

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 1980**

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

**AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

**DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER ACCOUNTS**

Mr SPEAKER announced the receipt from the Auditor-General of his report on departmental and other accounts for the year ended 30 June 1980.

Ordered to be printed.

# PAPERS

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

## Reports—

Public Service Board, for the year ended 30 June 1980.

Department of Sport, for the year ended 30 June 1980.

Griffith University, for the year ended 30 June 1980.

Brisbane Area Water Board, for 1979-1980.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the Electricity Act 1976-1980.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### CABINET SOLIDARITY

**Hon. C. R. PORTER** (Toowong—Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs) (11.3 a.m.): I want to say that no-one is authorised to make public statements on my behalf, and I deplore the pernicious practice of giving misleading stories to the media of what occurred at private meetings. In order to make the position clear, let me reinforce publicly today what I did say privately yesterday. As always in election campaigns, if asked I will speak for Liberalism; but this should not be taken to mean that, in doing so, I will speak against a Cabinet colleague.

## QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

### 1. ELECTRICITY CHARGES PAID BY ALUMINIUM PROCESSERS

Mr Casey asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to an article in the week-end media concerning the cost of power charged to Comalco and to his answer to my question in this House on 18 September, I ask—

(1) Was an agreement signed in 1973 between the Government or State Electricity Commission and Comalco and updated in 1979 and, if not, when did the Government sign a power agreement with that company?

(2) Was the agreed cost of power per unit to Comalco at that time between 0.4c and 0.5c per unit and did the agreement provide for an escalation clause?

(3) Does the original arrangement or a more recent arrangement result in Comalco having to pay 1.5c per unit for power as suggested by the Divisional General Manager of Comalco in a letter to the editor of "The Sunday Mail" of 21 September?

(4) Is he aware that despite his denial to me during the week ended 20 September, a spokesman for SEQEB, quoted 94325-27

in "The Sunday Mail" of 21 September, stated that the cost for domestic consumers in Queensland is on average 4.47c per unit of electricity?

(5) Will he now agree that even if the latest agreement provides for Comalco to pay 1.5c per unit as compared with 4.47c paid by domestic consumers, these consumers are definitely subsidising Comalco for its power charges in this State?

(6) How many other companies have similar agreements with the Queensland Government and who are they?

*Answer:—*

(1) An agreement between Comalco Limited, the State of Queensland and the State Electricity Commission of Queensland was signed in 1972 and amended in 1976.

(2) No. The rates are confidential but the agreement does provide for escalation.

(3) See (2).

(4) In the honourable member's question of 18 September 1980 he referred to domestic users in Brisbane and not Queensland.

(5) No.

(6) There are no other agreements identical to the one mentioned above.

### 2. BRISBANE-IPSWICH RAIL SERVICES

Mr Casey asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the official opening on the week-end of 20 and 21 September of the rail electrification extension to Ipswich—

(1) How many rail services from Brisbane to Ipswich operate each day (Monday to Friday) and of these how many are electrified?

(2) How many services operate each day (Monday to Friday) from Ipswich to Brisbane and how many are electrified?

(3) How many peak morning services before 9 a.m. and peak afternoon services after 4 p.m. operate Brisbane-Ipswich and Ipswich-Brisbane each day (Monday to Friday) and of these how many are electrified?

*Answer:—*

(1) Twenty-nine, of which 16 are electric.

(2) Same as (1).

(3) In morning peak—from Ipswich two electric and five diesel; to Ipswich two electric and three diesel. In afternoon peak—from Ipswich one electric and three diesel; to Ipswich one electric and five diesel.

The total number and proportion of electric services will progressively increase as further electric cars are delivered by

the contractors and commissioned. For example, in the new timetable to be introduced on 7 December 1980, out of 77 daily week-day services operating between Brisbane and Ipswich 63 will be electric.

Except for one railmotor service in each direction on Saturdays, all week-end services are now electric.

### 3. SPORTS FACILITIES, COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Mr Kaus asked the Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation—

(1) How much money is being allocated by the Commonwealth Games Foundation for the development of facilities for each of the sports being contested in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in Brisbane?

(2) Why is the shooting movement being discriminated against by not receiving funds for the upgrading of the Belmont Rifle Range for the Games?

(3) Will the State Government give consideration to allocating part of its share to the Commonwealth Games Foundation for the upgrading of the Belmont Rifle Range if funds are not forthcoming from the foundation or the Brisbane City Council?

(4) Has Commonwealth Games money been used for the development of squash courts at the QE II sports stadium?

(5) Is squash included in the sports for the Commonwealth Games?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) It might be as well if I clearly explained to the honourable member and this House the sequence of events which has led up to the situation regarding which he has expressed himself as so concerned in his comments in the House on Tuesday evening and again in this question.

When the Commonwealth, the State and the Brisbane City Council agreed to fund the construction of Commonwealth Games facilities in Brisbane, they were guided by the advice and information supplied by the Commonwealth Games Committee, the precursor of the Commonwealth Games Foundation, as to the suitability of competition facilities available at Belmont.

At that juncture, the understanding was that the Games shooting events could be held at Belmont without any further facilities being required or any upgrading of existing facilities.

In subsequent years and after the funding arrangements had been entered into and finalised, it was ascertained by the Commonwealth Games Foundation that the extent and quality of the ranges there

did not in fact meet the requirements of the Commonwealth Games Federation standards.

The various shooting clubs using and occupying Belmont do so with the permission of the Commonwealth Government. In other words, they have a permissive occupancy of part of a rifle range owned by the Commonwealth.

