged that the receivers and liquidators based upon the best information available to them, will make a distribution of the trust funds. The receivers and liquidators will be required to certify that each distribution made by them is based on the best information available to them in Australia.

It is envisaged that where specific amounts are able to be identified in relation to specific purchasers, a full refund of trust monies will be possible. However, in those cases where specific amounts of trust funds cannot be attributed to specific purchasers, it is envisaged that the receivers and liquidators will make a rateable distribution.

Provided that the receivers and liquidators, in good faith, make the distribution of trust funds in accordance with the provisions of this scheme, the legislation will envisage that they, their employees and agents will be given a personal indemnity by the Queensland Government to the extent of Queensland's legislative power. This will ensure that the receivers and liquidators, their employees and agents, in their personal capacity only, will not be subject to any civil or criminal liability arising out of the distribution of the trust funds held in Queensland in accordance with the provisions of the scheme.

The legislation will further envisage that if further trust funds are subsequently received by the receivers and liquidators from overseas sources, these funds will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the scheme and a similar personal indemnity, to the extent of Queensland's legislative power, will be given to the receivers and liquidators, their employees and agents.

This course of action has been adopted in order to resolve a problem which current legislation does not provide for. It is not envisaged that similar problems will occur in the future.

I hope to introduce the appropriate legislation before the House rises for the Christmas recess.

OUTBREAK OF SUSPECTED VESICULAR DISEASE OF PIGS IN TASMANIA

Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (11.15 a.m.): Honourable members will be aware from Press reports of the outbreak near Launceston, Tasmania, of a vesicular disease in pigs, to some degree similar to foot and mouth disease. Fortunately, the latest advice from the World Reference Laboratory at Pirbright, England, tends to confirm the view that the disease is almost certainly not foot and mouth disease. This opinion was reached by the Consultative Committee of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, which comprises the chief veterinary officers of the States and the Commonwealth, which met in Launceston immediately Tasmania suspected a vesicular disease.

I have no need to remind members of the disastrous consequences for Australian rural industries of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease anywhere in Australia. There is no guarantee that such an outbreak in Tasmania would not lead to prohibitions on meat exports from the mainland to our major trading partners. The economic effects could be far more serious than the economic slump in the beef industry during the 1974-78 period.

The importance of other vesicular diseases, such as swine vesicular disease, vesicular stomatitis and vesicular exanthema lies in their marked similarity to foot and mouth disease, particularly in pigs. The lesions, in fact, are quite indistinguishable on visual appearance and require detailed laboratory testing before a definite diagnosis can be made. It is, therefore, essential that steps be taken by veterinary authorities to contain and eradicate any of these vesicular diseases. Detailed plans agreed to by all States have existed for many years to deal with such incidents. The Commonwealth and States have uniform compensation legislation and have reached agreement on the sharing of operational and compensation costs.

The specimens sent from the Launceston outbreak to Pirbright have undergone preliminary examination. Further material held as a precautionary measure has now been sent to Pirbright and final confirmation of the diagnosis should be available by early next week. One possibility is swine vesicular disease. This has been reported from Italy, Hong Kong, Japan, the United Kingdom and several European countries including Greece, the latter in recent months. The latest reported outbreak in Greece was in a swill-fed piggery on 22 August 1979. It affects pigs only and has in most instances been associated with the swill feeding of uncooked infected pork. The virus is very resistant in the environment and disinfection

procedures have to be very thorough to prevent recurrence when affected piggeries are restocked.

Honourable members may be aware that pigs on the affected premises in Tasmania were being fed swill, allegedly only bakery waste and green-leaf vegetables. One of the owners—Greek migrant brothers—was successfully prosecuted under the Quarantine Act in February 1978 for attempted illegal introduction of prohibited goods, that is, a meat product. The farm is said to be a meeting place for picnics and other gatherings of the local Greek community. Honourable members may therefore imagine the risk that animal matter might find its way to the pigs, many of which were running out in paddocks.

This brings me to the difficult and controversial question of swill feeding. It was, in fact, the risk of an incident such as the Tasmanian outbreak which prompted the introduction of legislation in all States restricting the feeding of swill. At that time, my veterinary advisers were concerned at the spread of swine vesicular disease and the increasing world prevalence of the dreaded African swine fever. The serious outbreaks of the latter in Central and South America were closely associated with the feeding of swill. In fact, there was good evidence that the original Brazil outbreak was due to the feeding to local pigs of food scraps from an international aircraft.

While the legislation prohibiting the feeding of untreated animal matter is an essential step towards limiting the introduction and spread of foot and mouth and other exotic diseases, it is not the complete answer. My critics at the time this legislation was mooted thought we should allow boiling of swill. Let me remind members that the United Kingdom, which allows the feeding of boiled swill, reported 20 outbreaks of swine vesicular disease in February 1979, involving the slaughter of 23,000 pigs. Most of the outbreaks were in swill-fed piggeries. I, and I understand my colleagues in other States, are under renewed pressure from our livestock industries to firm up our control over the feeding of swill. My officers, within recent months, have been instructed to give higher priority to policing the existing regulations. This outbreak illustrates the need for constant vigilance by our veterinary staffs.

I consider that the prompt action by the Tasmanian authorities is to be highly commended. The detection, during recent saturation searches by Customs officers of large quantities of goods, including meat products prohibited under the Quarantine Act among arriving passengers' luggage, is an ever-present problem. Quarantine is doing as efficient a job as is practicable in preventing the entry of dangerous animal products, but it must be supported by all the measures within Australia required to prevent incidents such as the one in Tasmania last week.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF METROPOLITAN
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Transport) (11.20 a.m.): I wish to advise honourable members that the Government has accepted the development plan for public transport improvements during the five-year period 1979-84, prepared by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. I formally table a copy of the plan.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the document on the table.

Honourable members will be aware that the Government has pressed forward assiduously in this field since coming to office. The Government attaches great importance to public transport, especially the needs of those people dependent upon public transport—the young, the old, the incapacitated, etc.—and has pressed forward with plans for public transport improvements.

This was demonstrated by the commissioning of various studies, notably the 1970 South-East Queensland and Brisbane Regional Public Transportation Study by the internationally well-known consultant firm of Wilbur Smith & Associates. The results of this study have been acted upon by the Government in the introduction of a programme of urban public transport improvements and the establishment of the Metropolitan Transit Authority to co-ordinate and supervise the programme. The tangible evidence of that programme is already before honourable members in many respects—

The completed cross-river Merivale Railway Bridge, which has at last connected the two sectors of the Brisbane railway system into a single entity, permitting use of stainless steel trains to southside destinations and opening the way for electric services in time for the Commonwealth Games.

Commencement next month of the first electric service between Ferny Grove and Darra with the most modern rolling-stock.

Extension of electrification to Ipswich will be completed in 1980, and work connected with electrification of the Kingston to Shorncliffe section is well in hand for completion by 1982.

Improved or new car-parks and bus interchanges at 37 suburban stations within three years with many further improvements planned.

Financial support to the Brisbane City Council to purchase modern buses.

Members will also be aware that the Government is providing financial assistance to both the Brisbane City Council and private operators in order to ensure the maintenance of adequate services. With these achievements already apparent, the development plan of the Metropolitan Transit Authority is the blueprint for the improvements still to be made.

The Government has indicated financial support over the period 1979-84 to the extent

of some \$200,000,000 to ensure that the electrification of the suburban railways will be completed and the further improvements carried out. Foremost among the proposals of the development plan are:—

Co-ordination and integration of bus and rail services. The first major interchange between city council buses and trains is being planned for Enoggera on the Ferny Grove line. Bus/bus interchanges are also being planned initially at Chermiside and Toombul.

Integrated fares systems to enable passengers to transfer between buses, trains and ferries.

Investigation of potentially lower cost forms of public transport for areas of low population density.

Improvements to ferry-terminal facilities and possible extensions of ferry services.

Improvements such as priority buslanes and two-way radio to assist in the operation of bus services.

Review of bus route networks and improvements to services where justified.

The plan recognises that maintenance of an efficient public transport network in Brisbane and the surrounding areas has been given increased importance because of the liquid fuel situation. The proposals of the plan such as electrification of the railways and rationalisation of bus services will make significant contributions in this regard.

I am sure that the honourable members on both sides of the House will applaud this further positive action on the part of the Government to ensure that Brisbane and surrounding areas will enjoy the benefits of a well organised, modern, safe, efficient system of public transport. I will ensure that copies of the plan are made available to all members of the House to keep them abreast of the Government's plans for the future.

PETITIONS

REZONING OF YEERONGPILLY LAND

Hon. N. E. LEE (Yeronga—Minister for Industry and Administrative Services) presented a petition from 899 electors of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will ensure that the application for rezoning of land at the corner of Wattle Avenue, Park Road and Gow Street, Yeerongpilly, be not approved, in accordance with Cabinet Decision No. 19434 of 8 October 1973.

Petition read and received.

PROPOSED ABORTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. BOURKE (Lockyer) presented a petition from 443 residents of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will provide that full documentation for every abortion performed concerning the patient's state at the time and all the circumstances

of the case (as in clause 282 of the Queensland Criminal Code) be included in any proposed legislation, that an Abortion Review Committee be established to examine, analyse and assess the medical documentation of every case of abortion performed in this State, that the Parliament of Queensland will demand adequate documentation to establish the reasonable nature of every abortion operation and that a committee be set up to monitor such documentation.

Petition read and received.

[A similar petition was presented by Dr. Lockwood (439 signatories), and that petition was read and received.]

CLOSURE OF CURLEW STREET, SANDGATE

Mr. **WARBURTON** (Sandgate) presented a petition from 63 electors of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take action to prevent the permanent closure of that section of Curlew Street between the Shorncliffe railway line and Cabbage Tree Creek.

Petition read and received.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS TRANSPORTED BY QUEENSLAND RAILWAYS AND ROAD TRANSPORT

Mr. **BURNS** (Lytton) presented a petition from 537 electors of Queensland, praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take the necessary steps to amend the relevant legislation to ensure that animals transported by Queensland Railways and by road transport are not forced to suffer intolerable pain and suffering due to neglect, lack of water and lack of concern.

Petition read and received.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. **BURNS** (Lytton) (11.26 a.m.), by leave: Last Thursday, 25 October 1979, during question-time the Liberal Leader, Dr. Edwards, made a number of personal attacks on me when questioned about the I.X.L. take-over of Provincial Traders Pty. Ltd.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Leader said—

“I did not hear any comment by the Labor Party at any time during the I.X.L. threat to Provincial Traders.”

I interjected and took a point of order to draw his attention to my close involvement in the matter, but, as is his wont of late, he launched into a personal attack on me and then again said—

“I recall that comments of the former Leader of the Opposition about Provincial Traders were made about three years ago and were not made during the recent take-over by I.X.L. in association with the Commercial Bank.”

Mr. Speaker, the facts are that on 27 June this year, I met with workers at Provincial Traders Pty. Ltd. to discuss newspaper

reports of I.X.L.'s take-over plans for the local Murarrie-based firm. As a result of that meeting I sent telegrams that day to Henry Jones I.X.L. Pty. Ltd., the Prime Minister (Malcolm Fraser), the Minister for Employment (Mr. Viner), the Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) and the Deputy Premier and Liberal Leader (Dr. Edwards). The Prime Minister replied on 2 and 25 July; Mr. Viner on 23 July; I.X.L. on 28 June; Mr. Bjelke-Petersen wrote through Keith Spann on 4 September 1979; I replied on 7 September 1979 and he wrote again on 8 October 1979, approximately 20 days ago.

Dr. Edwards, who on two occasions last Thursday deliberately stated that Labor and I had done nothing about the Henry Jones I.X.L. take-over of Provincial Traders Pty. Ltd., was forwarded the following telegram four months ago—on 27 June—

“Following your statement I advise that a meeting of workers representatives this morning sent the following telegrams to the Premier of Queensland, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, and Hon. I. Viner—‘Southern Takeover of Queensland Industries in the past have resulted in massive unemployment with production transferred to Southern Operations stop Over 1,000 workers at Provincial Traders Pty. Ltd., Brisbane seek your urgent assistance to stop pending takeover by Henry Jones I.X.L. or to obtain guarantees from I.X.L. of job security for Queensland Workers.’ Tom Burns, M.L.A. Member for Lytton.”

The Deputy Premier's only reply was as follows—

“I acknowledge receipt of your telegram and enclose a copy of my Press Release made yesterday which indicates my position on this matter.”

Mr. Speaker, in the light of that letter of reply I accuse Dr. Edwards of deliberately misleading this House and more importantly of doing nothing to protect Provincial Traders Pty. Ltd. workers.

Dr. EDWARDS: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Lytton said I deliberately misled the House. I have not misled the House. I said that the former Leader of the Opposition did not make any public statement at that time, and my statement still stands.

BAIL BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. D. LICKISS (Mt. Cootha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to bail in or in connection with criminal proceedings and for incidental and other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

CROWN PROCEEDINGS BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. D. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to proceedings by or against the Crown and the recovery of certain debts due to the Crown and for related purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. QUEENSLAND HALL OF SPORTING FAME

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

With reference to reports on 25 October from Canberra of moves to establish a National Sporting Hall of Fame as part of the proposed National History Museum and in view of the very proud record of sporting achievement of Queenslanders, both nationally and internationally, will he consider recommending the establishment of a Queensland Hall of Sporting Fame, possibly as part of the Cultural Centre now being constructed on the south side of Brisbane?

Answer:—

I am aware of the proposal to establish a National Sporting Hall of Fame in the national capital, and I support this concept. I am not in favour of a proliferation of sporting halls of fame in the various States of the Commonwealth.

2. APPOINTMENTS UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

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

With reference to the recent appointments of two interstate applicants to the positions of Deputy Shire Clerk of the Gold Coast City Council and Shire Clerk of the Logan Shire—

(1) Were the applicants, of whom 16 of the 26 were from interstate, and/or appointees to the vacancies, the actual holders of certificates as Clerks, in accordance with the Queensland Local Government Act 1936-1978?

(2) If the appointees, at the time of appointment, were not the actual holders of such a Queensland certificate, under whose authority, which evidently must be beyond the Local Government Act, was permission given for applicants to be even considered, let alone appointed, without the

actual possession of such prescribed certificate under the Queensland Local Government Act?

(3) Were the applicants informed that the Queensland Local Government Act or relative regulations thereunder were to be amended and therefore, if appointed, such amendments would provide for the issue to them of a Queensland Local Government Clerk's certificate without examination?

(4) In an important matter such as this, which has a critical effect on the lives and livelihood of people who are qualified professional leaders in our Queensland local government industry, why wasn't Parliament informed of such changes, which surely must now be seen as having a detrimental effect on legitimate career-oriented people in Queensland local government?

Answers:—

(1) I am not aware of the names of all the applicants for the positions mentioned by the honourable member but am informed that some of them were the holders of current certificates of competency as Local Government Clerk in this State. The making of staff appointments in a local authority office is, of course, a matter for the local authority concerned.

(2) I am advised that the appointment made by the Logan Shire Council was in the capacity of Acting Shire Clerk, the appointee being the holder of a certificate of competency as Local Government Clerk in New South Wales. The appointment made by the Gold Coast City Council was in the capacity of Deputy Town Clerk.

At the present time, consideration is being given to the question of reciprocity between the States of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria in the matter of Local Government Clerks' certificates. I am informed that this is supported by the Institute of Municipal Administration, which is composed principally of practising local government Clerks.

I understand that the acting appointment made by the Logan Shire Council was on the basis that a full appointment would not be made until the appointee was the holder of a Queensland certificate.

Under the Local Government Act, there is no requirement for a person appointed to the office of Deputy Clerk of a local authority to hold a certificate of competency as Local Government Clerk.

(3 & 4) To become effective, the reciprocity of Local Government Clerks' qualifications between the States of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria will necessitate amendments of regulations made under the Local Government Act in each State. As I mentioned previously, this matter is presently receiving consideration.

3. RAILWAY HOUSING, CLONCURRY

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

What plans has the Railway Department to help alleviate the overcrowded and inadequate housing situation for railway employees at Cloncurry?

Answer:—

During the past three financial years, a total of 22 additional houses has been provided at Cloncurry, increasing to 53 the total number of houses available. Accommodation is otherwise available for 19 employees. During the current financial year, it is proposed to provide a further three houses and acquire land for five residences.

4. HEN LEVY

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

(1) Since July, what has been the delay in refunding the Commonwealth hen levy to Mt. Isa egg producers?

(2) How can the Egg Marketing Board account for the difference between the \$17,623,902 for the sale of eggs and pulp and equalisation charges in 1978-79 and the \$18,099,462 paid to the Egg Marketing Board members for their eggs, pulp and other purchases?

(3) To what use was the amount of \$1,433,240 forwarded to the Egg Marketing Board as Commonwealth Poultry Industry Trust Fund subsidy on export losses put, and how were these moneys distributed?

Answers:—

(1) The payment referred to does not represent a refund of Commonwealth hen levy. I am informed that the payment in fact arises from a private arrangement between the Queensland Egg Board's Co-ordinating Committee and the Mt. Isa producers and is in the nature of a financial assistance to these producers. The timing of such payments is a matter for arrangement between the parties involved.

(2) I would refer the honourable member to page 60 of the Auditor-General's Report upon Departmental Accounts and other Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1979, where the audited accounts of the Egg Marketing Board are set out in some detail. The partial data supplied by the honourable member refers only to certain aspects of income and expenditure, hence a comparison in accounting terms has no relevance. A fuller appreciation may be gained from studying the Auditor-General's report.

(3) As has always been the practice, the money referred to was used to meet the losses on production diverted to the export market. The method of distribution enables egg producers throughout the State to receive equitable returns from their produce.

The money forms a component of proceeds for distribution to producers in respect of surplus eggs and egg products exported. Growers not involved in export receive an equivalent benefit through this price support mechanism.

5. BURLEIGH HEADS POLICE STATION AND RESERVE

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

With reference to my question on 17 October regarding the police reserve at Burleigh Heads—

(1) What is the name of the person, persons or company that has submitted a proposal that portion of the police reserve at Burleigh Heads be released for the purpose of constructing a multi-level car-park?

(2) Is it normal Government practice to consider such proposals whereby Crown property, such as the police reserve at Burleigh Heads, is bartered or, in this case, exchanged for the construction of a new police station?

Answers:—

(1) The proposal originated in 1976 with a request from the Town Clerk, Gold Coast City Council, to the former Commissioner of Police. Since that time, discussions have been held with representatives of the Gold Coast City Council and the Burleigh Heads Chamber of Commerce, but a fully detailed proposal has yet to be submitted. As previously indicated, the proposal is only tentative at this stage.

(2) It is the policy of the Government to consider any legitimate proposal that could be of benefit to the citizens of this State.

6. PRICeways PTY. LTD.

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

(1) Following representations from the member for Mt. Isa, did he approach Mount Isa Mines Ltd. in relation to an arrangement between Mount Isa Mines Ltd. and a company called Priceways Pty. Ltd. which retails petrol to Mt. Isa motorists substantially cheaper than other petrol retailers in Mt. Isa?

(2) Is it true that as a result of his approach to Mount Isa Mines Ltd. Priceways Pty. Ltd., which has been situated on the Mount Isa Mines mining lease for approximately eight years, have now been forced to move their retail petrol business off the Mount Isa Mines lease?

(3) Is it his normal practice to interfere with free enterprise business in this way, using his position as Minister for Mines, Energy and Police, in this instance to put pressure on Mount Isa Mines Ltd.?

Answers:—

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

(3) No. The honourable member should be aware of the record of my Government in the encouragement of free enterprise over the last 22 years, particularly in the mining industry, which has put the State in its present sound financial position.

7. CENTRAL QUEENSLAND GEMFIELDS

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

With reference to his answer to a question asked by the member for Peak Downs on 17 October—

(1) Will he confirm that under the new provisions of the Mining Act tourists and visitors to the Central Queensland gemfields who hold only a miner's right cannot set up a residence or camp on Crown land anywhere on the gemfields unless they first apply for and obtain a mining claim?

(2) Do all tourists and visitors to the gemfields who hold only a miner's right have to live in the caravan parks, hotel/motel or other such accommodation?

(3) When the recent amendments to the Mining Act were being considered, did he or any member of the Mines Department discuss proposed amendments with representatives of the Small Miner's Association on the gemfields?

(4) Has he been approached to set aside designated areas where tourists and visitors to the gemfields could hand-mine and fossick without trespassing on the mining claims or leases of permanent residents in the area and, if so, why is he not prepared to set aside such designated areas?

(5) What was the Mines Department estimate of the value of gems produced from the Central Queensland gemfields in 1978?

(6) What was the actual recorded value of gems produced from the Central Queensland gemfields in 1978?

(7) What income did the Government receive in 1978-79 by way of royalty, etc., from gem-mining in Central Queensland?

(8) Because of machine-mining, is there over-production on the gemfields and have Thai buyers been buying at reduced prices and stockpiling rough sapphires to the extent that they are reputed to have about seven years' supply?

(9) Have Thai buyers a virtual monopoly on the industry and are they weakening the gem-mining industry by bringing large quantities of low-grade cut sapphires

into Australia and selling them at extremely low prices, to the detriment of the Australian market?

(10) What control, if any, does the Government have over the sales and export of gemstones mined on the Central Queensland gemfields?

(11) Under what conditions are Thai buyers allowed to enter and leave Queensland?

(12) As he stated that when I travel to other parts of Queensland I create industrial unrest, what other parts of Queensland was he referring to, and what industrial unrest was he referring to?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) No. Areas of land have been set apart as camping reserves in the towns of Sapphire and Willows.

(3) No. The recent amendments to the Mining Act were designed to apply State-wide and not to be confined to sectional interests in particular areas.

(4) Yes. The decision not to set aside such areas was influenced to some degree by strong opposition by various associations on the Central Queensland gemfields and lapidary clubs throughout Australia to such a proposal.

(5) \$20,000,000.

(6) Actual production figures are not recorded.

(7) For the 1978-79 financial year, royalty paid was \$23,230. Mining lease rents paid for the year ended 31 December 1978 totalled approximately \$6,000.

(8) A machine miner may hold only two leases of 2 ha each at any one time for actual mining, and any over-production is a matter for the miners themselves in terms of current demands for gemstones. I am not aware of prices paid by Thai buyers, nor of stocks held by them.

(9) The quality of sapphires bought and sold, and the prices paid for them, reflect the market situation. Control of imports is a matter for the Commonwealth Government.

(10) The Queensland Government has no control over the sales of sapphires to buyers. Control of exports is similarly a matter for the Commonwealth Government.

(11) Movements of foreign nationals to and from Australia are again matters for the Commonwealth Government.

(12) Let me remind the honourable member that the purpose of question-time is to seek information that he cannot provide himself. Accordingly, the honourable member should be able to tell this House himself about the industrial unrest he causes.

8. RENTS ON LEASEHOLD LAND

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

Following the sudden but belated upturn in the pastoral industry, will he give an assurance that there will not be an immediate move by his department to increase the rents on leasehold land until the long term stability of both the wool and beef industries is assured?

Answer:—

The position of the pastoral industry, particularly the cattle industry, has been kept under close review since the improvement in the market, but the honourable member may be assured that no move will be made to have the increase reflected in rents and values of leasehold land without further exhaustive examination. I will continue to keep a watch on the situation.

9. DOCUMENTATION OF BIRTH ABNORMALITIES

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

(1) What are the requirements for documentation of birth abnormalities in Queensland?

(2) If a child is born with birth abnormalities but lives for 28 days, are details of the abnormalities documented?

(3) Will he request his departmental officers to design a more effective system of notification and surveillance of birth defects, in order to facilitate the identification of causes of such defects if at all possible?

Answers:—

(1) Birth abnormality is not a notifiable condition in Queensland.

(2) There is no requirement for birth abnormalities to be documented, but a death certificate has to be completed.

(3) I am advised that my colleague the Commonwealth Minister for Health has recently announced the establishment of a National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the University of Sydney. My department will be co-operating with that unit and will receive information once the unit has become established.

10. DISEASE IN SWINE HERDS, NORTHERN TASMANIA

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

Has the precise nature of the disease in swine herds that caused considerable concern in Northern Tasmania during the week commencing 21 October been determined and, if so, what is the disease and from where has it been introduced or originated?

Answer:—

I thank the honourable member for this question and ask her to accept that it was answered in detail in the ministerial statement that I made earlier today.

11. RAIL TRANSPORT OF HORSES

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

(1) Does the Railway Department require the booking of rail wagons for the transport of horses to be made in writing?

(2) If so, will he direct the Railway Department to accept advice by telegram, as many country stock owners find it impossible to deliver or post a letter to any station-master during the wet season?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) An order received by telegram or telephone is accepted, but such an order must be confirmed in writing.

12. FITTING OF MAG WHEELS TO MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) Do some insurance companies reject damage claims because certain types of wheels have been fitted to vehicles involved in accidents?

(2) Are certain wheels of the mag type considered dangerous or illegal and, if so, why are these wheels advertised and readily available from retailers?

(3) If they are neither illegal nor dangerous, why are insurance companies discriminating against persons who have fitted these wheels to their vehicles?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The main thrust of the honourable member's question relates to insurance companies and consequently I suggest that he put this question upon notice to my colleague the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. At the same time, I will supply to my colleague such information as is available within my department to permit a comprehensive answer to be made to the honourable member.

Mr. Hansen: I do so accordingly.

13. LEASE CONDITIONS, CARAVAN PARK, BRIBIE ISLAND

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

(1) With reference to the successful tender by G. C. and M. D. Hannant for a ten-hectare camping and caravan park north of Happy Valley, Fraser Island, when was the title issued for the lease?

(2) Do special conditions apply to the lease?

(3) Do these conditions include any requirement to complete the development within a specified period and, if so, when is the deadline?

Answers:—

(1) No instrument of lease has yet issued in favour of G. C. and N. D. Hannant.

(2 & 3) An offer of a special lease to Mr. and Mrs. Hannant was made by my Land Administration Commission on 13 September 1979, and the special conditions which will apply to the proposed special lease are as follows:—

“1. The lessee shall, within two years from the commencement of the term of the lease and to the satisfaction of the Minister, effect improvements on the leased land in the nature of tourist (cabin and camping) accommodation and ancillary facilities of a value of not less than \$250,000.

“The concept of the camping ground and access thereto shall be generally in accordance with the lessees’ lease application registered in the Department of Lands on 13 November 1978.

“2. All development on the leased land shall be in accordance with the interim development by-law, all other by-laws and general requirements of the Hervey Bay Town Council. All plans of the proposed development shall be required to be lodged for the approval of the said council.

“3. The lessee must comply with any requirements of the Conservator of Forests in relation to the protection of the adjoining State forest.

“4. (i) The lessee must obtain the approval and comply with any requirements of the Beach Protection Authority for any works proposed to be effected within the adjoining beach erosion control district.

(ii) Vehicular and pedestrian access tracks or roads to the beach must comply with the requirements of the Beach Protection Authority.

(iii) The lessee must ensure that the development of the leased land does not result in:—

(a) Increasing rates of surface flow of water across the dunal area in the beach erosion control district and causing rilling or gullying;

(b) Increasing the ground water levels in the dunal system in the erosion control district and thereby inducing increased rates of shoreline recession adjacent to the proposed lease.

“5. No dedicated access to the leased land will be provided by the Crown.

“6. An application for conversion of tenure in terms of section 207 of the Land Act will not be approved.”

14. REGISTRATION OF VESSELS AND ISSUE OF FISHING LICENCES, MARYBOROUGH DISTRICT

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

(1) How many vessels have been registered in the Maryborough district as (a) commercial fishing craft, (b) pleasure craft and (c) hire craft during each of the past three years?

(2) How many fishing licences have been issued in the Maryborough district over each of the past three years?

(3) What was the total revenue collected in each instance from these sources in each of the past three years?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Commercial fishing vessel licences are not recorded on a district basis. The number of pleasure craft and hire craft registered in the Maryborough district for the last three financial years and the revenue derived therefrom are as follows:—

	Pleasure Craft
1976-77 ..	3,297—Revenue \$47,084
1977-78 ..	3,573—Revenue \$51,452
1978-79 ..	3,753—Revenue \$62,676
	Hire Craft
1976-77	69—Revenue \$2,413
1977-78	66—Revenue \$2,202
1978-79	52—Revenue \$1,321

15 & 16. RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF SHEFFIELD SHIELD MATCHES

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

(1) Is he aware that the Australian Broadcasting Commission will broadcast only highlights of the first two Sheffield Shield cricket matches to be played in Brisbane this season?

(2) Will he ascertain if this restriction applies only to the city?

(3) Will country people get full coverage of these games?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am informed that for the two Sheffield Shield matches in question the Australian Broadcasting Commission did, and will, provide periods of live cricket descriptions for both city and country listeners. Here, I might say, I am sure they all would have enjoyed the coverage of Queensland’s great win in the match against Victoria concluded yesterday.

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

(1) Is he aware that some areas of Queensland are serviced only by A.B.C. television?

(2) Will he take action to ensure that these areas receive full cricket coverage, as the commercial Packer organisation has obtained the cricket broadcast rights this year at the expense of the A.B.C.?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) State Governments have no constitutional involvement with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and its policies, the Commission being a Commonwealth statutory authority. However, appreciating as I do the honourable member's concern that country residents interested in cricket should not be disadvantaged by geography, I have inquired into the matter and am informed the circumstances are as follows:—

The Australian Broadcasting Commission does not have the rights to telecast cricket this season, these having been sold by the Australian Cricket Board of Control to a commercial television network. I understand that the commission has appealed to the Trade Practices Tribunal against that decision. The whole question is purely one of a business arrangement between the Australian Cricket Board of Control and the television network. However, I can also inform the honourable member that I have received a number of approaches from cricket followers complaining about the lack of live television cover of the Queensland-Victoria Sheffield Shield match which ended yesterday.

In the eyes of many cricket followers, the failure to provide such coverage appears to be outside the spirit of the agreement on exclusive television rights negotiated by the Channel 9 network. In this case it does seem the granting of exclusive television rights has, in fact, denied thousands of Queensland sports followers the opportunity of seeing live coverage of sessions of play in the first Sheffield match of the season.

With the honourable member, I share the concern of cricket-lovers throughout Queensland who are worried that the new agreement will, in practice, reduce the level of live Sheffield Shield coverage they previously enjoyed. I feel that in any future agreement on exclusive television coverage of matches under its control, the Australian Cricket Board of Control should ensure that such agreement provides for live coverage of at least a portion of all Sheffield Shield matches, not just those selected by the successful television network.

In view of widespread reaction from the sporting public, I hope that the Channel 9 network in Queensland might

reconsider its stand and provide some live coverage when Queensland takes the field for its important clash with Western Australia commencing on Friday.

17. STREET SAFETY FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

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

(1) Is he aware that in the United States of America flashing amber lights, plus traffic signs ordering traffic to slow down to 15 miles per hour, are activated by school authorities at peak school traffic periods to assist children crossing busy streets adjacent to schools?

(2) Is he aware that groups of children are so organised that they can cross these streets, aided by each group's carrying a large colourful stop sign?

(3) As many country areas, in particular, have little help for children in such difficulties, notably at several large schools which have not even zebra crossings in front of them, can this whole question of school street safety for children going to and leaving school be the subject of an inquiry, with specific recommendations to be acted upon by the Transport Department, as this department's contribution to the International Year of the Child activities?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) The establishment of pedestrian crossings at schools, particularly those that are patrolled by school patrols during the hours that children use the crossings on their way to and from school, involves a number of departments and local authorities. The practice of using school patrols at crossings is one of long standing in Queensland and is provided for in the Traffic Regulations, 1962. Because of the problems with the current policy relating to school crossings in Queensland a committee was established in March 1978 comprising representation from the Departments of Main Roads, Police and Education, as well as the Brisbane City Council, Local Government Association and Queensland Road Safety Council. The committee has now completed a comprehensive review of the existing situation and identified changes that are desirable. Practical implementation of the committee's recommendations is being examined.

18. RESTRICTION ON SALE OF SUGAR-CANE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS

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

As there appears to be some confusion arising from his answer to a question during the week commencing 21 October regarding prohibition of the movement of sugar-cane to certain drought areas for fodder

purposes, will he release a statement for the benefit of the public explaining cane quarantine districts and the relevant district sources of official advice on this matter, as the situation could vary between various sugar-cane quarantine and drought areas?

Answer:—

The State is divided into 10 sugar-cane quarantine districts, and these are listed on page 48 in the schedule to the Sugar Experiment Stations Act. The boundaries of the districts run east-west through certain cities or features. The boundaries of the Bundaberg/Childers district, for example, run east-west through Rockhampton in the north, and through Howard in the south.

It is an offence under section 23 of the Sugar Experiment Stations Act to move or attempt to move any sugar-cane across the boundary of a quarantine district. This applies to all sugar-cane, whether it is diseased or not. Permits to shift cane in quantity across a quarantine district boundary have rarely been issued.

Proclamation No. 47, issued under the Sugar Experiment Stations Act in 1969, deals with specific disease problems in the Bundaberg/Childers quarantine district. The movement of sugar-cane from a farm is prohibited, except for the purpose of milling, if Fiji disease or certain other diseases are present on that farm. Where these diseases are not present, cane may be moved from the farm anywhere within the quarantine district.

All sugar-cane farms in the Bundaberg area and most farms in the Childers area have some Fiji-diseased cane growing on them, and so are subject to this quarantine.

These quarantines are administered by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. Because of the severe Fiji disease outbreak in South Queensland, particularly in the Bundaberg/Childers district, there has been a long-standing policy against movement of cane north from Bundaberg cane farms. Fiji disease is spread by an insect, which is present in the Mackay area, although the virus causing the disease is not. The long distance between Bundaberg and Mackay district cane farms has been the major factor in keeping Fiji disease out of that area.

Permits which are required for any movements of sugar-cane will be considered for movements from diseased farms in the Bundaberg/Childers district, to drought areas to the west and south. Some cane has already been shifted. Cane from Mackay or Plane Creek areas can be used as far south as Rockhampton. Official advice should be sought through the regional extension officers at the Bundaberg Sugar Experiment Station for the southern district, and at the Mackay Sugar Experiment Station for the central district.

19. DESCRIPTION AND SALE OF PRE-PACKED MEAT

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

With reference to Press reports that earlier this year a leading retail store chain was fined \$1,100 in the Sydney Central Summons Court on charges of selling pre-packed chuck steak falsely described as rib grilling steak and selling pre-packed meat without indicating the full description of the contents—

(1) What consumer protection regulations apply to the description and sale of pre-packed meat in Queensland?

(2) What frequency of departmental inspection is maintained for public protection?

(3) How many prosecutions, if any, have resulted from departmental inspections, and what is the predominant feature of breachings of consumer protection?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The honourable member's question falls within the administrative responsibilities of the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries and the Honourable the Minister for Health, and I suggest that he should redirect it.

Mr. BLAKE: I understood that I did direct the question on notice to the Minister for Primary Industries. I think that there has been some clerical error in directing it to the Minister for Labour Relations. However, I shall do as the Minister requests, and redirect it.

20. RELEASE OF FRESHWATER FISH IN WATER STORAGE

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

(1) What progress has been made by Commonwealth and State research authorities into desirable freshwater fish species suitable for release in tropical and subtropical water storages?

(2) Has a decision been made to stock the Fred Haigh Dam and, if so, what species of freshwater fish will be used and when will the dam be stocked?

Answers:—

(1) The freshwater species of yellow-belly and silver perch are highly regarded for this purpose and stocks can generally be obtained from either Queensland or New South Wales sources. Research into the problems of breeding other species has been carried out by the Queensland Fisheries Service, and work is being initiated by the Department of Harbours and Marine on the establishment of hatchery and nursery facilities at Borumba Dam and at the Noosaville field station.

(2) No decision has yet been made regarding the stocking of the Fred Haigh Dam.

21. ERADICATION OF GROUNDSEL

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

As the control measures currently used for the eradication of groundsel bush in Queensland are expensive and slow, when is work on the biological control programme likely to be increased?

Answer:—

The tempo of investigations into biological control of groundsel bush was, in fact, increased some 12 months ago following the appointment of an entomologist in Brazil to undertake an approved three-year project of investigations in that country. Quarantine authorities have recently approved the importation of three species of insects selected for further testing.

On receipt of these, the Alan Fletcher Research Station will have 10 different insects for testing on groundsel bush control and expects to have still more as the Brazilian project continues. Bearing in mind that investigations into biological control of a number of weeds are being undertaken at the Alan Fletcher Research Station, the level of activity in respect of groundsel bush is at the maximum for the resources of the station, even though temporary staff are currently engaged for insect testing.

I repeat a previously expressed opinion that there is cause for optimism that continuing biological control investigations will result in introduction of an organism which will satisfactorily control groundsel bush. It must be emphasised, however, that biological control investigations are necessarily long-term operations. The Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board, which arranges with the research station for the implementation of biological control investigations into noxious plants and secures funds for the purpose, is in complete agreement with the station's policy, that probability of success rests with the quality of research, rather than in the number of investigations being undertaken.

22. FIRE SERVICES, GOLD COAST AREA

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

As the secretary of the South Coast Branch of the Firefighters' Union, Mr. Ian Brown, has been quoted in the "Gold Coast Bulletin" of 24 October as stating that the coast fire services do not have enough men to fight a twin disaster of a large bushfire and an extensive high-rise

building fire, can that statement be substantiated and, if so, what will be done to remedy the problem?

Answer:—

Consideration is being given to allocation of some extra staff to the brigade, particularly as an additional station is to be opened. There are presently four stations between Southport and Bilinga, apart from three in the adjacent shire areas. The brigade works on four shifts and, if necessary, personnel from the three off-duty shifts could be called in.

In the past, mutual assistance has been given by metropolitan brigade to stations in the northern part of the South Coast Fire Brigade District and no doubt would be given in the future. If a fire occurred in a high-rise building (despite built-in fire precautions) during the progress of another serious fire, the brigade would undoubtedly attend to the incident of greatest priority involving safety of life and seek any assistance required from other brigades.

23. SOCIAL WORKER, GLADSTONE

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

As the Gladstone Citizens Advisory Service, employing a full-time social worker, originally set up and funded by the Whitlam Labor Government in 1974-75, was subsequently disbanded by the Fraser Government and has been funded during the last 18 months by the Gladstone City Council, and as the present Gladstone City Council Budget has not allocated sufficient funds to allow continuation of this service beyond December, and in view of present and expected welfare problems associated with large industrial and construction development, will the Government give serious consideration to making funds available to provide the services of one full-time social worker to assist those organisations presently providing welfare services in this city?

Answer:—

The Department of Children's Services operates a scheme which subsidises the salary of social workers employed by voluntary welfare agencies to the extent of up to \$9,420 per annum under certain guidelines approved by Cabinet. In the 1978-79 financial year, subsidies were paid in respect of 11 social workers to various organisations throughout the State. The allocation of funds for 1979-80 will allow a further limited number of subsidies to be granted. The demand from organisations seeking subsidy far exceeds the financial capacity of the scheme, and my department is now examining the submissions, some of which were made in detail by organisations up to 12 months ago.

As this is the first indication that I have received that the Gladstone Advisory Service has such a need, I would suggest that it should send a detailed submission to me for consideration in the light of funds which may be available in future financial years.

24. ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS

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

As the high rate of inflation and the Federal Government's lack of concern for pensioners is placing many pensioners in a perilous financial position, has the Government given any consideration to reduction of electricity charges, financial grants to local authorities to assist in pensioner rate reductions, provision of further transport assistance to the aged, invalid and widowed pensioners, and other concessions that will help our pioneers to live out their last years free of financial worry?

Answer:—

The provision of funds for welfare purposes including benefits and concessions to pensioners is primarily a matter for the Federal Government. Bearing in mind that the Federal Government has this year provided for social security and welfare payments of nearly \$9,000 million, equivalent to 28 per cent of its total outlays, that it has been successful in reducing the inflation rate very substantially in recent years and has undertaken to automatically index pensions on a twice yearly basis, the statement on which the honourable member's question is based must be regarded as suspect to say the least.

The State Government has a policy of annually reviewing all direct benefits and concessions including those that it provides to pensioners, but let me point out that the provision of the concessions of the type to which he refers are matters for consideration for the authorities involved. The State Government in its turn assists in the financing of these authorities where necessary. The availability of an above average level of State assistance to local authorities for example gives these authorities a greater capacity to provide concessions such as rate rebates, transport assistance and so on if such is in accordance with their policies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Questions remaining unanswered will appear on tomorrow's Notices of Questions.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House went into Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—
FIFTH AND SIXTH ALLOTTED DAYS
(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Greenslopes, in the chair)

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1979-80

INDUSTRY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

CHIEF OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. N. E. LEE (Yeronga—Minister for Industry and Administrative Services) (12.1 p.m.): I move—

“That \$5,110,869 be granted for ‘Department of Commercial and Industrial Development—Chief Office.’”

I have great pleasure in presenting the Estimates for the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development and inviting constructive criticism of them.

In saying that, I have every confidence that the Committee will decide to endorse the policies the department has carried out, which have seen Queensland sustain the industrial and commercial growth it has experienced since the present Government came to office more than two decades ago. I am also confident it will record its appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the department's officers under the direction of one of the State's ablest public servants, Mr. John Bensted.

At a time of world-wide economic tension I am proud to report that no other Australian State is in a happier position than Queensland, nor set for a more prosperous future. Nothing could better illustrate this than for me to state the bare fact that the value of new projects started here during the last financial year was \$1,000 million. Capital investment continued to grow at a respectable rate in most sectors of the economy—particularly the mining sector—and is expected to continue as more resource-processing projects get under way.

Almost every month sees a major new development getting under way in our State. Our abundance of natural resources—particularly coal—continues to attract increasing attention from overseas companies and investors, and assures the future for energy-intensive technologies here.

I am particularly pleased to draw the attention of the Chamber to the increased demand for our overseas exports that we experienced during the year. This generated a faster rate of growth than was experienced anywhere else in Australia.

It can be expected this growth will continue, as shown by the Comalco decision to establish an aluminium smelter at Gladstone. I have no doubt this will induce other companies to follow Comalco's lead and start major resource-based industries

whose output is directed towards the international market. In fact, a number of negotiations are now under way which could well result in further major projects being established here.

It was inevitable that Queensland's economy should be affected by national policies on economic controls. But I wish to stress that we traded to a much greater extent on overseas markets than any other Australian State. Our export-oriented industries sold goods worth \$3.2 billion overseas during the year. That represented 20 per cent of the Australian total, although we have only 15 per cent of the Australian population.

I have continually urged our manufacturers to build up their export markets and seek new ones, and was pleased to include a senior officer of my department in the mission sent to the Middle East earlier this year by the Queensland Confederation of Industry. It was highly successful and established contacts and lines of communication which, I hope, will lead to more export markets being opened up in due course for our products. An officer of the department will also accompany the confederation's proposed trade mission to Asia next February.

Success in the export field, such as we have had, brings many benefits, not the least important of which is the effect it has had on local employment. I think it is noteworthy that while an increasing number of Queenslanders sought employment, owing mainly to our population growth, the level of employment increased here at a greater rate than in the rest of Australia. Our labour force increased by 2.8 per cent compared with 1 per cent for Australia as a whole; but, thanks to our Government's progressive policies, our total employment grew by 3.5 per cent against 1.1 per cent for the rest of Australia. In the closing month of the financial year the level of unemployment in Queensland had fallen below that of the previous year.

Queensland also did better than Australia as a whole in the manufacturing sector. It performed slightly better in real terms in Queensland during the year than it did nationally. I am pleased to say there was one field where we lagged behind the rest of Australia. Although we followed the national trend in price rises—and are likely to for some time—our rate of growth in this area was slightly lower.

Unhappily, as I mentioned in the Chamber last week, we had more industrial disputes than in the previous year. In the 10 months to 30 April this year 248,000 working days were lost in Queensland against 166,600 in the same period for 1977-78. Many disputes occurred in key sectors of our industry, and this must cause all of us deep concern, particularly those workers who had to be stood down, even though they were not directly involved.

I have already referred to the satisfactory rate of capital investment. Many industries in fact have expended investment funds at a higher level than for many years. This was to meet the need to upgrade facilities as well as pressures to restructure to meet overseas competition. In general, the manufacturing sector has spent millions of dollars on new equipment to modernise, and Queensland has enjoyed the benefits that this extra capital investment has brought to our economy. But I must warn again that unrestrained industrial action aimed at bringing industry to a standstill will cause a backlash in the form of curbs on investment and a resultant loss of jobs.

Industrial Estates

All States compete for industry. Manufacturers tend to shop around, and the scores we have attracted here have come here only after a full appraisal of what we have to offer, including the favourable terms on our industrial estates. We offer various financial inducements. For instance, in the case of land on the estates it is usual for a special lease of 30 years to be granted in the first place, with the annual rent assessed on the basis of 3 per cent of the unimproved capital valuation. The lease may be converted to freehold with interest-free payments spread over 20 years. The estates have created many new job opportunities, and I feel we should debate these Estimates with that fact in mind. We have had an increased demand for land on our estates outside Brisbane, and these make up 75 per cent of all the applications we receive for sites.

It is Government policy, and no accident, that Queensland is clearly the most decentralised of all Australian States and that five of the nation's top seven growth centres are in Queensland. To meet the ever-increasing demands of industry, our network of Crown industrial estates has been expanded. There are now 42 developed estates, comprising an overall area of 3 936 hectares, with total expenditure incurred so far on acquisition and development of just over \$26,000,000. The department holds land in 21 additional provincial centres for industry's future needs, and, in fact, I will be opening our 43rd estate at Stanthorpe next month.

During the year, various changes in the allocation of sites on the estates were made. The minimum-sized site was reduced from 4 000 sq m to 2 000 sq m in decentralised areas to help small manufacturers, and we also admitted certain service industries.

The upswing of industrial activity in our economy brought with it a greater number of inquiries for financial assistance from firms. We approved \$22,600,000 in Government guarantees for loans ranging from a few thousand dollars to one of \$18,000,000.

We also brought our total of factory buildings erected by the department under the Pioneer Industry Scheme since 1970 to 54, representing an investment of more than \$9,300,000. Annual rental on these buildings is 10 per

cent of their cost in the metropolitan area and 7½ per cent outside Brisbane. This scheme has been very successful in attracting here manufacturers who might otherwise have gone elsewhere.