In an endeavour to assist and clarify the situation which was developing, I arranged earlier this year for a meeting with the Australian Shooting Association and representatives of the other interests involved. At this stage, I should make it clear that the provision of Commonwealth Games finance by the Queensland Government does not come within my portfolio responsibilities and is a matter within the ambit of the Honourable the Treasurer. I have endeavoured to act as a co-ordinator or liaison channel because I am the Government's representative on the inter-governmental committee which is co-ordinating the input of Commonwealth, State and local authority services for the 1982 Games.

Following the meeting to which I have referred, there was a subsequent meeting at which were present the Deputy Co-ordinator-General (Mr D. Young), the Senior Engineer, Co-ordinator-General's Department (Mr G. Sanderson) and Messrs E. Bubb and N. Southey of the Australian Shooting Association. The association was requested by the Deputy Co-ordinator-General to provide detailed financial and other information which was thought necessary before further consideration could be given to all facets of the problem then existing, and the association undertook to provide this within 14 days.

To date that information has not been supplied by the association. Indeed, the Queensland Rifle Association (of which Mr Bubb is chairman) has written to the Honourable the Premier complaining about the so-called lack of action, but the Australian Shooting Association has not moved to assist the Deputy Co-ordinator-General by providing the information sought.

To upgrade the existing facilities and provide the additional ones now required for Games purposes could involve an expenditure of something of the order of \$0.5m and, as I have previously stated, discussions are proceeding between the three tiers of government and the Commonwealth Games Foundation in this regard.

I think the honourable member may not have realised or appreciated all the foregoing facts when making his statements on Tuesday evening and in formulating this question.

I can only reiterate that the matter is receiving urgent consideration, that discussions are being held next week with the inter-governmental committee and

that I have every confidence the Commonwealth Games shooting events will take place at Belmont in 1982. I would appreciate the honourable member's using his influence with the Australian Shooting Association to ensure that it provides the Deputy Co-ordinator-General and his committee with the details he has sought as quickly as possible.

(4) The Brisbane City Council is responsible for the correct application of Commonwealth and State moneys provided for the construction of Commonwealth Games facilities at Nathan and, of course, the council's expenditures in this regard are subject to audit.

(5) No.

#### 4. WATER STORAGE, LOCKYER VALLEY AREA

Mr Bourke asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources—

(1) Has the department taken recent action to revise the hydrology figures for the proposed major water storage on Tent Hill Creek in the Lockyer Valley?

(2) Have any other potential dam sites in the Black Duck/Tent Hill areas been recently examined?

(3) Has the department recently taken action to reappraise the Lake Clarendon Water Storage Scheme?

(4) What is the progress of such current investigation and are any results available yet?

*Answer:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) Preliminary examination of other possible storage sites on Blackfellow and Tent Hill Creeks has indicated that these sites are not as attractive as the site at 29.8 km on Tent Hill Creek. Because of this the alternative sites are not being further examined.

(3) Yes.

(4) The investigation is proceeding satisfactorily and is expected to be completed and a report completed early in 1981.

#### 5. GUIDE-LINES, QUEENSLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION

Mr Bourke asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Why do the guide-lines for allocation of grants by the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission exclude consideration of costs of water and sewerage undertakings to local authorities except to the marginal effect that ability to levy general rates might be affected in specific cases by high water and sewerage rates?

(2) As a high percentage of Queensland local government budgets goes to water and sewerage projects as opposed to the situation in other States, how can these guide-lines be justified?

(3) Is he aware that the method of determining element B of the grants is in some quarters seen as a penalty on those areas who, through prudent past management, have kept the rates of their areas relatively low?

(4) As exclusion of water and sewerage acts to the gross disadvantage of inland local authorities whose costs of obtaining and treating water and of treating and disposing of sewerage effluent are much higher than in coastal areas, will he re-examine the guide-lines set for the grants commission?

*Answer:—*

As the honourable member would appreciate, the Local Government Grants Commission is an independent authority which determines its own guide-lines and makes its own assessments and recommendations to the Government on the basis of these guide-lines in respect of 70 per cent of the funds allocated as element B.

I have therefore sought the advice of the commission in relation to the matters raised and am advised as follows:—

(1) As stated in chapter 2, clause 2.02 of the fourth report of the commission which the honourable member has obviously read, the reason for exclusion of water and sewerage undertakings from the commission's assessment is that these functions were not taken to account by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in its determination of the allowance amongst the States.

I understand that this practice has its origin in the principle long adopted by the Commonwealth Grants Commission that functions in the nature of business undertakings ought to be self financing and not impact on the budget of the operator.

(2) The honourable member's question may well be relevant in relation to the Commonwealth Grants Commission's function of determining the allocation between States. However, the Local Government Grants Commission's assessments are based on comparisons within the State. Relativity of costs with those of other States is therefore not a consideration.

(3) As explained in chapter 2 of the commission's report, the approach adopted is one that is termed "effect neutral". This ensures that councils are neither penalised nor advantaged by the actual rating policy but are simply assessed on their capacity to raise rate revenue.

(4) From information available to the commission, it is not established as a fact that the exclusion of water and sewerage costs acts to the gross disadvantage of inland local authorities. There is evidence of high cost areas in the provision of these services in both inland and coastal local authorities.

#### 6. PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Mr Bourke asked the Minister for Education—

(1) How many qualified physical education teachers are employed in Queensland State schools?

(2) How many Queensland State schools have gymnasiums or indoor sports areas?

(3) Does his department issue guide-lines on the level of sporting achievement in various fields which average children should reach?

(4) Are figures kept by his department on the state of physical fitness of Queensland schoolchildren?

(5) Is it departmental practice not to provide hot water in changing rooms at State schools and, if so, as adults would not be asked to endure cold showers in winter, why are Queensland schoolchildren expected to do so?

(6) Does his department have to observe Government regulations regarding toilet provisions for its teaching staff?

Answer:—

(1) There are 641 qualified teachers engaged in providing physical education activities in Queensland State schools.

(2) Seven high schools have been provided with multi-purpose shelters which can be used as indoor sports areas. One other high school has a gymnasium provided by its parents and citizens association.

(3) No, but guide-lines are provided on a developmental program through which children may progress at their own rate according to the type of course being undertaken.

(4) No, but individual schools have records pertaining to the performance levels of children undertaking physical education activities.

At two primary schools an in-depth study of the relationship between physical fitness and specific activity programs is being undertaken.

(5) Yes. The cost of installation and maintenance is not commensurate with the use that would be made of such a facility.

(6) In the matter of the provision of toilet facilities for teaching staff, the Department of Education is bound by a Cabinet decision of 11 November 1968.

#### 7. ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

Mr Hansen asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

As the general manager of the South East Queensland Electricity Board in an advertisement on page 24 of "The Sunday Mail" of 29 June claimed that 1 per cent of the recent 12 per cent increase in electricity tariffs was to cover the cost of the pro rata billing scheme, and as this charge will no longer be required after 30 September, will this charge be discontinued and, if not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

No. The tariffs cannot be reduced, otherwise total annual costs, which include the cost of pro rata billing, will not be met.

#### 8. BONUS PAYMENTS TO APPRENTICES

Mr Hansen asked the Minister for Labour Relations—

With reference to trade training for apprentices, particularly the introduction since October 1979 of crediting outstanding apprentices with a reduced period instead of weekly bonus payments as previously—

(1) Is he aware of discontent amongst apprentices who are working alongside fellow apprentices of the same year who receive \$10 per week more in their pay packet?

(2) Has the Industry and Commerce Training Commission any figures that show an apprentice in his final year finishes with more money in his pocket under the present system than through the bonus method?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Section 41 of the former Apprenticeship Act provided for the payment of an additional 5 per cent of the wage rate of an apprentice who gained an average of 75 per cent or over at the annual examination for his technical college course of instruction.

In the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Apprenticeship 1976, Commissioner Anderson stated that the provision in his opinion could lead to unfair discrimination against an apprentice whose proficiency was most marked in his employer's workshop, but was less spectacular in the theoretical sector which loomed largely in examination assessment.

In his report Mr Anderson stated—

"Whilst I believe that some form of proficiency payment should be available to apprentices showing special ability, I do not consider the present system to be fair and equitable to all concerned. I recommend that the present provision be discontinued and that consideration be given by the apprenticeship training authority to the awarding of proficiency payments more suited to present circumstances."

In drafting the industry and commerce training legislation account was taken of Mr Anderson's comments and the new legislation provides that where an apprentice gains an average of 75 per cent or more in his annual examinations he may be entitled to a reduction in—

(a) the period of time he is required to serve before entering his next year of apprenticeship; or

(b) the period of the apprenticeship.

The various industry and commerce advisory committees have decided that the following arrangement should apply—

... where an apprentice receives a result of 75 to 80 per cent in his annual technical college examination, the reduction in the current year of apprenticeship should be two weeks.

... where an apprentice receives a result of more than 80 per cent in his annual technical college examination, the reduction in the current year of apprenticeship should be three weeks.

This provision has applied from 1 January 1980 and there could be isolated situations during this transitional period where apprentices in the same establishment and in the same year could receive either the former 5 per cent increase in wages or the current reduction of time served. Under these circumstances, the latter apprentice would enter his next year of apprenticeship by up to three weeks earlier than the former apprentice, thus qualifying him for an increase in wages of between \$30 and \$40 per week for that period and depending on his particular trade calling.

Complaints of the nature alleged by the honourable member have been insignificant. The major criticism of the existing provision has been the departure from the former provision which in some instances will lead to very proficient apprentices completing their indentures and receiving tradesmen's rate of wages earlier than previously.

#### 9. PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL BUS OPERATORS

Mr Hansen asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Has his department agreed to a two and a half per cent increase for school bus operators to compensate for a shorter year because of the new school holidays being introduced in 1981?

(2) Does the increase as announced in the Budget include this previously agreed-to amount or will it be in addition to that sum?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) No. The number of school days has been only marginally reduced as a result of the change in pattern of school vacations in Queensland.

#### 10. BRIDGES, LEICHHARDT HIGHWAY

Mr Neal asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

What are the plans for the upgrading of bridges on the Leichhardt Highway in the Murilla Shire from single to dual lane?

Answer:—

There are no firm plans at present for upgrading the bridges on the Leichhardt Highway in Murilla Shire, but the four-year program will be re-examined with a view to including bridgeworks, the need for which is recognised.

#### 11. MILES-CONDAMINE SECTION, LEICHHARDT HIGHWAY

Mr Neal asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

With reference to his answer to my question of 17 September in relation to the Miles-Condamine section of the Leichhardt Highway, will this section be completely reconstructed to dual width, or is it intended to extend the width of the existing narrow bitumen?

Answer:—

The scheme for reconstruction of the 5.4 km section is still under preparation, but it is likely that the pavement will be completely reconstructed and bitumen sealed to a width of 6.5 m.

#### 12. FORESTRY PLANTATIONS, YARRAMAN DISTRICT

Mr Gunn asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources—

(1) Are there any plans to completely cut out any of the forestry plantations in the Yarraman forestry district in order to replant?