State Stores

The State Stores placed orders worth \$63,000,000 during the year, plus an annual value of period contracts entered into that is estimated to be at least \$75,000,000. The number of orders placed on behalf of Government departments during 1978-79 rose by 6 per cent.

I was the first Minister to visit the State Stores in many years, and I intend to take an even greater interest in it so the staff will know that I appreciate their work as well as want to ensure that their working conditions are equal to those of other public servants.

State Stores performs a valuable service in bringing together the purchasing of items in common demand by most departments. It ensures that these items are acquired on the most favourable basis available, and, in doing so, has regard to the need to encourage the maximum possible degree of manufacture in this State.

State Migration

Although the national employment situation has led to a low intake of migrants, the State Migration staff remains keen under the dedicated managership of Mr. Arthur Marshman.

During the year, 1,625 United Kingdom migrants arrived, compared with 2,361 the previous year. I hope that this situation will be short-lived because, as the Federal Immigration Minister noted last week, immigration is important to Australia's development and economic well-being. We have a shortage of skilled workers in certain categories, and the State Migration Office nominated skilled personnel in the U.K. to meet specific vacancies that could not be filled locally, as well as recruited professional staff for State Government departments, universities and colleges of advanced education.

The State Government took over complete funding of the Queensland Good Neighbour Council during the year to save it from closure by the Commonwealth Government, and under the Director, Mr. Eric Barkworth, the staff has continued to help migrants with their personal and other problems.

Government Garage

During the year, the Government Garage purchased 1,332 new vehicles, which was a slight reduction on the previous year. Because of the increasing cost of fuel, departments are increasing their usage of smaller-engined vehicles, and I expect this trend to continue. Comprehensive records are being maintained on a selection of vehicles in order to establish actual total operating costs. When these tests are completed, we will have a factual basis on which to make decisions on future

vehicle purchases. Our used vehicles, because of the way they are maintained by the garage, continue to be in demand when offered for resale, and 1,054 of these were sold by public auction.

Government Printing Office

The Government Printing Office continues to meet the printing requirements of State Parliament and the stationery needs of all Government departments. The Government Printer, Mr. Sid Hampson, and his staff do an excellent job, sometimes under very difficult conditions. As honourable members know, Parliament may sit until late at night, yet the printing office has "Hansard", containing a report of the proceedings, available the next morning. I am pleased to take this opportunity of publicly commending the service given to this Parliament in particular and the Government generally. Mr. Hampson accompanied Mr. Bensted and me overseas earlier this year to study new advances in printing technology.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: What did you learn? Nothing.

Mr. LEE: A lot.

Orders have been placed in the last few months for the first lot of equipment required to allow the printing office to upgrade its technical effectiveness. This is computerised typesetting equipment, which will be used in the first instance to introduce employees to this method of typesetting and afford them the opportunity of becoming skilled in its use.

In due course, the Government Printing Office will be relocated in other premises, which will lead to greatly improved working conditions and operating efficiencies for this most important segment of my department's operations.

Small Business

The counselling, referral and information services which we have developed since 1977 were consolidated during the year. The section recorded more than 1,250 inquiries covering a wide range of business activity. This was a 40 per cent increase on the previous year and reflects growing public awareness of the service we offer, problems caused by changes in the economy and in consumers' shopping habits, and a growing realisation by small business people that they should seek expert advice before possibly getting into difficulties.

More than 30 per cent of inquiries received were from non-metropolitan areas, and our counsellors visited many centres throughout the State to deal with these.

Government Advertising Office

The Government Advertising Office was transferred to the department from the Works Department last December. Its prime task is to assist Government departments, subdepartments and instrumentalities in preparing and

placing advertisements with the media in Australia and overseas. During the year it handled 8,500 of these advertisements.

Conclusion

I cannot finish without some reference to the back-up services offered by the department in all aspects of its activities. I know these are deeply appreciated by those we have helped. For instance, it produces a series of handbooks to assist small business people, distributes resource material to all Queensland technical and further education colleges, and has initiated a small business education programme with the Education Department's full support.

It gives a grant each year to the Queensland branch of the Inventors' Association, advises inventors on such intricate matters as patents, and puts some of them in touch with interested manufacturers in Australia and—through an officer in London—overseas. It maintains regional industries offices in three regions in Queensland and another in Sydney, and will soon open another in Melbourne to provide manufacturers considering expanding or moving here with any information they require, particularly concerning the incentives we offer. Also—and of equal importance—the Sydney and Melbourne offices will be instrumental in identifying and expanding markets for Queensland-manufactured goods.

It presents a general picture of Queensland industry through its bimonthly journal "Industry", produces various brochures, other publications and audio-visuals, and has funded a film on Queensland industrialisation, which should be ready for general release in movie theatres late this year. It has also undertaken an extensive advertising campaign to boost the sale of Queensland-made goods, inform consumers of the wide range of quality products now being made in our State and urge them to give preference to them in their purchasing.

I am currently planning changes in the campaign which, I hope, will make the public even more aware of the value of buying Queensland-made goods. I am sure this will become an even more important factor in inducing manufacturers to expand their operations in this State.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my personal staff, consisting of my private secretary (Miss Elizabeth McKinlay), my Press secretary (Mr. John Bragg) and my two typists. Along with my electorate secretary (Miss Margaret McKinlay), they have given me long and honest service. Long hours have meant nothing to them and they have always been available to work when required—particularly my private secretary. Elizabeth and Margaret, who are sisters, each recently became engaged within two weeks. I offer them my heartiest congratulations and wish them good luck, but I hope that they do not desert me too quickly.

Mr. HANSEN (Maryborough) (12.23 p.m.): The Minister's portfolio covers a wide range of responsibility. Because he controls the State Stores and the Government Garage, in some ways he could be described as the Government storekeeper in Queensland. A fairly heavy responsibility devolves upon him from those areas. The Minister is also responsible for the Government Printing Office. I was pleased to hear him say that investigations have been made into updating machinery in that office. On one occasion when I inspected it, I was amazed at the work that was churned out under the circumstances. I understand that for some time consideration has been given to the establishment of a new Government Printing Office on another site. Without doubt that will cost a lot of money, but the sooner the move is made the better it will be for all concerned, especially in the improvement of working conditions.

I agree with the Minister that probably Parliament places the greatest strain on the resources of the Government Printer by requiring "Hansard", Business Papers and the like to be printed at short notice. If the new site is to be in the Woolloongabba area, I commend to the Minister a system similar to the tube system operating in Canberra, whereby material goes direct from the "Hansard" office to the Government Printing Office. The distance involved could be about 5 km; I do not know whether the tube would follow the road. The tube system seems to operate fairly successfully in Canberra. It is not dissimilar to the systems that were used years ago in department stores when the cash was handled centrally. I have not heard of many instances of material becoming caught in the tube, but that could be a possible cause of holdups. I suggest the implementation of such a system, even if the tube has to go over the bridge and follow the highway. I would like to see something constructive done about the Government Printing Office very shortly.

Mr. Moore: It shouldn't be built over at the Gabba; it should be built closer to Parliament House.

Mr. HANSEN: It certainly is close at the moment. I will not argue about the site, as long as something is done. I think most people associated with the printing industry would agree. The point made by the honourable member for Windsor does show the need for a Public Works Committee in Queensland. It could investigate such a matter. I know that there is a parliamentary works committee, but from the reports I have received from both Government and Opposition members of that committee, I do not think its opinions are taken very much into consideration. I believe that such a committee could discuss problems with the people involved. It is not a matter of members of Parliament making up their minds, but a matter of

getting around and talking to the people involved, investigating the problems and coming up with the best possible solutions.

The Minister mentioned immigration. There has been some falling off in the number of migrants entering Queensland. It seems to me that the State Migration Office is more concerned about migrants from the United Kingdom than elsewhere. The Minister said that Queensland received 1,625 migrants last year, of whom 84 received an assisted passage. That indicates that there is also a falling off in the number of migrants arriving under the assisted passage scheme. The Minister referred only to United Kingdom migrants, and said nothing about the influx of migrants from Asia, including refugees.

I question very much the need for a Queensland migration officer in the Agent-General's Office in London. After all, our immigration policy is laid down by the Australian Government, not the Queensland Government, and it seems to me that there might be a duplication of the services offered. After all, we are all Australian taxpayers, and we should make sure that the resources of the Australian Government are available to us as Queenslanders. There might be some short-term advantage in having a Queensland migration officer in the Agent-General's Office, but I am afraid it escapes me.

Still on the subject of immigration, the Minister mentioned that, following the Galbally report, the Commonwealth Government withdrew support for the Good Neighbour Council. I notice that the Commonwealth Government did not put other recommendations about ethnic groups into effect. The greater proportion of our migrants are not of British descent, but that does not mean they are not good Australians or will not make good Australians. It is a fact of life that the great proportion of migrants are of non-British descent, and I believe that far more work should be done in this section of the community. I have nothing but praise for the members of the Good Neighbour Council, most of whom work in a purely voluntary capacity. They help migrants to settle in, but I believe that ethnic councils would be able to work within the migrant communities much better than does the Good Neighbour Council. I agree with the Commonwealth Government's decision to discontinue funding for the council. I note that although \$120,000 has been allocated for this year, only \$30,000 was expended in the previous year. That in itself is an indication of the winding down of the group's activities. I am not being derogatory of the Good Neighbour Council, but I think its activities have been directed mainly towards migrants from the United Kingdom. Because we are to a large extent depending on migrants to increase our population, I believe that

we should look at the establishment of ethnic community groups within our society to help these migrants to assimilate.

Queensland's growth in population seems to me to depend, to a large extent, on migration from the southern States. The Premier might say that this is because of the present socialist Government in New South Wales and the former socialist Government in South Australia. I believe that most migrants have come from Victoria, certainly to my area, because of better working conditions and longer holidays. They are finding that Queensland is not an inaccessible place, and that the climate is good.

Mr. Moore: Their sun is like our moon, that's the trouble—it gives a little bit of light and no heat.

Mr. HANSEN: I am not quite sure what the honourable member for Windsor said. But these people are discovering Queensland. I believe that the people who are coming from the southern States and settling here to help build up our population are, in the main, Victorians. Our natural increase in population has been slowing down over a number of years.

In the Budget the Minister has allocated \$50,000 for solar energy research. Queensland is known as the Sunshine State, and it seems to me that that amount of money does not quite fill the bill at a time when we are told that we have only about five years in which to come to grips with the energy situation. We have to do something immediately. One thing that we do have is sunshine. There are very few things that one can be sure of in this world. Someone said that we can be sure of death and taxes. I think that in Queensland we can be sure that the sun will rise in the east in the morning. That does not happen in every part of the world. I can recall an old skipper of a ship, who came from the Orkney Islands, saying to me, after he had seen the sunrise over Sydney Harbour at 5 o'clock in the morning, "This is the place for me, because sometimes, for six months of the year, I do not see the sun at all."

Sunshine must be one of our greatest natural assets. Telecom, for instance, has set up communication centres in the West powered by solar-charged batteries. It is moving similar equipment into areas in Western Queensland. Similar work has been carried out in The Alps. When I see that the Sunshine State is going to spend only \$50,000 on solar research this year, I am left wondering about how seriously we look at the energy situation. That amount of \$50,000 is \$2,000 less than the sum allocated for an overseas parliamentary mission this coming year. Quite frankly, I think we would get much more value from spending that money on solar research than from spending it on an overseas parliamentary mission—not that I am against overseas parliamentary missions. I believe that

\$50,000 would pay little more than the salaries of a researcher and his staff looking at what has already been done in the solar-energy field.

During the week-end, I happened to pick up a "Reader's Digest"—I am a subscriber to that magazine; I did not pick up someone else's copy—and read an article dealing with the city of Davis in Sacramento, California. It is a university city of 36,000 people, in which emphasis has been placed on energy resource savings. Particular attention is given to the design of homes. They are also using other fuels in order to defeat the high cost of electricity and the like. People who receive electricity bills of about \$130 or \$140 a quarter must be looking very seriously at ways in which they can conserve electricity. Although \$50,000 has been allocated this year for that type of work, if we are fair dinkum about relieving the energy crisis the amount should be increased 10 times.

Mr. Berton: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANSEN: The honourable member for Mt. Isa says, "Hear, hear!" The Little brothers who come from his electorate, have developed something in this field that should be followed up and encouraged. An expenditure of \$50,000 does not even scratch the surface.

I notice an expenditure of \$22,000 for a feasibility study into the production of ethanol by fermentation. That study is being made in conjunction with the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Queensland. There may be better ways of producing that substance than the present method. If my memory is correct, ethanol was being produced from molasses at Sarina before the last war. That operation was quite successful.

The Minister referred to small businesses, and I would like to touch on the relevant section of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development. It is a small section which, no doubt, operates on a shoe-string budget. In handing out advice I suppose it would place emphasis on ability over all else.

Last year, on the recommendation of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, small amounts were handed out by the Commonwealth department that encourages small businesses to decentralise. Much more could be done in this respect. The department does conduct surveys, and the annual report mentions one it was associated with in the Wide Bay/Burnett region.

The available resources of a region must be taken into account when small businesses are set up. Some people, enthused with the idea of private enterprise and doing their own thing, undertake small business ventures. Subsequently they may run into financial difficulties and seek advice. As the Minister said, unfortunately that advice is too late if they have used their personal resources

and have had to borrow money and obtain other assistance to have enough working capital to carry on.

Small business plays an important role in our community; it employs 45 per cent of the work-force. Approximately 3,000,000 people are associated with small business. Big business attracts the attention of the community but it does not employ the most people; small business does. Small business forms a highly competitive sector of industry in Queensland. It serves agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism and service industries. In many cases it is small business that provides the specialised products which big business finds uneconomical to produce, either because of the number of units it requires or the low demand for the products. Small business specialises in joinery, engineering, clothing and alternatives to standardised products. An inherent trait of the community is that we do not all wish to dress alike or to have the same type of garage or front doors. People want to be different, and small business fulfils that need.

Although some small businesses are importers, others generate skills which are not required on production lines. Small business produces many innovations, particularly in the repair and maintenance of important, costly machinery which is either imported or built thousands of miles from its point of use. That is particularly so with agricultural machinery, to which many improvements have been made. If one goes back to the days of H. Victor McKay, one sees that Australia leads the field in the design of harvesters. Since then Australia has had the initiative and the know-how to further develop and sell that type of equipment. Many businesses have been taken over by international groups, which have moved them away from Australia. However, they all had their start in small business.

Small businesses are often able to act as subcontractors in providing component parts and auxiliary services to larger firms. Such services should be encouraged outside the metropolitan area by the offer of concessions to overcome freight-cost disadvantages. I know that freight concessions are available. However, nobody but the Railway Department is sure what they are. At one time concessional rates were offered for particular products, and everybody knew what those concessions were, but that does not apply today. Lack of knowledge about them engenders a distrust; people think that their competitors are receiving more favourable concessions.

The Labor Party recognises that greater consideration should be given to the resources of an area. We must look at areas where there are concentrations of people and areas of high unemployment, whether it be in the female work-force, the unskilled work-force or the skilled work-force. In those areas extra inducements should be offered for the establishment of industry. Inducements could include long-term finance or concessional

interest rates for the building of factories in designated areas, particularly those that have experienced a population drift.

The Minister said that Queensland is a decentralised State. In some ways, we are fortunate that Brisbane is at the southern end of it. There may be some who think that had the capital been in the centre, there would be a feed-in from each end. It is a fact that the concentration in the larger city areas has resulted in costly problems for the Government. Of course, costs incurred by the Government are costs incurred by the taxpayer. Included in these problems is the provision of transport, traffic facilities and freeways.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BERTONI (Mt. Isa) (12.43 p.m.): In rising to support the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services on the presentation of the Estimates, I pay a tribute to him for his co-operation throughout the year. I also thank his departmental officers, who have been very co-operative in the various areas coming under their jurisdiction.

Today I bring to the attention of the Committee what seems to be the everlasting saga of a solar energy tracking system that has been developed by the Little brothers in Mt. Isa. For the benefit of honourable members who may not be aware of it, the tracking system was conceived by them five years ago. It is a heat-differential tracking switching system that has been produced at an economical price for domestic hot water systems. The system has been upgraded so that it may be used by commerce and industry.

The solar tracker requires less material, particularly copper, as it tracks the sun from east to west and develops a maximum heat generation from a minimum collector area. The only other known practical tracking systems developed have involved the application of expensive electronics. This one involves no electrical motors, solar cells or electricity. It is extremely sensitive, with simple, relatively maintenance-free components. The principle involves the use of air expansion and contraction resulting from temperature changes, which triggers water valves connected to a diaphragm to provide the motive force.

In operation, the system tracks on to the morning sun, and gives a steady bleed-off during the day to keep square to the sun until it sets in the west. The advantages of this tracking system are its simplicity and low-cost factor. This invention could have a major impact on the development of solar energy throughout the world. For those honourable members who have not heard of it before, that is the principle behind this solar tracking system.

Mr. Simpson: It is very simple.

Mr. BERTONI: It is a very simple but very ingenious invention. Numerous applications have been made to the Minister's

department for financial assistance for the Little brothers. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer (Dr. Edwards) has inspected the invention and had his photograph taken studying it. Dr. Edwards is reported in "The North-West Star" as saying—

"It would be a great pity if an important Queensland invention was lost to the State and to Australia because of lack of support."

Other Ministers also have looked at the invention, and the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police (Mr. Ron Camm) said that if an application for assistance were made to the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, it would be looked at very closely indeed. He added—

"Certainly from my department's point of view, we think it has a tremendous future in solar hot-water systems."

A gentleman of some renown, the chairman of the Queensland University's Solar Energy Research Committee, Professor of Physical Chemistry Laurie Lyons, made a trip to Mt. Isa solely to investigate and study the invention of the Little brothers. The report in "The North-West Star" read—

"His verdict: 'It's simple, adaptable and looks as though it would be inexpensive. There is nothing else like it in Australia—that is fact. There are some others in the world, but I think this one is so basically sound that it would compete with them.'"

"Professor Lyons said he was convinced of the value of the Littles' solar tracking concentrator, which uses a few litres of water a day to track the sun across the sky."

Numerous people have looked at the invention and praised it. The honourable member for Mt. Gravatt gave me a copy of Senator Chaney's remarks in the Federal Parliament, and I thank him for doing so. Replying to a question by Senator MacGibbon about the Little brothers' invention, Senator Chaney said—

"It appears that the two Queensland inventors to whom he has referred have produced something that is particularly significant in the area of solar energy. The potential value of solar energy as a supplementary form of energy at this stage is well established. I am sure that all honourable senators are interested in seeing this sort of invention developed to the advantage of Australia."

However, one great problem remains to be overcome—getting money from the Minister's department. I am surprised to see in the Financial Statement that only \$50,000 has been allocated for solar energy research. Quite frankly, I believe that is a disgrace in a State known as the Sunshine State. Mt. Isa could become the solar energy centre of the West, and development would follow. In my opinion, the paltry amount being provided will go absolutely nowhere in the field of solar energy research.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Why are you concerned about Mt. Isa when you live mainly at Jindalee?

Mr. BERTONI: The honourable member is making one of his facetious remarks. I point out that he is not in his usual seat.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: He does live at Jindalee, Mr. Hewitt.

The CHAIRMAN: And the honourable member is not in his usual seat.

Mr. BERTONI: I suggest that the department now has positive proof of the success of the invention. The Little brothers have received the top award on the A.B.C. television programme "The Inventors" and a gold medal overseas for their invention, yet the Government seems to be delaying in giving them financial assistance to develop the project. I cannot understand the intentions of the Minister's department. No wonder people in country areas become slightly fed up with Government red tape. This invention has received world acclaim, and the system is tailor-made for the conservation of energy. It would be very useful if a crisis arose in the electricity-generating system based on coal. It has been developed in Queensland and politicians have inspected it and said how great it is, yet its development is tied up with a great deal of red tape.

The attitude adopted in the south-eastern corner of the State seems to be that, unless an invention is invented by academics, it is useless; that anything invented must be invented in the Brisbane area, where there is media coverage every day of the week. This Government seems to have adopted the attitude that, if a person does not live within 100 miles of Brisbane, there is something wrong with him; there is something wrong with anyone who chooses to live in the country or out West.

The Little brothers' invention is something that we should be proud of. They are developing it at their own cost and on a shoe-string budget. They should be assisted to get their invention off the ground. Numerous offers have been received from overseas, but they want to develop their invention in Queensland, for Queensland people.

The Government urges us to "Buy Queensland made". If this matter was not so serious, I would suggest that that is a joke. The attitude seems to be that we should "Buy Queensland made"—but only if it is made in Brisbane.

The Little brothers have been waiting for more than 18 months for financial assistance from the Government. They are waiting for the Government to show that it is implementing its decentralisation policy. They are waiting for help in the development and marketing throughout the world of this great invention.

The Minister's department's budget totals \$17,700,000. So surely a request for a mere \$50,000—which, incidentally, is the extent of his department's solar energy budget—could be acceded to by the Government. In today's energy crisis, the Government should foster the development of this invention. From discussions that I have had with the Minister, I know that he is looking closely at this project and that some problems do arise. However, those problems must be overcome. There should be no further delay in providing assistance to the Little brothers.

After their normal day's work, the Little brothers spend many hours on developing their invention. They are now in the process of developing a secondary type of tracking system. It will track the sun in a way different from that of the original system. The reflectors move on a graduated scale and a separate tank, which can be used for industry, is involved. A prototype has been developed and is working. All they need is the Minister's assistance to perfect it.

Aren't we looking to assistance to industries in country areas to help relieve unemployment and to promote decentralisation? Must inventions such as this be sold to Braemar or to some major concern that has its headquarters in Melbourne, Adelaide or overseas? The local Press has stated that the Little brothers have been offered royalties totalling \$16,000,000. But because they believe in Queensland, they have refused these offers. They would rather receive assistance from this Government than be forced to go overseas for financial help. So I hope that the Minister will closely examine this project and will provide assistance in the near future. The Little brothers are in dire need of financial help. I hope that they receive it within the next month or so.

Mr. SCASSOLA (Mt. Gravatt) (12.55 p.m.): I have a few comments to make on the Minister's Estimates. During the Budget debate last year I drew attention to the need for a comprehensive approach to the problems of small business. The importance of small business to the economy and the community generally cannot be denied. Small business is vital for our continued growth and prosperity. In terms of employment, investment and output, small business makes a major contribution to the prosperity of our State and nation. It has properly been said by a number of people that, in our economy, small business is, in reality, big business.

The Treasurer's announcement in his Budget speech of a further increase in the pay-roll tax exemption figure is of significance to small businesses. In his report that was tabled here recently, the Director of Commercial and Industrial Development said that the State Government's action in raising the pay-roll tax exemption in the 1978 financial year to a level of \$125,000 was of prime benefit to small businesses. The increase this year will mean a further benefit to small businesses. The raising of

the exemption to \$150,000 this financial year has been welcomed by all businessmen, particularly those concerned with small business.

The information and counselling services that were begun in recent years are steps in the right direction. The statistics outlined in the Minister's speech and in the departmental report show that inquiries directed to the small business section of the department increased dramatically in recent times. As the Minister said, in the financial year ended 30 June 1979 there were more than 1,000 inquiries, a significant percentage of which came from regional areas. The number of people seeking counselling services has increased dramatically. That underlines the urgent necessity of providing adequate counselling and information services to small business people. Because the number of counsellors is very limited, they have to shoulder a significant burden. That will severely restrict the effectiveness of their work. The counselling and information services throughout the State must be escalated rapidly so that they will be available to all small business people who seek them.

The Minister and his department are to be congratulated on the initiative shown in establishing the small business educational programme. It will provide a much-needed service. I have no doubt that we will see it expand rapidly in a very short time.

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

Mr. SCASSOLA: Prior to the luncheon adjournment, I was referring to the rapid increase in the services to small business in terms of information about counselling services, and the projected growth in the demand for educational services. I believe that that expansion could be accommodated if the Government were to commit a percentage of revenue received by way of payroll tax for the assistance of small business generally. In effect, it would take only a small percentage of revenue from pay-roll tax to assist small business people by providing those types of services.

While there has been some financial assistance rendered to small business people, primarily to those suffering loss as the result of natural disasters, and while in a limited way small businessmen are eligible for financial assistance, it seems to me that there is no comprehensive policy of incentives for small business development and growth or for financial assistance for small business. The Government can do much more to promote the small business sector, without interfering in its operation. In other words, the Government can help that sector to help itself. The Government can help by reducing administrative requirements and the burden which small business is required to bear. Small businessmen are required to carry out a wide variety of information gathering and furnishing tasks for the Government without remuneration. In many instances, small business people are unpaid tax-gatherers for the Government. For example, in certain

cases they are required to collect stamp duty for the State Government; they are also required to collect income tax revenue for the Federal Government. Responsibilities of that kind place a very heavy burden on a small businessman; he simply does not have the management personnel available to assign to those tasks. A survey carried out some three years ago by the Federal Government's small business committee found that each business received annually in excess of 10 forms for completion to provide statistical information of one kind or another. The majority of businessmen found the resulting information to be of little use to them.

There is a need to reduce that kind of intrusion into the time of small businessmen. Government requirements, commonly called red tape, also place a disproportionately heavy burden on the small businessman. Time-consuming, irksome and what small business people regard as being unnecessary administrative requirements by Government are a source of constant complaints. The Government can substantially assist small business by undertaking a conscious policy of ensuring that small business, as a sector, has the opportunity to participate in a greater number of Government contracts. That objective could be achieved by the Government setting aside certain kinds of contracts exclusively for small business.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Did you bring this up in the party room?

Mr. SCASSOLA: I have brought it up before in this Chamber. The Government would need to make a determination in each case as to whether the contract could be satisfactorily completed by small business, and whether a sufficient number of contractors in the market-place would be willing to compete for it, thus ensuring that public moneys were properly expended.

The setting aside of contracts need not be confined to principal contracts, but could apply equally to the awarding of subcontracts to small business by requiring principal contractors to allocate certain contracts to small business people. The latter suggestion is particularly important, because in many instances subcontracts would be the only practical way in which small business people could participate. The American Small Business Act, passed in the Congress in 1958, provides—

“The Government should aid, counsel, assist and protect in so far as it is possible the interests of small business concerns in order to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for property and services for the Government (including but not limited to contracts or subcontracts for maintenance, repair and construction) be placed with small business enterprises.”

For more than 20 years the United States has made a conscious effort to assist small business in that way.

As I said in this Chamber last year, the greatest single difficulty confronting the small

businessman is the obtaining of finance on the same terms and conditions as are available to others.

I note in the report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development that in the last financial year some 26 guarantees were given by the Government in respect of loans to a variety of corporations and individuals. Eleven of those appear to have been given to bodies that could be described only as substantial and large enterprises. The policy of Government guarantee for loans to free enterprise is, of course, welcomed and to be commended, but the very nature of it is restrictive in terms of assistance to a broad range and large number of small business people. What is required is a policy that will give much greater numbers of small businesses access to finance. In recent times the Small Business Development Council in another State referred to this need and said that, in its view, the small business sector does not receive a fair share of the banks' lending funds, and, in effect, called for a much greater provision of funds to the small business sector.

Several other reports in recent years have suggested the establishment of small business investment corporations similar to those existing in the United States. Under that system, the Small Business Administration in the United States, which is a Government instrumentality, has the charter either of rendering financial assistance by making loans to business enterprises for construction, expansion, conversion, the purchase of new machinery and equipment or for working capital, or, in the alternative, of licensing what are known as small business investment corporations, which are, in effect, private investment companies and consist of local investors providing long-term finance and equity capital to small firms and companies.

I note that recently the Small Business Development Council of New South Wales advocated the formation of a similar corporation system in this country. I notice that it applied to it a very similar name. That development council in New South Wales said that small business investment corporations could be divisions of existing financial institutions, such as banks and insurance companies. They could also be formed by accountancy or legal firms, or any groups of individuals. As I understand the American position, the great majority of the small business investment corporations are formed on a localised basis and have at their heads a successful local businessman.

The scheme need not be undertaken on a national basis, as in the United States. In my view, it would be equally effective on a Statewide basis. Loans could be made available to the small business investment corporations by the Government so that small business may have access to long-term finance. At the same time, of course, the investment capital of the various members of those corporations would also be available

for lending. That would be a very practical way of ensuring that small business has access to finance in the market-place for its various purposes.

The small business investment corporations in the United States have served that country well for more than 20 years and there has been a very rapid growth in their number, particularly in the late '60s and the '70s. As I have said, a number of groups in this country, which have been commissioned to look into the question of small business finance and other matters relating to it, have advocated a similar system in this country.

As a means of encouraging people to invest in these small business investment corporations, there is a need for a form of incentive from government. It has often been said that there ought to be income-tax concessions to people investing in corporations of this sort. On a State level, it would not be inappropriate if the Government saw its way clear to guarantee the investments in, and loans made by, these corporations as an incentive to people to put money into them. In the interests of maintaining a healthy free-enterprise system, the Government would be well advised in this context to look at the prospect of earmarking a percentage of pay-roll tax revenue for the purpose of assisting small business and helping it survive in the market-place. In our present economy, the very basis of our future prosperity is the small businessman with his initiative and his self-help approach. It is important that small business be given every opportunity to expand and flourish.

In the last two minutes or so of my speech, I turn to a contradictory policy of the A.L.P. On the one hand, the A.L.P. says that it seeks to maintain an efficient private sector. On the other hand, the A.L.P. says that if it became the Government it would take all necessary steps and expand and protect the public sector. It is clear from a reading of the A.L.P. policy—

Mr. DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. I draw attention to the Chairman's ruling that we are debating Estimates, and no proposed legislative change can be debated.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Kaus): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr. SCASSOLA: Mr. Kaus, it is very clear from history that A.L.P. activity in government has been directed at destroying the private sector, destroying small business and destroying private industry. A.L.P. Governments one after the other have been hell-bent on that course. It is quite clear from statements in its policy that it has not the slightest interest in assisting or inclination to assist small business. Statements in its policy show that the A.L.P. has no understanding of the problems confronting small business. All it can say is that there will be discussion. There has been a lot of discussion.

(Time expired.)

Mr. FOURAS (South Brisbane) (2.30 p.m.): I wish to speak principally in this debate about the Minister's responsibility for migrant affairs. However, before I proceed to that, I say to the member for Mt. Gravatt that the small businessmen of this State are waking up to this conservative Government. They know that it does not do a thing for them. Decisions such as those taken on late-night shopping, large shopping complexes and lack of investment incentive are causing an increasing number of them to go to the wall. I am sure that, come the next election, small businessmen will know where their best interests lie.

One of the responsibilities of the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services is State migration. I believe that in that capacity the present Minister (Mr. Lee) is totally inept, and I call for the allocation of his responsibilities to a Minister who at least has a slight understanding of issues affecting the migrant community. In fact, the Minister's attitude to migrant issues lends itself to the title "Yeronga Ocker". He behaves like an ocker on migrant issues and should be given that title. For some time now he has been publicly attacking the concept of Australia as a multicultural and multilingual society, because he believes that such a concept would create divisions and divided loyalties. I shall quote from one of his Press releases that was widely reported—

"We shouldn't have two kinds of Australians—those born here and those from overseas who make no effort to slot into our community and remain more involved with their own ethnic background than with their new heritage."

He went on to say—

"Some migrants are confused, spending all their time in their own ethnic groups, speaking their native language always, and making no effort to live like ordinary Australians."

That is an outlandish statement. If it reflects Government policy, the Government stands condemned by all migrant groups for such reprehensible and anachronistic attitudes.

What is the Minister saying? Is he saying that all migrants and their families should adopt the language and culture of Australia? Is he virtually ascribing to assimilation rather than integration? Does he not understand that cultures evolve and enrich themselves by drawing on the resources of other cultures around them? In any case, can the Minister define to me what Australian culture is? What does he mean by "an ordinary Australian"? How does he measure "ordinariness"? Australia's migration policy has been the result of the acceptance of the concept "Populate or perish". In fact, the White Australia policy was not a racist policy but a policy of keeping the price of labour dear so that we could hand-pick skilled Europeans as potential migrants.

Migrants who come to Australia make a conscious choice in doing so. They want to belong. They want to be Australian. They want to contribute to making this a great nation. They accept that their first duty as citizens must be to Australia. But an Australian/Italian is simply that. He cannot overnight stop being Italian and become Australian as simply as the Minister states. We live in a nation that is a migrant nation in that 40 per cent of our population is the product of post-war migration. We have come together, the new and the old, to build a new Australian society. If this society is to work and become great, we must learn to respect each other's ideas, cultures, life-styles and languages. We must learn whatever we can from each other, and make choices of what to accept from our own culture.

The Minister has also been quoted as saying that he sees no room here for a multilingual society or one with divided loyalties. When he speaks like that, surely he does not know what he is saying. Of course we live in a multicultural society. We cannot accept multiculturalism unless we accept multilingualism. One cannot exist without the other.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: I think you had better spell "multiculturalism" for the Minister, as he is so dense.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Kaus): Order! I suggest that the honourable member return to his usual seat if he wishes to interject.

Mr. FOURAS: To accept multiculturalism and at the same time reject multilingualism would be saying that all we have to gain from other cultures is a few recipes, some exotic dances and cheap labour. It would reduce multiculturalism to pizzas, the Zorba dance and factory fodder, and I am sure that the migrant community has much more to offer than that.

In fact, of course, migrants have been very good factory fodder for this nation. Nine per cent of the Australian work-force comprises women, yet migrant women take over 50 per cent of the lousy jobs in the process-working factories. At the moment, some 20 per cent of all migrants who came to this country in the last decade or so are unemployed. They pay the price. If that is all we see ourselves as gaining from their culture—a few recipes and the Zorba dance—we are sadly missing what it is all about, because I believe that language and culture are intertwined and inseparable. Language is not just words and rules but the means of transmitting the culture. Without the language, one cannot understand the culture properly. If one rejects the language that carries the culture and gives the only means of understanding it fully, one rejects the culture itself and, sadly, one thereby rejects the people. How would one translate a joke from one language to another? I invite any bilingual person—and I happen to be one—who says that language is not

important and is not related to culture to try translating a joke from, say, Greek to Australian. It loses its whole point.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Would you say that the Minister is very strong on obscene language and very weak on culture?

Mr. FOURAS: I would have to agree with that. In fact, at all times the Minister tries very hard to portray an ocker image, one that might go well with the boys in the bar but one that is not very good for migrant people.

The Minister argues that multilingualism leads to a society with divided loyalties. However, I believe that if we force migrants to reject their language, we will deny them the dignity that they desire so much and take away from them the realisation that they have something of worth to contribute, and thereby force them defensively in upon themselves. It is only by such short-sighted policies that we would create in Australia isolated ghettos and create exactly the situation of hate and suspicion about which the Minister is worried. One-third of the Australian population is bilingual, and if we deny them the right to choose their identity, culture and language, we would find that, instead of becoming "absorbed", to quote the Minister, or "assimilated", which is the view that he really holds, we would be buying trouble for the future.

When the Minister speaks about migrants being cut off from society, he makes a very pertinent point. He has been reported in the Press as saying—

"I also hope to see revived a scheme under which migrants get English lessons in the factories and workshops during meal breaks or after finishing work."

In my opinion, all migrants ought to be able to speak English, but that does not mean that they should throw away their own language, their own heritage, from themselves and their children. If the Minister is fair dinkum, they ought to be given English lessons. It is very difficult for a migrant, coming home after a hard day's work, to shower and change and then go out to English lessons. Apart from being tired and feeling put out, there is also some degree of shame in admitting that he cannot speak the language. Surely in large factories employing these people as factory fodder, it should not be done in the lunch-hour. Hours should be put aside each week so that migrant people can learn to speak English. General Motors-Holden's Limited and all the other big companies that have traditionally used migrants as factory fodder for the last 30 years to keep their factories going should assist migrants to learn the language there. That is as good a place as any to learn it.

Let me now pass to another issue, Mr. Kaus. Mr. Lee, as State Minister in charge of migration, has been very critical of the Federal Government's encouragement for the establishment of various ethnic organisations. He states that what the Whitlam Government did and what the Fraser Government is

now doing under the Galbally report will allow all the additional groups of migrants working for themselves to become—and these are the words he uses—red-hot radicals. The Minister made comments such as, "They would be red-hot radicals who are trying to impose their actions and beliefs on the people they were hired to help." He is scared of the Galbally recommendation, which is that migrant groups be given the money to help themselves because they best know their own needs.

The Minister went on to say that, if these social workers came from outside Government departments, some would be political extremists who could use their position to influence migrants. That is how he views the necessity for migrant social workers. He is worried about Reds under the bed.

When the tribunal came to Brisbane to investigate ethnic radio—Brisbane is the only mainland city without it—Liberal members such as the member for Merthyr appeared before it and referred to the people who want this facility as a Commo lot. The migrant group, although fragmented, is not a minority group. It does the Minister no service to use phrases such as "Commo lot" in an attempt to deprive migrants of the facilities of ethnic radio. I believe that, thanks to the work of a lot of dedicated people, Brisbane will soon have an ethnic radio station. Next week, tests will be conducted and I believe that in the near future the facility will be in full flight. Once this facility is given to migrants, let the Minister try to take it from them and see what happens! Let him try to tell them that they cannot have their own radio station! All members of the community, regardless of their ethnic origin, should welcome the introduction of ethnic radio to Queensland.

People in Australia from various cultural backgrounds have much to learn from one another. Ethnic radio will provide the means for ethnic and cultural exchange. A pressing need exists in Brisbane for a multilingual radio station. Until now, Brisbane has been the only mainland capital city without ethnic radio. Because of the number of ethnic communities in Queensland, there is a clear need for such a station.

In Brisbane, one person in four uses a language other than English. In other words, more than 200,000 in Brisbane are bilingual and use a language other than English. Migrants arrive here with justifiable pride in their language and culture and they can contribute much to enrich Australia. These people must have the opportunity to retain their own heritage. Many members of ethnic communities have been concerned that their language and culture are in danger of dying out in Australia. At the same time, the Australian-born community should be concerned that indifference to other languages may be producing a generation of Australians whose minds are not open to the value of other cultures.

A multilingual station that is both non-commercial and non-party political will provide a necessary social service. Most migrant groups in Brisbane are fragmented. Other than one Finnish newspaper, no ethnic newspaper is published in Brisbane. As well as providing entertainment for non-English-speaking migrants, an ethnic station will provide news and information to the various groups in their own language and will also explain the range of social services that are available to them.

The Minister must accept that many migrants, particularly the older ones, will never properly speak English. He must accept that we live in an era where social services vary enormously from Budget to Budget. How would he give such information to migrants without the facility of an ethnic radio? Ethnic radio is necessary because it equates opportunity for the migrant groups. It gives them an equal chance to understand what is going on. It gives them an equal chance to know what rights they have. Any Government that opposes the establishment of such a facility should be condemned. All the migrant groups in Brisbane, whether they are ultra-conservative, Right-wing, or lean a little the other way, are appalled at statements made by the Minister over the past couple of years on migrant issues. They are concerned that he does not know what he is talking about and is representing a view that is decades behind the times. He is intolerant towards their aspirations, and most of them would vote whole-heartedly in favour of his having responsibility for migrants taken from him.

We must accept the reality that many migrants, particularly women and those in the older age-groups, may never properly speak English. Therefore, alienation is an important problem. Obviously, a person who feels rejected and alone will tend to withdraw into his own community.

Contrary to the Minister's statements, allowing a migrant better access to his language gives him a better chance to fit into our society and not become an ethnocentric. Also contrary to what the Minister says, his solutions are a recipe for disaster for the migrant community. Cultural ignorance causes discrimination. Not every English-speaking person in Brisbane will relate to the ethnic content of the programmes broadcast, but the programmes will provide a continuing recognition and affirmation of the value of the language and heritage of these groups. I believe that the station will help to acquaint the general public with the cultures of other people. It will provide a valuable service in keeping alive for the children both the language and culture of their parents' countries.

The establishment of Brisbane's ethnic radio station marks a major step in the

recognition of the needs of our ethnic communities. It will provide the people of Brisbane with an opportunity to reap the benefits of living in a multicultural, multilingual society.

In dealing with the Minister's migrant responsibilities, I come to a third topic. On numerous occasions the Minister has slated the Federal Government's implementation of the Galbally report, which has been widely accepted by all migrant groups in Australia. The philosophy of the Galbally report is based on the concept that we give the migrant communities the funds so that they can equate opportunities for their own people and work out what their own needs are, rather than the Government's imposing certain ideas on them. That concept has been accepted right across Australia, yet regularly, the Minister—the ocker from Yeronga—completely deprecates these moves.

The State Government's rejection of the proposals in the Galbally report is best exemplified by its continuing to fund the Good Neighbour Council. I have nothing against that council. Early in the piece it did a worthwhile job, but its functions have become irrelevant. Prior to the acceptance of the Galbally report, the Good Neighbour Councils—one of which was established in each State—were funded by the Federal Government. In their early years they were involved mainly in welcoming migrants to Australia—in assisting with their assimilation in the community. It was not until the 1960s that the councils' functions were significantly changed to provide direct services for migrants. That move coincided with the general change in the Government's policy from assimilation to integration. After reading the Press reports emanating from the Minister, I wonder if he understands that that change took place over 20 years ago and that, rather than talk about assimilation, he should talk about integrating migrant communities into the Australian nation.

The Galbally report recommended the abolition of the Good Neighbour Councils, because funds could be better spent by the migrant communities. The report found that the functions performed by the councils were largely irrelevant or had been taken over by other organisations, both Government and non-Government. The welcoming function has undoubtedly become largely irrelevant to the needs of migrants. No-one can doubt that having a body which welcomes people, shakes their hands and says, "All the best", is irrelevant. Furthermore, the councils' other functions, such as interpreting, translating, welfare and counselling, and support for migrant cultural activities, have been taken over by other organisations.

In the Estimates we are now debating the State Government has allocated for 1979-80 about \$128,000 to the Good Neighbour Council. That is a senseless duplication. The Government should come to grips with the migrants' problems and accept the recommendations in the Galbally report. Because

the Minister is so out of tune with the wishes of migrant groups, the Government is wasting its funds and is doing nothing innovative to help migrants.

It is about time that something more positive was done. The Minister, through the Press, has urged families to adopt a migrant. He believes that to be a marvellous suggestion. I, too, think it is a good idea for the acceptance of people from other countries—and they want to be accepted—but that is as far as the State Government's policies go. The Government has not done anything innovative; it does not have any idea about the wishes, hopes and aspirations of our migrant people.

I again reiterate that it is about time that the ocker from Yeronga was removed and that we had as the Minister responsible for migrants in this State somebody who has some idea of what migrants want and how to go about servicing their needs.

Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (2.50 p.m.): There are three areas in particular I would like to mention during this discussion of the Estimates. The first is industrial development, the second is the Minister's role in handling all Government purchases, and the third is his newer role of administering oil movements to make sure that fuel is readily available to all parts of Queensland following the oil crisis.

Firstly, I would like to pay a compliment here this afternoon to the Minister and his officers for their co-operation in the setting up of a Department of Industrial Development industrial estate in Oakey. It will stand the area in good stead in the future.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Is that near Oakey Creek?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is not terribly far from Oakey Creek. It is good to see that the honourable member's knowledge of geography has not slipped. The building of an industrial estate does make a tremendous difference to small communities such as Oakey—

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Oakey isn't such a very small community; it is one of the fastest-growing towns in Queensland.

Mr. ELLIOTT: That is spot on. The Minister for Archerfield is correct. I am sorry, the member for Archerfield; he will not be a Minister if he lives to be 100. Oakey's development follows the good representations, both Federal and State, that have been evident for a great number of years. However, that is getting away from the Estimates a little.

That industrial estate will be of tremendous benefit to the area. It has already attracted quite a few industries, and it looks like a few more pilot projects will begin in the near future. That our policies are working is obvious when one sees the tremendous migration of industries from other States, particularly from South Australia under the former Labor Government. When Labor was

in office in South Australia we saw what was almost a mass migration of industries from that State. This has become an obvious trend, but I suggest that with the change of Government in South Australia we might see an alteration—

Mr. K. J. Hooper: That has nothing to do with the Estimates.

Mr. ELLIOTT: It has everything to do with the Estimates. What I am demonstrating is that the forward thinking of the Minister and his department has brought about a situation where industry is building up in Queensland.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: He would not have an original thought in his head.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Unfortunately, the people on my right—it would be more appropriate if they were on my "Left"—would not have an original thought as far as industry is concerned. They are interested only in Government industry. As far as we on this side of the Committee are concerned, the development of industrial estates provides a tremendous incentive to industry in this State. The terms and conditions applying to the development of industrial estates are absolutely fantastic. New industries could not be better served. I hope that in years to come we will spend even more money on the development of industrial estates to further decentralise industry. I whole-heartedly support the concept of industrial estates and the guaranteeing of loans to industries that are prepared to take advantage of these opportunities.

I wish to make a few comments about another role of the Minister, that is, the purchase of motor vehicles for the State Government. The Minister is in the unique position of being able to influence the future trend by purchasing more fuel-efficient Government vehicles. Members who have a little bit of foresight, like the member for Windsor who drives a four-cylinder car, know that this is very important. We in this Chamber should not be taking a back-seat role in this matter. We should take the front running in conserving fuel by purchasing four-cylinder vehicles. When he purchases vehicles for the various departments the Minister has the opportunity to ensure that he goes all the way by buying vehicles that are fuel-efficient, and so help to conserve a very necessary commodity for use in the essential services that cannot use any other type of fuel. It is important to realise that the Minister has this responsibility. He also has the responsibility of purchasing other items.

Mr. Moore: You might have to grow your own peanuts to run your own tractor.

Mr. ELLIOTT: That is so. We might even have to look at sunflower oil.

The other point I wish to make concerns the Minister's fairly new role in the distribution of fuels. He now has the responsibility to ensure that no area is allowed to run

short of fuel. With the fairly tightly-balanced situation we have at the moment, the Minister has some problems in this area, and he will be confronted with more of them in the future. I know that members who represent rural electorates are concerned about the possibility of their areas running out of fuel. Even only a temporary shortage can create very real problems for the economy of rural areas.

I refer particularly to the cane industry, which has probably experienced more problems than any other industry in the distribution of fuel. Those members who represent the rural areas that grow the greater part of the sugar crop in this State realise that their constituents are very concerned about the shortage of fuel. I commend the Minister for what he has already done in this matter. I have taken before him deputations consisting of people who are concerned about the financial problems created by a shortage of fuel.

I have covered the three topics covered by these Estimates that are of particular interest to my area. Obviously they are the areas of real concern to my constituents.

At this stage I will leave it to other members to make further points on these matters.

Mr. T. A. WHITE (Redcliffe) (2.59 p.m.): In rising to speak in this debate, I am interested to see that the Government is carrying forward its programme of encouraging growth, development and productivity in this State. In my view, the Minister is to be congratulated for the continuation of this commercial development and for the positive way in which his department and his officers have encouraged firms to set up in Queensland. From listening to the Minister this morning, I understand that the value of new projects set up in the last financial year was over \$1,000 million.

It is also interesting to note that we are successful not only in obtaining overseas development finance for various projects; many interstate companies are now transferring here from their home State. For example, I understand that approximately 50 South Australian firms have set up in Queensland. The department has to take credit for this. In my view, more has to be done to attract people from interstate, in particular, by creating a greater awareness of opportunities in Queensland. Queensland does have an office in Sydney and one is being established in Melbourne. However, there is a need to promote Queensland throughout the nation, particularly in Victoria where there is potential to attract many manufacturing companies to Queensland.

The Minister should give consideration to regular interstate promotional activities. For example, seminars could be conducted at which guest speakers from Queensland could give detailed information about opportunities for development in Queensland. That applies particularly to industrialists and manufacturers.

When one looks at the state of Queensland's economy, one realises the predominant role of the rural and export-orientated industries, particularly the mineral industry. The Government should be building up a more diversified economy to give it strength and to provide employment for our expanding work-force. In many respects, the key to future employment opportunities is the Government's ability to continue to promote industries and attract others to Queensland to further the development of this State.

I hope that the Minister will be able to tackle these problems and develop new and attractive material for the promotion of Queensland. Unfortunately, I do not have an example of the old advertisements with me, but I think all honourable members would have seen the type of old-fashioned posters and logos that have been used for a number of years. I hope his department gives attention to providing more attractive material such as is used in pharmacies like my own.

At the present time there is a great need for productivity improvement, particularly in the manufacturing sector. At the same time, I recognise the scope for productivity improvement throughout the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy. The Minister, through his department, should give consideration to bringing about a greater awareness among employers and employees of the benefits of increased productivity and the necessity for this State to be competitive not only on international markets but also, and equally important, in interstate areas.

The focus of productivity is mainly on the interaction of people and technology and the harnessing of change to the best advantage of our community. We need to challenge and, indeed, question old approaches and develop an understanding of new methods in this whole area of productivity, new relationships and techniques. In other words, we need to understand more about technology, how it works, and the impact it will have at the work place on people and the productivity of this State.

Small business enterprises, which currently employ half the work-force in this State, have a greater need of assistance than the large corporations which can normally rely on their own resources.

Mr. Davis: So you can make more cop.

Mr. T. A. WHITE: I am sure that the honourable member for Brisbane Central would be very sympathetic to people in small businesses because, after all is said and done, he has a lot of them in his electorate.

In his Estimates this morning, the Minister drew attention to the increased call upon his department for back-up support for small businesses, particularly in respect of counselling, referrals and information that small businesses need. Under the direction of an industry assistance officer, the department has two full-time counsellors who travel

throughout the State of Queensland and provide information to those in need of support, particularly enterprises that are not able to afford an accountant, for example, or other managerial services. I am pleased to see that the department is locking in to the TAFE colleges to provide further back-up support to young people who will be going into the work-force and perhaps entertaining a career in the small business sector at a later date.

When we talk of small business, it is important to know our definitions. When we look back at the Wiltshire method—Sir Frederick Wiltshire chaired a committee some time ago under the auspices of the Commonwealth Government—it is interesting to note that small businesses include manufacturers that employ fewer than 100 people; mining companies that employ fewer than 20 people; and wholesalers, retailers and service industries with a turnover of less than \$500,000 per annum. What is significant is that in the areas of mining, manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing and service industry almost 90 per cent of business enterprises are “small” by definition. For example, 78 per cent of the mining industry is run by small business entities.

I would hope that the Minister would look at the matter of departmental resources. At the moment the department has only two counsellors. With the calls on their time that come with great rapidity and the demand for them to travel throughout the State of Queensland, I would hope that the Minister could see his way clear to make additional resources available. There is a need for additional counselling, particularly in the field of financial management. Whilst most people in small business have a great deal of enterprise and knowledge in their own fields, they sadly lack expertise in financial management and control. I refer particularly to the problems associated with raising capital, access to capital, cash-flow management and the like. The member for Mt. Gravatt this afternoon referred the Minister to the great need for improved access to capital for small business enterprises.

As there is a need for departmental officers to travel throughout the State, I would hope that the Minister would give serious consideration to the appointment of additional staff. Alternatively, there is the suggestion that we could draw upon the resources of industry, colleges of advanced education and, in areas such as Townsville, the university.

Earlier in this Estimates debate, the member for South Brisbane referred to the development of large shopping centres. If my memory serves me correctly, he indicated that that trend was adversely affecting small business enterprises in the State. However, the tenants in those shopping centres are small business people—people who have been given an opportunity to start off in new

enterprises. Very often, these are people who pioneered small business in strip shopping centres over the years.

Mr. Davis: Would you regard yourself as a small businessman?

Mr. T. A. WHITE: Of course I am.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Kaus): Order! If the member for Brisbane Central wishes to interject, he should occupy his correct seat in the Chamber.

Mr. T. A. WHITE: If the member for Brisbane Central had listened to my earlier remarks, he would have realised that, by definition, I am a small businessman.

Finally, I compliment the Minister and his department for the work that they are doing. I hope that they carry on with the progress they have made over the years. It is very heartening to see from the figures on exports that the State of Queensland now contributes approximately 20 per cent of the total exports of this nation. In many respects, much of the credit for that activity must go to the Government and to the Minister's department. I look forward to seeing further new developments in Queensland, particularly as such developments create new employment opportunities.

Mr. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth) (3.10 p.m.): In speaking to the Estimates introduced by the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services, I wish to cover a number of different topics ranging from industrial development to the Government Printer.

Although in this debate one is not able to speak about new legislation, it is interesting to note that the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services is the only Minister in this Parliament who has not initiated any new legislation or amended any existing legislation. If the Government were serious about solving the unemployment crisis that exists in Queensland today, urgent initiatives should be taken in the Minister's department to create new job opportunities and move away from what is presently a department of stagnation.

The first subject that I wish to raise is one that has received a great deal of publicity in recent days, that is, the take-over of Queensland companies by southern-based firms. The question I would like the Minister to answer is: What is his Department of Commercial and Industrial Development doing to ensure the job security of Queensland workers in the face of southern take-overs?

The take-over that affects my electorate possibly more than any recent take-over would be the Henry Jones I.X.L. take-over of Provincial Traders Holding Limited. As most of the people working at P.T.L. live in the electorates of Wynnum, Lytton and Chatsworth, I would like to know what steps the Minister will take to safeguard the jobs of these workers.

For members to understand the take-over of P.T.L., I will outline how Henry Jones I.X.L. acquired P.T.L. and the pathetic display by the Government of this State in trying to appear to the people of Queensland to be concerned about the employment of workers at P.T.L. Henry Jones I.X.L. started to acquire P.T.L. in February of this year, when it purchased a 14.2 per cent interest by buying the interest of Canadian and British controlled George Weston Foods Ltd. It followed this up with further share buying until, on 27 June 1979, it had a 23.2 per cent share.

At that stage, the managing director of Henry Jones, Mr. John Elliott, stated that Henry Jones was not contemplating a take-over bid for Provincial Traders. However, within two weeks of that statement, Henry Jones made a cash offer of \$1.65 a share for all shares it did not own in P.T.L. Surely, then, the Government could not trust the word of that company, which made a statement and within two weeks was doing a complete turn round. Perhaps the Government should have had a look at what Henry Jones I.X.L. did when it took over the State jam factory at Buranda. It was not long after it took over that factory that it closed.

What did the Queensland Government do? If we look at the Press release by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on 26 June 1979, we see that he stated—

“On the other hand the Government was looking to avoid the very bad effects that some recent takeovers had had on Queensland companies, where these had either been closed or relegated to branch office status.

“Concurrently we will ensure that Queensland is able to attract capital from all parts of the world to facilitate the development of the State and the advancement of locally based free enterprise.

“Dr. Edwards said that insofar as the present CBA/IXL move against Provincial Traders was concerned, he would be making the Commercial Bank of Australia aware of his displeasure at their involvement in these transactions.

“The bank's move was in no way to the benefit of Queensland.

“Dr. Edwards said the move against Provincial Traders had all the signs of the worst features of these takeovers.

“If the moves against the company were successful it was clear that the consequences would be that Provincial Traders would be broken up as a viable Queensland company.”

The last part of the Treasurer's statement is very important, as he stated that the take-over would not benefit Queensland, and that Provincial Traders would be broken up as a viable Queensland company.

One would assume that the Treasurer had a concern for Queensland workers. If he did, he certainly did not show that concern in the following weeks, when he had at

his disposal an excellent opportunity to try to stop the take-over. What I refer to is the recommendation by the board of directors of Provincial Traders Holding Limited in its annual report for the year ended 30 June 1979. In that report there was a reference to the take-over offer of Henry Jones I.X.L., and it stated—

“Shareholders should have already received an offer dated 10th August 1979 from Henry Jones IXL Limited to purchase all their Provincial Shares for a consideration of \$1.65 cash per share. The board has recommended that all Provincial shareholders accept this offer from Henry Jones which closes on 9th October 1979.”

Why I say that the Treasurer could have taken action to try to stop the take-over is that one of the five directors who voted on that recommendation is Sir Ernest Savage, who is also a director of the S.G.I.O. Further, as at 10 August 1979, the S.G.I.O. was the fourth biggest shareholder in P.T.L., controlling 938,505 shares. So whilst we have on one side the Treasurer making statements that southern-based companies should not take over Queensland companies, and that the take-over will not be in the best interests of Queensland, we have on the other side a Government instrumentality for which the Treasurer is directly responsible being party to the decision to recommend to shareholders to sell. One would assume that by this date the S.G.I.O. has sold its shares in P.T.L., ensuring that Henry Jones I.X.L. has 100 per cent control of Provincial Traders.

From that information, it is apparent that the Treasurer is either incompetent in that he does not know what the S.G.I.O. is doing or his statements on the Henry Jones I.X.L. take-over were made to try to make the people of Queensland think that he had a concern for Queenslanders. As I stated earlier, I would like to know what steps the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services is taking to safeguard the jobs of workers at P.T.L., as already the job rot has started.

Early in October a Mr. Bob Ingham, a director of Ingham Chickens, which is involved in the Henry Jones take-over of P.T.L., came to Brisbane and took to dinner managerial staff from the stock feed section of P.T.L. The workers at Provincial Traders now refer to that dinner as the “Last Supper” and Mr. Ingham as “Judas”. The reason for that is that he gave the staff personal guarantees that their positions were secure, yet, within two weeks, two of the managerial staff at that dinner had been dismissed with the reason that their positions were no longer needed as their jobs could be done in Sydney by staff already employed there.

Even the manner in which these men were dismissed was most unsatisfactory, particularly to persons who had given many years' service to the company. At half past 3, half an hour before these two gentlemen were to knock off work, the manager of their section

came to them asking, "Can I have the keys to the company cars you control?" He took the keys of the company cars, then gave the men their pay packets and superannuation pay-outs, and said, "We have a security guard here to drive you home. Get going. Goodbye." That is typical of the attitude adopted by southern-based companies to Queensland workers. The Minister has at his disposal the means of doing something about it, so he should do something.

Further to this, because of a company policy changing the output of the stock feed section, a further three people will be dismissed from the office and 10 workers from the mill. Because of Henry Jones's policy of testing all its own products and testing all new feeds, I understand that work presently undertaken by workers at the Department of Primary Industries research station at Rocklea will be transferred south—once again creating less work for Queenslanders.

Possibly the most disgusting aspect of the whole affair is the involvement of the Queensland Government through the S.G.I.O. As recently as last Thursday, in answer to a question, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer said that the Government did not have any control whatever over the market-place. No control at all! Yet one of the directors on the board of the S.G.I.O. is also a director of Provincial Traders. As I have said before, the S.G.I.O. was the fourth-largest shareholder in Provincial Traders—that is, up till the company take-over.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Are you saying, in effect, that this Assembly has been misled?

Mr. MACKENROTH: I think that this morning the member for Lytton, in his personal explanation, showed quite clearly that the Deputy Premier did mislead the Chamber last Thursday when he said that the member for Lytton had done nothing about the take-over in June. In fact, the member for Lytton had written a letter to the Deputy Premier and had received a reply. It is quite obvious to me that last Thursday the Deputy Premier did mislead Parliament. That was one of the many occasions on which he has done it.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Would any other Parliament stand for that?

Mr. MACKENROTH: In any other Parliament such a Minister would have the grace to stand down. The Deputy Premier has done nothing for Queensland. Every day we see his changing attitudes. When he was elected as leader of the Liberal Party, that party thought he was the Messiah—the gold at the end of the rainbow, so to speak. But what has he done? He has changed into a member who attacks people personally in an effort to make political capital.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gunn): Order! I ask the honourable member to return to the Estimates.

Mr. MACKENROTH: I would like to, Mr. Gunn, but I was answering an interjection.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member must always address his remarks through the Chair.

Mr. MACKENROTH: I will do so.

Last Thursday, in answer to a question, the Deputy Premier said—

"We did get assurances from the company that took over Provincial Traders that there would not be any decrease in the number of persons it employed in Queensland depending, of course, on control in the market-place and output."

I can only say that two people have been sacked and a further 13 are to be sacked. As I understand it, they are to be sacked because Henry Jones I.X.L. has started to sell off P.T.L. It will sell off to southern companies the portions of that company that it does not want and, as a result, I am sure many more people will lose their jobs.

Last night's "Telegraph" contained an article headed "Joh to look again at take-overs block". It read—

"The Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, is investigating new ways of preventing take-overs of Queensland-based companies."

But even today, on the front page of the "Telegraph" we see the headline, "Government silent on share raids", with the following comment—

"State Cabinet is considering secret moves to attempt to stop share raids and takeover bids on Queensland companies."

By the time Queensland gets around to doing anything about the take-over of Queensland companies, there will be no Queensland-owned companies left. The Government has had plenty of time to take action, but it has done nothing. It has been in office for 22 years and, until now, it has done nothing.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: On reading that article further, would you not agree that we are entitled to know the names of the companies represented at the meeting?

Mr. MACKENROTH: I agree.

Since I came into Parliament I have noticed that members are not made aware of many happenings in Queensland politics. While the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services may laugh, he is a party to these secret decisions. He should be letting the Parliament of Queensland know what is going on in the State. The Minister should do something about the job losses in Queensland and try to create new jobs for Queenslanders.

I turn now to the report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development. It contains two quite interesting paragraphs.

Mr. Scott: That is about all there is of interest in it.

Mr. MACKENROTH: I agree.

In 1976 we read in the Press that the Premier was flying to Western Australia the following day in a new bid to get a steel mill for Queensland. Honourable members will recall many statements about Queensland's getting a steel mill. Reference has been made to twin steel mills—one for Western Australia and one for Queensland. In propaganda prior to the last State election the people were told that we were to get a steel mill in Queensland to use Western Australian steel and Queensland coal. The Premier told us of the course that the railway line would follow across Australia. Hidden away in the report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development are two paragraphs, which read—

“A study examining the feasibility of establishing a steelworks in Queensland, either combined with or separate from a similar operation in Western Australia, was completed in draft form.

“The analysis indicated that an export-based steel industry was not viable under current cost structures, though there are indications that the international steel market is strengthening. If this trend continues a revised estimate of viability will be undertaken.”

Hidden away in that report is a statement that there will not be a steelworks in Queensland. Perhaps the Queensland Government could make that known to the people whom it tried to deceive prior to the last election into voting for it by believing that it would provide a steelworks in Queensland and further jobs.

Mr. Lee: Don't you want one?

Mr. MACKENROTH: I do want one, but I have only to read the departmental report to see that we are not getting one. Is it true that we are not getting a steelworks?

Mr. Lee: I will answer that later.

Mr. MACKENROTH: I did not realise that the Minister had not read the report.

Mr. Lee: I will reply in due course.

Mr. MACKENROTH: When I visited the Government Printing Office I was astonished at the archaic conditions under which the workers do their job. I was very pleased to see that the Minister had taken the Government Printer overseas with him to purchase new machinery. This will enable the Government Printing Office to update its machinery and come more into line with modern standards. I hope that the Minister can do something very quickly about moving the Government Printing Office from George Street across to the proposed site at Woolloongabba.

The first sentence of the section of the report devoted to the Government Printing Office makes illuminating reading. It states—

“During the year, this Office provided a satisfactory service in meeting the printing requirements of State Parliament and the stationery needs of all Government departments.”

The Minister would remember that some two months ago I asked him a question regarding the availability of Bills and Acts from the Government Printing Office. People have told me that they are unable to obtain a copy of the Prisons Act from the printing office, and when I rang the Government Printer and asked him why this Act was unavailable, I was informed that it had been out of print for five years. An Act such as the Prisons Act affects a lot of people. It is in great demand.

Mr. Lee interjected.

Mr. MACKENROTH: Perhaps it will affect the Minister pretty soon. A lot of people want to know their rights under that Act. When we see the hundreds of people this Government is arresting during street demonstrations and then putting them into prison when they will not pay their fines, we realise that they want to know their rights under this Act. But they cannot go to the Government Printing Office and buy it. When I rang the office of the Minister for Welfare and asked why this Act was unavailable, I very quickly received a photocopy of it in the mail. Perhaps it was an attempt to shut me up.

We sit here passing Bills that amend legislation or initiate new legislation, and these Acts of Parliament should all be available to the people of Queensland. The Minister said that people would not want to know about some of the legislation that we pass. If that is true, perhaps we should never pass it. Because every Act of Parliament affects somebody in Queensland in some way, those Acts should be available through the Government Printing Office to every person in Queensland who wants to buy them. If an Act goes out of print, within a week the Government Printer should reprint it so that it is available to the people of Queensland. The situation should not be as it is now, with some Acts having been out of print for five years.

I ask the Minister to do something about that situation very urgently. If we are to sit here and pass legislation, copies of it should be available to the people of Queensland so that they will know what we are doing and how it will affect them. They must know their rights.

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (3.29 p.m.): In speaking to these Estimates today, I want first to say that I appreciate the attention that the Minister gives to the problems faced by members in their electorates, particularly with the development of industrial estates. There is an industrial estate in Innisfail and it is with a lot of pleasure that I have seen it grow considerably in the past couple of years. In fact, at this stage most of the allotments that have been developed on the estate have been spoken for either by new industries looking to come to the area or industries already established in Innisfail.

This is particularly pleasing when we consider the number of problems experienced

in the setting up of this estate. While it is situated out of the town area, there are a couple of houses in the vicinity and a considerable number of complaints have been received about high noise levels emanating from some industries on the estate. In my opinion, it is unfortunate that the estate was not zoned as heavy industry when it was first gazetted, because the Innisfail district does have a small number of heavy industries. The main industries are electrical contracting and machinery manufacturing. There are a lot of primary industries in the Innisfail district. In fact, we have a flourishing tea industry. The harvesting machines for that industry are made by local manufacturers in the industrial estate, and I feel that this is quite a feather in our cap.

A number of our companies manufacture machinery for the sugar-cane industry. We manufacture our own sugar-harvesting bins and other heavy equipment that is used in the sugar industry. So there is a considerable amount of industry around Innisfail, and I would like to see much more of it attracted onto the industrial estate. However, zoning the estate as "special light" and "special industry" does preclude a lot of this industry from moving onto the estate. It was unfortunate that the local Johnstone Shire Council, in its wisdom, did not request that the industrial estate be zoned for heavy industry right from the beginning. This would have overcome many of the problems that have been experienced in the last year.

The drainage on the industrial estate has improved, and I must thank both the Johnstone Shire Council and the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development for this. During the last serious flood in the area, there was more than 2 ft. of water over the estate, and I must say that this did discourage a number of industries from taking up leases on it. But since the improvements to the drainage system have been carried out, flooding is no longer a serious problem there. People are becoming confident in taking up land on the estate.

I think that the Minister's decision earlier this year to extend the guide-lines for the establishment of industries on the estate was significant, particularly to industries in my area. As I have already said, my area has a considerable amount of machinery-manufacturing and also service industries. While we cannot manufacture all the machinery that we need, we have rather large repair plants, and this sort of industry would be welcomed on the estate. This is exactly where it should be. A lot of industry in Innisfail is moving out of the residential and town areas into the fringe areas and, of course, the industrial estate is the place where it should be located. So an extension of the guide-lines has proved quite helpful in Innisfail.

I also thank the Minister for the help that his department has given the tea industry in Innisfail. I am very proud to be able to say that Innisfail has a complete tea industry. In fact, it is the only tea industry

in Australia. There are the plantations at Nerada. The tea is harvested by locally produced machinery and is dried in the treatment factory at Nerada. When the tea is manufactured into the finished product, it is taken to the industrial estate where it is packed in the new packing factory that was opened only recently.

Our tea industry has been in operation for about 12 years, but it is still a fledgling industry. It is a small industry and it is struggling to make headway. In fact, it is only over the last couple of years that Tea Estates of Australia has looked like breaking even on its operations. So the help that the Minister's department was able to give in the construction of this packing factory was appreciated. It meant that the factory was constructed years before it otherwise would have been. In Innisfail we now have a complete operation, from growing tea right through to marketing it.

The tea industry was also helped during the year when it won Government contracts to supply Government institutions with tea. In fact, for the last month Nerada tea has been used in Parliament House. Winning a Government contract is an indication of how successful this industry has been and shows that it can compete with the long-established tea manufacturers and importers of the world. The quality of Nerada tea is comparable with that of any tea that was submitted for consideration. It was pleasing that Nerada gained that contract.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention once again the recent fuel crisis in North Queensland, although, with the easing of cane harvesting, it has now largely passed. However, it is something that we must not forget. Although the situation has now eased, we must still turn our attention to it and look to next year, as the same problem may occur again. If we pay attention to it now, we have an opportunity to overcome some of the problems experienced earlier in the year. Most of those problems were caused when fuel companies were caught napping.

Mr. Moore: Hoarding, as well.

Mrs. KIPPIN: The honourable member for Windsor mentions hoarding. It was only natural that farmers, who were coming into the harvest season, would store fuel. When rumours of fuel shortages spread, of course the farmers stored as much fuel as they possibly could. They should not be condemned for that. Had they not stored a lot of fuel, they would have been in much more trouble. In fact, I would like to see all cane farmers in my district hoard or store—

Mr. Lee: Not hoard—store.

Mrs. KIPPIN: No, not hoard, but store about six month's supply of diesel fuel in preparation for next year's harvest season. If that storage takes place, it will ease any problems that arise when ships are delayed or there are other supply problems.

I think the companies are now aware that it is no use looking at average consumption in northern areas. When the cane season starts at approximately the beginning of June, the mills work 13 days a fortnight. Such concentrated activity places a tremendous demand on fuel supplies, and this demand is sustained for a number of months. If supplies of fuel are low at the commencement of the cane season, obviously we are going to run into trouble.

Mr. Scott: Why can't the department do a survey, now that the slack season is with us, so that farmers and everybody else in the North know where they stand?

Mrs. KIPPIN: I am sure the department has noted the point raised by the honourable member for Cook.

The northern cane growers' organisations know exactly what their requirements are and what the supplies in the district are.

Mr. Scott: That is the fuel that is stored.

Mrs. KIPPIN: Yes, that is the fuel that is stored, and the expected supplies that are coming in ships.

I pay tribute to the cane growers' organisations for their efforts during the period in which we had problems with the supply of diesel fuel during the harvesting season. They monitored the situation very well. They could tell us exactly where the fuel was in the district, how much was needed, and whether enough fuel existed to get farmers through week by week.

Mr. Scott: They could not tell us where it was, though.

Mrs. KIPPIN: Yes, to a large extent they knew.

The cane growers' organisations did an excellent job not only in monitoring the whole situation but in persuading their own members to supply others with fuel if they had more stored than they actually needed. I was very pleased by the spirit of co-operation that existed during the cane harvest. Although it was a particularly worrying time for most of the cane industry, harvesters did not actually run out of fuel. I had a number of phone calls from people who did not know where their fuel was coming from the next day, but we always managed to find some.

I also pay tribute to the fishing industry during that time. Distillate supplies were directed to the sugar industry at the expense of the fishing industry. The fuel companies were amazed at the extra consumption of diesel fuel in the Far North; but they did not realise that there was a 200 per cent increase in consumption by the fishing industry alone in that area. Consequently, it stands to reason that there would be a severe drain on stores.

The mining industry has experienced an increase in activities—over 100 per cent in the Herberton/Mt. Garnet area alone. The increased price of tin has attracted a considerable number of people who have not

been involved in the mining industry for the last five or 10 years. They need a great deal of heavy machinery to shift the ore. The fuel companies did not foresee the extent of the demand that would be placed upon them by such increased mining activity in the North.

At the moment we do not have serious problems of fuel shortages in the sugar industry, the fishing industry or the mining industry. However, I am concerned about the beef industry, as we are fast approaching the wet season. It is absolutely imperative that adequate diesel fuel supplies are made available to the Far North before the commencement of the next wet season. Country people need diesel fuel supplies not only to run trucks and other machinery but also to operate plant for lighting and refrigeration. Diesel fuel is the life-blood of many country stations. I am pleased to say that the problem has been sorted out fairly well and we do not seem to be facing serious difficulties with distillate.

I deal now with the severe shortages we are experiencing with Avgas. The matter has been mentioned a number of times in this place over the last couple of months. In the beef industry, prices have improved and activity has therefore increased. A number of properties are endeavouring to obtain Avgas so that they can muster by helicopter. That might seem an expensive process, but today labour on cattle properties is virtually non-existent. Those who left the industry during the slump just have not returned. Whereas five years ago sufficient men could be obtained for the muster, that is absolutely impossible now. The supply of Avgas for helicopters is thus imperative. I appeal to the Minister to keep a very close watch on Avgas supplies for the Far North so that mustering can be completed before the wet season.

Charter aircraft operators have also borne the brunt of the Avgas shortage. A number of them have had to endeavour to sell their aircraft because they could not get the charter work they needed to keep up the interest and redemption payments. It is a shame to see those aircraft leave the north. We have reached the stage where the use of light aircraft is much more acceptable to the community. I was very disappointed to see an air show conducted at Woodstock, outside Townsville, a month ago. There seemed to be an endless supply of Avgas at the air show. B.P. had a tanker there to fill aircraft as fast as they had used their fuel. It seemed to me to be irresponsibility on the part of the organisers of the air show to use so much Avgas purely for sport and pleasure whilst people needed it to continue operations on their properties.

In the last couple of months, a number of meetings have been held between the Federal Department of National Development and officers of the Queensland Department of Commercial and Industrial Development under the leadership of Mr. Graham Baker,

and I have been very pleased to see that they seem to have brought into the open the areas in which problems of supply have arisen. I look forward to very close monitoring of the supplies of both Avgas and diesel in North Queensland. In fact, I do not think it would go amiss if the Minister appointed an officer specifically to monitor supplies of fuel to the Far North. I am not suggesting for a minute that the Government should consider intervening in the distribution or supply of fuel in North Queensland. That is a job that the fuel companies have always done, and I think it would be very unwise for the Government to interfere. However, a very close watch must be kept on the fuel companies to ensure that they distribute supplies equitably amongst various industries.

I am looking to both the department and the fuel companies to provide additional storage for fuel in North Queensland, preferably before the commencement of the next cane-harvesting season. There is a considerable amount of interest in the development of additional fuel storage at Mourilyan harbour. Any ship that can enter Cairns harbour can enter Mourilyan harbour, and I think it would be more than opportune at this stage for the Minister and his departmental officers to do all they possibly can to encourage a fuel company to establish bulk fuel storage at Mourilyan harbour. It could be used to supply an area stretching from Cardwell to Babinda and the southern half of the Atherton Tableland. A considerable amount of fuel is used in that area, and I am sure that it would be well worth while a company's establishing bulk fuel storage at Mourilyan harbour. Fuel companies should be aware that a great deal of development is taking place at Mourilyan, and I suggest that they should consider very quickly applying for adequate land on which to build bulk storage. Great development will take place at Mourilyan harbour in the next couple of years.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BURNS (Lytton) (3.48 p.m.): Recently I wrote out a question to direct to the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services in relation to the formation of the Australian Technology Foundation on 8 November last year. Under the system that operates in this Assembly, I have not had an opportunity to get that question on the list to be answered. After reading the report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, I realise that I would have been wasting my time. My question was—

“Does the Minister see any merit in the foundation's idea of technological impact studies which would require government or industry considering changing its technology to bring out a statement on its effect to the employees and others?”

“Can the Minister foresee the foundation being of assistance to the Department of

Commercial and Industrial Development, and, if so, does he believe that the foundation should be assisted to defray costs of research?”

In reading the report of the department, I was stunned to find that only one paragraph refers to the most pressing problem facing the nation today. I am talking about structural adjustment; I am talking about technological change; I am talking about the computer revolution; I am talking about the problems that this raises for the whole of the community and the whole of the world. All I found was—

“From the State's point of view, it is pleasing to note the growing national awareness of the need for structural adjustment.”

It went on to speak about the Crawford Committee, and it finally said—

“It is hoped that the nation responds to the imaginative challenge proposed by the Committee rather than opting for shorter-term, partial solutions to the problem of highly protected, uncompetitive industries.”

That is structural change. There is not a word about the computer revolution. It will affect jobs, business, unemployment—indeed, our whole lives. The Government department that is charged with business development, decentralisation, migration and employment should be leading the way. It should report to Parliament on the spread of computers and the revolutionary changes they will bring, as well as on the far-reaching effects that they will have on our life-style. This Parliament and this nation must face up to this revolution, a revolution that will make the Industrial Revolution pale into insignificance.

We have all watched mechanisation take jobs, yet Australian Parliaments have stood idly by as workers have been replaced. I refer firstly to cane-cutters. I can remember that as a young organiser in Ingham I saw hundreds of men signed on in the show-ground. I can remember going down to the wharves at Mourilyan and Lucinda and seeing hundreds of wharfies carrying bags of sugar onto the ship. Today when I look at the reports I see that their jobs have disappeared.

In relation to waterside workers, for example—in 1955-56, there were 25,248 wharfies; in 1976-77, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 11,130. The Government talks about productivity. In 1955-56, the cargo handled by the wharfies totalled 25,000,000 tons; in 1976-77, half that number handled 50,000,000 tons. In 1955-56, the wharfies worked 38,000,000 hours; in 1976-77, the time was reduced to 13,000,000 hours. On the wharves, workers have lost jobs. In other words, less money is going home. That has an effect on the pockets of the people who are involved with them. The position is similar in relation to the railway flying gangs that have been reduced throughout the State.

Let me deal with home-building. Previously, excavation was carried out by hand and shovel; today it is done by the backhoe. In days gone by, concreting was done with hand and shovel; now it is done by Ready-mix bringing in the concrete in a truck. Whereas framing was once cut and erected on the spot, now it is pre-cut. Flooring was once done by hand; now it is end-matched by machine. Roof frames were once done by hand; now roofs are erected with roof trusses.

Look at plumbing. In the old days, we saw lead-wiping, lead-beating and soldering; today, that has been replaced by P.V.C. pipes and glue. So in one house alone a great deal of work formerly carried out by hand has been replaced by modern technology. And that is only the tip of the iceberg.

The room-sized computer of the 1960s has been replaced by one that will fit into the palm of the hand. Computer power that was rented for \$17,000 a month in the mid-1960s can be bought outright today for less than \$1,000.

Up to now, our experience of micro-electronics has been limited to pocket calculators and digital watches. Today's technology can provide machines and processors that will replace most of today's workers. The machines are desired by industry and commerce because they are designed to reduce labour costs by eliminating jobs. New jobs will be created, nevertheless; but they will be fewer and will demand new skills.

No-one has yet told us what will happen to the unskilled who will be thrown on to the technological scrap-heap. In this report from the department charged with commercial development in this State there is not one word about it.

In December 1978, a report on computers in Australia entitled "Usage and Effects" found that computers had cost 200,000 men and women in offices their jobs. On the positive side, they had created only 53,000 new jobs. For each new job created, three jobs were lost. The word processor will decimate the typing pool and office staff. The computerised typewriter with a speed of 500 words per minute, with a memory bank, can do the work of five or six typists.

Between June 1975 and June 1978, the number of staff under 17 years of age employed in banks in Australia declined by 47 per cent. That was in the past. Now the electronic bank teller will accept deposits and provide cash withdrawals. In fact, it can do most of the things done by a flesh-and-blood teller, and it will do it 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will eliminate tellers, ledger-keepers and back-up staff.

Telecom has said that over the next five years it will reduce the total number of maintenance workers by over 20 per cent, and at the same time it will increase the number of lines available by 60 per cent—in spite of the reduction in the work-force.

As to libraries—at the national conference on the use of mini-computers held at the University of New South Wales in August 1979, Professor Juris Reinfelds pointed out that a new type of computer was capable of achieving in one day what the most efficient worker could hope to achieve in 100 years. One day to do what a worker could hope to do in 100 years! And in this report there is not one word about computerisation replacing workers.

When I was in America I looked at the operations of some of the supermarkets. In American towns, there is no such thing now as the little corner store. Now supermarkets will face their own revolution. A combination of the laser and the computer using what is called the Universal Product Code, made up of lines and numbers, is dramatically changing supermarket check-outs and storeroom employment. The shop assistant merely passes the item purchased over a transparent plate set in the counter, the laser beam scans the code printed on the product at the factory and its computer partner prints the item by name, together with its price, on the customer's bill. All this takes less than a quarter of the time we normally spend at the check-out. That system cuts out stocktaking, traces what is sold and re-orders, traces poor-selling and unpopular lines and sees that they are not re-ordered. It means fewer cash registers, cashiers, shop assistants and clerks, and reduces bookkeeping. I could go on and on, but the examples I have given suffice to show that this Parliament should have its own joint, high-powered committee to investigate and report on the effects, both good and bad, in our State, in the short term and long term of the modern computer and technological changes that are affecting us.

I have shown that we can expect a steady but alarming reduction in jobs over the next few years. A recent study done at the Cambridge University showed that unemployment in Britain will soar from the 1978 level of about 1,300,000 to 5,000,000 in 1990. The European economic community has predicted that the 6,000,000 people currently unemployed will swell in number to 18,000,000 by 1990 and that, of these, 5 per cent, or almost 1,000,000, will be young people who have never worked in their lives.

European countries point to computerisation as the major cause of the cancerous growth in despair and misery for the young. Our Federal Liberal Government does not even keep statistics. In March the Federal Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs (Mr. Viner) said—

"The Department of Employment and Youth Affairs does not collect on a regular basis statistics which indicate the number of people who have been retrenched from industry or who have lost their jobs as a result of the introduction of automated techniques."

What is the Queensland Government doing about this looming threat to thousands of

jobs and to many small businesses? The report of the department shows that—

Mr. Warburton: We might have to ask the Japanese.

Mr. BURNS: That is probably correct.

The report of the department we are dealing with today shows that Liberal and National Party members are either too lazy or too ignorant of what is going on in the work place to care. Nothing is happening.

What investigations have been carried out into reports which show that the positions of typist, clerk and teller will be virtually extinct by 1990—that they will disappear as job occupations? What has been done about the prediction that by the year 2000 jobs for assembly-line workers, shop assistants, maintenance technicians and members of the middle-management class will be as scarce as hen's teeth—that they will disappear from the list of jobs available? What has been done about reports that, by the year 2020, jobs for fishermen, garbage collectors, drivers, teachers, dentists and most salesmen will have come under threat and virtually disappear as machines take them over?

Only the unions and the Labor movement have shown any anxiety over future job prospects and security, and I must say that they have been slow and have dragged their feet. I remember that in the 1960s we had committees on automation, and we were concerned about the problem. Great meetings were held at the Trades Hall, but because good times came along and everybody had a job, we forgot about it. Now that times are getting tough we are all thinking about it.

Where are the Government's initiatives or investigations into job-sharing? What is the Government doing about the regularly suggested idea of each worker working only half a day with another worker taking his place each afternoon? That suggestion is being made at conferences all over the world, but have we looked into it to see if it is feasible, to see whether there is any possibility of implementing it?

When can we expect reports on such schemes as only one worker per family, with five or six weeks' annual leave and earlier retirement, with not just a 35-hour week, but maybe a 30-hour week? That is being debated now in the European Economic Community.

People may scoff and laugh at these suggestions. The conservatives will predict doom and gloom as they did when people spoke of the 56-hour week and one week's annual leave during the original Industrial Revolution, but we must look at all these proposals if we are to avoid long-term unemployment that could affect 20 per cent of our workforce. That is not a way-out prediction. It is a prediction by people in government and in Government positions. But those predictions are not made here, because we get no predictions or consultation.

We must look for new answers to find new jobs. I do not like the idea of a manpower commission, but we must have some such commission to continually monitor our workforce, to alert us to its pitfalls and its pressure points. It should report to us, as members of Parliament, and the community generally. It should be able to place us in a position where we could reliably predict what jobs will be available in five years' time so that we can train kids leaving school and workers for the types of job that will be available, not for jobs that have already disappeared or will disappear in the next year or two. Today we are turning out workers who fall in that category.

We must look at job development and job re-training. Perhaps we could redesign, replan and reactivate a type of R.E.D. scheme through the local authorities, using them and their local staff to prevent the growth of greater Canberra-based bureaucracy. I could go on and on on that theme, but I just wanted to make that important point. We should be looking at the possibility of using machines to advantage, and in such a way that workers may benefit.

It may be necessary to consider new goals for society as a whole, and that may involve work-force restructuring. But we should be prepared to look at it. It should not be a one-party matter, but one to be considered by all parties. After all, it affects every person in the community. It is not a party-political matter, but one for us all.

When we look at the report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development we have to look deeper than just the few lines devoted to comparing Queensland with New South Wales, Victoria or somewhere else. I want to highlight just a few of the comments made by those who prepared the report. On page 2 the point is made—

"Average weekly earnings failed to keep pace with inflation, resulting in a decline in their real value."

We of the working-class movement have been saying that for years, but we have always been told that it is the workers' wages that are going up and that prices travel along behind them. However, this is the second report produced by a Government department to say what workers have been saying for years. The Forestry Department report released the other day said exactly the same thing: workers' wages are not keeping pace with prices: The report goes on to say—

"The continued high savings rates signify a lack of consumers' confidence in the immediate future rather than excessive incomes."

There we have a Government department saying that the workers are not getting too much, that the reason they are saving is that they have no faith in the promises of Mr. Fraser, Dr. Edwards, Mr. Lee or any other Government Minister.

Mr. Moore: Probably a member of your party.

Mr. BURNS: I would not think so. Is the honourable member suggesting that the director of the department is a member of our party? I think the Minister might have to protect him against that sort of an attack, because under the system instituted by Bjelke-Petersen and others, if he was prepared to take out a ticket, even in the Liberal Party, he would be expelled from the job.

Mr. Moore: You were talking about the Forestry Department.

Mr. BURNS: I am talking about the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development.

Mr. Moore: You said the Forestry Department.

Mr. BURNS: Yes, the Forestry Department report said the same thing.

The report then goes on to discuss population trends. I heard the honourable member for Carnarvon talking about people flooding into this State from the South. He asked the Premier a Dorothy Dix question about the large number of people flooding into Goondiwindi and Warwick. I thought that I had better have a look at this, so I went to the report. It states—

“Natural increase in the period was 18 001, a reduction of 754 on the same period in 1977-78.”

That is the figure for births. We do not even have as many children as we used to. The report continues—

“Net migration levels, however, declined from 12 734 to 10 608 over the same period.”

So fewer people came to Queensland. Let us look at the population trends in recent years. In 1973-74 a total of 38,100 people came to Queensland. In the 12 months to March 1979 the figure was 10,600. In the period to March 1978 the figure was 12,700. In 1977-78 the figure was 11,300. So the numbers are dropping back all the time.

The honourable member for Carnarvon said that Goondiwindi was booming, that people were coming into the area so fast that the authorities did not know what to do. So we had a look at the statistics for the area. We found that there was an inter-censal net migration loss of 371. The honourable member also talked about Warwick. It lost 437. Others also referred to Longreach. It had a population of 3,873 according to the 1966 census. In 1971 the population had dropped to 3,455 and in 1976 it had dropped to 3,354. The population of Charleville went from 4,881 according to the 1966 census to 3,802 in 1976, 10 years later. Queensland is booming under the Liberals! Where are the people going? The country towns are closing, and in the city here young people cannot get jobs, but little or nothing is said about that in these reports. These are the facts. They are taken from the Government's own reports and the census figures produced by its colleagues in Canberra. But what do we have as far as employment is concerned?

When young men and women leave school and cannot get a job, what do we hear from Fraser? We have had year after year of broken promises. He said, “There will be more jobs than people to fill them. Unemployment is dropping and will continue to drop.” The level of employment has not stopped dropping year after year since Fraser entered office, but he keeps making these promises and does nothing at all about unemployed young men and women. I despair for them. I worry about the young fellows and girls who come into my office regularly looking for work. We cannot get them jobs.

Mr. Moore: So do we all. Everybody does.

Mr. BURNS: Of course we worry about them, but we have to start to do something for them. It is no good beating our breasts or rubbing our brows and going home and saying, “Look, we are worried about it.” This Government runs this State. It has to plan the action in this State. We look at the action that was taken during the Depression. Reference was made previously to forestry, and the member for Windsor interjected. Each year, more people were given work in the forestry area. Nowadays each year in this State we are employing fewer people in forestry. The numbers of people employed are decreasing all along the line.

The Government talks about freezing the level of the Public Service and all of the things that give no help to the young men and women who are unemployed. We are training young people at schools for positions that will not be available in 10 years' time. Our present system is training people to be redundant in the future. This is happening because we are not planning. If one talks about a five-year plan, one is called a socialist or a Communist or something like that. But we should be sitting down and thinking sensibly about the problems that will bedevil this State for some time to come.

We are a lucky country. We have a lot of things to offer. With our great rural and mineral industries, we will probably have the opportunity to overcome the problems to such a degree that we will not be treated as badly as many other industrialised countries throughout the world. But that will not happen by good faith. It will not happen by making reports and saying, “Oh, we are doing better than South Australia. They are all coming up to Goondiwindi at present because we changed the death-duties scene.” That is not the story that people want. They want some planning so that there will be jobs for their children. The men and women whom Government members represent are starting to become concerned, because it is the middle-class children who will be affected by the computer revolution. It is the children who would normally be employed by the banks, the insurance companies and the Public Service who will have to bear the full brunt of the introduction of the new machines that will take their jobs.

In order to see the effect that this will have, one only has to walk out into the Parliament House kitchen and look at the microwave oven. I was talking the other day to a leading hotelkeeper in this State. He told me about a visit he had made to America. He said that in years to come most of the ordinary restaurants, and even the semi top-class restaurants, will have most of their food prepared in a factory and delivered to them. When a person orders a meal from the menu, they will shove the prepared food in a microwave oven and serve it to him. Only a limited number of restaurants will cook the meal that is ordered. The system of mass production will take over that industry, in the same way it has taken over most other industries. The net result for the worker is that prices do not get any lower but jobs disappear.

Mr. SIMPSON (Coorooora) (4.7 p.m.): It gives me pleasure to support the Minister in a positive way, particularly in relation to industry in Queensland. We have just heard the knocker's attitude. We look back in history and think of the time when the wheel was invented. It was said then that that would be the end of the world; that everybody would move so quickly and so efficiently that everyone would be done out of a job. Then Stephenson invented the steam engine, which was used in the railways and in industry. It was said then that there would be no jobs left; that it would be the ruination of everything. I just do not understand why people have to assume that when new processes are invented and more efficient ways of doing things are found, it will mean fewer jobs and a lower standard of living in the community. It just does not have to be that way at all. All that is required is to employ people in a way that gives them the standard of living that we want them to have.

Mr. Burns: Would you give us some idea of the new jobs in which you are going to re-employ them?

Mr. SIMPSON: Yes. We can activate the tourist industry. The tourist industry in this State has a tremendous potential. It is a very labour-intensive industry. It is being held back at the moment because it is based not on a seven-day, 40-hour, week but on a five-day week. That is also keeping restaurants closed. The honourable member referred to restaurants providing factory-produced meals that will be thawed out in a microwave oven and put in front of the customer. I am afraid that is not borne out by the clientele of restaurants. They are looking for personalised service and variety in food—something different from what they have on their own tables.

Mr. Moore: They want a bullock on a spit.

Mr. SIMPSON: They want all those unusual things. They are looking for variety

and something to excite their palate. The old Australian meat pie was the first—

Mr. Burns: They cook it in microwave ovens today.

Mr. SIMPSON: That is right, but how many of them are eaten? They are not as popular now as a lot of other foods that people now demand.

Of course, we now have the newcomers to Australia. By that I mean the more recent ones, not the white man or the black man who came some time ago. The migrants who have come more recently have given us new forms of dishes that add to our interest in food.

Mr. Moore: Witchetty grubs and grasshoppers.

Mr. SIMPSON: We could turn full circle and go back to those. That would probably depend on the way they were presented. Some people do not like the thought of eating octopus. However, they usually like its taste until they find out what it is they are eating.

Technology will improve the lot of the worker. It is amazing that the people sitting opposite condemn the worker to a life of drudgery and hard-slogging, back-breaking work such as digging holes. Today we have mechanical aids for that sort of work. They have to be manufactured, maintained and repaired. Industries have developed to carry out those functions—industries that did not exist before. Even in our offices we have a few technical aids that have reduced the number of office staff. However, those aids are not completely reliable. They need servicing, repair and maintenance. That provides employment opportunities for other people.