(2) How much land has the Forestry Department in this area for the purpose of planting further areas to pine?

Answer:—

(1) It is anticipated that a program of clear-felling and replanting of hoop pine plantations in the Yarraman district will commence shortly as these plantations reach maturity.

Planning for this is already in hand and this harvesting of the mature tree crop will yield a large volume of high-quality timber which will provide improved job opportunities and industrial growth in the area.

(2) There are approximately 1 100 ha of new areas still to be planted in this forestry district. Most of this land is in the Benarkin subdistrict and these new plantings will continue during the introduction and progressive phasing in of clear-felling and replanting of the older

areas, thus providing continuity of employment for existing forestry employees in the area.

### 13. HIGH SCHOOL, REDBANK PLAINS AREA

Mr Gunn asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Is he aware of the fact that 800 children have to leave the areas of Carole Park, Camira and Redbank Plains to receive secondary education?

(2) In view of the repeated representation made by myself for the construction of a high school at Redbank Plains and his acknowledgement that a high school was necessary in the Redbank Plains area, when is a high school likely to be built in the Redbank Plains area?

Answer:—

(1) I am aware that the current enrolments in Year 7 at the primary schools of Carole Park, Camira and Redbank Plains total 166.

(2) A site for a high school has been acquired at Redbank Plains. The need to construct a high school on that site at some time in the future is acknowledged. It is a matter of priorities. While students of the area are being adequately served by existing high schools, the construction of a high school at Redbank Plains does not have a high priority in a building program limited by available funds.

### 14. POLICE TRAINEES, SOMERSET ELECTORATE

Mr Gunn asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

As the present practice of sending out trainee police officers to police stations to work with experienced police officers has proved very successful in country areas, are there any plans to send further police trainees to (a) Rosewood, (b) Nanango, (c) Laidley, (d) Esk and (e) Kilcoy?

Answer:—

A review is currently being undertaken of the training program in relation to first-year constables. At this stage it is not envisaged that any of these officers will be attached to Rosewood, Nanango, Laidley, Esk and Kilcoy.

### 15. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH REPORT

Mr Prest asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the industrial development in the Gladstone region—

(1) Has there ever been an occupational health report prepared on industries in Queensland, particularly with respect to Gladstone and district, and, if so, is the report current and where can copies be obtained?

(2) If they are not obtainable, can a copy be made available to me?

Answer:—

(1) I am advised that the Division of Industrial Medicine has carried out specific investigations of one industrial development at Gladstone. These specific investigations have been carried out over a number of years.

(2) These reports are confidential between the division and the company and unions involved.

### 16. OVERSEAS TRAVEL BY MINISTERS

Mr Prest asked the Premier—

(1) How many Ministers travelled overseas in the years 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80.

(2) What were their names and portfolios?

(3) What were the dates of each Minister's travel and which countries did he visit?

(4) How many of these Ministers have since retired, resigned or indicated their intention not to seek nomination for the next State election?

(5) What are their names and dates of retirement, resignation or indication not to seek re-election?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) The bulk of the information requested by the honourable member could be obtained from sources available to him. I suggest that the honourable member do his own research as I do not intend to waste the valuable time of my departmental officers on any unnecessary exercises. It is all available; it has all been presented to the House.

Mr Prest: Still a cover-up.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: No, it is not a cover-up. It is all here now; I have tabled it. The honourable member can pick it all up as simply as falling off a log.

### 17. FACILITIES FOR SERIOUSLY DISTURBED CHILDREN

Mr McKechnie asked the Minister for Health—

(1) As there is a shortage of special wards for seriously disturbed children requiring specialist therapy, will he take urgent action to make more facilities available for these unfortunate children?

(2) Is the Children's Hospital Appeal seeking community involvement in a project which will benefit the whole State in this regard?

(3) Will the Children's Hospital Appeal only partly solve the problem?

(4) If so, what other action will he take to solve the problem?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) I am advised that inpatient facilities have been provided at the Royal Children's Hospital since 1977. It is proposed to build a new centre in the grounds of the Royal Children's Hospital. This project will be assisted by moneys made available from the Children's Hospital Appeal. Additional facilities are also available at the Mater Children's Hospital. Future needs in the field of child psychiatry will be assessed and developed at the appropriate time.

18. SALE OF ADULTERATED LIQUOR

Mr K. J. Hooper asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Further to part (3) of my question of 10 September, what were the details of the adulteration and the penalties imposed on the Plaza Tavern and the Pineapple Hotel?

(2) What are the names and addresses of licensees and their hotels convicted for selling adulterated beer and spirits during 1978-1979?

(3) What were the details of the beer adulteration and the penalties imposed?

(4) How many hotels have been convicted since 1 July, and what are their names and those of their licensees?

(5) How many staff are engaged full time in ensuring that the people of Queensland are not served adulterated beer by unscrupulous publicans?

(6) Will he consider making the penalty for a second conviction, for selling adulterated beer, mandatory loss of licence?

*Answer:—*

(1) Plaza Tavern—Adulterated rum, 340 ml/l; fine \$75; costs \$76.50. Pineapple Hotel—Adulterated rum, 323 ml/l; fine \$125; costs \$76.50.

(2) Adulterated beer—Nil. Adulterated spirits—This information was given in my reply to the question asked by the honourable member on Wednesday, 10 September 1980.

(3) Nil.

(4 & 5) This information was given in my reply to the question asked by the honourable member on 10 September 1980.