If we are looking for extra jobs, we must fully develop the resources of the State such as the tourist industry, which I referred to earlier. We have merely scratched the surface of the world's potential tourist market. We will get a few more tourists to Queensland when there is an efficient tourist industry that is not hung up on a five-day, 40-hour, week. When we get over that we will get somewhere. In fact, it is technology that will enable overseas tourists to come to Australia. A couple of generations ago it was almost unheard of for people to travel to such remote countries as Australia. The Government is taking that sort of positive step.

The Government has provided industrial estates for the establishment of tertiary industries. One of those estates has recently been developed at Yandina, in my electorate. Some land has been purchased at Noosa and I sincerely hope that the Minister will look to the early development of the Noosa Industrial Estate. There is no doubt that that land has potential. Industrialists from other parts of Australia who are visiting on holidays will be attracted to that area to develop subsidiary factories. That would be one way of turning a holiday trip into

a business/holiday trip. Some of them may see Noosa as an ideal place for semi-retirement from which to manage their factories. They may even make their already established southern factory a subsidiary of the one in Queensland. Other people see the potential of the locally available manpower. I am sure the Minister will look into those aspects of that development.

While I am talking of the site at Yandina, I may point out that the ginger factory from Buderim has recently applied for a site. Although I was unaware of it, they had an effluent problem. Apparently that is not uncommon with the handling and washing of vegetable products. Vegetable material does not break down as readily as sewage effluent. I am concerned about the rules laid down for the handling of sewage on industrial estates. Are local shire councils consulted about problems that may be associated with industries on these estates? The Yandina industrial estate is not one on which noxious industries are allowed. We have to look at the definition of "noxious industry" in that sense.

I believe that the ginger industry, from which there arises a problem with effluent, could properly be determined as a noxious industry. It would have been in the interests of the ginger farmers to site it on many hundreds of acres of land purchased far more cheaply along the highway, with ready access to transport, where the effluent could have been sprayed and oxidised at low cost.

Mr. Moore: To make humus?

Mr. SIMPSON: It is oxidised out in the air very thinly. It is far cheaper to spray it out than it is to treat in a concentrated area. The factory has been shifted from one urban area (Buderim) to another (Yandina). Obviously there has to be a treatment works that is capable of preventing any objectionable odour or end product that will pollute streams.

It appears that there is a lack of communication between the Minister's department and local government on matters of effluent, clean water and clean air. In this instance, the effluent is handled in the industrial estate and then, presumably, the problem is handed over to the local authority. I suppose that disposal is in the nearest stream, or the tidal part of that stream.

The ginger factory is a very worth-while industry. Because of the high quality of its product, it has achieved 90 per cent of the world ginger confectionary trade. It has a very rosy future and is looking for as many growers as possible to keep up the supply. The new factory at Yandina will result in double the present production. But I ask: How is the problem of disposing of effluent in a town area to be overcome? How is it to be done without offensive smells emanating from it?

I would hope that circumstances require local authorities to be consulted and given every opportunity to become aware of the

full implications arising from factory effluent. Ultimately its disposal becomes a problem for the local authority. Perhaps the Minister can explain to me how a tenant on one of the estates can take out a lease and become independent of the department and the local authority. At what stage does he become part of the local authority's responsibility? Obviously, he makes application to the department, not to the local authority, when he begins. I should like to know where the responsibility lies in the various stages of development, especially for the provision of services such as sewerage.

What is the position with water? What if a factory such as the ginger factory requires a water supply larger than that of the local town? Is the local authority notified of that in advance so that it will be able to cater for the company's needs? Is any Government assistance provided to ensure that the local residents do not wake up one day when the factory begins operating and find that they have no water coming from their taps? I understand that the quantity of water required by the factory at Yandina will be in excess of that now required for the towns of Yandina and Eumundi.

As to industries and their involvement in the community—I think we must look at where they fit in and try to assist them in every possible way. I am certainly trying to do that with the ginger factory. Perhaps there is a cheaper method of treating the effluent than the one for which the ginger farmers might eventually be asked to pay.

Cane growers are in a similar position because they require a mill to handle their product. A few years ago, a report was compiled on the Moreton region. A study was carried out and those carrying it out stated, "We consider that 550 acres in the Moreton region is suitable for growing cane." They gave no consideration to either the area or the tonnage of cane that was needed to keep a mill operating. When I pointed that out, they said, "Oh, we didn't think of that. We will draw a bigger area." I assisted them to do that, and a far greater area was shown in the report as being suitable for cane-growing and necessary to keep the mill operating.

Many industries need a larger output and scale of operations in order to operate profitably. That is true of the Moreton mill. It is one of the smaller mills in Queensland, and it needs some guarantee that it has a viable area from which to draw its cane supplies in the future. Co-operation between the local authority and the Government in relation to the allocation and use of land in the area can ensure that land that is, say, subject to flooding or not suitable for housing may, within the framework of private enterprise and freeholding of land, be town planned in such a way that it can most profitably be used for the production of cane. That will keep the factory in operation and preserve the existing jobs in the area, and that is very important.

Another point that I wish to stress is that water resources and coal resources should, where possible, be used in the area in which they are available. This will encourage decentralisation of the type now taking place in Queensland. In my opinion, cities should grow in accordance with their natural potential and should not be fed artificially by carting water hundreds of miles to them, as is done in New York. That is quite absurd. It only adds to the problems of water supply and sewage treatment and places strains on road systems, power supplies, and so on, all of which impose an additional burden on the taxpayers. Water should not be collected on the Sunshine Coast to be sent back to Brisbane. It should be utilised locally, as it should be in other parts of the State.

With the abolition of death duties and gift duties, with the tremendous potential of our vast coal reserves (based on the present and anticipated rate of consumption, they are expected to last another 200 years), with our tremendous water resources (nearly 50 per cent of the nation's rainfall is in Queensland) and with proper utilisation of its resources, Queensland can look forward to a rosy and promising future. The proper utilisation of our resources is something that we must push and promote as much as possible for the good of the people in Queensland.

The lack of fuel is a problem facing the Minister. It is a shame that the Federal Government has not done what the Japanese Government did, namely, retain in storage at least 12 months' supply of liquid fuel. Our primary producers and other users of fuel, not the oil companies and the Government, are now being asked, in effect, to build the storage facilities. Sometimes they are criticised for allegedly hoarding liquid fuel. They are not hoarding it; they are storing it prudently for their own use in future seasons in the event of uncertain fuel supplies. The only alternative is some system of priorities implemented by the Government, which will make it unnecessary for primary producers to store large quantities of liquid fuel.

Reference has been made by previous speakers to the relocation of the Government Printing Office. In view of transport costs and the need to have the Government Printing Office in close proximity to Parliament House, I think that such a move would be unwise. The Government Printing Office is called upon to do work for Parliament at short notice and under great pressure. Shift work is involved. I should think that the ideal site for the new Government Printing Office would be the block where the Bellevue previously stood.

There should be greater incentive given by the Government to inventors. New inventions create new jobs for people in this State.

(Time expired.)

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE (Southport) (4.28 p.m.): I congratulate the Minister, together with the director and staff of his department, on the completion of another successful year. This department has brought great credit to the Government and the State. It is a progressive department and one that is held in high regard throughout the State and also outside it.

One of its great achievements over the years has been the creation of a sound and balanced economy in Queensland. As a result, the State is no longer entirely dependent on primary industry. The department is to be commended also for the very real incentives that it provides to industry both within and outside the State. These incentives are certainly appreciated by the manufacturers whom I have met. My area contains quite a number of manufacturers, and they all express such appreciation. The incentives are offered by way of land and buildings. They are given to pioneer industries as well as others. This progressive policy has attracted manufacturers from all over Australia. Some have come to my area from Melbourne and South Australia. Of course, I expect that the drift from South Australia will now be halted. As well as giving the State a balanced economy, the department has created some jobs.

I could not help agreeing with the honourable member for Lytton. I am sure that many other Government members will agree with him. The provision of jobs for young people is a subject that worries all of us. The creation of industrial estates in Queensland is one of the department's great success stories. It has been instrumental in providing a very decentralised approach to industry and jobs throughout the State.

In my area of Southport the Molendinar Estate has been under way for some years. It has 31 established factories, with three more under construction. It is now fully allocated with about \$11,000,000 worth of buildings and plant, and employs about 800 people. It is a real success story. I am very grateful to the department for its foresight in providing that estate.

The department has almost finished Stage I of a new industrial estate at Ernest Junction, which is not far from Molendinar. It should be finished by the end of this year, and will make available 17 additional industrial blocks, some of which have already been applied for. It will cater for further manufacturing industries and provide more jobs in the area. Stage II of the estate has been planned already.

I understand that the Beenleigh Industrial Estate is almost fully allocated. We now have a fully allocated industrial estate at Molendinar, an almost full estate at Beenleigh and 17 industrial sites at Ernest Junction which, I am sure, will be taken up quickly. I hope the department is already looking at more land for further light industry in the Southport area.

I do not think people commonly recognise just how big a proportion of the work-force in my area is employed in manufacturing. On the figures available to me, of an active work-force of 40,000 people, 9 to 10 per cent are engaged in manufacturing industries that are not commonly associated with the Gold Coast. That is a very significant proportion of the work-force. On the figures I have, tourism probably accounts for only 11 per cent of the work-force on the Gold Coast. The manufacturing sector of employment is almost as big as tourism. It deserves recognition for providing employment opportunities.

Construction, which is one of the biggest employers on the Coast, takes up only 13 per cent of the work-force.

I believe that the growth of light industry on the Gold Coast will continue. That area offers very significant advantages. It has a very skilled, stable work-force, because people like living there without any of the big-city hassles. Many people who like living there accept jobs with lower skills than their abilities should attract. When new industries come to the coast—that happens almost on a monthly basis—and advertise for skilled workers, they are available there.

Wages on the Gold Coast are more than reasonable. Workers do not demand extra money to compensate for bad working conditions or living in disadvantaged places. They are quite happy to accept reasonable wages.

An Opposition Member: There are a lot of bad payers there.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: Bad payers are to be found everywhere.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: There would not be any worse payers down there than the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: That is a question I will dodge.

The work-force on the Coast has a broad range of skills because, as I said, of the people who want to live there and who are prepared to accept jobs requiring lower than their level of skill.

One matter that should appeal to many Opposition members, including the honourable member for Archerfield, concerns the lack of industrial problems on the Coast. For all those reasons, I believe the future of light industry on the Coast will be very buoyant.

The lack of a railway line between the port of Brisbane and the Gold Coast is a distinct drawback. I believe that it is commonly recognised that the decision in 1964 to take up the railway line to the Gold Coast was a very unwise one. That is not putting too fine a point on it. But there have been some statements made recently that have given the people on the coast some heart that a railway is about to come. I hope there is some substance in the statements that have been made.

Mr. Moore: It will be a monorail.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: I am talking about a railway to provide transport for industry, not just for people.

Mr. Moore: I see. I am making a bad mistake then.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: I appreciate the honourable member's help, anyway. Despite those reports—of some substance, one would hope—the report of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which has now been released, does not indicate that a railway for the Gold Coast is imminent. I believe that it is in the interests of the Government for it to make a very clear statement about what is going to happen to the Gold Coast railway. I think the sensible thing to do in trying to help industry is to electrify the line to Beenleigh, but also right now to acquire the land for a corridor so that the Beenleigh-Southport section can proceed when funds are available.

I want to commend the activities of the Gold Coast City Council and Albert Shire Council Industrial Committee. This is a joint committee and is an excellent example of local authority co-operation. Its promotional work is excellent. The example it has set, and the successes it has achieved, should not be jeopardised by either of the local authorities' trying to promote its own area separately. Industrial development in that area, and probably in any other area, should proceed along reasonable lines. There was a suggestion not long ago that each council should set up its own industrial committee, and one could not argue with that provided that there was a joint industrial committee operating at the same time. So I suggest that the Minister's department should check any suggestion that that joint industrial committee might break up. If there is any such suggestion, the Minister should use what influence he has to keep it together to promote the area as a region rather than as two separate regions.

I would like to congratulate the Government and the Minister's department on taking over the funding of the Good Neighbour Council. It appeared at one stage that this very valuable organisation would go into limbo, and I think it is a great credit to the department that this has not been allowed to occur.

Mr. Lee: Fouras didn't like it, though, did he? He condemned it in toto.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: Unfortunately, I did not hear what he said.

Mr. Lee: You can take it for granted from me.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: If the honourable member for South Brisbane did give the council a bucket, I cannot understand why. We are very lucky to have it. If its funding had been withdrawn and no further action taken it would have gone into limbo, and we would all have been much worse off.

I would now like to touch on the problem of apprentices. We cannot talk about the progress of industry unless we have the skilled manpower to promote that progress. I know the problem is worrying a lot of people, particularly in my area. Firstly, for a lot of reasons that we have gone into before, young people cannot get apprenticeships, and, secondly, we face the problem of a lack of training facilities. Hopefully the training side of the problem will be overcome to some degree with the establishment in 1981 of the Gold Coast College of Technical and Further Education.

An Opposition Member: What do you think about block release? Do you support it?

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: Yes. It seems to be a success. When this college is opened, it is to be hoped that young people will be able to do their training on the coast. This will be of great benefit. At present carpentry and woodwork is the only course available on the coast, and apprentices doing any other course have to travel to Brisbane for their training. But, with the opening of this TAFE college and the structuring of the courses to suit local industry, the apprenticeship system in my area will get a great shot in the arm. I hope that the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development will keep a close eye on the development of a curriculum in the TAFE college, to ensure that it is structured for the apprenticeship area and to cater for local industry.

I was impressed by some of the arguments of the member for Lytton when he was talking about technology and the problem it is causing in the workplace.

Mr. Austin: He did not put forward any solutions, though.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: No, and I am afraid that I have not any, either. It is something that worries me. There is no doubt that with the introduction of technology into industry, in particular, a growing number of people will be unemployed. I do not believe that many of our schools are sufficiently concerned about training people for jobs. This was brought home to me only yesterday when I was talking to a group of Grade 12 students in my electorate. Almost without exception they said, "We do not know what we are going into next year. We have not had even a few days of on-job experience this year. We don't believe the schools are training us for jobs." Consequently, they will be battling when they go out to try to get jobs in industry. I suppose that this problem really does not concern the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development but, unless the education system is geared to providing people for industry, how will industry expand in the future, and how will we place young people in jobs in an increasingly technological age?

I wish to touch on another industry, namely, the tourist industry. I agree completely with most of the remarks of the

member for Cooroora. It is a labour-intensive industry and it has great potential in this country. Although Opposition members do not like to hear mention of penalty rates, there is no doubt that penalty rates are having a very constricting effect on the tourist industry.

Mr. Yewdale: That is not true.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: The honourable member says that it is not true. I shall quote what was said by the owner of just one large motel in my area. In the last three years he has reduced his work-force from about 120 to fewer than 60. He attributes the reduction directly to penalty rates. Whether or not he has halved his work-force because of penalty rates, there is no doubt that they are having a significant effect on job opportunities, and Opposition members cannot deny it.

The other thing that the so-called Labor leaders in my area will not admit is that most of the people working in the tourist areas on the Gold Coast want the penalty-rate system abolished. They are quite happy to work odd hours. It suits them to have their days off during the week and to work on Sundays.

Mr. Vaughan: They cut each other's throat.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: All right. We provide in the award a margin for working odd hours, and leave them to work out their hours of work with their employer. That will suit the employer and the great majority of people working in the tourist industry.

Mr. Austin: There would be more jobs.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: Of course there would be more jobs. That motel owner about whom I was speaking would put on another 60 people.

Mr. Vaughan: Can't he make an application to the Industrial Commission? That is what it is for.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: I am not sure whether he has made an application or not. The fact is that the penalty-rate system has reduced his work-force by half.

I am indebted to my colleague the member for Redcliffe for giving some figures on pharmacy conferences. Not all of the reduction in the number of conferences held in Australia can be attributed to penalty rates, but some of it can. About 1,000 pharmacists used to attend three separate conferences in Australia each year. Hardly any conferences are held in Australia now. So, in one sector alone, 1,000 people are going overseas to have their conferences, because it is cheaper to go to Singapore than to Perth. Some of that is directly attributable to penalty rates. That is an industry in which it is possible to create more jobs. If the Opposition were serious about increasing employment opportunities, it would have a look at those penalty rates,

because the abolition of penalty rates would create a lot of jobs in the tourist industry.

An Opposition Member: There are too many people in the tourist industry who know nothing about it, and are only there for a quick quid.

Mr. P. N. D. WHITE: That is a very shallow and inane remark from someone who I suspect knows nothing about the tourist industry.

In conclusion, I again congratulate the Minister, his director, the department and all the personnel in that department for a job well done in the past 12 months. We look forward with confidence to the industrial future of this State.

Mr. VAUGHAN (Nudgee) (4.46 p.m.): I followed the Minister's remarks when he introduced his Estimates. I was particularly interested in what was said about the increased use of vehicles with smaller engine capacities and the fact that the department was conducting an analysis of the operating costs. Although that is commendable as an effort to reduce the consumption of liquid fuel and to counteract the escalating costs of liquid fuel supplies—particularly petrol—the Government has to be more positive and look at the overall problem that confronts us.

I think all honourable members today received a copy of the No. 2 energy report of the Institute of Public Affairs in New South Wales. That organisation issued a similar document in May last year. It made a rather deep analysis of the problems concerning the supply of liquid fuel. Everyone is aware of the world oil supply problems, and the complete lack of action by the Federal Government to combat those problems. One of the tables in the publication referred to clearly shows where Australia is heading in this regard. Until recently we were 70 per cent self-sufficient in liquid fuels. However, that situation will change vastly by 1985. By the latter part of the 1980s we will be in a very serious situation.

From my point of view, and the point of view of any thinking person, the Government should take notice of those facts. We have to reduce the demand for liquid fuels. It is all very well to say that we will change to smaller vehicles and use four-cylinder vehicles instead of those with six or eight cylinders. Our objective must be to reduce the demand. To achieve that, the first thing to do is to look at our rail transport system.

We have been short of petrol recently because of problems at oil refineries and the alleged lack of oil tankers. However, with the introduction of import parity pricing of Australian-produced crude oil, the Federal Government is reaping in huge amounts of revenue from motorists throughout Australia. This financial year it is estimated that that revenue will be well over \$2,000 million. However, one of the problems is that that money is going into Consolidated Revenue

and not being handed out to the States to use in an effort to reduce the demand for liquid fuels.

Mr. Austin: That is not right; it is financing its deficit.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Anyway, that money is being collected as a result of import parity pricing.

The prime purpose of the introduction of import parity pricing was to reduce the demand for liquid fuels. However, this has an effect on industry. Increased petrol prices increase the cost of production of industry, with a consequent increased cost to the consumer.

The Government should be having a good look at our rail transport system. I have spoken before about the electrification of our suburban lines.

Mr. Lee: I can't fix the railways.

Mr. VAUGHAN: It is in the interests of the industries the Minister is supposed to represent that they have access to reasonably priced transport. Costs are increasing. The Minister has spoken about our competing on the world export market. If the costs incurred by our industries increase because of transport costs, we will be in trouble—and it will be for that and many other reasons.

The Federal Government has held on to \$2,000 million to balance its Budget instead of handing it out to the States. This State should be really screaming about that. As I understand it, we need something like \$200,000,000 to complete the electrification of our suburban rail system. At the moment, we are only spending peanuts on it as we progress gradually. We could very well be faced with a serious petrol shortage in the not too far distant future, particularly when we consider moves on the world market with supplies of oil from the Middle East States.

We talk about all the new coal-mines that will be opening up, but as I see it we are doing absolutely nothing about the electrification of lines carrying the majority of coal. There has been talk of electrification of the Blackwater-Gladstone line. However, in my humble opinion, the Government is not paying sufficient attention to the Goonyella-Hay Point line and the line that runs out to the other coal-mines up there. What we should be aiming at is reduction of demand. Shortly I will talk about other matters such as alternative supplies. That is another aspect. Of prime importance for our present consideration is the reduction of demand.

When I came into town this morning, there were traffic jams right through the centre of the city. Cars are being driven with one or two people in them and being parked in huge parking stations in the city. Then they are driven home in the afternoon. It is absolutely ridiculous.

Mr. Austin: It ought to cost \$20 a day to park.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Perhaps it might come to that in the not too far distant future.

Another aspect is the lack of encouragement being given to the discovery of oil. I emphasise that the Federal Government is taking \$2,000 million a year—but what do we see about drilling for oil? Not so long ago—in the “Sunday Mail” of 7 October—Mr. Merv Vining, the Queensland Motor Industry Association executive director, referred to the cost of petrol and the effect it was having on industry. The headline was—

“Petrol price ‘could be cut by one half’”.

We all know that it could be, except for import parity pricing. The crime is that we are not doing anything about finding more oil—certainly not in comparison with what is happening in other countries. The “Sunday Mail” reported—

“Mr. Vining said the total number of wells drilled in Australia to last December was 2,825.”

Mr. Booth: Who caused the cut-back in the search for oil? I could soon tell you that.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I am talking about the people who are in power now; the people who imposed import parity prices; the people who are getting in excess of \$2,000 million. Last year it was over \$1,000 million and this financial year it is over \$2,000 million. That Government is doing nothing about drilling for oil. In Queensland in 1975, four wells were drilled; in 1976, 17; in 1977, none were drilled; in 1978, 20; and in his Financial Statement the Treasurer said that in 1979-80 it is expected that between 20 and 25 wells would be drilled. That is just not good enough as the second limb of our attempt to solve our liquid-fuel supply problems.

In numerous Press releases, the Minister has mentioned the development of alternative liquid fuel supplies from the production of ethanol or power alcohol from sugar-cane and cassava. In a Press release on 24 July this year he said—

“The State Government is considering proposals put to it concerning the cost benefits of using alcohol from crops such as sugar-cane and cassava.”

I believe that the Government is on the wrong tram. There has been a tremendous amount of work done on the production of ethanol from sugar-cane and cassava. He should not be talking about an inquiry, as he did in his Press release—

“enquiry into using the alcohol as an alternative fuel source”.

Ethanol is not an alternative to motor spirit, but it certainly can be used as an additive. However, so many problems associated with the production of ethanol remain to be overcome that the Government should not be giving priority to it. Ethanol can be produced from sugar-cane and cassava. When I was in Weipa recently, I found that cassava was being grown there experimentally, and

successfully, on trial plots of land that had been rehabilitated after the bauxite had been mined. Experience has shown that two seasons of good rainfall are required to ensure a good crop, and, in my opinion, the production of ethanol from cassava is not economically possible at present.

Of course, for many years the power-alcohol plant at Sarina has been converting sugar-cane to ethanol. My inquiries reveal that from 1928 to 1956 this State successfully used a 15 per cent blend of ethanol and petrol. However, because of the ever-increasing demand, that did very little to reduce the consumption of liquid fuels. The Government seems always to be trying to reach out and meet the demand instead of trying to reduce it.

Another aspect of the programme for the production of ethanol to which the Minister referred was that the development period would be 10 years. We cannot afford to wait 10 years.

One of the matters that has been investigated is the area of land required to produce the quantity of cane needed if ethanol is to have a significant effect on the liquid fuel supply problem. For example, to produce 2,000,000 tonnes of ethanol, which would be required to supply 10 per cent of Australia’s motor spirit requirements by 1985, all the arable land at present under sugar-cane would be required. We must make up our minds whether we are going to produce sugar or ethanol.

The big inhibiting factor is that a \$2,000 million investment will be required, with a production cost estimated at about \$25 a barrel, to produce an energy equivalent similar to that of motor spirit. And the OPEC price is about \$18 a barrel.

Mr. Gunn: It isn’t very attractive, is it?

Mr. VAUGHAN: It certainly is not at present. It may be a possibility in the future. I understand that Brazil is the world leader in the field of ethanol production.

Mr. Gunn: Its wage structure is very low.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I am not dealing with that; I am dealing with the facts and figures in relation to production capacity. I do not think that the wage structure was taken into account in the figures that I was given. They are based on the quantity of sugar-cane or cassava that would be required and on the economics of production.

Mr. Gunn: You would have to pay wages, though, wouldn’t you?

Mr. VAUGHAN: Of course wages would have to be paid.

One possibility that the Minister ignored when he mentioned the Government’s changing to 4-cylinder vehicles is the use of LPG. I am aware that recently there has been some rather adverse publicity in relation to the use of LPG, but the fact is that Australia

has ample supplies. It has been proved to be a very good alternative to liquid fuels, and I should like to see the Government move towards using it in Government vehicles. It is particularly suited to short-range use, and I think that the Government should be looking primarily at its use in its efforts to solve the fuel supply problem.

The Government has been looking also at the possibility of converting coal to oil, and the annual report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development referred to the various feasibility studies that were being undertaken. The report refers to the feasibility of deriving liquid fuels from coal and to the Imhausen study, which uses coal samples from the Wandoan deposits. No mention is made, however, of the tests being conducted in Japan using Millmerran coal.

Significant problems arise with the conversion of coal to liquid fuel. The emphasis that the Government places on the conversion is good for propaganda purposes. However, the success of the scheme is still a long way off. It is governed, of course, by economics. Another billion dollars is involved. In view of the tremendous investment that will be required to ensure the success of such a project, we must look for some other solution to the liquid fuel supply problems.

In his speech, the Minister referred to his overseas visit. In "The Sunday Mail" of 8 July the Minister was reported as referring to an industrialist who was reaping huge profits from an oilfield and was ready to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in Queensland. It is significant that every time a Minister goes overseas he talks to some rich fellow who is prepared to invest millions of dollars in this State. The Treasurer went overseas and on his return he told us that he had a great deal of money and that people were rushing to invest in Queensland. However, all the Ministers who go overseas seem to experience considerable difficulty in getting the money that we require.

The particular aspect of the Minister's statement that concerned me was his reference to this industrialist. The Minister said—

"The industrialist I talked to is already in the oil business and he is personally reaping benefits from an oilfield in a Third World country. That field produces 146,000 barrels of oil daily and returns him \$26 per barrel."

It has been alleged that our shortage of petrol is due, among other things, to the fact that we cannot obtain sufficient supplies on the world market but have to rely on spot purchases. I shudder to think that the industrialist to whom the Minister has referred as one who is reaping huge profits from his oilfield—to the tune of \$26 a barrel, compared with the current OPEC price of about \$18 a barrel—is the very person who sells us oil at spot prices.

The Minister flits overseas for a five-week trip and on his return says that he has met a rich industrialist. He could very well be selling oil to us at top prices—he could be charging us \$26 a barrel—and at the same time telling the Minister that he wants to invest in Queensland. Perhaps he has even conned the Minister.

Mr. Hansen interjected.

Mr. VAUGHAN: If he does invest his money here, he will get 10.5 per cent from the Treasurer.

Mr. Booth: Would you rather we see Khemlani?

Mr. VAUGHAN: I certainly wouldn't send Wiley Fancher. Talk about a con man! My God!

It was not so long ago that the Premier went to the Middle East and, on his return, told us that the Arabs were rushing to invest in Queensland. I cannot recall any Arab coming to Queensland to invest his money. On the Premier's return, the headlines stated that he had "hooked" a rich Arab. In June last year, the then Deputy Premier and Treasurer (Sir William Knox), came back to Queensland and the headlines reported that the sum of \$280,000,000 in overseas money was "almost" in the bag. He had "almost" got \$280,000,000. He did a little better than the present Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

Another headline reports the Premier as saying that we would get "millions" in overseas deals. He was reported as saying that Queensland would get millions of dollars worth of development from overseas talks. Those statements refer to his visit to Iran. As a result of all those overseas visits, what do we see? When the Treasurer comes back from an overseas trip he usually says, "I have not got what we wanted." On the last occasion he made such an announcement and added, "But we got \$45,000,000."

There has been much talk about small businesses. Reference is made in the departmental report to a small business education programme. In the light of the reply to a question recently asked of the Federal Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, that is certainly required. That Minister cited figures relating to bankruptcies, which showed that in 1969-70, 615 bankruptcy notices were issued in Queensland, and that in 1978-79, 1,954 notices were issued. One of the big problems relating to business people going into bankruptcy is that they leave a trail of broken promises and debts behind them.

Last Tuesday afternoon I was interested to note the emphasis placed by the Government on certain matters in the Essential Services Bill.

(Time expired.)

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (5.6 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to take part in this debate. I suppose every member hopes to attract a certain amount of industry to his

area. While I cannot say that I have no industry, I think I can say that no member receives as many letters as I do from the Minister concerning the Wacol Industrial Estate. Almost weekly I receive a letter indicating that a new industry is being established there. While I have not a big number of electors there, thanks to the number of times the Minister sends such letters to me I have a good knowledge of what is happening at Wacol. Recently the Minister informed me that Meggitt Ltd. (the linseed oil people) had invested about \$1,500,000 in that estate. I am not worried about that area, but about the country areas of my electorate that are seeking light industry.

Mainly light industries and secondary industries have been established in Queensland. Only a couple of weeks ago "The National Times" praised development in Queensland. If we can get praise in the southern Press, it must be very well deserved. The article pointed out that, without doubt, Queensland and Western Australia would be the industrial giants of the future.

While the A.L.P. was in Government it made no effort whatsoever to encourage industry to Queensland. Queensland was regarded only as a primary industry State. At that time we exported nothing but primary products. Most of our exports went to Great Britain, and we got very little for them. Although we deeply regretted Great Britain's entry into the Common Market, that move turned out to be to our advantage. No doubt the honourable member for Warwick will recall that we virtually gave our butter to Great Britain, and we kept that country going through the war. Today we are not self-sufficient in butter production, but we have wonderful export markets for our beef outside the Common Market countries that do not deal with us. We seem to have paddled our canoe very nicely, and it irks me to hear Opposition members run down Japan, which is one of our best export markets.

I do not suggest that the Minister has neglected this area, but wherever possible, industrial estates should be established in country areas. I should like to see them established at Laidley, Lowood, Esk, Toogoolawah and Nanango. I am sure that the Minister has these places in mind. Only recently I sent a deputation from Esk to the Minister. Its members were very happy with the hearing they got from him.

I also suggest that it may be a good idea to attract some of our smaller industries into country areas reasonably close to the metropolitan area and the seaboard. Industry seems to want to get close to the seaboard. I do not know why that is necessary in this day and age, but that seems to be the inclination. What worries me is that after a certain time city dwellers will be complaining about pollution from industry. I read in the newspaper just recently that Brisbane residents were complaining about air pollution. That

problem occurs in Sydney and other major centres. In fact, Governments are actually directing major industry away from city areas into country areas. It will be only a matter of time before that will happen in this State. No doubt many members have been to Tokyo where, because of pollution, it is actually a novelty to see the sun. I suggest to the Minister that it would be a great advantage if he could direct smaller industries into country areas where they would be less likely to pollute the atmosphere.

It is the ambition of almost every local authority to bring some industry into its area. There is a need for people to understand that there is room in country areas for both industry and primary production, although we should be selective in the industries we direct to country areas. For instance, there is a ridiculous situation in the Lockyer Valley at present with semi-trailers choking up the highways and travelling great distances to bring vegetables down to Brisbane for processing. Thousands of tonnes of beetroot, carrots and other vegetables leave my area every day to be brought to Brisbane and processed. The silly part of it is that they are later sent back. I suggest that a cannery should be built in my area. I would suggest Lowood in the Brisbane Valley as an excellent site with any amount of water. A number of other towns in the area would also fill the bill. We are told that there is a need to conserve energy, yet semi-trailers loaded with produce from the Lockyer and Fassifern areas daily travel at least 100 km to Brisbane. They must use thousands of gallons of fuel in the process. The establishment of canneries in my area would serve a dual purpose. It would encourage people to live in a country area where the Government has provided excellent schools, sporting facilities and hospitals. Rather than stay in the city at night, I would prefer to go home to Laidley where we have everything.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Why don't you get a helicopter?

Mr. GUNN: I could do that, but I can get home in an hour now, so I don't really need one.

Mr. Lee: He only wants a lift.

Mr. GUNN: I don't think a helicopter could stand that strain.

The Government has provided these facilities to aid decentralisation, and it has achieved its aim. We can be justly proud of our efforts in this sphere. As I said, we have provided schooling and hospitals. Although it does not have a great deal to do with this Minister's Estimates, today our children go on to tertiary education, and take their place anywhere. The availability of such facilities will encourage industry to go into country areas.

The Tarong Power House is a classic example of the success of the Government's policy. The population of that area has been dropping, and the construction of the

powerhouse will do a great deal to encourage the establishment of industry, and that will create further employment. There are already indications that industry wishes to establish itself in that region. I am daily approached by people who want to get jobs in the powerhouse or the coal industry. Obviously they are prepared to work in country areas.

I now want to refer to industries that have already been established. I refer particularly to the Kilcoy meatworks, which has been established for a number of years. I do not have to tell the Minister, who is a successful cattleman, that we should avoid moving stock long distances. Because of the bruising that takes place when stock are moved long distances, millions of dollars are lost each year. The Kilcoy meatworks has an excellent local market for its stock and also an export market for its product. It does not suffer the losses that other meatworks experience. One notices the quality of meat from cattle that come off the pasture, are spelted and cooled down, and then killed humanely. The meat is never tough. It is good and it commands an excellent market. It is not knocked around in any way at all.

Mr. Lee: Killed humanely?

Mr. GUNN: The cattle really are killed humanely.

Mr. Lee: I know what you mean.

Mr. GUNN: I do not think that the Minister is a vegetarian. The other day I saw him eating the biggest steak that I have ever seen in my life.

The expansion of small businesses in country areas is to be commended. Many of the small businesses in my electorate operate only in a small way, possibly employing only three or four men. But it is interesting to see what they have done, and this Government has encouraged them to do it. I am talking about the manufacture of leather goods and metal goods, such as fencing materials, steps, tanks and parts of farm machinery. A young chap starts up a business after being encouraged by this Government. He soon establishes a name and reputation for himself. He employs three or four people. I would hope that when the Minister purchases goods for State Stores he looks at these small manufacturing businesses. I do not know the Minister's policy on purchases for State Stores, but I would hope that he would purchase from the small manufacturer and encourage him in his particular industry. Small businesses of this type are operating in the outside areas in my electorate and are doing extremely well.

Quite a lot has been said here today about energy, and it is an interesting subject. I heard the honourable member for Mourilyan refer to the shortage of fuel in cane-growing areas. I think that this was caused by many factors. I think she hit the nail on the head when she mentioned inadequate storage initially. This would have been a fact of life. Primary producers just did not have enough storage facilities and, consequently, not enough

fuel stored. There is no doubt that every agricultural journal that I picked up in the past advised people to build more storage; to get bigger tanks and to store more fuel.

I have mentioned the small businesses in my area. There is one small business there that does nothing but manufacture large steel tanks with ladders on their sides and capacities up to 10,000 gallons. This manufacturer could not keep up with the orders. I would say that today there are virtually thousands and thousands of gallons of fuel stored on properties and not being used. That is not the fault of the Government. We have been talking about alternative fuels. I think that there was plenty of fuel. People were encouraged to store fuel; they did so, and one could not blame them.

Mr. Goleby: It was in the hands of a few.

Mr. GUNN: Yes. A tank with a capacity of 10,000 gallons is a very big tank, and there are many of them around. Of course, they are owned by big operators.

Mr. Goleby: It is not much consolation if you cannot get any yourself.

Mr. GUNN: That is right, but I think that the honourable member for Redlands must admit that people were encouraged to store fuel, and most people did so. Even the small operators stored fuel. I suppose that we were all guilty of that. My tanks were full, and I make no apology for saying that. If any honourable members say that their tanks were not full, I think that they might be fibbing.

Employment has also been mentioned, and I suppose that that has a lot to do with industry. I was interested to hear the honourable member for Lytton speak about the timber industry. That is one activity that lends itself to development. As the honourable member for Maryborough would well know, we have a softwoods agreement; I have mentioned it time and time again in this Chamber. The timber subsidy has gradually been reduced. I am not saying that for this situation one Government is guilty and another is not; they are all guilty in this matter.

When I entered this Parliament, Mr. McMahan, the then leader of the Commonwealth Government, gave approximately \$2,500,000 a year to this industry. It is labour intensive, and it lends itself to the employment of people. It is true that workers do not go out today with the chipping hoe, and they do not chip on the plantations. That is all to the good. It is also true that sprays, etc., are used. This is one of the facts of life. However, that money from the Commonwealth is now down to about \$800,000. That is all we get for planting today.

There is plenty of land in the Maryborough region and, quite possibly, in my electorate that would lend itself to further planting. That is one activity that would increase employment in Queensland. We must remember that we still import

\$250,000,000 worth of timber and timber products each year. Of course, we must assist some foreign countries and we have to have certain reciprocal trade agreements with countries such as New Zealand and Indonesia. We import a lot of timber from both of those countries, who are great customers of ours. However, there is a need for expansion in the timber industry. It is an area that the Government should look at.

In country regions there is quite a large scope for the manufacture of farm machinery. Most of it could be manufactured in its local area of use. In this regard, I instance a firm that I admire—Napier Bros. of Dalby. Napier Bros. are not in my electorate but I have used their machinery. In fact, on most occasions I have a preference for their machinery. Of course, Napier Bros. did get into a lot of financial trouble at one time but they pulled themselves out of it by their bootlaces. They are now alive and well, and their machinery has established a reputation around the country. A friend of mine who was recently in Scotland was there told that a lot of machinery from Napier Bros. was being sold in the United Kingdom. It is marvellous that a little firm in Dalby can manufacture machinery that will sell on the British market.

That sort of achievement could be duplicated in a lot of other areas. I look at the electorate of the Honourable the Speaker. The Richter family have established themselves in manufacturing there. Just recently they manufactured at Boonah a tractor part that has created quite a deal of interest. It will not only be sold in Australia but will also be exported.

We must have quite a deal of confidence in our industries, particularly those established in country areas. They have established themselves and they have a good reputation. Any local industry that can compete against overseas industries on the world export market has done pretty well. Such industries have achieved that success through the encouragement they receive from the department under the control of the Minister.

We in Queensland do not have to apologise to anybody in any other State. Queensland may at one stage have been a primary producing State, but I can assure honourable members that we are not now Cinderellas in secondary industry, although primary production will always be very important to the State.

I have great pleasure in supporting the Estimates of the Minister. On behalf of the people of the electorate of Somerset, I thank the Minister for the interest he has shown in country areas. We will watch with great interest the establishment of further industry in country areas.

Mr. AKERS (Pine Rivers) (5.25 p.m.): I, too, rise to support the Minister on the adoption of his Estimates for the year 1979-80. His portfolio, although it takes

a very small part of the Queensland Government Directory, covers a large range of items. Probably the most important—it is the most obvious one to State members—is the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development. He also has responsibility for the State Stores Board. Both of those divisions support private enterprise. The Minister is responsible for the Government Motor Garage, the State Migration Office, which deals with migration as it affects this State, and the Government Printing Office.

The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development supports the community of Queensland in an excellent way. It does a tremendous job developing industries in the metropolitan area of Brisbane and throughout the rest of the State in a totally decentralised way. The list of Crown industrial estates covers a very large range of centres. It covers the smaller towns—they are officially called cities—such as Dalby. Although that is an important centre in itself, it is not very large and I am sure that in other States would not attract Government support, as it does here. Places such as Gympie also receive tremendous support.

Although the Narangba Industrial Estate is not in my electorate, it has significant effect on the electorate and on the population in the Caboolture, Redcliffe and Pine Rivers areas. The problem with it is that it is in some ways perhaps a little ahead of its time. I would like to see the department concentrate more on a place such as the Strathpine industrial area, which is already zoned. I will go into more detail on that shortly.

The tradition of support for private enterprise from the department—supporting small, pioneer industries and even very large industries—started under the Honourable Fred Campbell. It has continued very capably under the present Minister. I congratulate both Ministers and the Government on the work that has been done.

The various development bureaux throughout Queensland come under the general auspices of the Department of Industrial Development. Possibly with the exception only of my own area, they are doing a tremendous job in the development of industries in their areas of responsibility. They give support to local people and provide connection with the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development. Someone is on the site, usually to some extent in relation to the Crown industrial estates, to give real support to people in their establishment period. When it was functioning, the Murrumba Regional Development Bureau provided much support to people in my area. A few small businessmen in the Strathpine and Narangba areas received real support from that bureau when it was under the control of Mr. Tom Baty. Mr. Baty had a

vast amount of expertise. I was greatly disappointed when the bureau collapsed. He had had experience in other countries, as well as throughout Queensland. The collapse of that bureau was a great loss. It collapsed because it did not get support from local business people. It got too little support, or none at all, from the Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe local authorities. It may not be re-established for a while, but I hope that before too long something similar to a development bureau will start in the area.

That bureau to some extent concentrated on the Narangba Industrial Estate and not, as I said before in relation to the Department of Industrial Development, on encouraging development in the Strathpine industrial area, which is privately owned. Much of it is still farmland. A lot of it has been developed by people such as W. H. Bowden Pty. Ltd., Compac Sackville and the Stanton family. They are developing the area. At present, about 150 ha of land is zoned for clay-extractive industries, and about 60 ha is under application for clay extraction. About 20 ha has either been approved or is under application for sand and gravel extraction. Therefore, to some extent raw materials are available there. In addition, 400 ha—about 1,000 acres—is already zoned for heavy industry, about 60 ha of which is now in industrial and commercial use.

Unlimited space and unlimited infrastructure are available in the Strathpine Industrial Estate. In my opinion, it has a great deal going for it, but it needs some real encouragement from the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development. People such as Mr. Bowden have been promoting the area very well, but general support is needed with the much wider range of information that the department can provide.

At present, about 40 subdivided allotments, varying in size from half an acre to an acre, are available on the site, and about 100 more allotments have already been approved. Of those, 30 are in the Bowden subdivision and about 108 in the Compac Sackville estate. In addition to the infrastructure, services such as water, sewerage and adequate storm-water drainage are available on land to which there is good rail and road access.

The Strathpine Industrial Estate is in the centre of a rapidly-growing area of population, so people are available to provide the work-force that is needed. There are now 18,000 people in the Strathpine/Lawnton area, and by 1985—less than six years away—there are expected to be 26,000. In the Albany Creek area, there are 6,000 people at present, and there are expected to be about 8,000 by 1985. In the Petrie/Kallangur area, there are now 13,000 people, and the population is expected to increase to about 19,000 by 1985. About 3,000 people now live in the Bald Hills area, and that number

should increase to about 5,000 or 6,000 by 1985. So where there are now 40,000 people, it is expected that in less than six years the population will increase by about 20,000 to about 60,000 in the catchment area of the industrial estate to which I am referring. It will be an increase not much smaller than the population of towns such as Maryborough and almost twice that of Gympie. That shows the potential of the area in the next five years, and the estate must be promoted as strongly as possible.

Figures that I obtained from the Pine Rivers Shire Council show that in the five years to 1977 the existing manufacturing base in the Pine Rivers area has grown by 611 employment places. That is a phenomenal growth in any area. The percentage increase in jobs over the State in that period was 1.6 per cent, whereas in the Pine Rivers Shire it was 36 per cent. Again, those are very significant figures and show the enormous potential of the Strathpine area for development and for investment in industries.

The ratio of manufacturing jobs to population is much higher in the Pine Rivers Shire than in any of the other shires contiguous to Brisbane. Similarly, the existing manufacturing base is much higher in the Pine Rivers Shire than in any of the other shires. Perhaps all the money is being spent on freeways and the electrification of railways to the South, but the population and the industries are going to the North. On previous occasions I have said in this Chamber that it is time the Government took notice of what the people want it to do instead of telling them what they should do. It should start looking after the areas where people want to go. The Strathpine/Albany Creek/Bald Hills area is certainly a very pleasant place to live. People in big numbers want to go there.

At present, the Strathpine area contains a number of substantial firms. For example, Namco Industries employs 390 workers; Cable Makers Australia Pty. Ltd., 120; Reed Corrugated Containers, 120; and P G H Ceramics, approximately 200 at its brickworks. I remind the Committee that 210 ha of clay-extraction land is available in the area, so that P G H will be there for a long time to come. As well, there are Simmons Bedding Co. Pty. Ltd., Austraphone, Vita-foam Australia Pty. Ltd. and Bushland Detergents. All those firms are functioning very happily in the area. As well, there are literally dozens of small factories and service units. People produce electronic printed boards, exhaust mufflers and so on. The potential for further growth and investment is enormous. I urge anyone who is interested in industrial development to look at that area, and I urge the Minister to get his department to acknowledge the potential offered by the Strathpine area.

One of the people whom I have criticised quite often in this Chamber is Bill Bowden. He has, however, helped many small businessmen get going by building three very large tin sheds and dividing them up into sections

for small industries. Many have got going in a substantial way. The potential exists in the area. I hope that honourable members, the Minister and his staff take notice of these comments. I hope that Strathpine will soon see some backing other than from private enterprise.

The Minister is also responsible for the Government Printing Office. I never cease to be amazed at the fact that, even though Parliament sits till 1, 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, by early the next day the first "Hansard" pulls are available to us for checking. I have great admiration for Mr. Hampson—

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What about the workers who prepare it?

Mr. AKERS: I was about to say "and his staff". Under our system, he is the symbol of the Government Printing Office and the one who gets the job done. I have great admiration for the work done by the Government Printing Office. How anyone can decipher a bumbled and muffled speech such as I am making now, put it through the system and have it back to members next morning, reading as well as it does, I do not know.

Mr. Hampson's name will appear on many more printed items. Nearly every document published by the Government has his name on it, so it will go down in the history of this State as that of a man who played a significant role.

I turn now to an item that worries me a great deal. As little as I liked the Bellevue building being demolished, the large area of land on which it stood is now fully fenced—I do not know the cost of the fence, but it must have amounted to a few thousand dollars—and used as a car-park. Unfortunately, it is used as a car park only during the day. If we leave this place at night we might see three or four Government vehicles parked there, but at 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning 50 or 60 cars are there. Something is wrong with our system when we provide an expensive car-parking site, fully fenced, for car-parking only during the day. I urge the Minister, as the Minister in charge of the Government Garage, to find out why so many cars are there during the day, obviously not being used, and why there are none there at night. Obviously they are taken home and parked in front yards or out on footpaths at night.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You are a dobber; you are a snitch.

Mr. AKERS: Does the honourable member think that money should be wasted in that way? He will not even answer.

As so much money has been spent on that site, and because these expensive cars are available, I expect them to be used efficiently. I do not expect such an enormous area to be wasted in that way.

Mr. Hansen: There are about 30 Land Rovers.

Mr. AKERS: And they are taken home at night. There are only about three or four of them there at night-time. In the past few weeks we have had the opportunity of seeing that place late at night, and we know how many vehicles are there.

With that small criticism I have tremendous pleasure in supporting the Minister's Estimates, and I encourage him to keep on with the good work he is doing.

Mr. MILLINER (Everton) (5.42 p.m.): In rising to speak to these Estimates I wish to refer to some of the comments made by the honourable member for Cooroora this afternoon. He followed the honourable member for Lytton, who again brought to our attention the problems confronting our society caused by technological change and automation. The views expressed by the honourable member for Cooroora epitomise the thinking of Government members. He told us that society has been affected by automation and changes in machinery, and virtually said that all the troubles will go away and everything will be hunky-dory in the long run. I assure the honourable member for Cooroora that things will not be hunky-dory in the long run.

I have previously referred in this Chamber to the problems caused by technological change, particularly in the printing industry with which I was associated. The white-collar industry is another industry that will be severely affected by technological change.

Even in my electorate I have seen the start of the inroads of automation. Outside Myers at the Brookside Shopping Centre an automatic telling machine is located. I do not know if honourable members have observed one of these machines working, but it is frightening to consider the number of jobs that could be lost in the banking industry through this form of automation.

Not long ago many girls were employed in typing pools in organisations such as banks and insurance companies, but since the introduction of word processors and the like the work formerly done by 30 or 40 typists is now done by two or three girls. Job opportunities for young women leaving school who hope to embark on careers as typists will be very limited.

When I was perusing the departmental Estimates the first thing I noted was the decrease from 297 to 294 in the number of employees. Admittedly one employee has been lost from the immigration section. The decline in employment is particularly disappointing. Yet the Premier and the Deputy Premier thump their chest and say in this Chamber what a marvellous job they are doing to encourage industry to come to this State. The department does an extremely important job in promoting Queensland as a place where people should come and set up industry. As it does such an important job,

one would expect to see an increase in the number it employs, but unfortunately that is not the case. Instead there is a drop in the number it employs. Admittedly it was only a small drop, but it was still a drop. In a couple of months thousands of young men and women will be leaving high school and looking for a job. It is disappointing that in this time of high unemployment the Government is not taking on more employees. The Government service is virtually stagnating.

Mr. Davis: Did you see that the Minister is not taking one bit of notice?

Mr. MILLINER: I did. He should hang his head in shame about the unemployment problem.

An amount of \$17,700,000-odd has been appropriated this year for the department. This represents an increase of approximately \$2,000,000, but if we take into account the inflation rate of 10 per cent, thanks to the economic policies of the Fraser Government, we realise that that increase is less than \$500,000 in real terms. As I have said, this very important department is charged with the responsibility of developing the industrial potential of the State, so it is doubly unfortunate that there is only this paltry increase in the amount allocated to it.

Another of the Minister's responsibilities is the Government Printing Office. I believe that it has been overlooked by the Government ever since it came to power in 1957. The Government Printing Office has been operating in a building that is totally inadequate for the needs of a modern printing establishment. Over the past 20-odd years most printers have moved out into industrial estates where they could erect buildings suitable for a modern printing business and have room to expand. I have inspected the Government Printing Office on a number of occasions, and it has always amazed me that the building has not been condemned. On one occasion I toured the office with the Minister, and I can recall his commenting on the condition of the floor, particularly in the composing room on the third floor where tonnes and tonnes of lead are stored. That has caused a tremendous bow in the floor. It amazes me that it has not collapsed before this. As I said, the building is obviously totally inadequate, and it should have been condemned years ago.

When I first started in the printing industry in 1963, I attended the technical college at the bottom of George Street. At that time there were rumours that the Government Printing Office was to be moved to South Brisbane. That was about 17 years ago. It was disappointing to read in the Treasurer's Financial Statement that no money had been allocated to commence work on the new Government Printing Office at South Brisbane.

Like the honourable member for Pine Rivers, I would like to pay tribute to the men and women who work in the Government

Printing Office. While we sit these ridiculously long hours the employees of the Government Printing Office are on duty, and they remain on duty until such time as the "Hansard" pulls are available for us the next morning.

Mr. Lee: You would have to agree that they do a remarkable job.

Mr. MILLINER: I agree that they do a tremendous job. I know a lot of them personally. In fact, a number of them are very good friends of mine. I have built up a friendship with them through my association with the printing industry. They are very dedicated and loyal employees of the Crown.

Mr. Davis: What do they say about the Minister?

Mr. MILLINER: I would not like to go into that.

Mr. Austin: Your mates print dollar bills for you.

Mr. MILLINER: I wish they did, but you never know your luck in a big city! As I said, they do a tremendous job, and they are to be congratulated on it.

Mr. Davis: They all say Austin is a fraud.

Mr. MILLINER: Yes, they do.

Another area of the Minister's responsibility is the Government motor pool. My predecessor in this place at one time was very critical of public servants taking Government vehicles home at night. I think that this should be encouraged more than discouraged, particularly at this time of a so-called energy crisis. Unfortunately, many times I have seen State Government vehicles being driven with only one person in them.

Mr. Austin: They are not allowed to take any more, and that is wrong.

Mr. MILLINER: I agree with the honourable member for Wavell that it is wrong. I believe that when a Government employee has the privilege of taking home a Government vehicle, he should at least try to arrange a pool of employees who live in his vicinity. He should pick them up in the morning and take them home at night. This would have a tremendous effect on the traffic flow in Brisbane, because many Government employees drive private vehicles to and from work.

Mr. Davis: The Minister has stated that he would like to see more four-cylinder cars.

Mr. MILLINER: I am coming to that. Employees who take home Government vehicles should be encouraged to establish a pool so that they pick up people in the morning and take them home at night.

The Minister has said that the Government is experimenting with four-cylinder cars. Again, with this so-called energy crisis, I hope that the experiment with four-cylinder cars is successful. I can well remember that

in answer to a question in this Chamber the Minister said that one of the things that he was evaluating with the four-cylinder car was its resale value. I do not know whether he has been out shopping for a four-cylinder car recently, but I can assure him that their resale value is holding up.

One other matter that has been mentioned today is the plight of small business. Following my illustrious career in the printing industry, I moved into another area and became a small businessman. I owned a newsagency, and a very prosperous one.

Mr. Davis: Only people like you and I can talk about this.

Mr. MILLINER: That is right. I think that you and I would be considered experts in the small-business area, because of the taxis you had and the efficient way in which you ran them, and the service station that you had and the efficient way in which you ran it and gave service to the public.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Miller): Order! Can I be involved in the discussion?

Mr. MILLINER: Yes, Mr. Miller. Through you, Mr. Miller, I say that small business is one area that definitely needs to be looked at by the Government. I refer particularly to the retailing industry. At the moment, retailing is having a pretty tough time, and this can be attributed to a number of factors. I think the first and obvious one is the disastrous economic policies of the Fraser Government. But, there again, both small and big businesses are suffering at the hands of Mr. Fraser. One other factor that has attributed to the demise of the small businessman, particularly in the strip-shopping centres, is late-night shopping. I still have a number of friends involved in small businesses in the retailing industry, and they tell me that, since the introduction of late-night shopping, their takings on Fridays and Saturdays have dropped dramatically. Quite obviously, in the Keperra area where I was involved in business, the population has not increased dramatically, yet shops are allowed to remain open longer. No doubt late-night shopping has been a boon to the major shopping centres, but it has been to the detriment of the small operator, and this is something that the Government should seriously look at.

Mr. Davis: The Temporary Chairman would agree with you.

Mr. MILLINER: Yes, he would.

One of the other problems that I wish to refer to concerns the proliferation of major shopping centres. In the past couple of months we have had raised in this Chamber the controversy surrounding the Bexley Corporation, and it is not my intention to go into that matter at this time. The problems facing small business people who are forced to go into this type of shopping centre are tremendous. When a major shopping centre is established in an area, a small retailer

has the choice of either going into it or staying where he is and suffering financially, and eventually going broke.

One of the disturbing features of major shopping complexes is the way in which the developer determines the rent to be paid by the occupiers of the shops. The rent paid by the small retailer is calculated either on the floor space he occupies or the gross turnover per month, whichever is the greater. That is a disastrous situation for the smaller operators in a major shopping centre. Because of it, they cannot get ahead. If the small operator has a good month, the proprietor of the shopping complex looks at his books and increases the rent accordingly. There are rumours that some of these smaller operators, in an effort to get over this problem, are keeping two sets of accounts, one for the Taxation Department and the other for the operator of the shopping centre. That should not have to happen. The rents paid by people should be calculated on a fixed basis. If somebody has a good month, he should be the one who benefits from it.

The development of such a great number of shopping centres is causing quite a deal of concern. These centres are mushrooming all over the city, to the detriment of other businesses. In my electorate of Everton, a K mart was established 12 months ago. A number of retailers who went into that complex originally, have now gone broke. However, I am informed that the retailers now in that establishment are paying their way. Unfortunately, that has been to the detriment of other small retailers in the area. Three or four shops, including one fairly large supermarket in the Cut Price Store chain, in the strip shopping area over the road from the complex have had to close. If this proliferation of shopping centres continues, I fear we will eventually see the development of a monopoly in the retailing industry.

The last point I wish to raise is this Government's policy on price control. Last week we saw an instance of price control by this famous so-called free-enterprise Government. That was price control in the bread industry. Unfortunately, the Government has tackled this problem from the wrong end. Surely if the Government is serious about price control, it should look at the maximum price of a commodity, not the minimum price. If a storekeeper chooses to sell a commodity at a cheaper rate than his competitors, or if a wholesaler is prepared to supply a certain amount of bread to a retailer at a cheaper rate, surely that is their prerogative when operating in the free-enterprise system. The Government should not step in to protect a few of its mates in a few small country bakeries.

Mr. Davis: Not one Liberal member made any sort of a noise about that at all.

Mr. MILLINER: I noticed that when the legislation was introduced.

Mr. Davis: They should all hide their heads in shame.

Mr. MILLINER: I agree with the member for Brisbane Central; they should all hide their heads in shame. The members on the other side of the Chamber espouse free-enterprise Government, but when the crunch comes they back the Premier to the hilt. They did that when the minimum price of bread was established.

Mr. Blake: They are only interested in dough.

Mr. MILLINER: That is correct; they are interested only in dough.

In this morning's Press there is a report of another instance of the Government's price control. The Government has set minimum and maximum prices for milk. There is already a monopoly in the milk industry. The Minister for Local Government and Main Roads knows a fair bit about the milk industry in this State—he has a fairly large quota.

Mr. Davis: Mr. Booth has one, too!

Mr. MILLINER: Yes, the honourable member for Warwick probably would have a fairly large quota.

The distribution of milk throughout the Brisbane metropolitan area is a monopoly controlled by Queensland United Foods. Some years ago a dairy farmer in Nudgee Road tried to, if I may so put it, crash into the Brisbane milk market, but he was stopped. The Government should look seriously at its price control policy. If it is going to be fair dinkum and bring in price control, let us have it at the other end.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr. GOLEBY (Redlands) (7.15 p.m.): In this debate on the Estimates presented by the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services, every member appreciates what an important portfolio this is and realises the important part it plays in the industrial development of his area. The Minister and his ministerial predecessors have created something of tremendous value, particularly to many of our small towns. The Minister himself is a classic example of a moving force in industrial development. In his business enterprise before he entered the Parliament, he was one of the State's major industrialists.

Mr. Davis: He inherited the business.

Mr. GOLEBY: Whether he inherited it or not, he was quite a competent operator. That is something that cannot be said of the member for Brisbane Central. You've done nothing but run a taxi service and, as has been said, you employed Aborigines and paid them half wages.

Mr. Lee: He didn't pay them.

Mr. GOLEBY: That's right. He didn't pay them.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. GOLEBY: I will, Mr. Row.

Queensland is the most decentralised State in the Commonwealth. As we look at our major towns along the coast from here to Cairns and inland to the north-western city of Mt. Isa, we can be justly proud of the industrial development that has taken place in our State. As the most decentralised State, Queensland must also claim to have the most decentralised industrial development. Almost all towns and cities in the State have Government-planned industrial estates. Those that do not already have them are in the throes of planning and developing them.

Industry is most important to all of our towns, both to provide employment and to give financial stability, particularly in small country towns. Light industries employ more people than many of the larger companies involved in heavy industry. I have always said, and I know it to be correct, that on the whole small industries employ much more labour than the large, automated industries. Government financial assistance has been given quite freely for the establishment of many small industries in country towns.

As the member for Somerset said earlier, the town of Dalby is a classic example. Many of the large industrial establishments there now started off as small enterprises manufacturing machinery. One in particular is Napier Brothers. I am sure that every primary producer in this State has used equipment made at Dalby by Napier Brothers. If it does not carry the Napier name-tag, it carries the blue line indicating that it is distributed by Ford and has been made under franchise by Napier Brothers at Dalby. A former member of the Parliament, Mr. Diplock, was a director of that firm, and much credit for the firm's success goes to him. He was one of the directors who pulled the firm through its times of stress in the 1960s.

When we think of industry and the amount of employment it creates—and the importance of that employment to country towns—we are mindful of the 35-hour week that we heard promoted in this Chamber only a week ago. I am sure that members opposite who were so strongly in favour of a 35-hour week have little knowledge of just what effect it would have on the industrial life of this State, particularly the success of many of the small industries in our country towns. That is important, and one hears the Opposition talking about it time and time again. But if we want to stop the drift from the country to the city, we have to make sure that small industrialists in business in country towns remain viable and able to maintain in employment those on their pay-roll.

In discussing industrial relations and industrial development, one hears a great deal about worker participation in industry. It is quite good to have worker participation provided the workers concerned give of their best. However, I have yet to hear any honourable member opposite, particularly the honourable member for Brisbane Central, speak about anything other than workers sharing in the profits; I have never heard him say anything about workers sharing in the losses of industry. It is a one-sided ticket as far as he is concerned.

Mr. Frawley: He never gave the worker who drove his taxi a share of the profits.

Mr. GOLEBY: No, certainly not.

I represent one of the fastest-growing electorates in this State, an electorate in which there are many small industries. One of the larger industries is the home-building industry, and it is interesting to note that last year 1,228 new homes were completed in the Redlands electorate.

My electorate is confined entirely within the boundaries of the Redland Shire, and it is certainly not one of the larger electorates in Queensland. However, it is one of the most closely settled outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, and a great deal of planning is taking place there now. I give full credit to the Minister and his officers, and also to officers of the Lands Department and officers of the Redland Shire Council, for endeavouring to have an industrial estate developed in the centre of the electorate where the population is greatest. It is next to an electricity substation, close to a sewerage line and on a water line; in fact, everything is there, ready for development to take place. The Minister has been there on more than one occasion, and I compliment him on the work he has done.

An honourable member opposite referred rather lightly to the Press releases issued by the Minister each week, but I am sure that no honourable member, no matter what his political beliefs, would deny that the Minister has been very active in creating new industrial estates in Queensland. I should like to mention particularly the one at Gympie, which is one of the finest anywhere. Both large and small industries have been attracted to it. Smith's bodyworks, a small industry when it began, is now one of the largest established on any industrial estate in Queensland. It competes successfully against both Brisbane and interstate motor-body builders, and it has been successful in obtaining the franchises for the body-building requirements of quite a number of truck companies.

Mr. Houston: They must have some good workers working for them.

Mr. GOLEBY: Of course they have, and I am the first to recognise it.

Mr. Houston: Well, why do you condemn workers out of hand?

Mr. GOLEBY: I did not condemn workers.

Mr. Houston: Of course you did.

Mr. GOLEBY: I did not. One has to take the good with the bad. As the honourable member for Bulimba well knows, if an industry is profitable, one can give the workers a better deal; but if they do not work, there is no profit. I have never heard the honourable member talk about workers sharing in the losses of industry. In that respect, he is like the member for Brisbane Central.

Mr. Houston: As a matter of fact, when there are losses, they are usually due to bad management.

Mr. GOLEBY: It is usually due to unionists going on strike. The honourable member for Bulimba does not know very much about the work scene.

Mr. Houston: Why do you think the Minister came into Parliament?

Mr. GOLEBY: When the Minister came into Parliament, he was a very successful businessman. He still is.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! The Committee will come to order.

Mr. GOLEBY: In speaking of the Minister's department, I am reminded that the Minister is in charge of fuel distribution throughout the State. Recently, every Queensland has been very concerned about the fuel industry and the distribution and availability of fuel throughout this vast State. There have been shortages of Avgas in parts of Queensland. It has been of concern not only to owners of light aircraft who use them to commute from town to town but also to graziers using helicopters for mustering. In a number of instances, it has thrown the cattle industry into chaos. If a grazier has been using a helicopter for mustering, he will not have manpower readily available to enable him to go back to mustering by horse, and it is not always possible to obtain experienced labour at short notice. It is easy to realise the inconvenience that can be caused to people engaged in that primary industry.

As to the fuel shortage—every Queensland must ask himself at some time or another whether it is necessary to fit emission control devices to motor vehicles. I suppose that most honourable members would own a motor vehicle that it fitted with such a device and would realise what a difference it makes to fuel consumption. Over the past 12 months the cost of fuel has doubled. If that cost is added to the cost of the extra

fuel required for motor vehicles because of emission control devices, the resultant overall cost to the State is very high. It would amount to many millions of dollars. I hope that those charged with the responsibility of administering this aspect of government will look closely at the possibility of removing emission control devices from vehicles. Except for a few areas in the city of Brisbane, Queensland does not suffer from pollution caused by motor vehicles. Yet every motor vehicle sold in this State must be fitted with an emission control device. That rule applies even in isolated country areas. At a time when we are faced with a fuel crisis, we are bowing to the environmentalists.

I do not believe that the nation or the motorist can afford the costs incurred as a result of the fitting of emission control devices, nor do I believe they are necessary in Queensland. They certainly are not necessary in Western Australia, South Australia or the Northern Territory. The legislation governing emission control devices covered the whole of the nation because of problems that arose only in Sydney and Melbourne. As in many other instances, the population of those two cities control the habits of all Australians. Even on the Federal political scene, those two cities have sufficient members in Parliament to control the activities of all Australians. On the basis of area, of course, the population of Sydney and Melbourne represent only a very small area.

Mr. Davis: Do you know that Brisbane has the third-highest rate of pollution?

Mr. GOLEBY: If the honourable member had listened, he would have heard me say that a couple of small areas in Brisbane are affected. However, the fitting of emission control devices to all motor vehicles is a very severe penalty to impose on the whole of the State. The fitting of these devices costs the nation approximately \$30,000,000 a year by way of additional fuel costs. That was the figure before the increase in fuel prices.

I was interested to hear members of the Opposition talk about the urgent need to carry out oil exploration. I would remind them that until the advent of the Whitlam Government oil exploration in Australia was proceeding quite satisfactorily.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. GOLEBY: I know that this upsets the member for Brisbane Central; but he cannot deny that within two years of Whitlam's election as Prime Minister only two oil rigs were left in Australia. The others had gone to the Philippines, Indonesia and Borneo, and they are still there. It is now the Fraser Government's job to attract them back to Australia. It didn't take them long to go, but it will take a long time to get them back.

A Government Member: It's harder to put the toothpaste back into the tube than to get it out.

Mr. GOLEBY: We should try to tell that to the member for Brisbane Central. Fortunately, the Fraser Government is giving every incentive to the oil industry, particularly the exploration side of it, to get back on its feet.

The Whitlam Government removed the tax incentives from the oil industry. Anyone who invests in the oil industry is risking his capital. No-one other than someone with money to spare can afford to take the risk. Certainly the ordinary man in the street cannot afford to do so. It is a chancy business, and I say "good luck" to anyone who invests in the industry and makes something out of it.

Mr. Davis: Mr. Bjelke-Petersen isn't doing too badly.

Mr. GOLEBY: The honourable member is only jealous.

Queensland is probably one of the most fortunate areas in the world in terms of energy resources. We have a huge coal industry, and I believe that ultimately the railway network that serves that industry in Queensland will be electrified. The Galilee and Bowen coal basins stretch virtually the length of the State.

The metropolitan railway system is to be electrified. I am sure that honourable members who had an opportunity to travel on the electric train last week appreciate that Brisbane will have one of the best electrification systems in Australia.

Mr. Houston: It is 20 years behind time, and you know it.

Mr. GOLEBY: If the Labor Government had carried out its electrification proposals the system would not be as good as the one we have now. The railways of Queensland would have suffered. No-one can deny that the diesel-electric locomotives perform tremendous service throughout the State. They move vast quantities of coal, grain, beef and other rural products. The old steam trains simply could not have handled the tonnages. One diesel-electric locomotive pulls four or five times as much as steam engines did years ago.

Mr. Houston: Who introduced diesel-electrics?

Mr. GOLEBY: This Government has extended the diesel-electric services throughout the State. Labor has not been in power since 1957, which is a long time ago.

Mr. Houston: They were in before then.

Mr. GOLEBY: Does the honourable member realise that the Queensland railway system is now earning \$1,000,000 a day—something that it never did under Labor?

Mr. Houston: It is losing money, too.

Mr. GOLEBY: I assure honourable members that the railway system did not make a profit under Labor.

Mr. Davis: Who tore up the track from Cleveland to Wynnum?

Mr. GOLEBY: And who is going to put it back? The honourable member might be interested in that. If he stays here another few months he will see its being replaced.

Mr. Booth: He will not be here after the next election.

Mr. GOLEBY: No, he will not.

Industry is very dependent on railway workers.

Before the dinner recess, criticism was levelled at our education system. It is very easy to condemn the education system. Only a week or so ago I inspected the Capalaba High School, which is one of the finest high schools in the State. It was an eye-opener to see students in Grade 9 in the industrial section doing work on lathes and other specialised equipment most efficiently. After they complete Grade 10 their training will equip them very well for the work-force. Thanks to the tuition they receive from very talented instructors on an excellent range of equipment, those students will be able to move into almost any workshop and acquit themselves very well. They will not be strangers to the trades. They will be able to adapt to all the trades which are so important to industrial development.

Mr. Houston: What are you doing about a job for them?

Mr. GOLEBY: The honourable member would be surprised to know how many jobs are available in my electorate. It is one of the fastest-growing electorates in the State. Only the other day, when the Redland Shire Council called applications for a junior job, there were only three applicants. In those circumstances the honourable member cannot tell me that there is a long waiting list for employment.

Earlier today the honourable member for South Brisbane referred to migrants in our community. I do not think anyone would deny the talents they have brought to this land. I am sure we have all benefited not only from their work skills but from their culture and way of life. However, I cannot agree with him that we should have a multilingual society. Migrants are nothing new in our community. Ever since the settlement of this country we have relied on migrants. Since Australia started to develop as a nation many of its fine craftsmen have come from Europe. I am sure that the early migrants adapted quickly and learnt our language. I am sure that if any of us were to migrate to a foreign country we would be expected to learn the local

tongue. I have many migrants in my area, and none has ever expressed the wish to me that we should have a multilingual society. They are very eager to become part of our society and they have adapted themselves very well.

I congratulate the Minister and his department on the job they have done.

(Time expired.)

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (7.35 p.m.): There are certain questions I would like to ask about the Estimates of the Industry and Administrative Services portfolio. Firstly, under the heading "Contingencies (Subdivision)" under the subheading "Special Investigations" the amount appropriated for 1979-80 is \$70,000. Last year \$46,344 was spent. I would like to know what are special investigations, and if they are so special why they have not been named? I have no qualms about the salaries mentioned under the heading "Chief Office", because there are a great number of people employed. The total amount required for the 95 people employed is \$1,190,000. However, under the heading "Immigration", apart from the migration officer we see listed an assistant migration officer, clerks, stenographers, welfare officers, a chauffeur and an assistant. To whom is that chauffeur attached—if that is the word to use about a chauffeur—and who would he be driving around? I would be very interested to know that. I see "Grant to Good Neighbour Council" also listed. The council was mentioned by the honourable member for Redlands, and I agree entirely with his remarks.

I think that this Government suffers from a total lack of immigration policy. In fact, certain Government members have been constantly saying that they do not agree with the State policy because it overlaps what is done by the Commonwealth Government. They suggest that the immigration section of this portfolio ought to be cut out entirely because it means \$663,000 down the drain. That money could be put to far better use elsewhere. That expenditure is certainly not necessary in this State. Assistance for migrants, welfare, hostels, staff, etc. should be entirely the Commonwealth Government's responsibility. Obviously the Minister would not like it, and I dare say some public servants would not like it either because a few of them might be out of a job, but they could be re-employed in the Commonwealth Public Service. There is an overlap here, and at a later stage I will discuss this Government's short-sightedness in having no plans for the future. If it does, they are jolly well hidden.

On the subject of the Minister's Estimates, I have assiduously collected these pieces of white paper which are all headed, "Press release from the Honourable Norm Lee . . ." One of the Press releases states—

"The Industry Minister (Mr. Lee) said today a \$52,567 order for further supplies of bond copy paper to meet Government

service requirements has been placed with Associated Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd., of Melbourne.

Forty-eight tonnes will be bought for \$989 a tonne and six tonnes for \$1,028 a tonne."

I would not hesitate to say that the Minister's department is not buying Queensland-made paper, but that half of that paper will be used to churn out the Press releases from the Minister's department.

The next Press release contains one sentence. I am sure that the piece of paper would have cost at least 5c. I have many one-sentence Press releases here.

Mr. Scott: That is the extent of the Minister's vocabulary.

Mrs. KYBURZ: The Minister has a Press Secretary. He does not have to write his own Press releases.

Mr. Frawley: Do you think he got some of that paper from Lady Scott?

Mrs. KYBURZ: As long as we can read between the flowers, I don't mind. The thing that I take umbrage at is the fact that this whole sheet of paper is used for only one sentence. The sentence might be extremely important, but is it so important that it could not be fed into a telex and so save the sheet of paper? This Press release states—

"A \$183,469 tender has been accepted from Transfield (Qld.) Pty. Ltd. for construction of a bridge over a cooling water channel on the Clinton Industrial Estate at Gladstone, the Industry Minister (Mr. Lee) said today."

I must congratulate the Minister on this. I give him one bouquet—that is about all he will get. Earlier this year I wrote to the Minister and expressed my concern about trees in this State and the paper industry itself, and asked him to refrain from sending me Press releases as I felt they were a waste of money. To his credit, he refrained. I congratulate him for doing so, because I am quite sure that, just to nark me, he would have liked to continue to send them to me. However, I do miss his one-sentence Press releases. My file was getting rather thick. I was keeping them for scribbling paper. However, some other Minister is bound to provide that scribbling paper.

Another Press release states—

"Some South Australian manufacturers are the latest from interstate to indicate an interest in establishing operations in Queensland, the Industry Minister (Mr. Lee) said today."

Further on it refers to the advertising campaign that this department had been running in all States. Then there is this profound statement—

"We are not trying to poach industry from other States. We are interested in those wishing to expand their operations here."

I do not have any comment to make about the fact that this Government has been advertising in other States. Apart from the parochialism that this Government is continually displaying, the fact that we are advertising in other States would seem to indicate to me that there is an interest in poaching industries from as many other States as possible, and that that is the *raison d'être* for this whole department. It seems to me that if the only function of the department is to try get major industries to expand here, then it could well be amalgamated with another department, because, obviously, its range is rather limited.

Mr. Goleby: Didn't you come from interstate?

Mrs. KYBURZ: I will be picking on the honourable member's speech later; if ever there was a short-sighted speech, his was it.

Another Press release I have been saving up concerns the State Stores Board. It states—

"The State Stores Board is to spend a total of \$50,000 to buy 30 000 metres of plain linen dowlas material from Erskine Beveridge and Co. Ltd. of Scotland, to meet Government service requirements."

Why was that material bought? Was it for towels or something that cannot be manufactured in Australia? The Press release continues—

"The material is not manufactured in Australia."

I believe that the cost of \$1 for 60 cm is fair enough. If that material cannot be bought in Australia, that is a reasonable price.

There are many other releases which I could discuss. I now read one of them—

"Criticism of the Queensland Cement and Lime Company's \$85 million clinker plant at Gladstone was described as short-sighted by the Industry Minister (Mr. Lee) today.

"The critics have ignored the benefits to the whole community that will accrue as a result of the project, particularly in job opportunities."

The Minister holds very strongly to this view. I certainly do not quibble with him about the strength of his view. However, I hold very strongly to the view that both he and the Government are short-sighted. The Government has aided, abetted and given a helping hand to that company, and helped create a monopoly. That will double the cost of cement and augurs badly for the future of the building industry in this State.

I have asked many questions on this subject. The Minister obviously takes umbrage

at the fact that I ask the questions, because his replies are couched in terms similar to the following—

“I repeat again for the Honourable Member’s information, who apparently finds great difficulty in understanding the situation, that the Government has encouraged The Queensland Cement and Lime Co. Ltd. to proceed with construction of the Gladstone clinker project as this is one in which a Queensland company established in this State for over sixty years will utilize Queensland resources to manufacture in Queensland a product essential to Queensland’s continuing development and provide increased employment opportunities for Queenslanders.”

If that is not pure parochialism, I am unsure what is.

I read with dismay in this morning’s “Courier-Mail” that Cabinet was looking to legislate against take-overs of Queensland companies. I simply would not vote for such a proposal. I acknowledge that there are many areas in the State which are naturally a Queensland inheritance. However, this State is not an island; it is part of Australia. Somehow or other that fact seems to float over the heads of many Cabinet Ministers. Queensland is, nevertheless, still in the federation. The day that Queensland secedes will be the day a lot of people move south.

Obviously the Minister would not have answered these questions himself. However, I place on record that whoever answered them for the Minister has made a fool of himself in making a jibe at a member. Some Ministers take question-time very light-heartedly and their answers are rude. That augurs badly for them. They should take time to read the answers prepared for them by public servants. It is as simple as that.

Further to that, I would like to ask other questions concerning Q.C.L. and the Q.C.L. agreement. I now know that, as the legislation has been amended, there is really nothing that can be done about it. However, I am concerned about the favourable treatment given to the Queensland Cement and Lime Company Ltd. by this Government. I understand that the security of the cement industry is of equal concern to this Government. The expansion programme at Gladstone and Mt. Larcom has a lot of questions hanging over it, not the least of which is its economic viability. To service the \$85,000,000 indebtedness will require a great deal of working capital. The loans undertaken by the company will need a great deal of financing. I can see no alternative to an increase in the price of cement.

The comment has been made that mining leases at Mt. Larcom to supply the proposed Gladstone project were granted over considerable objections from local farmers. In the public interest, however, obviously some people have to suffer. I understand that but I do think that another Minister has done

the wrong thing entirely. The Minister for Mines, Energy and Police overrode the mining warden’s recommendations and has refused to make them public. I believe he was wrong in that refusal. What a mining warden recommends should be public property. There is no doubt that the mining warden recommended that the project not go ahead. When the Minister refuses to make recommendations public, obviously everyone considers that they were against the project.

Further, I ask some questions. What are the projected tonnages for export that Q.C.L. expects from the Mt. Larcom area after 1982? Servicing the loan indebtedness will require an increased export potential from that area. How has the Government’s contract with Q.C.L. been drawn up? This particular agreement came to the public’s attention because the Government had agreed to buy Q.C.L. cement for all Government contracts. With its three companies in Queensland, it will be the only supplier of cement in this State. I ask the Minister to give an assurance that he will make public the Government contract rates for the supply of Q.C.L. products that have been negotiated between the Minister and representatives of the company. I believe that they ought to be made public. I believe that the other sectors of the building industry ought to know whether or not this Government is making a sweetheart deal with that company.

Q.C.L. has a 43.1 per cent controlling interest in North Australian Cement. In the event of enforced divestment of shares or a reduction in shareholding by Q.C.L., can the Minister give an assurance, under the terms of Government contracts with Q.C.L., that North Australian Cement will supply Government cement requirements within its region? In other words, will there be a maintenance of supply for the North Queensland area? North Queensland particularly requires an assured supply so that buildings that have been started can be continued and building activity can be maintained.

Those are my main concerns about Q.C.L. I have many others. I could certainly quote from the financial editor of “The Australian”, who has written many articles on it. One of his most outstanding statements is the following—

“... it is obvious that Q.C.L. will require a substantial boost in revenue and profits for the project package to work. An average, and probably a conservative, interest rate of 10% per annum, would mean an additional interest bill of about \$7 million a year. Moreover, the additional equity will require the payment of a further \$1.47 million net from July 1981, plus another \$400,000 if the shares under the standby facility are issued. This does not allow for the possible \$6.68 million increase in capital through the conversion of convertible debentures and the subsequent issue of scrip to Holder-bank.”

The worrying thing about Holderbank is that it is one of the world's largest cement companies. He goes on to say—

“Even after allowance is made for these factors it appears that Q.C.L. and its advisers are expecting a growth rate over the initial years of the project at a higher level than the 6-7% compound rate of the past 20 years.”

I do not believe that that growth rate will eventuate in the building industry. It is that concern, and the bailing out which this Government might have to undertake of that company in the future, which is a worry to me. Whether or not that will happen is another matter.

I read a rundown of the jurisdiction of the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services. There is no doubt that, under the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development and its predecessor, many important initiatives have been undertaken. I see that the department has a team of technical officers and is able to furnish advice to industry in a number of fields, including applied economics.

I was particularly interested to read prior to the Redcliffe by-election the Premier's statement that he would initiate some high-falutin tribunal. I suppose it was one of his usual pre-election promises and will never be fulfilled. For heaven's sake, I hope that that is so. It is obvious that the department is already providing the services to which the Premier referred, although I was not aware of that till I read his brief.

In the last minute available to me, I wish to address myself to the subject of migration. I take umbrage at a recent statement by the Minister in relation to a multicultural, multilingual society. Obviously, he is unaware of the fact that in many countries the population is so well educated that people speak two or three languages. A former Minister stated that he did not wish to see migrants continue using the language of the country from which they came. Such short-sightedness, such narrow-mindedness, such lack of education I find unforgivable in people who are elected to represent not only migrants but also Australians.

(Time expired.)

Mr. PREST (Port Curtis) (7.56 p.m.): The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development is one Government department that should be on the pig's back, if I may put it that way. With the expansion that is taking place in the mining industry at present, Mr. Row, we should see the establishment of other industries and full employment. Instead, unemployment is at a level that is completely unacceptable, and neither the Government of Queensland nor the Federal Government has any plans for overcoming the problem, either today or in the future.

In “The Australian” last week-end, a headline said “100,000 jobs in '80s boom”. Unfortunately, about 500,000 people are now unemployed, and there is no saying what the number might be in the 1980s. The report said—

“A Federal Government survey has estimated that investment projects involving a minimum of \$16,300 million are in either the committed or final feasibility stages.

“This is a \$4,000 million increase since the last survey was made in April.”

Included in that survey is the Rundle shale-oil project, and it is stated that on that project alone, which is in the Port Curtis area, there will be jobs for 5,000 construction workers and 2,600 production workers. That is a magnificent job prediction, and I want to see what the Government is made of. I do not want to see any hush-hush or secret agreement. I want to see the project discussed by everybody concerned, including the local government and all Government departments. No doubt members of the Opposition will have much more to say about the project as time goes on.

Mrs. Kyburz: What do you say about the Gladstone project?

Mr. PREST: There is no time like the present to begin talking about projects such as that. I remind the honourable member that the environmental impact study relating to the Q.C.L. agreement has not yet been produced, nor has the environmental impact study on the Rundle shale-oil project. It has been out since April 1978, but no-one has been allowed to see it. If the Minister can bring the Rundle shale-oil impact study out into the open and enable it to be discussed, he will receive a great deal of credit from honourable members on this side of the Chamber.

Government Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! Multiple interjections will not be tolerated.

Mr. PREST: As I said, there is no time like the present to discuss it.

Mr. Gunn: One would think you would be grateful.

Mr. PREST: The Opposition is grateful. At least we are not growing pumpkins in the area. We are not talking about peanuts; we are talking about big money. I give the Minister credit for at least having more sense than the honourable member, who did not receive the support of his party to be nominated as Speaker of this Assembly. Just cop that!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. PREST: The Minister spoke earlier today about the great expansion and development that has taken place and the way in which industry had been assisted in country

areas. The 1979 report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development lists how much has been spent in each instance. This development has taken place in both the metropolitan and country areas.

In the report, under the heading "Food and beverages", 12 projects are listed. Of those, five, to the value of \$9,100,000, are in the city and seven, to the value of \$1,700,000, are in the country. Under the heading "Chemicals, plastics, petroleum", eight projects are listed, all of which, to a total value of \$73,100,000, are in Brisbane. Nine projects are listed under "Minerals and mineral processing". All of them, to a value of \$1,963 million, are in the country. Under the heading, "Fabricated metal products, machinery, industrial and transport equipment", 33 projects are listed. Of those, 23, worth \$39,000,000, are in Brisbane and 10, to a value of \$4,000,000, are in the country. Three country projects, to a value of \$100,000,000, appear under the heading "Cement and concrete products". One of those projects is the one to which the member for Salisbury referred, namely, Queensland Cement & Lime Company Ltd. One project, in Brisbane, is listed under the heading, "Paper and paper products, printing". Its value is \$2,000,000.

A total of four projects are listed under the heading "Sugar industry". Their total value is \$84,000,000, and they are all in the country. Six projects, all in the Brisbane area, appear under the heading "Timber and timber products". Their total value is shown as \$1,710,000. "Miscellaneous" accounts for nine projects in the Brisbane area, of a value of \$6,450,000, and three in the country area, of a value of \$334,000. Without the projects in the sugar and mining industry and the project at Mt. Larcom, very little expansion would be taking place in country areas. So the position is not as good as it looks on paper.

I must say that the department has set aside in my area large parcels of land for industrial expansion. To the credit of the Minister and his departmental officers, they have done a fair bit of work in developing new sites. They have kept abreast of the immediate demand.

In the past I made representations to the Minister on behalf of a business that occupies a section of the Clinton Industrial Estate. The Minister said that the first occupant of a site on the estate would be an asphalt maker, and that three other noxious industries were discussing a move to that section of the estate.

The plant to which I refer is only a couple of hundred yards from Queensland's largest power-station, yet it generates its own electrical power. It is unbelievable that this business, which has a contract from the Gladstone City Council and is within a stone's throw from Queensland's biggest power-station, generates its own power. I

have spoken to officials of the C.E.B., and they agree that it would be feasible to supply power to that plant. As the Minister says, another three or four businesses want to start operations on that estate. They, too, will require power. Surely the Minister and the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police can overcome this laughable situation.

Mr. Lee: How much does he use?

Mr. PREST: The C.E.B. says it is a payable proposition to supply him with power.

Mr. Lee: How much power does he use?

Mr. PREST: I would not know. I do know that it cost him a considerable sum of money to buy a generator. The approximate cost of installing a substation would be \$10,000. As the Minister stated in his letter, it is reasonable to assume that Mr. Brosnan entered into an agreement with the Gladstone City Council, and that if it was terminated the electricity installation would remain on the property to be used by the next contractor. Some people say that the city council should have met the cost, others say that the Department of Industrial Development should have provided the power and added the cost to the lease, while yet others say that he should provide the generating plant, and if he loses the contract with the council he should leave the plant there.

The foreshadowed tremendous industrial development at Port Curtis is about to arrive. Although Comalco and Q.C.L. are both ready to start construction, the bridge over the Boyne River has not been started and will not be completed for another 10 months. When it is finished it will be excellent. The construction at Comalco, together with the 600 company houses and Housing Commission houses at Tannum Sands and Boyne Island, will mean a tremendous volume of traffic to and from that area. If the bridge had been completed in time it would have saved a lot of trouble and money.

For some years we have been waiting for a bridge over the Calliope River and its ana-branch to serve Q.C.L. Tenders have been called for the construction of the bridge, but a considerable time will elapse before its completion. A very good, wide road, with sound foundations, must be provided. People who use the old road between Gladstone and Rockhampton will find it shorter and better to use the new bridge and road-works between Gladstone and Mt. Larcom. That route will cut 20 km off the journey. It will be catering for the usual traffic, for the work-force constructing Q.C.L. and the traffic generated by the development of the Rundle shale-oil deposits which, a Federal survey indicated, will require 5,000 construction workers and 2,600 production workers. All this means that it will be a very busy roadway. As a town is not to be built at Rundle, the workers will have to travel from Gladstone.

It will be a very busy section of roadway, and I appeal to the Government to build a first-class road with good foundations so that it can carry heavy transports.

The Minister knows as well as I do that Alcan is talking about building a smelter in the area. The 960 ha area that the Minister, in his wisdom, saw fit to obtain, will become a very big industrial centre. I ask the Government not to penny-pinch on the road-works but to construct a first-class roadway.

I am pleased to note in the Minister's Estimates an allocation of \$500,000 for the road to link the Dawson Highway with the industrial development just west of the Rocky Glen Hotel. This is a necessity, and there should not be any delay in this work. Since February this year the roadway has been cut. The delay has not been caused by the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development. It was ready to play its part, as were other parties such as the Gladstone Harbour Board, and it put up the money. But we found that the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police and his department shirked their responsibilities and pulled out of the deal. But we are very pleased to see that further expenditure has been allowed for in this Budget and that the project will go ahead even though, instead of being completed by February this year, the completion date is some 12 months or more away.

We are very pleased to have industry in my area but, as I said the other day, we do suffer from certain forms of pollution. Not only do we have air and water pollution but noise pollution as well. Pollution must be taken into consideration when we are considering the setting up of a new industry. We have an Air Pollution Council that was set up in 1963, but since that time only two firms have been fined for polluting the air. One was Mount Isa Mines and the other was a firm down here in Brisbane.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is wrong. He is talking completely outside the scope of the Estimates today. His remarks should be directed to the Local Government Estimates.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! I do not accept the point of order, but I do suggest that the honourable member for Port Curtis be relevant in his remarks.

Mr. PREST: I quite agree with your ruling, Mr. Row, but I disagree with the honourable member for Toowoomba North. Good heavens, if air, water or noise pollution does not come from industry, where does it come from? This is what I am suggesting here today. When discussions take place between various firms, Government departments and the Government itself, consideration should be given to doing something about the problem of the pollution

caused by industry. That is why I am raising it with the Minister tonight. We know he is more tolerant than other Ministers. We know he certainly has more sense than they do, and that is saying something. We are very pleased with what the Minister is doing and the development that is taking place in my area. I thank his officers for the work they have done and the way they have assisted me over the past 12 months.

Mr. FRAWLEY (Caboolture) (8.13 p.m.): First of all, I congratulate the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services on the fine job he has done since he assumed this portfolio.

Mr. Bertoni: He's an A1 Minister.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I think he is. He certainly holds his place in the ministry. Any time a back-bencher approaches the Minister about anything, he is given a considered hearing, and that is something that never occurred in the days when the Labor Party was in power. Because I used to work down here and had the opportunity of observing them all, I can say that with authority.

The director of the Minister's department, Mr. Bensted, has been of great assistance to the people I have sent to see him. There are two young people in my area who are developing an industrial estate on the old Gympie Road out near the Caboolture show-grounds. They did not want any money; all they wanted was some advice. I obtained an appointment for them with one of the officers of the department, and they were given plenty of good advice. If anybody approaches the department about the setting up of an industry and the department cannot accommodate them, if they go to Caboolture and see these two young fellows who are establishing this industrial estate they will be welcomed. The department gives a pretty good service to people who want to establish an industry, and I congratulate the Minister and his officers for doing this.

The Labor Party now has a policy on industry and administrative services. It is about time, too, because when they were the Government they had no such policy. In fact, I have been reading the policy, and it is obvious that many parts of it have been poached from both National and Liberal Party policies. The preamble states—

“Queenslanders can no longer claim immunity from the economic and social disadvantages that are associated with concentrated urban population growth.”

We know that. In fact, this Government, through its industrial estates, has been one of the greatest advocates of decentralisation.

Mr. Warburton: Why are the little towns dying?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Through you, Mr. Row, I ask the honourable member to name some of the towns that are dying. He can think

them up and I will answer his interjections while I continue with this important contribution.

An Opposition Member: Caboolture.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Caboolture is one of the most thriving towns in South-east Queensland.

The A.L.P. talks about the objective of balanced development and the need for promotion of country development. What do honourable members opposite think we are doing with these industrial estates in the country if we are not developing country towns? The member for Port Curtis, who has just resumed his seat, can be reasonably thankful to this Government for some of the industry that has been established in his electorate.

Mr. Prest: Good representation.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Yes, it was good representation by the previous member for Port Curtis, the late Marty Hanson, who was a damned good member. You are not fit to lick his boots.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am sorry; I was distracted. The Opposition always tries to distract me.

The Opposition, in its policy, refers to the continued support for the expansion of colleges of technical and further education in non-metropolitan areas. What does it think we are doing? We are building one in Caboolture shortly. One has been built at Redcliffe. There are many of these colleges throughout the State. So Opposition members should not try to give us this rubbish about its policy.

The Opposition, in its policy, also says that it supports the development of cleaner, safer energy technologies, including wind and solar energy and the use of crops—for example, sugar-cane—and waste materials for liquid-fuel production, free of multinational control. The Opposition should realise that there is no money in this country to develop some of these resources, and we have to get overseas moneys. The A.L.P. believes that “profit” is a dirty word. People are not allowed to make a profit.

Mr. Lee: It is a four-letter word.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It is the A.L.P.’s four-letter word. People must not make a profit.

Mr. Bertoni: Don’t they want the nationalisation of all major industries?

Mr. FRAWLEY: The A.L.P. wants to nationalise everything. Years ago it tried to nationalise the banks.

Mr. Scott: What has been nationalised in the last 30 years?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Nothing, because the Labor Party was prevented from doing it.

Mr. Scott: Why do you harp on the subject?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not harping on it at all. The Labor Party tried to do it.

Mr. Lee: Have you read their book?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Yes. I have the silly thing here.