(6) This is a matter coming within the jurisdiction of my colleague the Honourable Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

19. DARLING DOWNS INSTITUTE OF  
ADVANCED EDUCATION

Mr K. J. Hooper asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Did the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education insure 200 student residents of McGregor College from 16

February 1979 to 28 November 1979 against accidental death and other matters with Minet James Australia Ltd Insurance Brokers for a premium of \$4,200?

(2) Are the reference numbers of the certificates of insurance, London 53 800 3 300, the other number being 12 458?

(3) Will he advise with which insurance company Minet James Australia Ltd placed this business?

(4) If there have been any breaches of company laws by any directors of the Darling Downs Association of Advanced Education, will he give an indication that he will institute criminal proceedings against any of those directors involved?

*Answer:—*

I am advised by officers of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education that the answers to the first three parts of the question are:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Lloyds Underwriters, London.

(4) Any alleged breaches of the Companies Act are matters for the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

20. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION  
OXS-792

Mr K. J. Hooper asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

(1) On what date was the registration for a vehicle bearing the number OXS-792 cancelled?

(2) What is the description of the vehicle and in whose name and address was the vehicle registered?

(3) When was this vehicle next reregistered and was it in fact reregistered by Richard Mark Ostbers at Thursday Island subsequent to 15 February?

*Answer:—*

(1) Registration of OXS-792 was cancelled on 11 October 1978.

(2) Registration of OXS-792 Suzuki 1976 model classified by the owner as a sedan, engine number 182464, was cancelled in the name of Justin Donald Lindquist Smith, John St, Thursday Island.

(3) Vehicle with engine number 182464 was reregistered on 27 February 1980 in the name of Richard Mark Ostberg, Blackall St, Thursday Island, as a Suzuki and classified by the owner as a panel van under registration number 303-NRT.

21. ROAD TO JONDARYAN WOOLSHED  
COMPLEX

Mr Elliott asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

(1) Is he aware of the increasing volume of tourist traffic travelling from the

Warrego Highway at Jondaryan to the Jondaryan woolshed complex, a distance of less than two miles?

(2) Is he also aware that the road shoulders have deteriorated to the extent that buses and cars are being pushed off the road, even after light falls of rain, into wet black soil?

(3) Will he give an assurance that funds will be made available to the Jondaryan Shire Council prior to the next major influx of tourists at Christmas to ensure that this dangerous situation is rectified?

*Answer:—*

(1) Yes, I am aware of the increasing popularity of the Jondaryan woolshed and the increased traffic by way of both tourist buses and private cars this has caused.

(2) Because of the representations of the honourable member for Cunningham to both myself and the Honourable the Premier on behalf of the Jondaryan Shire Council, I am also aware of the deteriorating state of the road shoulders.

(3) In view of the importance to the inland tourist industry of this most worthwhile project, I am happy to be able to give the honourable member an assurance that funds will be made available to the Jondaryan Shire towards the end of this year.

## 22. BALONNE HIGHWAY

**Mr Turner** asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

What amount of money has been expended on the Balonne Highway between Bollon and Cunnamulla over the last three years and what are the future plans for work on this important highway?

*Answer:—*

For the three-year period from July 1977 to June 1980, Main Roads Department expenditures on the Bollon-Cunnamulla section of the Balonne Highway were: permanent works, \$1,193,957; maintenance, \$86,152; total, \$1,280,109.

The 1980-81 program makes provision for the expenditure of approximately \$500,000 for the completion of a 16 km section in Balonne Shire, and for a start on a 6.2 km section in Paroo Shire, near the boundary with Balonne Shire.

## 23. CHARLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

**Mr Turner** asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

What is the position in relation to a new bore for the Charleville High School and is it expected that this bore will be operational before this summer?

*Answer:—*

Quotations are being invited on 27 September 1980 and close on 7 October

1980 for the provision of new pumping equipment to the replacement bore at the Charleville State High School.

On receipt of a satisfactory quotation, the work will then be put in hand. Completion time of three weeks is allowed in the specification.

## 24. POLICE STOCK SQUAD

**Mr Turner** asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

As the Budget allows for an increase in police numbers, and in view of the need for additional members in the understaffed Stock Squad, is consideration being given to increasing Stock Squad numbers?

*Answer:—*

When additional trained personnel become available, consideration will be given to increasing the strength of stock squads in conjunction with other police needs throughout the State.

## 25. REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AREAS

**Mr Kruger** asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources—

With reference to the proposals to revoke the setting apart and declaration as State forest under the Act of areas shown on the papers tabled, I ask—

(1) As most of the proposals are for the forest areas to be returned to the Crown and to be absorbed as national park when will these areas be declared as national park?

(2) With reference to the area of 7 ha being excluded from State Forest 1073, could he explain as to the proposed leasing arrangements and the beneficiary of the lease?

*Answer:—*

The questions asked by the member for Murrumba were dealt with in this House yesterday during the debate preceding the resolution to revoke the setting apart and declaration of parts of certain State forests. The answers are, however, again supplied for his information.

(1) The revocation of the setting apart and declaration of parts of certain State Forests for national park purposes will be finalised by Order in Council as soon as this can be arranged. Upon issue of the Order in Council, the lands concerned will be available forthwith for declaration as national park. The actual timing of this declaration is, however, a matter which comes under the purview of my colleague the Honourable I. J. Gibbs, Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation.

(2) The major part of the area to be excised from State forest 1073 has been held under special lease no. 34975 since 2 March 1971 under conditions which, under certain circumstances, permitted

construction of dwellings and cultivation of the land. Following revocation, the whole 7 ha of Crown land will again be leased to the former lessee who may exercise his right to make application for conversion of tenure.