I will tell honourable members about Labor’s policy on industrial development. The only policy on industrial development that Labor had back in the 1950s was the establishment of the Albert Street and Margaret Street brothels. That is all it thought about in those days. It did not care about industry. Only one high school in the State gave manual training, and that was the Industrial High School at the corner of Edward and Alice Streets.

Mr. Moore: They taught that “manual labour” was a Spaniard.

Mr. FRAWLEY: They thought that he was the Mexican consul. Every State high school now teaches the manual arts of woodwork and metalwork. Only recently I went to the Caboolture State High School to inspect some of the work going on there. I happened to walk into the manual-training room. It is a credit to the teacher there and also to this Government and the Education Department for providing the facilities. The A.L.P. never did that.

Mr. Kaus: interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I don’t go and poke my nose into other people’s electorates. I stick to my own electorate. But I do not doubt that the facilities have been provided at the Cavendish Road State High School as a result of the good representation by the member for that area. It is only a coincidence that it happens to be the member who interjected.

It is obvious that the member for Port Curtis carried the wrong brief. He spoke about matters that should have been mentioned in the debate on the Estimates of the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. We can forgive him for that. He continued the Labor policy of knocking every new industry. The Rundle shale-oil project will provide jobs for at least 1,500 and possibly 2,000 people. Why does he want to knock that? Comalco will provide another 2,000 jobs.

The member for Port Curtis continues to knock these new industries. He wants to wake up to himself. The development that is going on around Gladstone at present will make Port Curtis a much safer Labor seat. The only danger to the honourable member is that there will be a plebiscite and he will be defeated. Then we will get a better member for Port Curtis. One good thing about the development that is going on around Port Curtis is that it might provide us with a better member in this House.

Mr. Lee: He’s not a bad bloke.

Mr. FRAWLEY: No, he's not a bad bloke. There are worse fellows than him, but I just have not found them yet.

In my area there is the Narangba Industrial Estate, which is north of Brisbane. It is in the Caboolture Shire, just on the boundary of that shire and the Pine Rivers Shire. It is only a few kilometres from Redcliffe. It is the second-largest industrial estate in Queensland, covering 467 ha. Part of the estate is on the old Bruce Highway. It also goes across the new Bruce Highway. The only larger industrial estate is the Clinton Industrial Estate at Gladstone, and I acknowledge that.

I think that the best days for the Narangba Industrial Estate are yet to come. It will be the main industrial centre in Queensland. It will attract more firms and provide job opportunities. People work out there under very pleasant conditions. They can live in Caboolture, in the Pine Rivers Shire, or at Deception Bay and Redcliffe, which are very pleasant areas in which to live.

At present 15 firms are on the industrial estate. I have a list of them and I will read them into "Hansard". The factory buildings on the estate erected by the department contain the following companies: G. L. Easte (laminated timber interior furnishings); Queensland Mastercraft Potteries (concrete ornaments and garden pots); Higwood Products Pty. Ltd. (anchors); and J. Roat (hydraulic drive vehicles and equipment). Factory buildings erected by the owners house the following firms: Rucon Farm Services Pty. Ltd. (fabrication of farm equipment and buildings)—they were either the first or second on the industrial estate; G. L. and J. Packer (Tanning) Pty. Ltd. (tanning of hides)—they could have been the first or second company on the estate; Walco Products Pty. Ltd. (steel fabrication); Stylebrick Distributors (brick veneer sheeting); C. R. and E. Logan (truck bodies); Farley and Lewers (Qld.) Pty. Ltd. (concrete batching); Road Surfaces Pty. Ltd. (asphalt); K. V. Products Pty. Ltd. (electrical and mechanical carbon products); Keryll Sales Pty. Ltd. (steel fabrication); Harcros Meyers Pty. Ltd. (timber processing including mouldings); and Vitafoam (Aust) Pty. Ltd. (foam and foam products). As the Minister has told us, the lease rental of the departmental factory buildings is on the basis of 7½ per cent per annum of the cost of the building. That is a very reasonable rental for anybody to pay for an industrial building.

Mr. Davis: There are Frawley's tow trucks.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is a ridiculous interjection. I have never had anything on the Narangba Industrial Estate.

Five other leases are being finalised on this estate and factory buildings are being built for four more concerns. Anybody who says that

this Government has not the interest of industry at heart doesn't know what he is talking about. Evidence of that interest is shown by the fact that it is increasing facilities on the Narangba Industrial Estate.

Mr. Davis: They have not got a train line yet.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am going to talk about that. I am glad the member for Brisbane Central reminded me of that. I have a map of the proposed train line to the Narangba Industrial Estate. The honourable member should listen or he will miss a valuable contribution. He used to get lost when he lost sight of the tramlines at Chermside.

The Government spent more than \$1,250,000 at Narangba in acquisition and development costs. Another \$437,000 has been spent on factory buildings for pioneer industries—not Pioneer Concrete. A pioneer industry is one which is the first of its type on the estate.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I did that for the edification of the honourable member for Brisbane Central, because he is all bone between the ears.

More and more firms are seeking sites on the estate. As I said, the latest company to move there was Harcros Meyers, a timber-processing firm. I know one of the principals of that firm. He lives in Redcliffe and has a joinery business there. This move shows the confidence that people have in the Narangba area. The estate is a tribute to the Minister's department. It is not only the pleasant climate that attracts people to the area. As I said before, one of the most pleasant places to live is on that side of Brisbane, anywhere around Narangba, Burpengary, Deception Bay, Caboolture, Redcliffe—

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Golden Beach.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Golden Beach, Caloundra and any of the areas as far as Woodford, Kilcoy and other places are very pleasant areas in which to live. I am the member for most of those areas and I do not mind extolling their virtues. They are all good places to live.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Dayboro is a very pleasant little spot.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Dayboro is one of the most pleasant spots in my electorate. As a matter of fact, I was in Dayboro on Sunday.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: As a matter of fact, when you walked through the Chamber here tonight your shoes squelched. We know you were there.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! We will return to the Estimates under debate.

Mr. Prest: Let him go. He is a dill.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I do not mind taking interjections from the member for Port Curtis. I know who the dill is. After the next election he will be lucky to get a job on the industrial estate.

Manufacturing industries account for more than 50 per cent of the economic output of goods in this State. Members of the Opposition still say that the Government does nothing for industry. Opposition members should read the Government's policies and throw their half-baked policy where it belongs—in the rubbish bin.

Mr. Scott: Have you got a copy of ours there?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course I have. Someone gave it to me; I certainly did not buy it.

The growth of industry in the State speaks volumes for the foresight of the Government.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The Opposition copied the Government's policy. I could have given it a copy of the National-Liberal policy to save it the cost of printing its own.

The subject of pollution was mentioned before. The Narangba area is free of pollution. Anywhere in that area is a very good place for people to raise their children. In years to come the Narangba Industrial Estate will be very important. It will support many families in Redcliffe, Deception Bay, Pine Rivers and Caboolture.

Mr. Hansen: You're only interested in South-east Queensland.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not just a south-east person at all, but I do not mind speaking about the electorate that I represent. I think members opposite should take note of that and do it, too.

Mr. Warburton: You were a bit late in moving there, though, weren't you?

Mr. FRAWLEY: The electorate of Caboolture comprises five-sevenths of the previous electorate of Murrumba. The electorate of Murrumba was split in the last redistribution. If I had the foresight to work out where the new boundaries would be and where the centre of the electorate of Caboolture would be, I should be congratulated. In fact, people have said to me, "When you retire from Parliament, why don't you offer yourself as a redistribution commissioner, seeing you worked out the boundaries so well?" Most people could have done that, but members of the Opposition were too stupid to do it.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you know what you would do? You would put Kingaroy into Archerfield.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It would certainly be a big improvement. There would certainly be a better member there if Kingaroy was in Archerfield.

The member for Salisbury gave the Minister a slight touch up. As I said before, I am pleased that she is on our side. Queensland manufacturers do get preference. On State Government purchasing they get a 10 per cent preference over interstate tenders. Decentralised industries in Queensland get a 5 per cent advantage over their Brisbane counterparts. What is wrong with the Opposition? We are decentralising industry. We are giving industry the incentive to decentralise. Many southern manufacturers have been moving up here. Many more will come in the future. Narangba scores because of its proximity to Brisbane. There is only one thing wrong so far. I shall speak about it shortly and I am quite certain that it will be attended to. I believe that Caboolture and neighbouring areas will continue to grow and that Narangba will provide many job opportunities.

The member for Brisbane Central reminded me that there is no rail line to Narangba at the present time.

Mr. Davis: Under a Labor Government there will be.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have a map that shows the proposed rail line to Narangba—and I did not draw it myself.

Mr. Austin: It goes through a tunnel.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It does go through a tunnel. The member for Wavell reminded me of the tunnel. He was an engineer for the Main Roads Department on the highway where the tunnel is at the present time. There is a tunnel under the new Bruce Highway to connect a rail service up to the Narangba Industrial Estate. For those who can see, I hold up a map showing the rail link through the industrial estate. In fact, 6.5 ha of land has been set aside in the Narangba Industrial Estate for railway yards and a siding.

The tunnel under the Bruce Highway is 19 ft. high and 17 ft. 9 ins. wide. I am not giving these measurements in metres. For the sake of those who do not understand the metric system, I am giving the Imperial measurements. The minimum height to take a train is 16 ft. and the width is 14 feet. The 19 ft. height for this tunnel is 3 ft. over the minimum for a railway engine. As there will only be a single line going in, the width of 17 ft. 9 ins. is 3 ft. over the minimum width. Those who have said that it was not intended for a train line are not telling the truth. It is.

Mr. Austin: It was built for a train line.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I know it was. One of my friends actually worked on it. I have been down the tunnel and had a look at it. As I said before, the member for Wavell was an engineer on this project.

Mr. Lee: Good foresight by the department.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is right. Many people would be surprised to learn that the route from the North Coast line to the Narangba Industrial Estate has already been surveyed by Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey. A plan has been drawn that has been taken to the Railway Department. It has been approved by the engineers. I have that in writing from the previous Minister for Transport, not the present Minister. The previous Minister for Transport gave me an undertaking in writing that that had been done.

Mr. Davis: It's not worth the paper it is written on.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It certainly is. This Government honours its commitments. Because the previous Minister for Transport (the late Honourable Keith Hooper) signed this thing, it does not mean that this Government will repudiate what he stated. It will stick to it.

Mr. Lee: Not like the mob over there.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That's right.

I was disappointed when the member for South Brisbane castigated the Minister on his handling of migrants. He spoke about migrants retaining their own language as well as learning English. I agree. Migrants contribute greatly to our culture by bringing their customs in. A lot of their customs can be readily assimilated into the Australian culture. Migrants are an asset to the State. However, I believe that migrants should retain their own name and not Anglicise it. I give a perfect example. Senator Georges is a member of the A.L.P. His given name was Georgouras. He was ashamed of his father's name so he changed his name. There is an example of an A.L.P. member being ashamed of his heritage. The member for South Brisbane spoke about migrants, yet a member of his own party was so ashamed of his own name and the fact that he was a migrant that he changed it from Georgouras to Georges. That is an indication of the hypocrisy of the A.L.P. when it talks about migrants.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is so stupid that I will not even bother correcting the honourable member. I saw the time was slipping past, Mr. Row, and I digressed momentarily to mention that Senator Georges was so ashamed of his migrant name—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! I suggest that the honourable member get back to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I will, Mr. Row. I thought it was important to make that point in view of the fact that the honourable member for South Brisbane was carrying a brief for Senator Georges.

As I said earlier, the underpass, or tunnel, was constructed with the object of running a railway line through to the Narangba Industrial Estate when the new Bruce Highway was built. Only about 8 km of land between that industrial estate and Redcliffe would have to be purchased to enable a rail link to Redcliffe to be built. That will be very important not only to me but also to the member for Redcliffe, who was pushing for a rail link even before he became a member of this Assembly, and I am sure that he will continue to do so.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It will not be the ghost train; it will be the train to Redcliffe. After the next election, the Government will give some honourable members opposite who lose their seats a job laying sleepers.

When the line is completed, much of the credit for it should go to the present member for Redcliffe, the former member for Redcliffe, and the former member for Sandgate (Mr. Dean), who did a great deal of work towards its construction. The honourable member for Pine Rivers and I also made a contribution.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Did you read in "Sunday Sun" where the former member for Redcliffe was assaulted by some irate citizens who thought he was the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads?

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is absolute rot. Many representations have been made to the present Minister and to former Ministers in relation to the rail link to the Narangba Industrial Estate, and its construction should be considered by the Government.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What about your next-door neighbour, the member for Murrumba?

Mr. FRAWLEY: The member for Murrumba did nothing about the rail link. I did all the work when I was the member for Murrumba.

The Narangba Industrial Estate will bring a great deal of industry to Narangba. Many Brisbane firms have been to see me—and I am not going to breach any confidences by mentioning names—because they know that I have a great deal of influence with the Minister, and they have guaranteed that they will decentralise and move out to Narangba immediately a rail siding is built on the estate. Therefore, I urge the Government to build the rail link from the North Coast railway line to the Narangba Industrial Estate as early as possible. It will further enhance the prospects of the estate.

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (8.32 p.m.): The total estimated expenditure for the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development for 1979-80 is only \$17,000,000. As far as expenditure is concerned, it is not a very important department; but Queenslanders should regard it as one of the most important departments because its Estimates are being debated this year.

Personally, I am shocked by the procedure adopted in this Parliament. The fact is that only eight of the departmental Estimates are being discussed, and I think that is a shocking indictment of the Ministers in this Government.

Mr. Bishop: Did you speak in the Budget debate?

Mr. D'ARCY: Of course I spoke in the Budget debate. The Estimates debate gives honourable members a chance of looking at individual departments and sections of departments. As I said, the Minister's department has an estimated expenditure of only \$17,000,000.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I suggest that the honourable member come back to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. D'ARCY: I am speaking about the expenditure of \$17,000,000 for which the Minister is responsible. I can understand that this is a very ticklish subject for honourable members on the opposite side of the Chamber. They know that the Committee should be debating the Estimates for each department. They realise that that is the correct procedure if the Parliament is to function correctly. It is a shocking indictment of the Government that it is not accounting to the people for hundreds of millions of dollars of Government expenditure. It is shocking that the Committee is debating the Estimates of a department whose total Vote is only \$17,000,000, when the State's total Budget is in excess of \$2,000 million. The Minister is responsible for the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, Immigration, the State Stores, the Government Printing Office and the Government Motor Garage.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Could a Minister with the ability of Mr. Lee handle any more responsibility than that?

Mr. D'ARCY: He would have difficulty in doing so.

It is a shocking indictment of the Government that the Committee is not discussing the Estimates of all departments. In terms of employment, this department is probably one of the most important in Queensland. It is also important in the field of future technological change. However, it has done very little to allay the fears of Queenslanders about unemployment. In fact, the department has been a disaster in this regard. It appears that every major project undertaken by it has turned sour. Unemployment is increasing

rapidly. The Government does not recognise the 35-hour week, nor does it recognise technology for what it is. On its own admission, industry has suffered massive defeats in Queensland over the past 12 to 18 months.

The figures show that there is no cohesion of effort made by the State to alleviate the problems confronting industries. I refer specifically to the building industry. The Minister's report states that in 1978-79 the building industry remained in a relatively depressed state throughout Queensland and the nation, with the level of new dwelling construction being a particular cause for concern. It goes on to state—

"The number of new dwellings completed in the State increased only slightly during the first nine months compared with the same period of the previous year. The value of dwelling completions, however, increased 18.7 per cent in the same time."

That means that the actual number of dwellings fell substantially over that period and the cost of dwellings increased. According to table 1 in the Minister's report, in 1973-74 the number of dwellings stood at 27,000 and in 1978-79 it was only 18,000. That represents a reduction of approximately 10,000 in the period from 1973 to 1979. All we ever hear from the Government is, "Whitlam did this and Whitlam did that." The Whitlam era saw the construction of 27,000 homes in this State.

Relate that to population and the Budget, as the Minister does in table 2 of his report. He could not even get his figures right. Queensland received a reduced sum from the Commonwealth because its population was over-estimated by 5,000. The population in New South Wales was under-estimated by 13,000. The Premier is frequently reported in the Press as saying, "Look at all the people coming to Queensland." The Minister's figures show that the population was over-estimated by 5,000 and that the population in New South Wales was under-estimated by 13,000.

On migration, the report states—

"The number of migrants to Queensland declined during the year. The national employment situation and the consequent stringent application of acceptable employment categories were the main causes of the low intake."

Migration comes under the Minister's portfolio, so, in the light of rising unemployment in Queensland, the Minister has a lot to answer for.

An Opposition Member: Do you think the Premier would be promoting that sort of thing through the Minister?

Mr. D'ARCY: The Premier is for ever crying in the Press about Queensland and Queensland industry, but we know that Queensland is becoming more and more a branch manager's State. In the past few

weeks the Minister and the Premier have failed to give me statistics of take-overs of Queensland industries.

Mr. Bishop interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: I am not talking about the type of industry that the member for Surfers Paradise is referring to. I am talking about industries with a high capital intake and a high labour content—industries that provide the employment we need so badly in Queensland.

Industries are being taken over on a large scale by southern companies and being transferred to the South. Queensland is being used as a branch manager State. As the Premier said on T.V. tonight, the Government is concerned about the problem. It must be concerned about it at every level because, as the Premier said, not only do the southern companies lower employment opportunities, but they also take out of the State banking and credit arrangements, and top-level executives. That is the huge problem confronting Queensland. It is time that the Government documented in Parliament exactly how industry is being taken from the State.

We have heard much about the P.T.L. take-over, but we have not heard about the smaller companies that are taken over. My family was involved in a company that started here in 1946. It was helped by the then Labor Government as a wholly-owned Queensland company. Recently it was forced to accept a take-over bid by A.C.I. Even if the family had held out, a section in the Companies Act provides that if a company gains sufficient shares in another company the remaining shareholders have to sell.

Mr. Frawley: They wanted to sell.

Mr. D'ARCY: Under the Act, they had to sell.

That meant Queenslanders lost jobs in this company that was promoted and helped by an A.L.P. Government. A.C.I. will close down the industry and cause a loss of jobs in the State.

On looking at the total situation in Queensland I realise that this Government is doing very little, and the Department of Industrial Development is doing even less. The department should be involved actively in promoting Queensland, whereas it is a sell-out department. It is selling out Queensland industries and we are becoming a branch manager State in which the southern people have very little interest. That is evidenced by the departmental report, which sets out that total employment in industry in Queensland increased by 1 per cent. That is not sufficient to keep up with the normal increase in the number of people seeking employment. We are concerned because industries that are not worth while to the State are being propped up by the Government. I refer to industries such as Queensland Cement & Lime, which the honourable member for Salisbury referred to earlier.

Mr. Mackenroth: You realise that she was reading a speech made last year? I raised that matter nearly 12 months ago.

Mr. D'ARCY: I remember the honourable member's raising that matter quite strongly in this Chamber.

The Department of Industrial Development report indicates that the Government lent that company \$18,000,000.

Mr. Lee: That is not right.

Mr. D'ARCY: Was it \$17,000,000?

Mr. Lee: We did not lend it money at all.

Mr. D'ARCY: The Government guaranteed loans for that company.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! Until the Chamber comes to order, this debate will not continue. I ask honourable members to cease making multiple interjections.

Mr. D'ARCY: I think the fact that Queensland Cement & Lime has been mentioned so often in this Parliament means that all members are becoming concerned about the Government's preoccupation with the company and its activities. One must be concerned about it when the Government is obviously prepared to prop up such an inefficient industry.

Mr. Lee: Tripe!

Mr. D'ARCY: The Minister has made more faux pas than anybody I know. He would never last in private enterprise. Government members talk about private enterprise, but this Government would not survive in private enterprise. We could talk about Greenvale and the Government's many other failures.

Even the department's report referred to financial assistance to Queensland Cement & Lime when it stated—

"The upswing of industrial activity in the economy brought with it an increasing number of enquiries for financial assistance. In many instances, the Department was able to provide advice on avenues of available finance for different projects.

"Four applications were referred to the Industries Assistance Board by the Minister and subsequently Government guarantees totalling \$22.6 million were approved. Individual guarantees ranged from a few thousand dollars for small developments to \$18 million for the Queensland Cement and Lime Company project in Central Queensland."

That is a crazy amount of money considering—

Mr. Mackenroth: You realise that, whilst the Minister's department is guaranteeing the \$18,000,000, it was loaned to that company through the S.G.I.O.?

Mr. D'ARCY: I realise that. We should be getting some answers about the S.G.I.O. while we are discussing these Estimates. One wonders why we cannot get answers in this Parliament about the so-called assets of the S.G.I.O.

Mr. Bishop: Why don't you get on to the Estimates?

Mr. D'ARCY: I would be very worried about the S.G.I.O., too, if I were the honourable member. National Party members are very embarrassed about it. Sir Robert Sparkes would obviously like to get his hands on it. One wonders what this Government is on about. It continually harps on the fact that this is the State of free enterprise and private enterprise, but it is not the least interested in free enterprise or private enterprise. It is more interested in propping up some of its friends. It has no interest in unemployment or the future of workers in this State, particularly with the technological changes that are occurring.

There is one industry in this State that I am most concerned about, because it is a big employer and at the moment it is going through terrible turmoil. I refer to the motor industry. It is receiving no help from this Government, particularly from the legislative point of view. The industry was set back on its heels recently following a savage attack on it by the Federal Government. It is time that this Government recognised that the motor industry is an important industry to this State. Our Police Force is tied up investigating racket after racket in the motor-vehicle industry.

We know that the biggest racket in this State is the stealing of motor vehicles, yet this Government refuses to recognise title to motor vehicles. The situation in my electorate, and electorates like it, is that people buy motor vehicles with dud titles. The vehicles are taken from them, and they end up without the vehicles but with huge debts to finance companies. It is a crazy situation and it should be corrected, as is being done in other States.

It is time that we in Queensland looked seriously at changing our corporate affairs law and giving title to motor vehicles in this State, so that a person acquiring a motor vehicle under hire-purchase would actually own the vehicle. Then, if a person was defrauded, the company involved could be charged and held responsible for restitution, not the poor person who happened to buy a vehicle with a dud title.

Mr. Kruger: In the South they say, "You go slow with Joh."

Mr. D'ARCY: Yes. That might be referring to the motor-vehicle industry. I again ask the Minister to look seriously at the problems that could be facing his industry—unemployment and technology.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (8.50 p.m.): I am glad that the member for Woodridge finally got around to unemployment. One of the things that the committee of parliamentarians that looked at this matter of unemployment in Queensland found was that the goods imported into Australia and consumed here represented a loss to the Australian worker of five hours a week. I think that our Minister for Industry and Administrative Services is well aware of the fact that this country has to fight, and fight hard, to retain our industries against the flood of imports. It has to maintain the viability of our industries. In addition, our industries have to fight to ensure that, wherever possible, they can export. The loss of five hours a week for each employee is a big burden, and it is one of the major factors that are causing unemployment in Australia at the moment.

We all know where it began. It began when Whitlam opened the floodgates of cheap imported goods. He did it with blatant disregard for the effect it would have on the Australian work-force. He took the cheap political gains. He allowed in cheap imported clothes, rather than provide the security of full employment in the Australian work-force, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: What about cheap inferior medical instruments brought from overseas by all you blokes?

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I buy first-class German instruments. I am sorry to say that they are not made in Australia.

One thing the Minister has done very strongly in his portfolio is implement the policy of the decentralisation of industry in this State. I would ask him to keep the notion of full decentralisation before Cabinet. The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development is extremely good at implementing the decentralisation policy. Some other departments are also very good at it, but I am afraid that a few departments are still vesting all their power in Brisbane. Despite representations and despite our policy, they do all in their power to keep every bit of power in Brisbane. So I ask the Minister to fight very hard every opportunity he gets in Cabinet to ensure that the decentralised policy, as he implements it, rubs off onto other Ministers.

There is a need in this State for a complete review of our policies on industrial estates. Certainly they are there to aid the manufacturing industries, and are a very noble concept, but we are finding that the manufacturing base throughout Australia is shrinking. Because automation is coming into industries and because of the flood of imports, the manufacturing base in this country is shrinking. It is managing to grow in Toowoomba, but that is more because of the nature of that city. Toowoomba is serving primary industries and has an extremely heavy involvement in transport.

The primary sector of the economy is shrinking. A decreased number of people are involved in farming, but an increased amount of farm machinery is needed. The engineering industries in Toowoomba are making the required implements. They are providing employment and remaining viable.

One per cent of the State's population is involved in mining. Those people are doing a great job, and are winning us a great deal of export income. Seven per cent of our population are engaged in farming, and those people, too, do a good job in winning us valuable export income. Another 21 per cent of our population are engaged in another section of industry. The remaining 71 per cent of the population are engaged in the tertiary industries. Not one Minister has the responsibility to oversee the collective well-being of all those industries that unite to form the service industries. Perhaps the Minister could take that under his wing and see to the business aspects of the administration of the health, education, justice, transport, energy and a whole host of other service industries. All forms of service industries could come under one ministry so that the tertiary industries receive the recognition they deserve.

Everyone knows that there is an extremely powerful mining lobby. As I said, only 1 per cent of the work-force is engaged in mining. There is an equally powerful primary industry lobby, but that industry employs only 7 per cent of the work-force.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: It makes money and earns export dollars; I take the honourable member's point.

These two industries are extremely important. With the introduction of mechanisation, broad-acre farming and broad-acre mining, if you like, they are able to compete on the international market and help keep Australia viable. A huge section of Australian industry is largely unrecognised, and it suffers because of that fact.

One of the problems that has to be faced today is the need to supervise the supply of fuel to our very many motorists and our very many industries. I say at the outset that this is nothing new. I mentioned it five years ago in my maiden speech in this Chamber. At long last, in 1979, the experts of the country are coming around to agree with what I said then. We have to start securing our fuel supplies for the future. Strikes have shown us how dependent we are on fuel. The effects of those strikes will be nothing compared with the effects of international wrangling and economic blockades by overseas countries that would cut off the supplies of crude oil we have come to expect.

Of course, there is a need for conservation of these fuels. Some honourable members might be surprised to learn that in this day and age we are so incredibly wasteful

that we allow 400 000 tonnes of crude oil a year to be used at the Queensland Nickel plant at Townsville. Coal should be used in place of that oil. It is an incredible waste of a precious commodity. Anything that the Minister and his Cabinet colleagues can do to encourage the rapid conversion of that plant to coal will aid in the conservation of fuel oil. The Government is studying what is required to achieve the conversion to coal of many of the oil furnaces throughout the State. It must also see what can be done to convert many of the oil furnaces to electric heating. Many of them are only small and electricity could cope with what is required. I am sure that the importance of these matters has escaped the notice of most members. If one company uses 400 000 tonnes of crude oil a year, we have indeed to look hard and look long at the crude oil use in industry and commerce.

I am aware that industries overseas have been awaiting a solution to the problem of using crude oil, particularly in nickel refineries. Some of the islands of Indonesia have huge nickel deposits. Their development is being delayed until that problem is solved. I warn the people of this State that once that problem is solved by the use of coal, the very high-grade ores that are available throughout Indonesia and other places in the world will knock Queensland Nickel clean off the map. It is absolutely essential that this Government solve the problem confronting Queensland Nickel or Townsville will lose a major industry and have a massive unemployment problem. It is easy to see that 1,000 or more people will be out of work if that one industry does not solve its problem quickly. It will need Government help and a great deal of industry help to solve the problem, but it has to be solved. If it is solved quickly, great benefits could flow to the State. If it is not solved, it will be a great disaster to Queensland.

The supply of fuel for Queensland industry comes within the ambit of the Minister's portfolio. It has been said that there is plenty of liquid fuel of the type required for the next 10 years, but, of course, that is at an ever-increasing cost. Action has been taken throughout Australia. Other members have touched on it. New South Wales and South Australia have taken positive steps by postponing vehicle emission controls that this State is already enforcing. To my mind, there is no way that those controls do not lead to increased fuel use in many vehicles. They cause a great deal of spark-plug trouble and a drop in fuel economy.

Something the Minister could well look at, though, is the proposal to increase lead content in fuel from .4 gm per litre to .65 gm per litre. The idea is that, if the lead content is increased, many of the light naphtha distillates, which because of their very low octane rating would cause the

average car to ping its head off and perhaps cause severe damage to a motor, could be used in a conventional motor car without adaptation. However, I warn the public that this proposal has to be examined not only by the fuel experts but also by the medical experts. Brisbane members do not seem to be concerned about this. Perhaps they ought to be because 1,000,000 kg of lead a year is going into the smog over Brisbane.

Mr. Burns: That's right.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: Yes, and if we accept this proposal there will be 1,500,000 kg. Perhaps in the next 10 years it will increase to 2,000,000 kg a year. Personally, I would prefer to see fuels go the other way, to less and less lead. As I understand it, Queensland has more lead in its fuel than any other State. We should find out why that is so.

Mr. Burns: Do you know that the Air Pollution Council tried to make Greenvale use petrol with less lead? In the end, one of the members, Mr. Williams, had to resign because the Government overrode the council.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: Why were they using petrol at Greenvale?

Mr. Burns: In some of their developments in the area. They overrode the Air Pollution Council, which told them what type of fuel to use.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: In Townsville, as I said, Queensland Nickel uses 400 000 tonnes of crude oil a year. It should be looking to replace that with coal. I do not believe that we can afford the luxury of allowing it to use crude.

We have to look seriously at the implications of increasing the lead content in petrol. It would not matter in the remote areas of the State, but Brisbane would have to consider it seriously. Medical experts are already examining children to see if those who live near the expressways have a higher lead content in their systems than is desirable. That is something that Brisbane members should be vitally concerned about. We certainly do not seem to be able to persuade the oil companies about it. I am led to believe that there is a great difference between the fuel lead content in this State and the other States. Queensland has a much higher lead content. We need to know why.

Any steps taken to lower the octane rating of super fuel and raise the octane rating of standard fuel is to be commended. At present there are moves to raise standard fuel octane rating to 92 and lower the super rating to 95. We will probably finish up with one grade of petrol. We will be looking to car manufacturers to see that the engines they produce and the cars they design are as efficient as possible for their size. Certainly they have never worried about that up to

date, and till recently we have enjoyed the luxury of extremely cheap fuel. Overseas countries have told us that, and it is true.

A short time ago a working man on an average wage could buy 200 gallons of fuel a week with his total wage. Before World War II, a working man would have been able to buy only about 30 gallons of fuel on his weekly wage, and I think we will rapidly return to that situation. Economies of scale in refineries did make fuel cheap, but as oil supplies dwindle and as oil becomes more and more difficult to recover, fuel will again become extremely expensive.

There is much to be said for proceeding with the shale-oil project and I, for one, support it. Honourable members should note that for the cost of implementing one major power-station the size of the new one at Tarong, we could establish one solvent coal refinery that would produce liquid fuel. The cost would be about comparable.

Mr. Burns: How much liquid fuel?

Dr. LOCKWOOD: About one-tenth to one-eighth of Australia's requirements. Figures that were quoted four or five years ago should have indicated that it was an economic proposition at the price presently being paid for crude oil. For some reason or other, the coal process seems to continually retreat, and I am not sure that it is not part of a policy of the major international oil companies, who have vested interests in finding and processing crude oil. As far as I can see, the processing figures indicate that the shale-oil project would be economically viable now. However, it mysteriously vanishes before us like a mirage.

Mr. Kaus interjected.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: The coal is already available, and I believe that we should be sending delegations to South Africa to see how their plant works. Sasol I is a success; Sasol II is a success. South Africa is not dependent on the supply of crude oil from the Middle East, which is an extremely unstable area; it is not dependent on supplies from the East Indies, which, again, has been known to be unstable. It has its fuel supply within the country, and it has to protect it.

Australia should be looking at processes overseas and seeking to follow the technology in South Africa. There has been too much delay in following the German methods. They produced fuel before and during World War II, but their methods are out of date. In my opinion, investigating teams should be sent to South Africa. I know that the Government of that country is not considered politically desirable in some quarters.

Mr. Fouras interjected.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: South Africa's solvent refined fuel is very desirable, and the honourable member will want some in his car, too,

if Australia's own supplies run out. He should be backing my suggestion. It is a good industry, and the A.L.P. might even win an inland seat if it backs it long enough—something that none of its present policies will do. I reiterate that we should be sending teams to South Africa, where the industry is in operation now. I am not convinced that the coal that has been said to be unsuitable is in fact unsuitable, and I think that a further check should be made on the suitability of Millmerran coal and also coal from farther north in the Taroom/Wandoan Basin.

I congratulate the Minister on the way in which he has conducted his portfolio. Again I ask him whether he can find ways of taking the service industries under his wing, as they seem to be largely unprotected and to be only the secondary consideration of other Ministers such as the Ministers for Health, Education, Justice and Transport in Cabinet. In my opinion, these industries need a Minister to look after the business side of their commercial ventures because the other Ministers look after the technical, professional and ethical sides. The Minister could well look at taking them under his portfolio for the benefit of Queensland, and it would be a great advantage for the people concerned to know that someone in Cabinet was looking after their interests.

Mr. BISHOP (Surfers Paradise) (9.10 p.m.): I am very pleased to have an opportunity to support the Minister in the presentation of his Estimates and to congratulate him on the work that he is doing.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. BISHOP: I know that members of the Opposition do not know much about these matters. In fact, today there has been a paucity of debate from the other side of the Chamber. The honourable member for Woodridge perpetrated the greatest fraud that we have seen in this Chamber for some time. He had the hide to get up and say that every year the Government should present the Estimates for all the departments, yet he did not even take the opportunity to speak for his full allotted time on the Estimates that are before us. Once he finished his set speech, he had to resort to speaking on trivial matters. He neglected to say that the area that he represents happens to be one of the fastest-growing light-industrial areas in Queensland outside the Gold Coast. He did not give the Minister any credit for achieving this. In fact, he did not even talk about his own electorate.

Mr. D'Arcy: If you keep going on me, you will be able to make as good as speech as I did.

Mr. BISHOP: Don't wish that on me.

Without a doubt this department, under the administration of Mr. Lee, has become a most progressive one. Furthermore, it has continued to implement the progressive policies of this Government.

Those of us on the Gold Coast are deeply appreciative of the assistance given by the department to local authorities by way of a management fee of \$5,000 a year. It is given to assist the development of industry in the Gold Coast/Albert Shire region. It enables the two local authorities to have an industrial development officer and this move has contributed substantially to the growth of light industry in that area.

Over the years, there has been a great deal of co-operation between the Albert Shire Council, the Gold Coast City Council and the Government in the development of industry. At one time I happened to be a member of the industrial development committee of the two councils and I know how well they work together with the Government in that field.

Evidence of that can be found in the fact that the Molendinar Industrial Estate is full, and I am sure that very soon the Ernest Junction Industrial Estate will also be full. I suggest to the Minister—I am sure that he will take notice of this—that he take early action to plan ahead to ensure that a third industrial estate is opened in the Gold Coast region. As I have said, it is the fastest-growing light-industrial area in Queensland. In view of its extraordinary population growth and the increase in service industry that is growing up around the tourist industry, it deserves to receive considerable Government assistance.

Mr. Davis: You can't talk about anything bar the tourist industry.

Mr. BISHOP: I have never known the honourable member to talk about anything. He would be the greatest fraud that has ever been perpetrated on this Parliament. The honourable member for Pine Rivers described the member for Brisbane Central as a fraud. Perhaps I should not go as far as that; he's only half a fraud.

Mr. Mackenroth: Some people in this Chamber think you are a wit; I think you're half a one.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Row): Order! Personal exchanges will be discontinued.

Mr. BISHOP: I congratulate the honourable member on his originality. If he were to give as much attention, as I suggest the Minister has, to the labour problems of this State, his future in this Parliament might be more stable.

The honourable member for Woodridge talked at length about the industrial situation in Queensland, but he neglected to note the Minister's comments in his speech when he pointed out that in the 10 months to 30 April this year 248,000 working days were lost through industrial disputes.

Mr. Davis: There are also 61,000 people unemployed.

Mr. BISHOP: I think the honourable member should note that the number of days lost was considerably higher than in the same period in 1977-78. There was a considerable increase—about 70,000-odd working days—to 30 April this year over the 1977-78 figures. If the Labor Party is proud of that, I hope it has some good reasons for being so.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs. I think you are trying to ape Don Lane; you run a very poor second.

Mr. BISHOP: I have not noticed the honourable member's speaking in this debate. He has nothing whatever to say about the industrial situation in Queensland.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. BISHOP: The Labor Party is always quiet about the industrial success of this Government, under the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services and the Minister for Labour Relations.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. BISHOP: I can well understand the member for Brisbane Central being left speechless in the circumstances. He has nothing whatever to say about the Government's success in industrial development. Does the honourable member realise that with the opening of the Stanthorpe Industrial Estate there will be 43 industrial estates in Queensland? Does he realise the Government's record in industrial development? Apparently he does not, and that is why Labor Party speakers have been so few in this debate.

Mr. Kruger interjected.

Mr. BISHOP: That is a fact. Has the honourable member contributed to the debate? He has contributed nothing at all. Labor Party members have not spoken in this debate because they have nothing to say and they cannot counter the Government's success in this area.

Mr. AUSTIN (Wavell) (9.19 p.m.): I welcome this opportunity to speak to the Minister's Estimates. In doing so, I cannot help commenting on the speech made by the honourable member for Woodridge. He made a concerted attack on the Minister and our free-enterprise system. I must say that he is perhaps the best dressed, and has the best wheels of any anti-free-enterprise person whom I have ever seen. I suspect that he speaks with a forked tongue.

I believe that his attack on the Minister was unfounded. As I understand it, a fairly large vessel called the "Melita" was built recently in Brisbane, and the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services supported that project. My information has it that the member for Woodridge had

quite a large share-holding in that ship which received quite a deal of Government subsidy. I wonder about the honourable member's comments. As I understand it—the Minister may be able to inform me otherwise—that vessel was built for research. I should like the Minister to outline how much research has been undertaken in that vessel, which was financed partly by the State Government.

In the short time available to me, I want to address myself to the matter of energy and the Amoco Refinery, which is under the control of the Minister. Throughout the post-war period, it could be fairly said that the dominant mood of business and political leaders was one of confidence and optimism. There were, too, the tremendous development and widespread application of new technologies and the ready availability of oil at prices that were falling in real terms. The mood of confident optimism provided much of the driving force behind the development of the post-war economic system. It resulted in a system that boosted world trade to more than \$1 trillion per year and produced an unparalleled rise in living standards in the Western world.

Today, in the aftermath of the recession, the viability of that economic system is now being questioned. Doubts are expressed as to whether we can maintain an adequate level of economic expansion. Governments everywhere are perplexed by the strength of inflationary pressures. Protectionism is suddenly taking new forms. Admittedly, sales of goods and services have begun to recover from the recent recession, yet businessmen are rightly asking themselves whether we can expect these short-term trends to continue.

At few times during the post-war period have the world's long-term economic and business prospects looked so uncertain. Difficulties still persist that clearly go beyond the normal cyclical pattern of post-war economic experience. Can we in this economic climate continue to maintain an open-world trading and investment system? A major part of the answer depends on what we can do about energy, for energy remains one of the most critical cost elements in our economic structure. It also remains a critical cost element in this State's economic structure.

I now want to comment briefly about the Amoco Refinery. It recently suffered a severe shortage of crude oil, and I take my hat off to the management of the refinery for travelling around Australia searching for crude oil. They not only kept the refinery operating but ensured that the men stayed in work. Quite obviously, there are certain economies in keeping the refinery operating so that it does not have to be wound down.

I want to point out that I noticed recently in one of the newspapers that Dutch Shell announced a record half-yearly profit to June this year of \$2,500 million. The profit for the year is expected to be \$5,000 million.

As I understand it, the significance of that figure is that the multinational oil companies have been squeezing the small refinery operators throughout the world. In fact, they have not been giving these countries their fair share of oil. They have been flogging it off to the highest bidder, usually Third World countries. Consequently there has been a great demand for oil in this country. I might say that New Zealand has fared much worse than this country.

The multinational oil companies are to be condemned for this attitude. They have quite clearly broken every principle in the book by starving refineries, such as the Amoco Refinery, of oil. At this stage the Federal Government has said and done nothing about this problem. In fact, the Minister for Industry has said very little about the major multinational oil companies starving this country of oil.

Mr. Scott: He's not game to take them on.

Mr. AUSTIN: Perhaps that is right.

I now want to comment briefly on the Government Motor Garage. I was quite disturbed to learn recently that the two Jaguars owned by the Government—I understand that both the Premier and the Deputy Premier have one—have of necessity been serviced by the Government Garage. Without attacking the mechanical ability of the mechanics in the Government Garage, I would suggest that, because of their limited experience in servicing Jaguars, the Minister ought perhaps to consider using experts in that field. Those who have owned a particularly exotic type of motor vehicle know that they need expert servicing, and I would suggest that these Jaguars ought to be serviced by a private-enterprise firm. Perhaps the Minister can tell me whether that is in fact being done now.

I want to congratulate the Minister on his recent steps to introduce four-cylinder cars into the Government's fleet, although it has taken some time to do so. I can recall the time when I was a public servant and had the use of a Government car. As a matter of fact, I did take a Government car home, but I was on call 24 hours a day. I can remember that in those days we could not get a set of radial-ply tyres out of the Government Garage because it said they were no good. First of all, we could not get cars with automatic transmission. Then the Government Garage realised that it would get more on the resale market for cars with automatic transmission than for manual cars. It took about five years to convince the Government Garage of this. However, it would not be convinced about radial-ply tyres, which are much safer than conventional tyres.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: You have always said not.

Mr. AUSTIN: I have always said that they have been much safer than conventional tyres. I understand that Government cars

began to be equipped with radial tyres only when those tyres came as standard fittings on new cars. I hope that the Government Garage will progress rather more rapidly than it has done in the past. What I have said is absolutely true, because I experienced this problem when I was a Government employee.

Mr. Elliott: There should be more four-cylinder cars.

Mr. AUSTIN: I myself drive a four-cylinder car and get very good economy from it.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: You're a mighty bloke.

Mr. AUSTIN: I am a conservationist, unlike the member for Wolston who drives around in a big V8 car wasting the country's fuel. I don't think that is fair. I suggest that perhaps the Ministers should consider changing from V8s to six-cylinder cars, thus setting an example for the rest of the community.

I think it is worth while commenting on the recent truckies' strike. The matter does relate to these Estimates, because many truckies are owner-drivers and operate their own businesses. A lot has been said about the prohibition on truckies coming into the industry, which is against my philosophy of private enterprise. I do not believe that the Government should introduce any legislation that prohibits people from entering the industry. But I suggest that the Minister, through his officers, might care to set out a course for these truck operators to advise them of the pitfalls. Trucking is a specific industry.

Mr. Davis: Come on!

Mr. AUSTIN: I am being very serious about this.

Mr. Davis: Don't you know that the Transport Minister is already looking into that section?

Mr. AUSTIN: He is looking into that section, because I asked him to do so. He did suggest to me that it might be a matter for the Minister of Industry and Administrative Services, and that is why I raise it tonight.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: Well, why don't you—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Wolston will cease making constant interjections.

Mr. AUSTIN: Thank you, Mr. Hewitt. It is a pleasure to have you stop that member from making those interjections. It is rather annoying to have to stand here and listen to those inane comments. They are quite unintelligible.

The Minister has the facilities within his department throughout Queensland to offer this service to the public. He can offer this

service to the small man wanting to buy a truck, whether it be big or small, and operate his own trucking business. I am sure that if his department does not have the expertise at the moment, it could develop it.

I would also suggest that it should be mandatory for an owner, before he gets his licence, to see the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services or the Minister for Transport, as the member for Brisbane Central suggests, so that he is made aware of the pitfalls in the industry. I believe that that would solve the problem.

Unfortunately, time is running out. I have to leave some time for the Minister to reply. With those few words, I will leave it at that.

Hon. N. E. LEE (Yeronga—Minister for Industry and Administrative Services) (9.29 p.m.): First of all, I thank each member for his contribution to the debate today and tonight. Some of the contributions, of course, were very difficult to listen to, and others had a lot of common sense in them.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: They would be the ones on the Opposition side.

Mr. LEE: They certainly did not all come from the Opposition side. Most of those that were hard to listen to, and had very little sense in them, did come from the Opposition side.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Can I assume—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member can assume that he will be outside soon if he does not behave.

Mr. LEE: Firstly, I would like to answer the member for Maryborough, who shadows my portfolio. He had the interests of the Government Printing Office at heart when he spoke with similar feelings to my own. He said that the workers there should be praised for the jobs they do. The printers there do very good work under very difficult conditions. I can assure the honourable member that I agree with him. I, too, would like to see a new building constructed as soon as possible. The director, the Government Printer and myself went overseas specifically to look at buildings which house printing offices throughout the world. We have come back with ideas, and I hope that the employees will be given something of a reward for the conditions under which they have worked for many years.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What are you going to do?

Mr. LEE: The honourable member is so thick in the head that he does not even listen.

I am trying to answer the member in a sane manner and explain to him what we are doing, because he asked a simple and

decent question. Just as I am, he is concerned about conditions at the Government Printing Office. I hope to be able to place the printers in a new building very soon and give them the decent conditions that they have deserved for many years. I can assure honourable members that if I remain the Minister I will strive to reach that end as soon as possible.

The member for Maryborough also mentioned Queensland's office in London and the question of migrants. I believe we need an office in London for those migrants. If, by some chance, there is an upsurge of work in Queensland which requires skilled labour, we can get them very quickly through that office. Apart from that, the office does many other valuable things.

The honourable member also wanted to see a lot more money spent on solar energy research. Just as the honourable member for Mt. Isa wants more money spent in that field, so does the Government. Of course, if that were done, some expenditure on another section of the department would have to be cut back. The Government has not lost sight of the fact that solar energy is very important and the Government will be following its development closely, particularly after what was said about the Little brothers by the honourable members for Maryborough and Mt. Isa.

Small businesses were also given credit by the honourable member for Maryborough. That was a bit of a surprise to me, coming as it did from that side of the Chamber. However, he did give credit to people who run small businesses. He is certainly unlike some of the other Opposition members who want only to knock small business. I give the member credit for his comments in that regard. Maybe he does not speak with a forked tongue as many of his colleagues do. I thank the honourable member for Maryborough for his contribution. I am sure that it will do him no harm when it is read by the people of his electorate.

The honourable member for Mt. Isa spoke about the Little brothers. No doubt the first thing the member will show the Little brothers will be his speech as it is reported in "Hansard". I am sure they will appreciate what he had to say about them, and he will be trying to speed up investigation of their solar system. The honourable member knew a lot about solar systems and I was quite interested to hear what he had to say.

The honourable member for Mt. Gravatt spoke about small businesses and big businesses. He was absolutely right in what he said.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: He had a dollar each way.

Mr. LEE: Would the honourable member for Archerfield keep quiet? He has had his chance to speak.

The member for Mt. Gravatt spoke about the fact that small businesses and big

businesses employ 60 per cent of the work-force in Queensland. He therefore suggested that pay-roll tax could possibly be lowered, or some other benefit could be given, particularly to small businesses. I do not argue with that.

He also very ably pointed out that the A.L.P. was doing everything within its power to destroy small businesses. Their policy is in their handbook, which can be bought for \$5. It is not worth \$5, but it can be bought for that amount. It can be seen from that handbook that they are out to destroy the way of life as we know it.

Mr. Fouras interjected.

Mr. LEE: The member for South Brisbane, who is very chirpy over there at the moment, made a complete and utter idiot of himself in the way that he spoke this afternoon. I had the desire to stop him from making a fool of himself, but I thought, "No. He will hang himself. Let him go." He waffled on about migrants. He should have more sense. His statement to the Committee was totally inaccurate and only goes to show his lack of knowledge of the truth about migration and ethnic affairs.

I should point out to the honourable member and the Committee that the present policy of migration and ethnic affairs was established in 1946, when an agreement was entered into between the Commonwealth Government and the States. This agreement was that the States would be responsible for migration from the United Kingdom only, and the Commonwealth would be responsible for migration from all other countries as well as the United Kingdom.

Mr. Yewdale: Where did you get that brief from?

Mr. LEE: From one of my officers—the man who is in charge of migration. I am quite willing to say that. I have all my notes here but I intend to read his, with which I agree totally.

This is still the situation, and consequently the implementation of those recommendations of the Galbally report that relate to ethnic affairs are being implemented in this State by the Commonwealth Government.

The honourable member mentioned that this was a waste of money. I submit that for the State to come into this area as well would certainly be a waste of money. However, notwithstanding this, the State Government has membership of the Migrant Settlement Council, which supervises the initial settlement programme. State facilities at the Yungaba Reception Centre are currently used for courses to train professional people to understand and assist non-English-speaking migrants.

The honourable member's comments about the Good Neighbour Council can only be termed disgraceful, as they were directed towards a large band of dedicated people.

He ought to be ashamed of himself. It also shows that he does not know what he is talking about. To say that they are only involved with migrants from the United Kingdom is absolute rot. The current president of the Good Neighbour Council is a migrant from a non-English-speaking country, as is also a member of the executive. The newly appointed director and one office employee are also migrants from non-English-speaking countries. So there are four people; yet he says they do not know what they are talking about. I can assure honourable members that the future will vindicate the State Government's decision to continue to fund the Good Neighbour Council. We have shown common sense—which is more than the member for South Brisbane spoke this afternoon. Wait till the people in his electorate read what he had to say!

The member for Cunningham has seen the value of industrial estates and the wonderful conditions that this Government is offering industry. He realises that industry is being established on many of the estates all over Queensland. He is concerned about the fuel shortage, too, saying that some day we will have to make fuel from coal and sugarcane. I could not agree more. Until the day comes when prices rise, it may not be economically feasible.

The new member for Redcliffe (Mr. Terry White) has an understanding of small business. It was a pleasure to hear his speech.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. LEE: He had more to offer than the member for Brisbane Central.

He had enough forethought to say that there should be a new motto. What about, "We make it great in the Sunshine State"?

Mr. K. J. Hooper: That's nice, Norm.

Mr. LEE: We might do it. However, the member for Archerfield should not try to take the credit. It was the member for Redcliffe who thought about it. We will certainly give consideration to it.

The member for Chatsworth wanted me to stop take-overs. I am told on the quiet that he has such large holdings in these companies that he wants us to give them protection. The only reason I can see for his remarks is that he is a capitalist and he wants his holdings protected.

The honourable member for Mourilyan made her usual intelligent speech. She was concerned that the department had established an industrial estate at Innisfail on land that was not zoned for that purpose, and that it might do so again in the future. I assure her that the department wishes to comply with the zoning requirements laid down by councils. In the instance to which she referred, the council did not make a rezoning, so what occurred was not really the fault of the department. However, it has

refunded the money to the person concerned although it really was not obliged to do so. Because of the misunderstanding, it did that to maintain a good relationship.

The honourable member also spoke about the fuel crisis. I believe that the crisis arose largely, though not completely, because of hoarding that took place. I remind honourable members that some people had hoarded up to two years' supply of fuel. When the department received specific information about a shortage of fuel in a certain area, it got in touch with the fuel company, and in virtually every instance the problem was overcome. In many cases the problem was one of supply, and the department cannot take action until it is supplied with information. All Government members acted sensibly and did that, so they got along fairly well and had their difficulties overcome.

The honourable member for Lytton spoke about the Mackay days, the days of the cane-cutters and the wharfies. He asked why we took the work away from the wharfies. Let me say to him quite plainly that the wharfies took the work away from themselves. They refused to work; in fact, they would not have worked if they had been put in an iron lung.

In spite of that, the honourable member's speech had a great deal of common sense in it. It was one of the best speeches that I have heard him make for some time. However, during the afternoon I read an article in the "Telegraph" headed "Too good for the workers". It said—

"Sydney: Bus maintenance engineers have come up with a novel industrial grievance.

"They say the N.S.W. Public Transport Commission's new fleet of buses are too reliable.

"Thirty employees from the commission's Chullora workshop in Sydney's western suburbs yesterday protested against the new buses.

"They claimed the 500 Mercedes-Benz models required only one-third as much maintenance as the superseded fleet.

"The protest was held at the Wynyard terminal in York Street, Sydney, where the 500th Mercedes-Benz bus was presented to the public."

They went on strike because buses are not breaking down. Of course, the honourable member's speech will read well during the Lytton election campaign next year.

He spoke about unemployment, but he knows full well that the Government has reduced unemployment more than any other State Government in Australia, and nobody can deny that. He spoke also about the retiring age. At least the Government of Queensland has reduced the retiring age to 60 years, which probably is more than other State Governments have done.

The honourable member for Cooroora made a most intelligent speech. He answered most of the comments made by

the honourable member for Lytton. He asked about the Yandina Industrial Estate and the ginger factory. He also referred to the ponding system that had been approved by the Maroochy Shire Council. I can assure the honourable member that the council was responsible for issuing the permit for that factory. That comment applies to any factory anywhere in Queensland. We always ask the local authority whether we can build a factory in its area. Alternatively, we ask the people who want to build the factory to ask the local authority. We do not go against the wishes of the local council.

In this instance, we even gave the Maroochy Shire Council some land for a sewage-treatment plant. We could not be fairer. When the council said that it would allow the factory to be erected, we gave it some land free of cost for sewage-treatment purposes. At no time was a factory established on a Government industrial estate without the consent of the local authority. We even construct the roads and lay the sewage and water mains within our estates. We are facing up very well to our responsibilities.

I thank the honourable member for Southport for his words of encouragement. Some time ago an A.L.P. member—I think it was the member for Woodridge—told my colleague the Minister for Labour Relations that he was a great big dill for buying land for the Molendinar Industrial Estate. It is one of the success stories of this State. The honourable members for Southport and Surfers Paradise both asked for more land in their areas. Yet only a few years ago we were severely criticised in this Chamber for going ahead and purchasing that land.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. D'Arcy said it would be a white elephant.

Mr. LEE: That is right. What a white elephant he turned out to be!

The honourable member for Nudgee talked about small cars. Of course, he read the article in this morning's newspaper. As well, the member for Cunningham and other Government members have referred to this matter. The member for Nudgee knew that Cabinet had made a certain decision on Monday; he heard it on the news either yesterday or this morning. Cabinet decided that it would continue to buy four-cylinder cars, up to 25 per cent, and have them evaluated at the end of a certain period. We are way out in front.

The member for Nudgee wants us to cut back on our usage of oil. I remind him that it was the Whitlam Government that brought drilling for oil to a complete standstill. No-one else is to blame.

The honourable member for Somerset realises the way in which industrial estates can be decentralised. He brought down a deputation from the Esk Shire Council. Its members were the most reasonable people I could wish to deal with. It is a pity

that the Brisbane City Council does not take a lesson from that council. The members of the deputation had good manners and were easy to talk to. They told us that they would construct a road for us and lay water mains. Sewerage is already reticulated to the land that they have in mind. Their attitude shows how anxious some people are to get industrial estates. The Brisbane City Council, on the other hand, wants to throw people out of Brisbane. That is why a great number of people are setting themselves up outside the Brisbane area.

The State Stores Board allows an extra 5 per cent in country areas. That matter was referred to.

The honourable member for Pine Rivers made some most valid comments. He wants us to buy more land in his electorate for an industrial estate. At this stage, a fair amount of industrial land is available in his electorate, and we still have plenty at Narangba. As private enterprise is doing such a good job in his area, I do not think we should move into it. I will take on board what he has to say and look into the matters for him.

The honourable member for Everton spoke about the Government Printer. I point out that Mr. Hampson and I went overseas. I do not think I need say more about that.

It was a pleasure to listen to the honourable member for Redlands, who spoke in a commonsense way. He is a man with a wide vision of industry. He emphasised how necessary it was to get an industrial estate established at Redland Bay. On two occasions he has had me down to look at the area. I should like to see an industrial estate established at Redland Bay. I am sure it would prove to be one of the most popular industrial estates in Queensland.

At least the honourable member for Port Curtis values the work undertaken in his area. He has enough decency in him to say that this Government has done a good and reasonable job in his area. He was critical of some of the delays that have occurred but, unfortunately, delays are inevitable. I do him the honour of saying that, at least, he did not say that work should be stopped.

The honourable member for Caboolture, as usual, made a highly intelligent speech, which was good to hear. He knows every businessman in the Narangba Industrial Estate personally. That is something which many honourable members cannot say about the businessmen in their electorates. I cannot say it about those in my electorate at Rocklea. I am sure he knows every one of them personally, and realises their value to him. He knows that there is a tunnel under the Bruce Highway and that the railway line will pass through it. The honourable member also referred to our slogan, "Buy Queensland made". I can only say that we "make things great in the Sunshine State."

The honourable member for Woodridge said that the Department of Industrial Development was the most important department in my portfolio. That was the only intelligent comment he made. Other than that he said nothing with any common-sense in it. When the honourable member makes a couple of sensible comments, I must give him credit for them.

The honourable member for Toowoomba North made a commonsense approach to the fuel and pollution problems in his area.

The honourable member for Surfers Paradise is interested in getting additional industrial estates in his area, while the honourable member for Wavell was worried about a ship that was built in Brisbane and how much money the Government put into it. I can tell him that the Government advanced no money at all.

Mr. Austin interjected.

Mr. LEE: The Government did not spend any money on it.

The Government Garage is looking into buying four-cylinder motor cars.

I thank all honourable members who made a reasonable contribution to the debate. It is good when one's Estimates are debated in the Chamber and spoken of so highly. With the exception of a few members of the Opposition who are more decent about it, one cannot usually expect any credit in a debate on the Estimates, and it is very good to get them over.

At 9.55 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 9 October, I shall now put the questions for the Vote under consideration and the balance remaining unvoiced for Industry and Administrative Services.

The questions for the following Votes were put, and agreed to—

Industry and Administrative Services—

Chief Office, Department of Commercial and Industrial Development	\$ 5,110,869
Balance of Vote, Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds and Loan Fund Account	31,310,806

Progress reported.

FIREARMS AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Energy and Police) (9.57 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

In presenting this Bill for the second reading, there are certain points on which I

wish to elaborate and for that purpose I propose to go more deeply into the provisions of the legislation than I did on the introduction of this Bill. Basically the previous definitions from the old Act have been retained. However, certain new ones have been proposed for the new legislation. Some are machinery definitions but certain others I wish to expand on.

The first is the position of authorised officer. This person will be the officer who has overall charge of the issuing of firearm licences in Queensland. He is the officer in charge of the Technical Services Section, which includes the Firearms Section. His position as the issuing authority for firearm licences was previously held by the inspector in charge of the Criminal Investigation Branch, Brisbane. His position is provided for under clause 8.

It is considered that there should be a control on what are known as conversion units. These are kits designed to convert a concealable firearm from one calibre to another. The kit usually comprises a barrel, magazine and certain other parts. By the interchange of these parts, a .45 calibre pistol, for example, becomes a .38 calibre pistol, a pistol of a calibre different from that originally licensed. Therefore these units are to be licensed.

Under the new Act the term "dangerous article" appears. This definition covers under one heading a number of articles which were previously dealt with under separate offences. The term "dangerous article" will cover items such as machine guns, disguised firearms, flick knives, Molotov cocktails or petrol bombs and Bowen belt knives. The last mentioned is an item of wearing apparel which is actually a knife concealed within the buckle. It is to be noted that Bowen belt knives are a prohibited import under Customs Regulations. A further item which has recently become available in Australia is an item known as an electric shock baton. This is a hand-held device containing four torch batteries but, because it has a built-in transformer, it is capable of delivering a shock of between 10,000 and 80,000 volts. This is capable of rendering a person unconscious for several minutes. No doubt if the person had a weak heart, death could result. Such weapons have been placed in a clause known as "dangerous articles", the possession of which is prohibited.

The Act has been arranged so that one procedure will apply whenever a licence is required to be obtained. In this manner the necessary forms may be standardised, as may be all the procedures relevant to a licence, that is, the type of licence, conditions to be imposed, refused to issue, and endorsements.

Clauses 9 and 10 provide for the form of application and where same is to be lodged.

Clause 11 provides that when a person makes application for a licence for a concealable firearm, inquiries are to be made by police to ascertain if the applicant is a fit

and proper person to possess a concealable firearm. From this initial inquiry, the application will be processed in Brisbane, in the firearms section.

Clause 11 makes provision for fingerprints to be required from an applicant. It should be noticed that it is not mandatory that fingerprints be required. The supply of fingerprints would probably only be required where the applicant was not known to local police or came from interstate or overseas. It is most unlikely that any of the present members of pistol clubs, for example, would be required to supply fingerprints. They are probably already favourably known to their local police, or else have held licences for a number of years.

With respect to renewals, it is proposed that these may be made by the officer in charge of police where the applicant resides, who will approve or disapprove the renewal. If renewal is not approved, the whole matter will be referred to the commissioner or authorised officer to determine the matter. Licences are not transferable. Clauses 13, 14 and 15 refer to this.

At present each licence for a concealable firearm has to be renewed each year and involves a considerable amount of paperwork and hours of manpower. It is proposed in the new Act to extend the currency of licences to up to two years. Fees shall be pro rata according to the currency of the licence. Time for renewal of licences shall be up to 60 days before the due date. Clause 16 refers to this.

Provision has been made that where a licence fee is paid by a cheque subsequently dishonoured, any licence so issued shall be null and void. However, provision is made for such dishonoured cheque to be replaced by cash in lieu. Clause 17 refers to this.

Endorsement of licences: Licences may be endorsed with special purposes for which concealable firearms may be used, renewals and restriction. Endorsements may only be made by the commissioner, authorised officer or officer in charge of a police station. It shall be an offence for any other person to make endorsements on licences.

This will also assist in the control of misuse of licences of concealable firearms. For example, if a person holds a licence for shooting at a pistol club and is found shooting elsewhere, such person could be called on to show cause why his licence should not be revoked. Clause 19 refers to this.

Clause 21 relates to the necessity for licensees to carry their licences with them wherever they are carrying their concealable firearm. However, exemptions from this requirement are proposed for primary producers on their property, for dealers and employees, and for employees of financial organisations such as banks.

Clause 22 provides for reporting the loss or theft of a firearm. There have been circumstances where concealable firearms and/or licences have been stolen or lost and this

fact has not been reported to the police. With this clause, the onus is cast on the licensee to report same. Regulation 19 of the present Act provides for police to be advised of loss or theft of a concealable firearm.

Clause 23 provides for revocation of licences. This could occur where the licensee no longer meets the conditions of his licence. The power of revocation is to be vested in the authorised officer (who includes the commissioner) so as to restrict the arbitrary use of such power. The procedure involves the service of a notice and is subject to an appeal to the Minister. The procedure is to be adopted where a licence is revoked, becomes void, is cancelled or surrendered as set out in clause 24.

Unless specially provided for by the provisions of the Act, minors under the age of 18 years shall not be issued with licences for concealable firearms. However, special provision has been made for minors 14 years and over to use concealable firearms on pistol club ranges under supervision.

Financial organisations such as banks are dealt with under clause 27. This clause is the equivalent of section 4 (5). It provides that licences can be issued in the name of financial organisations for concealable firearms owned by that organisation. Under these provisions employees of the organisation will be allowed to possess and carry the concealable firearm in the course of their duties. Such employee must be over 18 years of age and not be a prohibited or prevented person.

Further, if necessary the organisation can be required to supply particulars of their employees so that an authorised officer can determine whether or not the employee is a fit and proper person to possess and use a concealable firearm. It shall not be necessary for such employees to carry the licence whilst they are carrying the actual concealable firearm.

Licences for blank-fire concealable firearms may be issued to theatrical or sporting organisations and organisations such as guide dog training schools. When the person who holds the licence is transferred, as happens frequently in the case of school-teachers, the licence is transferred to his successor. Procedure for this is by way of notification within 14 days of the event to the authorised officer giving the name of the successor provided that person is eligible to hold such licence. Clause 28 refers to that.

Antiques and souvenir concealable firearms, souvenir machine-guns or souvenir sub-machine-guns are to be licensed. Souvenir weapons are to be made inoperable, and are to be produced for inspection each two years to show that they are still inoperable. Antiques will not be rendered inoperable. It is proposed there should be only an initial fee for antiques and souvenirs and that the licences not be restricted as to the period of time of currency.

There has been an extensive review of the legislation relating to pistol clubs. This is a continually growing sport and consequently problems have been encountered in some aspects. One such aspect is that persons, who would otherwise not qualify for the issue of an open licence for a concealable firearm, qualify themselves by joining a pistol club as a matter of convenience to obtain the licence. Thereafter, by annual renewal, they retain a licence without in fact resorting to any form of shooting at the pistol club. The purposes to which such firearms are turned include hunting and indiscriminate shooting.

In some instances the proposed legislation formalises as a standard pattern throughout Queensland rules that are already part of clubs' constitutions. For example, provisions concerning range officers are already to a degree in the rules of some, if not all, clubs. Some clubs already serve show-cause notices on their members if they consider they are not being active shooters and should no longer be in the clubs.

I look now at some of the proposed requirements concerning pistol clubs.

Clause 31 refers to a licence to shoot at pistol clubs. It provides that no person shall take part in pistol shooting unless he holds a pistol club shooter's licence or a pistol club provisional shooter's licence. The provisional shooter's licence is to enable a person time to decide whether he will take up the sport of target shooting as a hobby. Once he decides to take up the sport on a regular basis he will then be issued with an ordinary pistol club shooter's licence. A requirement of a pistol club shooter's licence is that the applicant be a financial member of the club. Where a member ceases to be a financial member of a club, he has to hand in his pistol club shooter's licence for cancellation.

Clause 32 sets out what is required in respect of a person who seeks a pistol club shooter's licence. Basically the applicant has to be a financial member, be able to produce a certificate from the club to that effect, and his pistol has to be of a type approved by the club for use on its range.

In addition, licences may be issued to the pistol club itself in the name of the club or office bearers of the club. This will enable visitors or juniors to shoot on the range with club firearms. The licence for club firearms will automatically transfer from one governing body to a new governing body each time there is a change in the governing body of the club.

Under this section a new provision has been introduced which was not adequately provided for before, that is, a holder of a pistol club shooter's licence may carry his firearm to and from the club range, to the range of other clubs, to the State border if the licensee is travelling interstate, and use the firearms of other club members on a club range.

Clause 33 makes provision for a person over the age of 14 years to be issued with what is called a provisional licence for a pistol club. This entitles the licensee to use a firearm of another club member or the club's own firearms on the range of the pistol club.

Clause 34 makes provision for visitors from overseas or other States who may lawfully possess a concealable firearm in their own State or country to carry a firearm whilst in Queensland. The licence will be clearly endorsed "Visitor's Licence" and will be valid for three months.

Clause 35 is a new provision dealing with what are to be called restricted firearms. At present two particular models of firearms come within this category. They are the "Boys" antitank rifle .55 calibre and the Granatbusche 7.92 millimetre antitank rifle. These rifles are not being banned but rather their possession is to be restricted to persons who have a licence for them. They are to be licensed on a format similar to that of a concealable firearm. Restriction on the possession of these rifles is considered necessary as they are of a type that fire armour-piercing shells and, in the hands of the criminal element, could become very dangerous weapons. They are capable of penetrating steel plate from a considerable distance.

Clause 36 makes a provision for the issue of a special licence to a person over the age of 14 years to use a firearm in certain circumstances. The firearm is not to be a concealable firearm. The principle behind this provision is to allow the son of a primary producer, for example, to carry a rifle to destroy vermin or decrepit livestock in drought-time. Safety of the public generally would be one of the prime considerations in relation to such an application under this clause.

Clauses 37 to 42 contain provisions relating to persons who carry on the business of dealing in firearms. Each such person will be licensed and his premises will be of a standard suitable to the authorised officer. Each person will be required to keep registers of his transactions in relation to concealable firearms, conversion units or restricted firearms, and to furnish an annual return each year of the concealable firearms he has in stock. Provision has been made to enable a dealer to display firearms on the range of a pistol club for the purposes of sale. Security of concealable firearms held in stock will be of importance.

Clauses 43 to 54 contain provisions relating to pistol clubs. It will be necessary for a club to be approved by the authorised officer before it conducts pistol shooting on any range. The range will have to be of an approved standard of construction and not be modified or altered unless approval has been given. Each governing body is to appoint a chief range officer, not necessarily the same person, each day there is official club shooting. The chief range officer will

be responsible for the conduct of the day's shooting, for safety on the range, in addition to any other duties that the governing body may designate to him. The position of chief range officer is already provided for in the constitutions of most, if not all, clubs.

Subject to agreement between the club and financial organisations concerned, provision has been made for members of financial organisations to practise shooting on the range of the club. By having the provision for practice on pistol club ranges by employers of financial organisations, it is hoped that perhaps with the assistance of pistol clubs a measure of responsibility may be imparted to such persons as regards safety in the handling of concealable firearms.

Pistol clubs are to be for the sport of target shooting only, and for this purpose the secretary is to advise the authorised officer what courses of fire are to be conducted by the club. Over recent years courses of fire have developed that can only be said to border on what could be termed suitable for terrorist training in some of the overseas clubs, and it is considered some control could be exercised in this regard locally.

Members who attend at a pistol club range will be required to possess a member's attendance card on which will be noted the place at which and the date on which such member took part in competition or practice shooting. When the member comes to renew his pistol club shooter's licence he will produce the card, which will indicate whether or not he is an active shooter. The use of this card will save the club secretary a considerable amount of paperwork.

Clauses 55 to 57 deal with shooting galleries, an area that was not previously provided for in the Firearms Act. Other States have legislation governing the construction of and general safety features of such shooting galleries. It has been decided that, as live ammunition is used in a number of these galleries, some control should be exercised, particularly in the area of those using live ammunition.

The use of concealable firearms with live ammunition is prohibited in such galleries; .22 calibre will be the largest calibre allowed. No person under the age of 14 years is to be allowed to use a firearm in such shooting galleries. The safety of the general public is to be of the utmost importance where live ammunition is being used.

Clauses 58 to 61 provide for what is called a prohibited person. Clause 58 is the general prohibition section, which will involve police. Where it is considered for some particular reason that a person should not possess a firearm, any commissioned officer may issue a prohibition order prohibiting that person from possessing any firearm, conversion unit or ammunition. Such prohibition order will have effect throughout the State. Under the Act it is restricted to a particular district.

In addition to prohibition orders that may be issued by commissioned officers, Clause 61 makes provision for persons convicted by courts of serious offences in which violence is an element, or for certain drug offences, to become prohibited persons.

It shall be an offence for a prohibited person to possess any firearm or conversion unit or for any other person to supply firearms, conversion units or ammunition to a prohibited person.

Clauses 62 and 63 make provision for those persons who are to be known as "prevented persons". This is a new term and outlines that persons suffering from mental illnesses, or persons under the age of 17 years, are prevented from using or possessing firearms. There is special provision elsewhere for persons under 17 years of age to use or possess firearms in certain circumstances.

Clause 64 and clause 84 contain the provisions relating to the various offences that may be committed in relation to the new Firearms and Offensive Weapons Bill. Clause 64 sets out a general penalty.

Clause 65 deals with what is called a serious offence or, more simply, where there are terms of aggravation. It carries a heavier penalty. An example of what is termed a serious offence would be a person's having possession of a concealable firearm that is not licensed and to which he has fitted a silencer. Silencers are prohibited completely. Another example is a person's possessing a firearm with an intent to cause damage to property.

The offence provisions contain the same offences as presently appear in the Act, but additional offences are incorporated.

Clause 67 prohibits the possession or use of protective body-vests except in certain cases. Among the persons who would be entitled to use them are police, security and bank officers, visiting dignitaries or members of Parliament. Protective body-vests possessed by members of the criminal element would tend to encourage armed confrontation with authority, particularly in bank hold-ups. It is therefore proposed that their possession be restricted to approved persons.

Clause 68 deals with persons who have possession of dangerous articles. Dangerous articles include machine guns, grenades, disguised firearms, flick knives, Molotov cocktails, and explosive devices. Previously these were split up into separate offence sections in a somewhat haphazard manner.

Clause 69 prohibits possession of explosives. The possession of detonators, fuse or explosives of a type used in blasting or mining operations shall be an offence unless the offender shows that he has a reasonable excuse for having possession of them. This is designed to deal with criminals found in possession. A person who would have a reasonable excuse would be a quarry-operator.

New provisions aimed at preserving the privacy and safety of persons on private property have been introduced. Clause 72 will make it an offence for any person to discharge any firearm or spear gun on private property unless he has the permission of the owner or occupier to do so; nor shall a person discharge a firearm from a public place into private property.

Provision is made for the owner or occupier who finds a person offending, that is, discharging a firearm, to detain the offender and hand him into the custody of a police officer to be dealt with according to law.

It is to be pointed out that the provision for the property owner to detain persons found shooting is not a mandatory section. It says that the property owner "may" detain, not that he shall or must detain. No set rules can be laid down for each particular occasion. Common sense has to prevail as to whether in view of the circumstances a property owner would detain.

Present restrictions on the carrying and use of firearms on a Sunday have been removed.

Clause 71 places the onus on persons who possess firearms to take all reasonable precautions with their firearms, to keep them in a place of safety so as to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to them. It is hoped that this requirement may help to cut down on accidents caused through firearms being left in places that are accessible to children.

Clause 74 is designed to prevent the sale or supply of firearms or ammunition to persons who are under the influence of liquor or a drug, and it shall be an offence for a person to carry or use a firearm whilst he is under the influence of liquor or drugs.

Clauses 73 and 75 provide that a person shall not discharge a firearm in a public place without lawful excuse, nor shall a person carry loaded firearms, spear guns or cross bows in a public place in such a manner that he may be likely to cause injury to himself or others or damage to property.

The provisions of clause 75 are designed towards the overall safety of both the person in possession of a firearm in a public place and other members of the public. Anyone who carries a firearm in a public place will need to ensure that it is not loaded, the bolt removed where practicable and the firearm contained in a sheath.

A new provision, clause 77, is to provide for the commission of an offence by a person who obtains or who attempts to obtain possession of a concealable firearm, conversion unit or restricted firearm by fraud or deceit. Instances have been reported of persons having gone to dealers and attempting to obtain a concealable firearm by falsely pretending that they had been granted a licence.

Clause 81 is a new area, making it an offence to have possession of replica firearms in public places. Of recent times there have been a number of offences committed using replica firearms. It shall not be an offence for a person to have a replica firearm in his home.

Clauses 85 to 95 deal with police powers. Basically those powers from the present Act have been retained, but some further powers have been included to provide for this modern day.

Clause 97 gives power to detain. This is a new area in relation to firearm offences. It is provided in other legislation such as the Health Act and the Litter Act. Basically it is intended that police officers acting on reasonable grounds may detain a person for such time as is reasonable to make inquiries concerning possible breach of the Firearms Act. An example would be where a police officer finds a person in possession of a concealable firearm and that person cannot produce a licence on demand, having left it at home, which may be a different town. Instead of arresting the person straight-out as being unlicensed, the police officer will have power under this clause to detain the person while he makes necessary inquiries to see if the person actually has a licence.

Clause 88 deals with powers in dangerous situations. An unfortunate aspect of this present-day society appears to be that more and more police are being confronted with siege situations involving persons using firearms. This is an area that is not adequately covered under the present legislation. Clause 88 gives police power in situations involving siege or an emergency to enter places, search offenders found therein, seize firearms being used and to detain persons found therein. Because such a provision is designed to deal with emergencies, it is considered desirable that in such situations police should be able to enter premises without first having to obtain a warrant. If police were forced to first obtain a warrant, it could well be that in the time involved in getting a warrant a person may be killed whose life could perhaps have been saved.

Clause 89 provides authority for police to inspect the books of dealers relating to transactions involving concealable firearms (as at present), to examine attendance registers at pistol clubs, to inspect pistol club ranges and to examine shooting galleries to see that they conform to approvals therefor.

Clause 90 provides that where a police officer is lawfully in premises in connection with any matter and he, as a result, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a breach of the Firearms Act is being committed, he may search or carry out any action necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Firearms Act. An example could be where the police officer has entered premises lawfully to serve a summons or by virtue of a warrant under some other legislation and he

observes a concealable firearm in such place. It would be ludicrous that he should withdraw, obtain a warrant under the Firearms Act and return. Naturally, if the concealable firearm was not licensed, it would be gone.

Clause 91 makes provision for the issue of a search warrant by a justice of the peace. This is a continuation of present Act provisions, and would be used in situations where there was no emergency and the police officer did not come within the provisions of clause 90.

Clause 94 provides for the taking of fingerprints, photographs etc. This area was not specifically covered before under the Firearms Act, and it is considered necessary. Various other pieces of legislation already have this provision. It should be pointed out that fingerprints may on some occasions be called for in relation to applications for concealable firearm licences. It is not mandatory that fingerprints be required. Possibly the only time fingerprints would be required would be when the applicant came from interstate and was not known to local police. Provision is made for the destruction of fingerprints etc. where a person is found not guilty of a charge preferred against him under the legislation.

The remaining clauses are machinery provisions relating to the administration of the Act.

As previously stated it is a considerable number of years since any overhaul of this Act was carried out. In its present form it is presented in a disjointed fashion. There is insufficient power for police to deal satisfactorily with present-day offences such as siege situations that are becoming more prevalent. The new legislation is designed to encourage young people to become aware of firearm safety and to participate in supervised shooting. Restrictions are not designed to be oppressive to sporting shooters. However, the overall control of concealable firearms and the safety of the public generally is of the utmost importance.

Now, Mr. Hewitt, I wish to comment on certain matters raised by honourable members during the introductory stage of the Bill. It is not the intention of this Government to license all types of firearms. It would be almost useless to try to stop premeditated crime by such methods.

Control of the use of firearms through the control of sale of ammunition would be impossible to carry out. The owner of a firearm would only need to obtain ammunition from anywhere interstate. Queensland cannot legislate to prevent the sale of ammunition by stores situated interstate to persons resident in Queensland. Furthermore, with the basic tools a person can make as much ammunition for himself or for others as he feels like making.

Mention was made of graziers using guns to detain illegal shooters. Nowhere in the firearms legislation has such a thing been suggested. Clause 72 (3) provides authority for a property owner to detain an illegal shooter. The word used is "may" not "shall" detain.

Reference was made to the fact that there is no requirement of a minimum time that an applicant must be a member of a club before he is recommended for a concealable firearm licence. This is not strictly correct in this aspect as some clubs at least have a probationary period of three months. It is understood that the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Brisbane Branch) provides that a person must be a member of the association for 12 months before he can join the pistol section of the branch.

A suggestion was made that firearms should be removed from the possession of persons who have been convicted by courts for certain offences, or they should be prohibited from possessing firearms. This is an excellent idea. Persons who have been convicted of offences involving violence should not be allowed to possess firearms. The same argument applies to dangerous drugs. We do not want a drug-affected person running around with a firearm.

The honourable member for Toowoomba North spoke of the need for persons to be taught safe handling of firearms. This is a desirable suggestion, and for this purpose the age at which a person may shoot on a rifle club or pistol club range under supervision has been reduced to 14 years. The age at which cadets may shoot on a range has been reduced to 13 years. It does not allow them to own firearms at that age but allows them to use the club firearms. Perhaps rifle and pistol clubs would be willing to make it known that they would teach young persons firearms safety.

The honourable member for Bundaberg suggests that there has been no contact between police and various organisations which have an interest in shooting. This is not correct. There has been a considerable amount of contact with organisations, some on a personal basis and some on a written basis. One of the most recent was the Bow Hunters' Club concerning longbows. Their suggestion was received and has been incorporated into the Bill. Some clubs have even supplied copies of their constitutions. In fact, one organisation even went to the trouble of supplying the Police Department with a bound book of considerable size in which various submissions, comparisons, etc., were set out. I might add this book has been of assistance. Certain provisions relating to the chief range officer were selected from the constitution of a club.

The honourable member for Townsville mentioned Switzerland and how young people there are trained in the use of firearms. That is all very well, but Switzerland has compulsory military service for persons aged

between 18 and 48 years. The only way such a scheme could be introduced here would be if compulsory national service for all young persons were to be introduced. Such a thing is a Commonwealth, not a State, matter.

The honourable member also spoke of the duties of range officers. Most clubs already set out these duties. In the main, the Bill's provisions formalise those duties and seek to make them standard throughout the State. I commend the Bill to the House

Mr. VAUGHAN (Nudgee) (10.32 p.m.): Having now had the opportunity of perusing the contents of the Bill, I want to preface my remarks by saying that I am bitterly disappointed that the Bill does not include the licensing of persons who want to own rifles, shot-guns and the like. The Bill is supposed to regulate the purchase, possession, use, carrying, and sale of firearms, etc.

The Bill defines a firearm as—

"(a) a gun or other weapon—

"(i) that is capable of propelling a projectile by means of an explosive;

"(ii) that is capable of propelling a projectile by any other means and which if used in a normal manner is capable of causing bodily harm."

Even a gun or weapon that is capable of discharging a blank-fire cartridge is defined as a firearm. However, the contents of the Bill do not contain any provision relating to rifles or shot-guns.

It is my opinion that the Government is avoiding its responsibilities in this regard because it fears there could be some political backlash from some vested interests who apparently have significant influence over the Government, and the National Party in particular. While some Liberal members of the Government have commented publicly about the legislation and have spoken against the Bill, and while some will no doubt speak again, it should not be forgotten that this legislation has been approved by the joint Government parties and, irrespective of what the Liberals say, they are party to this legislation and must accept their share of the responsibility for its being here in its present form.

When he introduced the Bill, the Minister said that when it became obvious to the Government that the present Firearms Act needed to be reviewed and amended the views and opinions of various organisations, sporting clubs and others who might be affected by the changes in the legislation were sought. While it may be true that views and opinions were sought, it is quite apparent that the very strong and sincere views of some organisations—I particularly refer to the Australian Bank Employees' Union—were disregarded. I am aware that for many years that union, on behalf of its members, has been advocating stricter control of firearms because of the increase in the incidence of armed hold-ups of banks.

While the Minister in his introductory remarks said that basically the aim of the legislation was to protect the public from the criminal element, the fact is that the Bill in this regard is little different from the existing Act. While the Bill covers concealable firearms, "dangerous articles", anti-tank rifles, etc., since it does not cover the purchase, possession, use, carrying, and sale of rifles and shot-guns it falls far short of the mark. The fact is that the majority of criminals are not using such articles as are covered in the Bill; they are using rifles and shot-guns, which are easy to obtain.

As I said in my speech at the introductory stage, in recent years rifles and shot-guns have been used in the majority of armed hold-ups in Queensland. I know that bank staff are not as concerned about the experienced criminal, who we all acknowledge has access to concealable firearms, as they are about the novice doing his first or second "job" after having purchased a rifle or a shot-gun and ammunition off the shelf of some local supermarket.

The Minister has said that the message in the legislation for the criminal element is that if they carry a gun they will go to gaol.

Certainly the legislation prohibits certain persons from possessing any firearm and provides that a person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of the legislation is liable to a maximum fine of \$400 or six month's imprisonment for a first offence, and up to \$800 and/or 12 months' imprisonment for a second or subsequent offence. While this will be a deterrent to some of the criminal element, the fact is that persons who have decided to hold up a bank, a T.A.B. agency or the like, will not be deterred by such penalties when they are prepared to risk the penalties of armed robbery.

The Minister also stated that the gun legislation in other States and overseas countries was looked at and, as a result, the Government had picked the best of the firearm legislation and incorporated it in the legislation we have before us today. In Victoria a person wishing to own any type of firearm (excluding a pea rifle, and I do not agree with that exclusion) is required to be 18 years of age and to obtain a certificate from the Commissioner of Police. In South Australia all firearms have to be registered according to their category. In New South Wales there is provision for shooter licences, which controls the licensing of firearms other than pistols. I believe the Minister mentioned tonight that, because of the situation in the other States, it was impractical for us in Queensland to license all persons who wish to own or possess a rifle or shot-gun. I believe that the analysis of the legislation in the other States that I have just outlined gives the lie to that particular point. Having regard to the contents of the Bill before us,

I cannot see that too much consideration was given to the situation in other States as far as rifles and shot-guns are concerned.

While the Government is apparently concerned with the concealable firearm, I believe it is being negligent in not taking into account the extent to which rifles and shot-guns are used in homicide and suicide cases, and the number of accidental fatalities and woundings that occur as a result of their misuse. At the introductory stage I referred to the number of people who died as a result of firearms. I produced an article from the newspaper of that very day, which indicated that 127 people had been killed by firearms. I read tragic Press accounts of firearm fatalities, which clearly illustrated the negligent manner in which firearms are handled by obviously careless and inexperienced persons. I pointed out how easy it is for virtually anyone to purchase a high-powered rifle or shot-gun and the ammunition to go with it. I recall that I produced advertisements from supermarkets which were advertising even .30 M1 repeating carbines. I might point out that recently I saw in the window of a second-hand shop in one of the main streets of Mackay a .30 M1 repeating carbine, with a magazine, at a very reduced price, and also a .22 rifle. They were accessible to anybody who walked in off the street.

I pointed out that more than half the shooting victims and more than half the people responsible for shooting accidents were under 20 years of age. I emphasise that point. Statistics and research show that more than half the shooting victims—I think the figure was about 53 per cent—and more than half the people responsible for shooting accidents—I think the figure was about 54 per cent—were under 20 years of age.

In the last seven days, a 17-year-old youth fired a .22 bullet into a motel at Kangaroo Point (luckily no one was injured or killed), another 17-year-old who was receiving treatment at the Prince Charles Hospital Psychiatric Ward reportedly left the hospital, went to a nearby store (no doubt the local supermarket) purchased a .22 rifle and bullets for about \$45 and shot himself. That shows how easy it is for anyone to walk into a supermarket and purchase off the shelf a rifle that is capable of doing considerable damage. That person from the psychiatric ward to whom I have just referred could have returned to the hospital and seriously injured or killed some of the hospital staff. In this State we have the situation where a person can walk out of a psychiatric ward in a hospital—obviously he would be very seriously ill—and go into a supermarket and purchase a very dangerous rifle. When this Bill was foreshadowed earlier this year I questioned the staff at a supermarket in my locality about the precautions adopted by them in respect of the sale of the firearms on display. A whole rack of firearms were on display, ranging from shot-guns to .22 rifles.

Dr. Lockwood: I bet they didn't know.

Mr. VAUGHAN: They had an idea. There was a young salesman behind the counter. He did not know the law in relation to the age of persons who purchase firearms. I said, "What do you do about the identification of a person? Are you aware there is an age limit?" He said, "Yes, a person must be over 18 years of age." I said, "Do you ask for any identification?" He said, "No, but we do get them to sign a book." I said, "Where is the book?" From underneath the counter he produced a common, everyday exercise book in which there was a list of names. I said, "How do you know that the person who signs that name in the book is in fact that person?" He said, "As long as they sign the book, that is all we are required to have."

There is no control over that sort of thing in the existing legislation, and there is still no control over it in the proposed Bill. I foreshadow here and now that it is the intention of those on this side of the House to endeavour to amend the Bill to try to prevent the sort of thing that has happened in the last few days.

A 16-year old youth on the Gold Coast was killed by his own .22 rifle that was reportedly being held by a friend.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: I rise to a point of order. I think the honourable member will find that the matter is sub judice as a person has been charged.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the member to respect that point of view.

Mr. VAUGHAN: If a matter is sub judice, I do not believe it would be reported on the front page of tonight's "Telegraph".

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Do you know if it is sub judice? Has a date been set down for hearing?

Dr. LOCKWOOD: It is a criminal matter, not a civil matter.

Mr. VAUGHAN: The case illustrates exactly what I am talking about. The report is that the lad who was shot went down to the local chain store and put a \$70 .22 magnum rifle on lay-by. He arranged to pick it up at a later date. He was under age. Obviously the local chain store did not ask him for proof of his age. He was allowed to put a \$70 .22 magnum on lay-by. He subsequently took delivery of it and went home and, within an hour or so of picking up the rifle, he was shot when the pair of them were obviously handling it. That bears out what I said earlier. More than half the shooting victims and more than half the people responsible for shooting accidents are under 20 years of age. Under existing legislation no person under the age of 17 years is allowed to have or handle a firearm.

I move now to an incident which occurred last Saturday morning. It illustrates another point that I am emphasising. Early last Saturday two young people had a very lucky escape. Again, it may be alleged that this matter is sub judice as somebody has been charged in relation to it. The newspaper headline read: "Mystery West End gunshots". Fortunately a person has been detained in relation to this matter. That person is alleged to have fired seven shots in the early hours of Saturday morning into a vehicle, for no apparent reason. He went up to the car of some people who were driving home in the early hours of Saturday morning and pumped seven bullets into it. Once again, it was a .22 rifle. On a previous occasion I think the honourable member for Sherwood referred to the prevalent use of .22 rifles. I think 64 per cent was the figure quoted for the incidence of their involvement; yet they can be bought off the shelf for as little as \$45.

Surely the Government must take notice of these incidents and act accordingly. Here are four separate incidents all involving the smallest and cheapest rifle on the market but which can, with the high-velocity ammunition that is available, be among the most deadly.

According to statistics, 137,000 Queenslanders own a total of 146,400 rifles, 39,300 shot-guns, 19,100 air rifles and an unknown quantity of hand-guns. That is absolutely amazing. We can obtain statistics telling us the number of rifles, shot-guns and air rifles (which do not have to be licensed), but we cannot ascertain how many hand-guns there are—and a hand-gun is the only weapon that has to be licensed. I cannot understand it. It is amazing to me that we cannot find out how many hand-guns there are.

Having regard to the facts and figures that I referred to in my introductory speech and those that I have mentioned in this speech, and bearing in mind the pressures on society today and the situation that is developing in this State, and in fact throughout Australia, I believe that the purchase, possession, use, carrying and sale of all firearms should be strictly controlled.

However, notwithstanding all of the facts and figures, I have no doubt whatsoever that the Government will not accept reality and will not agree to incorporate provisions to license the owners of rifles and shot-guns in the legislation before us. As I said on the introduction of the Bill, I firmly believe that all persons who want to own a firearm should be required to obtain a licence and should be required to undertake a course on the operation and maintenance of each rifle they own, with particular emphasis on safety procedures.

I notice that the legislation contains a provision that a person who applies for a concealable firearm must undertake a test. I agree that, if people want to own a firearm, they should at least know the

basic fundamentals of safety. Fortunately, I had the opportunity of doing my National Service in 1956. One of the things the Army impresses upon its recruits—I am sure that all the services do—is safety. From the time one enters the service, one is not allowed to fire a rifle—not one round—until after three or four weeks' training in handling, operation and safety procedures.

However, to refer once more to those reported cases, in this State apparently a person, even under 17, can walk into a supermarket and buy a high-powered, repeating rifle—some of them are very easily converted to automatic fire—and all the ammunition to boot, and walk out on the street or drive out into the country. We all know what happens on country roads. I think it was the member for Cunningham who said during the introductory debate that an area should be set aside for weekend shooters who want to blaze away. One only has to drive along the highways in this State to see the damage done to roadside signs. Some of them have been so badly blasted that they do not have any paint left on them. They are aimed at by people who are itching to fire the rifles they have so easily purchased in this State. Some are extremely high-powered and dangerous rifles.

I return to the topic of safety procedures. The Bill contains provisions about people carrying rifles. Without looking at the Bill, I believe it provides that if a rifle is to be carried in a public place, the person must remove the bolt and carry out certain other procedures. I venture to say that some of these people would not know how to get the bolt out of the rifle. How the dickens are they going to be able to comply with the legislation we have before us if there is not some sort of training and some sort of test with the rifle or shot-gun they wish to own?

Another provision allows people between 14 and 17 years of age to have possession of a rifle under particular circumstances. Surely there must be some need to incorporate in that provision a form of training or test. If we are to have a provision whereby people wanting to secure a concealable firearm have to undertake a test, surely there must be some justification for requiring persons, particularly between 14 and 17 years of age, to undergo training and be subjected to a test. I believe that any person who wants to own a rifle or shot-gun should, in his own interests and in the interests of those who will go out shooting with him, undertake a course in the use of the gun and safety precautions.

I believe also that the number of rifles and/or shot-guns that a person should be permitted to have in his possession should be limited to three or, at the most, possibly four. I know of many people—and I suggest that other honourable members do, too—who own five, six, seven, eight

or more rifles and shot-guns. I am not speaking of people who are bona fide collectors. A person living quite near my home owns about ten .303s and a couple of .22s. There is no need for that. In my opinion, there should be a special licence for bona fide collectors. It should state that they are entitled to own a certain number of rifles or guns, and each of those should be listed on the licence and a record kept of them.