## 26. RABY BAY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Mr Kruger asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources—

Following a series of questions and answers of recent months regarding the proposed Raby Bay development, I now ask—

(1) Is the Government in agreement with the principle that an entrepreneur who was granted a major concession to prospect and develop a large area of Crown land shall be permitted to sell such concession to a third party and by so doing reap substantial cash benefit through the transactions?

(2) Will he investigate and report to the House as quickly as possible on whether (a) the Raby Bay canal estate venture was sold to American interests for \$1m, of which \$400,000 is to be paid to Antony David Roberts for his part in steering the project through the Redlands Shire Council and (b) payments are to be made to persons associated with the council?

(3) Has Commonwealth approval been obtained to allow for such overseas capital investment in the project?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I have no knowledge of the matters raised by the honourable member in relation to the transactions mentioned. The lease to be issued to the developers is not transferable except in specific statutory circumstances.

## 27. MR K. J. DAVIES

Mr Kruger asked the Minister for Survey and Valuation—

(1) Approximately how many hours per week of his Public Service working time is Mr Davies devoting to the Minister's election campaign, especially conferring with his campaign manager Ald. John Andrews?

(2) Has Mr Davies arranged to take leave to devote himself increasingly to his desperate campaign to avoid defeat in the Ashgrove electorate, or does he intend to misuse more and more Public Service time as the election date draws closer?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) The answer to the series of questions is nil, no and no. However, the Murrumbidgee "star" has once again displayed his complete ignorance of the facts. His entire

question is based on a false premise. Moreover, Alderman John Andrews is not the Liberal campaign manager for Ashgrove for the 1980 election.

## 28. GIBSON'S TANNERY, STAFFORD

Mr W. D. Hewitt asked the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services—

(1) Is Gibson's Tannery in Stafford Road about to close down?

(2) If so, what part did his department play in moving this tannery out of the residential areas of Stafford?

*Answer:—*

(1) I am aware that the owners of Gibson's Tannery in Stafford Road are in the process of negotiating the sale of the land on which the tannery is located. I understand that one of the factors which led to the decision to dispose of the land was the assistance which would be forthcoming from my department.

(2) Discussions have taken place between departmental officers and the management of Gibson's Tannery on alternative sites on a Crown industrial estate. In fact, there are at least two definite sites under consideration by the company. At this time I am awaiting advice on the outcome of the proposed sale, and when this takes place I am sure that it will be possible to conclude arrangements with Gibson's Tannery which will be of great satisfaction to the honourable member for Stafford (Mr Gygar), who has taken an active part in the whole matter.

## 29. QUOTAS FOR VS 1/2 PEANUTS

Mr Stephan asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Does the Peanut Marketing Board have supplies of VS 1/2 peanuts at its premises or elsewhere in close proximity to the board silos which can be supplied to processors and, if so, why were some processors informed that there would not be any available until May 1981?

(2) Are orders of less than 1 tonne charged up to 6c per kilo more than large orders and is it more profitable to sell in large quantities?

(3) Does the board have figures which show what percentage of the quota of VS 1/2 peanuts applied for have been sold to individual buyers or companies and, if so, do they show any buyers or companies with a disproportionate share of the VS 1/2 peanut?

(4) Does the board intend to implement a system of selling a percentage of quota applied for, taking into consideration the usual yearly quota applied for, to individual buyers or companies, with regard to other varieties which may become scarce?

*Answer:—*

(1) The Peanut Marketing Board has advised that it has no supplies of VS 1/2 peanuts available for processors at the present time.

(2) No. The base schedule of prices for peanuts supplied by the Peanut Marketing Board relates to sales of 5 tonnes and over. Normally sales in lots of 1 to 5 tonnes are charged at 2 cents per kg above the schedule prices and lots of less than 1 tonne are charged at 4 cents above the schedule prices. It is more costly to sell in the smaller quantities.

(3) The board has indicated that it keeps accurate records of supplies to all customers and has advised that their figures show that there has been no disproportionate allocation between regular buyers. The board endeavours to ensure that all regular customers are equitably treated.

(4) No.

### 30. EFFECT OF RADAR DEVICES ON PACEMAKERS

**Mr Stephan** asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a person fitted with a heart pacemaker, is there any evidence to suggest that if a traffic speed gun was pointed at him in the region of his heart while either a driver or passenger in a car, it would cause the pacemaker device to malfunction? If so, is there any method available to counter the effect of the speed gun on such a heart device?

*Answer:—*

I am advised that tests were carried out in Queensland some time ago which did not demonstrate any effects on a pacemaker.

### 31. BRISBANE-SKYRING CREEK SECTION, BRUCE HIGHWAY

**Mr Simpson** asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

What work is proposed this financial year and in each of the next ten years to upgrade the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Skyring Creek?

*Answer:—*

The 1980-81 program provides for—

(1) Completion of works in progress at Burpengary;

(2) Duplication of bridges at Lagoon Creek and King John Creek;

(3) Work on duplication of 3 km section from Bribie Island turn-off to King John Creek;

(4) Continuation of drainage and earthworks on 5.6 km section from south of Beerburum to Tibrogargan Creek on the new location;

(5) Various reconstructions and overlays.

With regard to future works, it is proposed to give high priority to the extension of four lanes initially from Bribie Island turn-off to Caloundra turn-off and to progressively extend four lanes northward as funds permit, but this is dependent on the future level of funds provided by the Commonwealth for national roads, as is the construction of the Nambour bypass.

### 32. COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION, SUNSHINE COAST

**Mr Simpson** asked the Minister for Education—

What is the present position in relation to the establishment of the Sunshine Coast Technical and Further Education College at Burnside, Nambour, and what courses are to be provided initially and what courses are ultimately envisaged?

*Answer:—*

Construction has commenced on the core building of the two-building complex comprising stage 1 of the Sunshine Coast College of TAFE, and it is anticipated that it will be ready to accommodate students in 1982. This building will accommodate courses in office education, business and general study areas, educational programs for unemployed youth, as well as a wide range of extension programs to meet the needs of the local community.

The technology building, the other building included in the first stage of development of this college, is planned so as to allow construction to commence in February 1981. This building will cater for a wide range of apprenticeship trade courses, trade-based prevocational and other pre-employment and further education courses to meet the specific needs of the Sunshine Coast district. Current planning allows for the first intake of students into these courses in 1983.

### 33. INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, NOOSAVILLE AND YANDINA

**Mr Simpson** asked the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services—

In view of the high unemployment in the Noosa Shire and the need to attract and encourage industry, will he give an indication of when the Crown industrial estate of Noosaville will be developed and what the present position is in relation to demand for stage one of the Yandina Industrial Estate and, in the light of that interest and delays in construction, when will stage 2 be developed?

*Answer:—*

There has been some interest shown by manufacturers in the Noosa area to acquire land on a Crown industrial estate. However, because of the funding situation and the demands placed on my department to

provide services to estates presently being developed, it is not possible at this time to forecast a definite time for development of the land held near Noosa. Notwithstanding this, I can assure the honourable member that I will make every endeavour to see that it is included in the 1981-82 program.

The area of the Yandina Industrial Estate originally developed was 9 ha (excluding Buderim Ginger Growers and Lambert Bros.), of which over 3 ha are still available for allocation. Looking at the current demand for land on this estate, it will most probably be some time before stage 2 is developed.

#### 34. MOORINGS, MANLY BOAT HARBOUR

Mr Shaw asked the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism—

(1) Is he aware that boat owners who have been using moorings in Manly Boat Harbour, in some cases for 15 years, are being asked to move because of the proposal to hand these moorings over to a private company sponsored by the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron?

(2) Will he undertake to have this development delayed until such time as an equivalent number of moorings can be made available to those boat owners who are being displaced?

(3) Will he give an assurance that moorings will be available at current or comparable charges for all those who are presently using the harbour?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) Negotiations are currently in hand between my Department of Harbours and Marine, the Port of Brisbane Authority and a company promoted by the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron to lease an existing mooring area within Manly Boat Harbour to permit construction of a marina. A necessary condition of any lease would be the satisfactory accommodation at current charges of those boat owners who presently hold moorings in the area proposed for lease and who would not wish to obtain a marina berth in the event of the new marina lease proceeding. I am not aware that any boat owners have been asked to move, but I understand that the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron is approaching all boat owners in the mooring area under examination to ascertain whether they would be prepared to take up a marina berth.

#### 35. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND ROAD- WORKS, MAROOCHY AND LANDSBOROUGH SHIRES

Mr Shaw asked the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism—

(1) Has the Beach Protection Authority authorised the construction of high-rise buildings and/or associated road-works

which are now proceeding in a beach erosion control area at Alexandra Headland in the Maroochy Shire?

(2) Was the Landsborough Shire Council given permission for the widening of Pacific Boulevarde, Point Cartwright, which involved considerable damage to the sand dunes, by the Beach Protection Authority and, if not, what action will be taken against that council?

(3) Will the Government give an undertaking that if these developments result in a Palm Beach type of erosion problem, similar remedial work will be undertaken at Government expense?

*Answer:—*

(1) The Beach Protection Authority has approved the construction of high-rise buildings at Alexandra Headland. These works are to the west of Alexandra Parade, the main sea-front road, which was widened by the Maroochy Shire Council, also with Beach Protection Authority approval.

(2) The Landsborough Shire was given approval by the Beach Protection Authority for widening of Pacific Boulevarde within the dedicated road reserve.

(3) The works at Alexandra Headland or Pacific Boulevarde will not significantly add to any erosion problem which may occur in these areas. In the event of major erosion in the Alexandra Headland area, the sea-front road may require protective measures and consequential beach restoration, but such requirement would not be increased by the existence of structures to the west of the road. The added width of Pacific Boulevarde is not significant in relation to beach-protection considerations.

#### 36. STATEMENT BY SOUTHPORT MAGISTRATE

Mr Bishop asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to a report that Southport magistrate Mr John Dettori has stated that a maximum penalty of \$50 for disturbing a school was inadequate, will he study the magistrate's statement and advise if he supports the magistrate's view and state what action he will take to act on the views expressed in the statement?

*Answer:—*

I thank the honourable member for drawing my attention to the statement by the stipendiary magistrate.

The offence of wilful disturbance of a school is provided by section 22 of the Education Act 1964-1974, which comes under the administrative control of my

colleague the Honourable the Minister for Education. As the adequacy or otherwise of a maximum penalty under the Education Act would be a matter for my colleague, I will bring to his attention the statement made by the stipendiary magistrate.

### 37. RECIPROCAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PENSIONERS

Mr Bishop asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to reciprocal travel arrangements available to pensioners between other States of Australia—

(1) Is it a fact that Queensland pensioners do not get these reciprocal arrangements in Western Australia and, if so, what is the reason?

(2) Are there other States where these arrangements do not apply to Queenslanders?

(3) By what means does he consider the Government can arrange to have these benefits available to Queensland pensioners?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) All eligible pensioners, irrespective of place of residence in Australia, are entitled to travel by rail at half the adult fare for any intersystem journey on the main trunk route between South Brisbane and Perth via Melbourne or Broken Hill. In no State does a pensioner not resident in that State obtain any concession for intrastate country-line travel.

Reciprocal arrangements exist between the West Australian, South Australian, Victorian, Tasmanian and New South Wales Governments which provide for the issue to eligible pensioners of tickets at pensioner-concession rates for journeys wholly within the respective suburban areas of these States. Concessional travel is not granted in Brisbane to pensioners resident in other States, and it follows that Queensland pensioners do not obtain any concession for suburban travel in other capital cities.

In Brisbane, metropolitan transport services are operated by both the Queensland Railways and the Brisbane City Council. The Brisbane City Council, understandably, as a local authority, allows a concession only to pensioners resident in Queensland and, in adopting the same course so far as suburban rail travel is concerned, the Government takes the view that any extension of pensioner-concession travel comes within the category of a social service which the Commonwealth Government could reasonably be expected to fund.

### 38. TARONG POWER STATION TENDERS

Mr Akers asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to matters raised in this House regarding the contract for the structural steel frame of the turbine house at the Tarong Power Station, I ask—

(1) Will the electricity regulations be amended as soon as possible to force full disclosure to the public of tender sums and contract sums, etc., on publicly owned facilities?

(2) Will he undertake to have a full public inquiry into the anomalies in that contract that were raised in the Matters of Public Interest debate on Wednesday, 17 September?

*Answer:—*

(1) No.

(2) No.

### 39. WATER SUPPLY, PINE RIVERS SHIRE

Mr Akers asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

With reference to his answer to my question regarding the Brisbane and Area Water Board in this House on 23 September, I further ask—

(1) Why has the board not taken over the North Pine Dam?

(2) Will he require the board to act within the intention, if not the actual wording, of the Brisbane and Area Water Board Act by paying to the Pine Rivers Shire Council the rates that would have been payable if the board had taken over the North Pine Dam?

(3) How will the (a) Pine Rivers Shire and (b) Brisbane water rate payers, benefit from the construction of the Wivenhoe Dam?

(4) What precepts have been charged to each constituent local authority by the board for (a) 1979-1980 and (b) 1980-1981 and how were those precepts calculated in each case?

*Answer:—*

(1) I understand that the board has made preliminary investigations into the taking over of headworks in accordance with the Brisbane and Area Water Board Act and has obtained certain information from the Brisbane City Council on the relevant assets and liabilities. However, this is a complex issue which will take the board some time to resolve.

(2) No. The terms of the Act will be complied with.

(3) The residents of the Pine Rivers Shire, Brisbane city and other local authority areas will benefit from the construction

of the Wivenhoe Dam through its contribution towards the availability of water in the region. As I have pointed out previously, water is a regional resource and the Brisbane and Area Water Board was constituted for the purpose of taking control of that resource.

(4) The precepts charged or to be charged to the constituent local authorities during the financial years mentioned are—

	1979-80	1980-81
	\$	\$
Albert Shire Council ..	49,200	67,704
Beaudesert Shire Council ..	3,800	3,053
Brisbane City Council ..	6,326,800	6,569,247
Ipswich City Council ..	534,500	548,613
Logan Shire Council ..	323,300	355,117
Moreton Shire Council ..	21,400	42,399
Pine Rivers Shire Council ..	202,500	197,584
Redcliffe City Council ..	130,000	236,471
Esk Shire Council ..	2,400	1,952
Gatton Shire Council ..	2,300	1,783
Kilcoy Shire Council ..	1,800	1,468
Laidley Shire Council ..	2,000	1,609

The basis of the precepts was determined by the Brisbane and Area Water Board as follows:—

1979-80—The precept was made up of two components:—

(a) Interest and redemption costs apportioned on the basis of estimated usage of water in 1979-80 in each local authority area that uses water from the Brisbane system;

(b) Administrative costs apportioned between all of the component local authorities on the basis of local authority revenue in the previous year.

The board agreed to subsequent adjustments in accordance with actual water usage.

1980-81—There are again two components of the precept. Interest and redemption has been apportioned by the board on the basis of actual water usage in the previous year, again subject to later adjustment in accordance with actual usage in the current year. Administrative costs will be apportioned on the same basis as previously.

The 1980-81 precept includes the appropriate adjustment for 1979-80 actual water usage. I would add that I have now approved the 1980-81 precepts.

#### 40. ABORIGINAL CHILD-CARE UNIT

Mr Fouras asked the Minister for Welfare—

(1) Is he aware that the Victorian and New South Wales Governments have set up Aboriginal child-care units to specifically deal with juvenile problems in their Aboriginal communities and that these units have been exceptionally successful?

(2) Will he, as a matter of urgency, instigate an Aboriginal child-care unit within the Children's Services Department?

(3) If not, is this not a further example of the appalling staff shortages in the Children's Services Department and the undeniable fact that welfare services in Queensland continue to be both outdated and inadequate?

Answer:—

(1) My senior officers and I are aware of the units to which the honourable member referred in his question, but are not aware of any specific studies to evaluate the units' success or otherwise.

(2 & 3) The honourable member has completely overlooked the fact that neither the New South Wales Government nor the Victorian Government has been fit to appoint separate ministerial portfolios to care for the general welfare and affairs of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, whereas in Queensland there is a separate department with its own programs.

In addition, discussions currently are in progress between the Department of Children's Services, the Education Department and Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement Department in connection with possible co-operative activities in urban areas relating to Aboriginal schoolchildren.

The suggestion made in the honourable member's question is only one option available in this area of activities and I would refer him to my answer to a question by the honourable