I have referred already to the concern that I and other honourable members on this side of the House have about the ease with which people can obtain rifles, and I have dealt briefly with the overall provisions of the Bill. I understand that the clauses will not be dealt with tonight, and I shall reserve detailed comment till the Committee stage.

However, I wish to refer to the provision relating to replicas. On reading the Bill, I would assume that anybody who owns or has in his possession a replica that may be considered to be a reasonable facsimile of a concealable firearm is in breach of the Act. I point out to honourable members that at the Brisbane Exhibition one could buy a very realistic .38 snub-nosed revolver. It fired not the old paper caps but caps that one bought on a card. One broke the caps off and fitted six of them into the revolving chamber. When the gun was fired, it sounded like a real firearm. I venture to say that even a toy such as that, which could be purchased at the Brisbane Exhibition, would come within the provisions of the Bill.

Recently I saw on a card in a shop in Mackay an almost exact replica of a .38 hand-gun, and I should say that the provisions of the Bill would also outlaw that. It is amazing that the Government will go to the extent of outlawing replicas that can be purchased, say, at the Brisbane Exhibition or from a mail-order shop at Burleigh and not deem it necessary to license the owners of rifles and shot-guns.

In conclusion, I say that the Opposition is concerned about the extent to which the Government has gone to increase some powers of the police. Although we believe that there may be justification for increasing police powers in certain instances, having regard to the extent to which some of the powers are abused by certain sections of the Police Force—certainly not by the majority, but by certain sections—I believe that further consideration should be given to the extent to which police powers have been increased. I reiterate that I will reserve further comment till the Committee stage.

Mr. INNES (Sherwood) (10.53 p.m.): The intent of the legislation is, of course, commendable. I do not think that any honourable member on either side of the House would deny that firearms legislation is needed

and that, of necessity, it will need teeth. It must be practical and practicable; it should be policed and enforced. Naturally, there will always be argument about the precise method by which the intent of the legislation will be achieved.

Many provisions of the proposed legislation are re-enactments of previous legislation and are commendable and will receive the support of all honourable members. However, I think it is true to say that in this instance there is more than one way to skin a cat, and I have found myself not persuaded away from my original view that the intent of the legislation could best have been achieved by applying a licensing system of some type to all firearms. But I am a private member of this Parliament and I have not been able to persuade the Government to my way of thinking.

I take this opportunity—I do not relish it—to bring to the attention of the House and the Minister an event that has happened since the introductory stage. I seek your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, to allow me to refer to some words that I used at that stage.

On that occasion I referred to certain statistics. For example, I mentioned that 70 per cent of the crimes dealt with by the Police Department last year involved .22 calibre weapons. I also referred to the fact that 80 per cent of those weapons were of one brand, namely, the Stirling brand. I then said it was available only in supermarkets, either as an automatic, a single-shot or an auto-loader, at a cost of \$40. I now know that that was inaccurate to the extent that some gun dealers do in fact stock the Stirling brand of rifles and do so to compete with the supermarkets.

The House will recall, as the honourable members for Nudgee and Townsville mentioned in their call for training, that the statistics show that the majority of people in accidental cases, both the shooters and the shot, are under the age of 20 years. I pose the questions: Why was it that when someone went into the Army he was not allowed to get near live rounds until he had been drilled and taught the safety procedures to be followed in handling weapons? When dealing with people of lower age, wouldn't it be more important to attempt to ensure some type of responsibility in the handling of weapons?

It gives me no particular pleasure to refer to the headlines in today's "Telegraph". I am not infringing against any sub judice rule in so doing. The headlines relate to a tragic incident on the Gold Coast. It has two consequences: a boy aged 16 years is dead, and another boy, aged 15 years, has been charged with manslaughter. This tragedy involves two lives.

Looking at the tragedy in relation to the 16-year-old boy, whose birthday it would have been today—according to his relatives, he

purchased the rifle secretly, which no doubt is always a danger, on lay-by from the local supermarket. It is clear from the picture in the newspaper that the rifle is the ubiquitous and notorious Stirling .22 calibre. I understand that is the case. In this instance, it is a Stirling magnum. That is precisely the weapon and that is precisely the source of purchase that I mentioned at the introductory stage.

I suppose that whether the rifle was bought for \$70 from a supermarket or \$85 from a gunsmith, the boy would have been able to find the money to purchase the weapon. Does the source of purchase have any consequence? I suggest that it does. If the boy had gone to a gunsmith, at least he would have been likely to examine the weapon out of its case or box. It is likely that he would have been shown by a responsible and experienced person how to operate the weapon. At least he might have had a chance to learn something about its operation. It is a feature of that weapon, as, indeed, it is of certain other brands of .22 rifles that, assuming the magazine is loaded, the sliding action forward moves a bullet into the breech, and the mere depression of the bolt—merely moving it from the horizontal, shall I say, to its down position into the butt of the rifle—arms the rifle. A minute safety catch is fitted, with an almost imperceptible red dot to indicate the safety catch position. There is no cocking action like that on a .303. There is nothing at the end of the bolt to indicate that the firing pin is armed. A person with an untrained eye or one who uses a .303, would not realise from looking casually at the weapon that it was indeed armed.

As I said, I will not embark on the merits of the case, but the dangers of handling such weapons are manifest. Perhaps if the lad had bought it from a gunsmith he would have been given a document that is available from gunsmiths—and it is provided by some of the sporting-goods shops—entitled, "Ten Rules for Safe Shooting". Perhaps some elementary attention to the basic principles of handling weapons would have come to his attention. If he had been told that a weapon, armed or unarmed, should not be pointed at anybody, if he had been told that he should always check a weapon physically before handing it to someone else to see if a round was in the breech, if he had been told that he should never put a loaded magazine on a weapon when handing it to someone else—if he had been given any of those elementary precautions which our generation and earlier generations learnt as a matter of course from service in the forces—the outcome could have been different.

It is a matter of course that the majority of firearm users are males. Until now we have been able to rely on the generations brought up during World War I and World War II or, more recently, the generations that did National Service training where they were taught safety procedures. Before being

allowed near a live round instructors tried to make those procedures automatic before the real stuff was handled. But now we are entering an era when there will be nobody to show youngsters how to use firearms properly, and when firearms are more accessible than they ever were. Only five years ago firearms could not be bought from a supermarket. The kids would not have had the purchasing power to buy them then, nor would they have had access to motor vehicles to take them away from the guiding eye of a parent or other adult.

I still do not find it totally persuasive to be told that the answer to the argument can be found in the Switzerland situation of compulsory military service, and that therefore it is a Commonwealth responsibility to ensure some familiarity with weapons through military service. I believe that it is possible to do what has been done in other States. Subsequent to the last debate on this legislation, I have found that the view I expressed then still holds, namely, that either we should look at the licensing of users themselves, which I tend to prefer, or we should limit the sources from which they can obtain weapons. To verify a newspaper report I checked with the secretary of the United Graziers' Association to establish whether it was the policy of that association to licence the users of weapons because of the problems in rural areas created by the undisciplined use of firearms. I am in total agreement with that policy. I was assured that that was the policy on the last occasion the matter was considered by that organisation.

It is clear that the problem will get worse. The number of people who know how to use weapons properly is diminishing, and it is the nature of our times that young people are less in the company of responsible persons than they were previously. What can we do about it? I suggest that, first of all, we turn off the tap. It is certainly true that we are probably not going to stop the trade between one person and another of a second-hand firearm. That is probably an impractical intrusion into the freedom of action of the individual. If one finds water running through one's house and causing damage, the turning off of the tap at least minimises the source of the trouble. One might have to mop up, one might have to deal with water that has escaped, but at least one can cut off the source of further mischief.

Mr. McKechnie: What about interstate mail orders?

Mr. INNES: The honourable member for Carnarvon suggests that people can still obtain these weapons by mail order. That is indeed true, and because of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, we will not stop that practice. But that is another hurdle in the way of a person who wants a firearm. He cannot just sneak down the road to the supermarket; it has to come through the

post. In that way the purchase is more difficult for a young person to hide from his parents or other responsible person. At the moment there is almost unbridled access to new firearms. Some of the weapons available are of a calibre that has not previously been seen outside the armed services.

What I am suggesting—if there is not time on this occasion to reflect upon it, there might be in the future—is not revolutionary. If we did limit the outlets, at least those buying firearms would be going to people skilled and trained in their use, and they could demonstrate on at least one occasion the way that a particular weapon operated. That would be a start. Apparently in the case of the boy on the Coast he picked up a weapon unknown to him and with a type of action unknown to him. Indeed, he might well not have known how to take the bolt out of the weapon. Apparently he could take the weapon past a 15-year-old girl at the check-out. He was under age at the time he purchased the weapon. He played around with a rifle that cost \$70, and it could have been \$40 for the non-magnum type, plus a couple of dollars for shells. Anything that can limit that sort of situation must be beneficial.

Perhaps we can limit the sources of purchase and licence the users. Even if only once in their lifetime the users had to go down to the police station—I am not suggesting annual reviews—and answer at the most a few simple questions from the local policeman at least we would be at first base. A person could be asked, "What are the rules of the road with regard to firearms?" The answer should be, "I should never point a firearm at anybody. I should always carry a firearm unloaded. If I am about to pick up a firearm I should check or have somebody else check that there is not a round in the breech. I should not have a loaded magazine on a weapon." These are the most elementary rules, but if only once in his life a person was asked that question by somebody in authority, we would at least be at first base. That recollection might stay with him and prevent these tragic accidents.

However, it appears that that is not to be so with this legislation. Arguments have been raised on the other side, and I have merely attempted to rebut them. There are new provisions with which I totally concur. There are provisions that deal with dangerous situations. Indeed, the police should have powers to act where they can reasonably apprehend a danger to life, so that they act before rather than after tragedy occurs. I find such provisions beneficial.

I understand that the Minister will accept an amendment relating to a reduction of the age at which a person can handle a firearm, and I totally applaud that amendment and the Minister's concern in this regard. I understand that he will entertain an amendment that will allow a person under the age

of 17 years, and even the age of 14 years, under supervision and in the presence of an adult, to handle a weapon.

I do not mind saying in this House that my 8-year-old and 7-year-old sons have indeed fired weapons on a number of occasions. I will not say in which State they did it because it might incriminate them. But I deliberately introduced them to the use of firearms at an early age in an attempt to instil in them some of those instinctive things about the use of firearms that were instilled in me. I think that is a totally proper thing to do. The younger one does this, the more likely one is to achieve the end result, because by the age of 14 or 15 years the little so-and-so's nowadays want to go and do their own thing away from their parents and away from ready response to guidance and tuition.

Indeed, only four weeks ago a friend of mine came upon three youths with two .22s and a .303 at Chapel Hill, at the foot of Mt. Coot-tha, in an area totally surrounded by houses but in a gully. The discharge of any one of those weapons in that area would have put somebody within the range of the calibre of the rifles they were using—even the .22s. A .22 can quite readily inflict injury up to half a mile away. This happened in a gully, but in a closely settled residential area. Again, these youths were hiding from their parents the fact that they were using rifles, and I suppose we will never completely stop that. We will never stop the fascination of weapons to young people. But at least knowing that these are inevitables, that young people will try to get weapons, that weapons will have a fascination for them, we can surely do something about introducing some responsibility into their handling of those dangerous objects.

To conclude, I support firearms legislation. It must have teeth. This legislation has some beneficial new teeth that will be available to be responsibly handled by the enforcing authorities, the police. I express some criticism of some provisions, but I suppose that is the case with any Bill. I would, however, take this opportunity yet again, in the light of the tragic incident which, in many ways, completely fulfilled the warnings that I gave on the last occasion, to say, "If not now, then certainly soon, let us have another total look at the situation".

The situation will get worse. We will certainly have fewer people who know about firearms to teach the youth of tomorrow the responsibility that goes with a greater access to firearms. They are not taught about this in the schools. They are not joining rifle clubs. Their parents have been joining rifle clubs in diminishing numbers. So we cannot expect the youth of today or tomorrow to join rifle clubs to any greater extent.

I urge honourable members to reflect upon these incidents. I hope that future deliberations can make the firearms legislation even stronger and even more beneficial to the public of Queensland.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (11.15 p.m.): I support the legislation as far as it goes. As other speakers have said, I also am disappointed with the legislation. It will do nothing to control suicides and accidental deaths caused by the misuse of guns. Also, it will do little to curb the increasing incidence of armed hold-ups with the use of long arms—rifles or shot-guns.

In my speech at the introductory stage I pointed out much the same sorts of things as the members for Nudgee and Sherwood. The member for Nudgee pointed out the problem of easy availability of rifles. The tragedies which I seek to limit do not involve the use of concealable firearms. Many of those tragedies are truly preventable by the simple procedure of implementing a law much the same as was discussed when the Honourable T. G. Newbery was Minister for Police. However, I would not go quite as far as was discussed in those days. What is needed is a clause such as the following—

"Subject to this Act, a person shall not have in his possession or otherwise acquire a rifle or shot-gun unless he holds a licence in respect of that firearm."

The clause could be as simple as that although some other clauses might have to be renumbered. If such a clause were in the legislation, I would not propose that licences be applied for and paid for either every year or two years.

I would not go as far as the suggestion of the member for Nudgee to restrict the number of firearms to two or three. Certainly there would be no need for persons holding such a licence to collect what amounts to an arsenal. I do not propose that the bearer of a licence be required to show his rifles or shot-guns each year, because the owners quite often sell or exchange them. My reason for their having such a licence is purely to ensure that every purchaser of a shot-gun is a person of good fame and character, without a criminal record, and who can demonstrate that at some time he had been trained in the use of that firearm and had a reasonable understanding of firearms safety.

That would include safety to himself in that he should know what constitutes a safe firearm so that it would not blow up in his face and blow his hands off. He would have to understand safety in loading and unloading. He would have to understand safety in the use of the trigger mechanism. He would have to understand the workings of the safety catch. He would have to understand the lack of safety when the firing pin is protruding and resting on a live round, as a bump to the rifle would set it off. He would have to understand the lack of safety in easing a bolt forward while the trigger is depressed. A great many people do exactly that today, and that is how firearms accidentally discharge. It is the way .303s and a great many .22s can be discharged. He would have to understand

the range of the projectile. A .303 projectile has a very long range, in the order of 7 miles. Even the humble .22 has a range of over a mile. The very high velocity small-bore rounds do not have a long range but have a tremendous amount of energy at short range.

Mr. Davis: I do not think this Bill deals with that sort of thing.

Dr. LOCKWOOD: The honourable member may not be concerned about these things, but it is in this way that people are accidentally shot.

Although there may be some amendments to the Bill before us, the provisions contained in clauses 10 to 24 must be applied to long arms—the rifles and shot-guns. I say that because under an Army provision a person who has demonstrated his unsuitability to bear arms does not bear arms; they are taken away from him. In civilian life, a great many people who are unsuitable to bear arms can still procure them.

In my introductory speech, I mentioned a man in Toowoomba who, despite having had one mental certificate hung on him, was still able to purchase firearms. The police thought that they had done a great job by taking one lot off him. However, there is no way that dealers in gun shops, sporting shops, chain stores, second-hand stores or even people selling firearms through the newspaper could know by meeting that person that he was a prohibited person. Prohibition does not work in reverse. Once a person is prohibited and takes a firearm again, he has committed a breach. But there is nothing to stop him from purchasing another firearm in another town from another dealer who has not been warned of the prohibition order.

The people who were most at risk in the incident I mentioned at the introductory stage were the neighbours, because that man firmly believed, and would not be dissuaded from that belief, that a 12-gauge star-crimped shell was a blank. He could not understand it. He would not believe it. He was psychotic and mentally ill but still had the right to buy a firearm. When that rifle was taken off him, there was no notice that he had to show that he could not purchase a firearm. I repeat that the failure to display a prohibition order does not prevent the purchase of firearms. The system will not work in reverse gear. It will only work in forward gear—when a person has to display a licence to procure a firearm.

The person at risk next after the neighbours was the young policeman. It is always a young policeman who goes to handle these matters. It is not a senior sergeant, inspector or other high-ranking officer. It is a constable—a one-striper or a two-striper. The risk he ran if this man had persisted was

to be blown off the front steps down to the front gate with a great gaping hole where his gut used to be.

The police are concerned about firearms. Police officers get it right in the gut or the chest. There is only one way to remedy it. Unless steps are taken to have the documentary evidence of the right of possession taken from people who have committed crimes of violence, or are alcoholics or of unstable mental condition, we will lose more police.

Those people do not deal in concealables. They go to the stores and, without licences, they buy rifles. As fast as the police take them off them, they go to another store or another town where they are not known. The Minister can conjure up in his own mind how many gun shops a person drives past in an hour's drive out of Brisbane—hundreds and hundreds of them. The police cannot notify them all. I venture to suggest that the Minister might be in trouble if he circulated a photograph of various people to all stores and said, "Do not serve this person." I believe that a clause such as I outlined is required. I think the Hon. T. G. Newbery was right when he tried to have it implemented back in 1975.

I believe that emphasis should also be placed on the possession of silencers—and particularly a silencer and a concealable firearm. We should be considering a penalty of something in the order of 10 to 15 years' gaol. I do not say that lightly. I have already referred to the article in "The Bulletin" of 22 May 1979. It is an article about .22-calibre killers, and mentions a .22 pistol fitted with a silencer shooting a very tiny bullet—the .22 short—going "pop", and somebody is dead. The article refers to a police surveillance team of two who heard two very faint pops. They suspected nothing. The person they were guarding in America was very dead, with two bullets in his head. Anyone who has a concealable firearm and a silencer has it for only one reason: to commit a crime. A silencer indicates major crime. I for one would support very real penalties of 10 to 15 years.

If a criminal has a concealable firearm and a silencer that does not fit and his mate has a concealable firearm and a silencer that does not fit and the two marry up, I think they should both be given 15 years. Not only are they dabbling and dealing in concealable firearms; they are also acting in collusion. As I said, it is for crime, and for major crime in particular. The crime for which the weapons are carried is not hold-up; it is murder.

In my opinion, serious consideration should be given to the use of long arms in major crime, particularly hold-ups. In Great Britain, where licences are required for long arms, there is only one-fifth the number of armed hold-ups of banks that occur in Australia. In this country, there are 7.5 armed hold-ups of banks per 1,000,000 population; in Great Britain there are 1.5. No-one

would be so naive as to suspect, or to believe for one minute, that if the licensing of long firearms were introduced now the figure here would immediately revert to 1.5. However, the statistics in the report that I read indicated that the rate in Australia is increasing. Unless a start is made somewhere—and this State would be a good place in which to start—and all States eventually follow, the trend will become worse. In five or six years, it might be 15, 20 or 30 per 1,000,000 population. Unless we make a start on licensing of long arms, including rifles and shot-guns, the figure will certainly increase.

Certainly, anyone can now buy a shot-gun, and there would still be a big reserve of shot-guns in the community. However, the loose firearms, the forgotten firearms, would gradually be taken up, and the figure would be contained at its present level. It might flatten out at a slightly higher level after a year or two, and then, with the passage of time, as firearms became ancient, rusted, neglected, worn out, and so on, there would gradually be a downturn in the figure. Unless action is taken along the lines I have suggested, the number of crimes involving the use of long arms will continue to rise.

From my own experience as a Government medical officer, I should say that people who are mentally ill have too ready an access to firearms, and they will commit suicide on the spur of the moment. Unfortunately, the honourable member for Nudgee was not quite correct in what he said. It is not the staff of the hospitals on whom they use the weapons; most commonly they use them on the ones they love most, their very close relatives and friends. Without naming the persons involved, I refer the honourable member to a suicide in Toowoomba who first murdered a family of six, and to another person who read of it, kept the clipping from the newspaper, and then killed a family of three and herself.

One of the factors that we have not yet learnt to cope with is copy-cat crime, and it is especially prevalent in crimes of violence. Suicide is no exception; neither is murder. A .22 calibre weapon is more than adequate for suicide, and its use is extremely common. In the case of persons who have a serious mental illness, I should like to see a notification go to the police giving details of the illness. They could then check, and if that person did have a licence for any long arms or had any long arms in his possession, they could be removed. Although most mental illness is now curable, the person suffering from it may not believe that at the time.

I have seen accidental deaths caused by .22 calibre rifles, and it should be clearly understood that the common little .22 pea-shooter will put a bullet clean through a Holden car and then through a man. A great many accidental deaths result from people having taken alcohol, having untrained

dogs or a number of other factors that are completely foreseeable. Many people have not had the training in firearms that would genuinely enable them to obtain a licence.

The danger is always present. People who are trained can see it; people who are sober can see it; but other people cannot see it. I know of people who were shot with guns that "were not loaded". Until people who have the right to have firearms respect that right, and always ensure that their firearms are unloaded and properly cleaned before they are put away, we will continue to have trouble.

It cannot be said that all murders and other crimes of violence are committed with guns. Certainly some murders are committed with knives. There is a limit on how far we can go, so we should not try to licence knives. Nevertheless, a knife in the hands of someone who is used to handling knives can be an extremely dangerous weapon.

It needs to be told again and again that the simple .22 calibre rifle has a tremendous force. The .22 shorts, such as the American pistols, are extremely lethal. They have tremendous energy and the bullets can do a great deal of damage inside a person. The simple B.B. caps and C.B. caps can kill, as can .22 ratshot. They are extremely lethal. A person who wants to become licensed to have a weapon must understand the extent of its fire power.

A survey that was conducted showed that approximately 90.9 per cent of all shooting accidents were due to the fact that the person handling the firearm had absolutely no skill at all in handling it or was inadequately trained. That can be remedied only by insisting that a person must have the basic training in the required skills before he is given a licence. That applies to motor cars, which are more powerful lethal weapons than firearms, and it should apply to firearms.

The licence to possess a firearm is not an unqualified licence to wield a lethal weapon; it is a qualified licence. It is not a right; it is a privilege. As the Minister and his predecessors have always said, a driver's licence is not a right but a privilege. So it is with a licence to have a firearm.

No-one would suggest that a person without skill in the control of a motor car should be allowed drive a motor car. Likewise, no-one should suggest that a person unskilled in the handling of a rifle should be allowed to own one. A motor car and a rifle must be looked at in the same light. A licence to own a firearm is a privilege, and until we regard it as a privilege and not a right, we will continue to have deaths. We will have deaths by way of suicide, by way of accidental killing and as the result of sheer neglect.

Again I ask the House to look at the need to include in the Bill a clause that will enable the Minister to insist that there be a licence

for all firearms. That is absolutely essential. Many honourable members will speak about the same need. Such a clause should not be a tax-gathering measure. Such licenses should be conferred for a lengthy period until the holder shows that he is no longer a suitable person to have the privilege of a firearms licence.

Mr. SCOTT (Cook) (11.34 p.m.): Some very strong messages are coming through this Chamber this evening. No doubt the honourable member for Toowoomba North firmly believes in everything he has just said. He made every one of his points twice, if not three times.

Tonight some very interesting politics are being played. Once again we are debating important legislation late in the evening. On this occasion, we are not too certain whether the Bill will go through the Committee stage or whether the House will adjourn. We do not know what will happen. I suggest that gun politics are being played in this Parliament as well as outside it. It will be interesting to see who gets the most shots into the bull? Will it be the National Party Minister who has brought this legislation forward? Will the Liberal Party rump, as one would term it, be hit with a scatter gun in the rear end? It is gun politics, and the Labor Party will be right on target. Our shadow spokesman acquitted himself very well in putting forward our key points in this debate.

We listened to a very erudite delivery by the honourable member for Sherwood. Probably he was more intent on waffling than on getting the message through. It seems that he has forgotten he is not being paid by the word, as he was when he was a barrister.

The point is that the person who fronts up to a gunsmith and buys a firearm is not the only one to handle it. When a firearm is in a house, any person who comes into the house can handle it. Those are the people who, under the honourable member's scheme, would not receive proper training in handling firearms. He made quite a good point but he did not cover it adequately.

I make the point that this legislation is good as far as it goes. To use a corny expression, it is band-aid legislation brought in to cover what could be shot-gun wounds. It does not go far enough, and honourable members on this side of the House will certainly be moving amendments to strengthen it. I emphasise that we believe the legislation is good but it does not go far enough.

I should be remiss if I did not comment on the problems caused by firearms in the bush. I am very proud to represent a bush type of electorate. Guns and rifles cause a great deal of concern to the people living in my area. During the introductory debate, and this evening, much has been made of the point that anyone can buy quite easily the highest-powered weapon available in Queensland without any control being exercised over the purchase. People can buy

these firearms and use them wherever and however they see fit. That is what causes me and the people living in the bush a great deal of concern.

I know that people who live in the bush tend to hold dual views about firearms because most of them own firearms. They do not want undue restrictions imposed on their purchase or availability. They believe that restrictions should be imposed on those who think that they need a firearm, and want to be able to purchase one. People in the bush are concerned about irresponsible people bringing powerful guns and rifles into the country and using them indiscriminately, but they want freedom for themselves and their families to buy such weapons.

I find that I tend to have two views on the matter myself. However, I can resolve my views. If the legislation contained a licensing provision, we could overcome the problem. Those in the country who constitute the gun lobby—if there is a gun lobby in the country—have brought pressure to bear on the Minister and the National Party to eviscerate this legislation. They have brought pressure to bear on the Minister and the party to ensure that there is no licensing of the long weapons referred to in the House this evening. I am aware of an equally strong lobby elsewhere. It will be very interesting to see who wins. I know where I would put my money, and I know what I want to see happen.

If this legislation is deferred for six months, as was suggested in the Chamber this evening, I wonder if it will ever come back to the House. I wonder if the Minister will get cold feet in the intervening period. This is important legislation, if not the most important legislation, ever to be introduced here, yet we are debating it late at night.

As I said, people in the bush are concerned about irresponsible people bringing weapons into the bush. One's mind goes back to the various incidents that have occurred involving campers and travellers—ordinary people going about their legitimate business of travelling on country roads. Such people are at risk not only from those who are merely irresponsible but from criminals. Anyone who has spent an evening camped out in the bush beside a country road in an area with which they are not totally familiar is frightened the whole time. As soon as they light the campfire or get the gas cooker going and are silhouetted against the light they are at risk, because there are people driving around with these dangerous weapons just waiting to use them.

This irresponsible element also travels out along the rivers shooting in sanctuaries and other places where they should not be, and farmers and graziers are very concerned about them. The farmers and graziers are at risk in that situation. It is they and the travellers I am speaking for now, because licensing will not inhibit the people who

have the need or the right to own a powerful weapon. But it will tend to protect those people in the categories I have mentioned who are at risk.

Mr. Underwood: They license speedboats.

Mr. SCOTT: It has been said that licences are issued for all sorts of dangerous conveyances such as motor cars, fast motor boats and so on.

I do not think there is anything in the Bill about the condition of a weapon. We all know that the old family .22, .303 and shot-gun gradually deteriorate with use and mishandling until they become extremely dangerous weapons. I believe that through licensing some form of control would be exercised over the condition of weapons. The honourable member for Toowoomba North mentioned that, and I believe it is a good point.

I do not think there would be any infringement of personal liberty if people were required to have a permit before they could purchase a weapon. It is the only real control we will get, and it is certainly one proposition that has been repeatedly put forward. The example of America is used to bolster the case of those who do not want to see any sort of licensing provision imposed. It is commonly said that in America one can obtain any sort of weapon quite easily. That is the case in Queensland at the present time, but I do not think America stands up very well by comparison. Earlier speakers quoted statistics to show just how many guns are used in criminal situations in America.

I would like to put forward a strong case for rifle clubs. My father was the president of the Mulgrave Rifle Club for many years. He gave me my first basic training in the care and use of weapons, and he did the job very thoroughly. Rifle clubs will provide part of the answer to the problem if there is to be sanity brought into the use of weapons. The same could be said of gun clubs and pistol clubs. I disagree with the member who said here this evening that young people were not inclined to join rifle clubs. I believe that if there was sufficient advertising a large number of young people would join them. Rifle-shooting is a very sensible sport. It is a trial of skill. It teaches one a lot about life, how to compete, how to win and lose, as well as a lot about shooting. All these things can be taught in a rifle club.

Because of the increasing urban expansion in the Cairns area, it has been necessary to relocate the Cairns Rifle Club. It has been moved from down on the mud flats, where it was situated for so many years, to Tin Creek on the road to Mossman. I believe there will be a combination of rifle clubs there. There are some very good rifle clubs in North Queensland. Rifle-shooting has been a great sport in the area,

and I believe the people who started those clubs have done their share to make sure that proper gun training is carried out in the community.

There was recently an unfortunate shooting in my electorate, and this brought home to me the great seriousness of the situation. I had a very minor connection with this incident, but I feel very strongly for those who were more intimately involved. I realise that while it will never be possible to avert these tragedies completely, there could be some degree of amelioration by having proper and full legislation. Let us hope that common sense prevails in this Chamber this evening and that the hard-line National Party people who want to see the free and unfettered use of guns and rifles within the community are not given a free rein.

Mrs. KYBURZ (Salisbury) (11.45 p.m.): In addressing myself to the second reading of the Firearms and Offensive Weapons Bill, I may say that I have been interested to hear what previous speakers have had to say. The member for Cook said he hoped that commonsense will prevail. I am sure that it will not, simply because the Bill will not be changed. While one cannot say that this legislation is white-elephant legislation, because it will be invoked occasionally, one can say that it is powder-puff legislation. My criticism is not of what the legislation does do but of what it does not do. Indeed, it is soft-touch legislation. We are seeing government by rubber gloves. The Government has been promising for four years that I know of to legislate on this important issue that concerns everybody. We have seen so offensively the philosophical differentiation between country people and city people in this legislation when, indeed, we should be considering it from the point of view of the whole community. Such philosophical considerations should not come into the matter at all.

Many members have said, "Well, you can't legislate for guns because people will always have them. They will kill each other with anything. They will use anything at all—knives, sticks, and what-have-you." I believe that this is simply drawing a red herring across the trail. I also believe that the criticism that has come from some of the National Party back-room boys has been unwarranted and not welcome. If they are going to come out tomorrow and criticise any member who dares to speak against this Bill or, indeed, who dares to criticise what the Bill does not do, I will once again say that those people are butting their noses into the wrong places. It is as simple as that.

I shall go quickly back through relevant Press articles. One Press article of 30 May 1976 is headed, "Row expected on new gun laws". How right that was! Little did the writer of that article know that it would go on for years. It was mentioned that gun

owners and not guns would be licensed in Queensland under the proposed legislation. Of course, we are not even going to see that.

Another Press article of 13 November 1977 headed "Plan for firearms licences, curbs on sales outlets", reads—

"Queensland's firearm's laws—regarded as the weakest in Australia—almost certainly will be tightened next year."

What a joke that proved to be! The article continues—

"There is likely to be a severe restriction on the number of shops selling firearms."

No attempt is made under this legislation to restrict the sale of firearms from outlets such as A Mart stores. The article continues—

"Proposed changes were circulated to police and other groups for comment about 18 months ago."

That means that other groups, such as bank employees, have had this legislation, or some proposed legislation, for the last five years. I wonder what have been the comments from those people who have an interest in preserving their life under threat from firearms. The article continues—

"Some senior police support this view, but others say firearms are too easy to obtain in Queensland and restrictions would reduce the number of offences involving guns."

Indeed, I must commend the members of the Police Force, because throughout these Press articles they have been pushing the Government into the position of licensing the owners of firearms. Obviously, because of the number of policemen who are killed, it is in their interests to see that licences are introduced in this State.

Another Press article on 22 January 1978 has the heading "Pollies in fight over gun laws". This is a continuing saga; it is like "Blue Hills". The article reads—

"A major political storm is brewing within the Queensland coalition government over firearm control.

...
 "But there is a strong anti-control lobby, made up mostly of National Party members in country electorates.

"Why should we have to pay for something that's always been our right? The city-dwelling Liberals would not know one end of a rifle or shot gun from the other."

Indeed, that may be the case, but we know extremely well that people are being killed and threatened with weapons simply because there are so many mentally sick people in society who have access to firearms. I will detail a case involving that situation later.

The next Press cutting I have is dated 18 November 1978. It mentions that the gun-control law will be delayed until March and says that Mr. Camm has explained that he has been working with the Police

Department and there is no chance that the legislation would be introduced in that year. Further down it states—

"Existing State Government legislation controls the possession of concealable firearms, both hand guns and sawn-off shot guns.

"The latter are totally prohibited, but a licence is necessary for hand guns."

This is the Firearms and Offensive Weapons Bill. If the existing legislation already controls the possession of concealable firearms, I wonder what the provisions of this Bill are aimed at.

The next Press cutting I have is dated 2 February 1978—

"Gun fight at the George St. Corral. Queensland's powerful gun lobby could water down efforts to tighten up the State's firearms' laws—regarded as the weakest in Australia."

It seems that the powerful gun lobby has won. The laws have been diluted with so much water that they hardly exist. Further down in the article it reads—

"Police, who drew up the new laws, believe existing laws are far too lax."

As I said previously, I am quite sure that the police would like to see far tighter controls. The article continues—

"Queensland Police Union secretary (Mr. M. Callaghan) said yesterday the Firearms Act was inadequate. 'You can walk in and buy firearms anywhere . . . it's a bit frightening,' he said."

Indeed, Mr. Callaghan has constantly shown his concern over the fact that firearms are so easily and readily available. Indeed, the secretary of the Police Union said further—

"We say every firearm in the State should be licensed and registered so that police at all times know their location and ownership. 'A policeman's life is on the limb at all times,' Mr. Callaghan said."

Further down in the article the following appears—

"United Graziers' Association president (Mr. John Heussler) said yesterday registration of the person rather than the firearm was preferable."

If the president of the United Graziers' Association agrees to the registration of the owner, I do not see where the major opposition to that comes from, except perhaps from the National Firearms Council.

The president of that association wrote a letter to the editor of "The Courier-Mail" on 17 August 1979. Of course, that letter brings forward all the furphies which are perpetuated by the anti-gun-law lobby. I want to know what the National Firearms Council is. Is its president a paid lobbyist on behalf of the gun manufacturers and the gun outlets? If he is, he has done his job very well. I object to the way in which he telephoned members of Parliament and demanded to know our opinions. He did

not say what this National Firearms Council was or whether he was a paid lobbyist. He got quite stroppy when I asked him questions back. He did not want me to ask him anything. He wanted to know what my reaction was.

The anti-gun-law lobby perpetuates such furphies as "cars kill" and "bikes kill," etc. I point out that the drivers of those vehicles are licensed but, indeed, there is no control over their purchase. A furphy perpetuated by the League of Rights in this State is that if licences were instituted and guns were licensed, if the Communists got control of Queensland—of course, there is a Communist under every bed—they would immediately call in all weapons in this State. Of course, there would then be nobody left with a gun who had a right to have a gun. We hear that story dressed up in pink one day, blue the next and red the next. It does change slightly. I say to the League of Rights that it ought to consider the fact that, with its controls over civil liberties, it is just as frightening as the Communist Party would be with its controls over guns.

The last Press article to which I refer is dated 19 April 1979. It is headed "Gun sales by supermarkets worry dealers" and says that Brisbane firearm dealers have criticised supermarkets for selling guns. Indeed, as has been mentioned by other members, they are sold to people who are under age. The article says—

"Shotguns and rifles are sold in at least two retail chain stores in Brisbane but neither group had a spokesman who could comment yesterday."

Shame on them! It is time that we started detailing where they are available and to whom they are available. Profits being made on these long arms are going to stores such as A Mart. They have large spreads in "Sunday Sun". It makes my stomach churn with disgust. In so many instances these retail outlets are frequented by troubled youths.

I really would have thought that in this Year of the Child, which has been much mooted, much applauded and had so many bouquets thrust upon it, the Government would indicate its concern for future generations and for the present Police Force—indeed, for present bank employees—by making some real attempt to attack the problems at hand. This is not a real attempt. As I said before, it is powder-puff legislation. Obviously one cannot oppose it as such, but one would like to see it given a little strength.

Finally, I would like to express my concern for so many women in society nowadays who are under physical threat. I know that some might say, "This is just a case that does not often arise." The member for Toowoomba North mentioned an incident. I know that he is deeply concerned because of his medical involvement. A woman rang me on Sunday and mentioned that she had heard a radio report that this Bill was coming

before Parliament this week. She said that she was deeply concerned because her husband, who is estranged from her and receiving treatment for a mental condition, had gone out to the A Mart chain store, bought a rifle and was threatening on the telephone to come and shoot her and her children.

Dr. Lockwood: There is no law that will help her.

Mrs. KYBURZ: There is nothing she can do about it.

Dr. Lockwood: All she can do is have a loaded rifle herself and blow him apart. That is the best advice a practising policeman could give.

Mrs. KYBURZ: Not many women in our suburbs could do that. It is just not good enough.

Can we legislate for a crazy society or try to protect the well from the sick, which includes the mentally sick? The member for Cook raised the issue of killings on country roads. I certainly endorse his comments. I am a keen camper myself. Sometimes the chill goes through me that someone could be lurking out in the bushes. I would like to hear the Minister's explanation for the Government's recalcitrance in protecting women such as the one I have just mentioned, and indeed future generations, from those among them who are sick.

Mr. D'ARCY (Woodridge) (11.59 p.m.): It is not often that I agree with the member for Salisbury, but I think she has hit the nail on the head—as did our Opposition spokesman. This is weak legislation and it will do nothing to prevent the use of firearms in Queensland. I do not intend speaking for very long, as most of the points have been well covered by previous speakers. However, there are a couple of points I would like to make.

We have heard much from Country Party members attacking Opposition members for not knowing about rifles or guns. I am one who has used them all my life. Anyone who uses a firearm ought to have a healthy respect for it. Because of the ready availability of firearms, there are too many people in our community who do not have that respect. With this legislation the Government is making no real attempt to restrict the availability of firearms. It is a weak piece of legislation.

The Minister referred to the gun itself—to the firearm. Honourable members have spoken about cars, motor bikes and knives. All of them can kill; in fact, one can kill with almost anything. However, a point that has not yet been made is that guns, rifles and firearms of all types are made specifically to kill. That is their only purpose. A knife can be used for cutting meat or for a thousand other purposes; a gun is a weapon with which to kill. The Minister and other honourable members must realise that.

It is important to remember that firearms, because of their availability, are apt to injure

people accidentally. There has been a great deal of talk about the use of firearms as weapons in robberies, hold-ups and crimes of other types, and what has been said is true. Although a percentage of fatalities occur in those circumstances, by far the highest percentage occur completely accidentally.

The Minister said that the provisions of the Bill will prevent certain people from owning or using firearms or from having a registered firearm. I should like him to tell me how people who are mentally ill can legitimately be prevented from owning a firearm.

Mr. Mackenroth: You could ask a person whether he is a member of the National Party to find out whether he is mentally disturbed.

Mr. D'ARCY: Yes. In the last week—and this did not appear in the newspapers—a patient from the psychiatric unit at Cherm-side hospital walked down to the K mart, purchased a rifle, returned to the unit and discharged the rifle twice into the roof. That is the same hospital from which a patient walked out earlier this year, caught a bus to the Valley and jumped off the Story Bridge. It is the same hospital from which a woman was missing for three days and was then found dead in a ditch. It is the same hospital from which a 16-year-old girl from the psychiatric unit went to a dance and was raped in the grounds. How do the people of Cherm-side feel about the accidents that are continually occurring? Patients from the Cherm-side hospital can walk out, looking completely sane, go down to the K mart, buy a rifle, and be a menace to society.

I do not believe that the legislation is strong enough; I do not believe that it has the teeth that it ought to have. I have a healthy respect for firearms, and I again ask honourable members to remember that firearms are made to kill. They are made only for that purpose.

[Wednesday, 31 October 1979]

Mr. GYGAR (Stafford) (12.4 a.m.): I am not happy with the Bill because it is not the best firearms Bill that the State can achieve. I believe that over the last three years I have demonstrated my attitude to firearms legislation. I have made constant submissions to a succession of Ministers for Police calling for strict firearms legislation, and one of the two major reasons why I am not happy with the Bill is that it does not go far enough.

There is no restriction in the Bill on the sale of long-barrelled weapons. In his contribution to the debate, the honourable member for Sherwood drew attention to the K mart and A mart situations, where anybody can stroll in off the street, put \$26 down

and walk out with a licence to kill. Whether they are mentally incompetent or physically incompetent, or whether they know the front end of a gun from the back end, they can simply walk out with \$26 worth of rifle under their arm. That is just not good enough.

The Bill does not include any provision relating to licences for persons prior to their being able to shoot, own or possess long-barrelled weapons. That is a serious defect. There is a strong argument for the registration of all weapons. However, because I realise that that argument, for a variety of reasons, has no chance of support in the House at the moment, I will not pursue it. I do believe that in those two specific areas the Bill is defective. There is no restriction on the point of sale and there are no licences for persons to shoot. I will not canvass the arguments on those two points; that was done quite well by the honourable member for Sherwood, whose comments I endorse wholeheartedly.

I am unhappy about the Bill also because it is far too wide. There are in it provisions that do not belong in a Firearms and Offensive Weapons Bill. In their effort to bring everything related to firearms under one umbrella, the drafters of this Bill have thrown their net far too wide. The result is a Bill that is not a concealable firearms Bill, not a firearms Bill, not an offensive weapons Bill; it could only be described as some type of appurtenance to the Criminal Code. The Bill would be far more effective if it was restricted solely to firearms and covered them very, very thoroughly.

The major cause of my concern over the Bill is its provision of vast, unbridled and discretionary powers in the police and in the Minister, thereby placing certain actions entirely outside the ken of the court. I am totally opposed to this principle and will speak about it at some length at the Committee stage. Because of these reservations, I find that I am unable to support the Bill.

I should now like to deal with some specific matters, but before doing so I compliment the Minister and his officers on the attitude that they have displayed towards the concern expressed by Government members to them. It is no secret that the Minister, a number of his officers and a number of honourable members had a very long discussion this evening about areas of concern. I compliment the Minister on the open-minded attitude that he displayed and on his willingness to take on board the arguments that were put to him. I compliment him on his willingness to accept on behalf of the Government certain amendments if they came forward.

The philosophical difference that causes the problems in the Bill—the restrictions that are placed in it—arises mainly from a difference of approach. The drafters of

the Bill, probably quite rightly, sought to introduce legislation that would enable the full force of the law to be brought into play against miscreants. In so doing, they did not pay sufficient regard to the effect that the amendments sought to be introduced would have on ordinary law-abiding citizens or to the effect that the limitations or restrictions on the measures that seek, rightly, to prosecute criminals and bring them before the courts would have on the ordinary citizen.

To be more specific—the definitions clause leaves a tremendous amount to be desired. I again acknowledge the Minister's approach to this. He has indicated his willingness to introduce certain amendments to the definitions clause and also to consider other amendments. The difference of approach to which I referred earlier is apparent in this clause.

The definitions included in the Bill throw an enormously wide net. Some of the definitions bring into play elements that were never intended to be brought into the legislation. Many of the definitions could cause severe problems in the future to both the Government and the police. I will discuss specific matters at the Committee stage after I see amendments that the Minister has indicated he will either introduce or accept.

The second matter I wish to refer to concerns pistol clubs and the effect that this Bill would have on them. Firstly, I again acknowledge that the Minister proposes to introduce an amendment that will lift many of the restrictions in the Bill as printed, which I believe would have totally destroyed the sport of pistol-shooting in Queensland. Those changes will be effected. However, I believe that the remaining measures will cause many problems for practice by intending participants in major events.

Fears have been expressed in the community about restrictions on legitimate shooting ranges. I hope that the Minister, in his reply, will give assurances that lay those fears to rest. I must say that after discussing the matter with the Minister and his officers many of my fears have proven groundless. I hope the Minister will take advantage of the Committee stage to rise and discuss these matters and assure the public and members of this Chamber that feared restrictions on legitimate target practice will not be implemented under any circumstances.

Another matter I raised previously concerns minors having the right to use firearms under supervision. Again the Minister has indicated that he is prepared to re-examine this matter.

On certain matters the Minister and I cannot agree. In fact, I believe that many honourable members and I would not agree on them. I refer to the power to detain, wide powers of search and the clause in the Bill that totally excludes the courts from scrutinising administrative actions undertaken

in pursuit of the objects of the Bill. It is fundamental that Executive power should be supervised by the courts at the very least to the extent of ensuring that laws of natural justice apply in any consideration of any Executive power. There can be specific exemptions, and I believe that they are embodied in legislation such as the Mental Health Act. However, I must say that those matters have caused, and still do cause, me a great deal of concern about the Bill.

I should indicate to the House that some provisions relative to sweeping mandatory sentences were also included in the Bill. Again, I must acknowledge the Minister's reasonable attitude to them. I understand that amendments will be prepared to put to rest many of the matters of concern on this issue.

I remind the House that another startling power exists in the Bill. Frankly I have been astounded that people have not been jumping up and down about it. I refer to those who are usually more identified with certain attitudes to restrictions on gun control. I am surprised that no-one in this Parliament has drawn our attention to the power to be given to the Governor-in-Council—I must say it is not a new power; it is in the present Act—to disarm the entire population of the State by calling on them by the stroke of a pen to deliver up all firearms, ammunition and weapons.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. GYGAR: The honourable member is simply displaying his ignorance. If he had studied the Bill or done his homework he would have seen that clause.

In summary, this legislation is infinitely better than the Act but, regrettably, that is not saying much. It does not go far enough in three specific areas. Firstly, I refer to the restriction on the sale of long-barrelled firearms. Secondly, the legislation does not attempt to impose any scrutiny of the owners, holders or purchasers of long-barrelled firearms prior to their using the weapons. Thirdly, and most importantly, I find unacceptable the discretionary powers granted by the Bill which are untrammelled by the supervision of the courts.

On a final note I draw the attention of the House to the A.L.P.'s attitude to the Bill. The paucity of the A.L.P.'s contribution to the debate is indeed alarming. Opposition members have displayed absolutely no interest in individual liberty, the rights of persons to have recourse to the courts and similar matters. They have failed dismally in this debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Camm, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday).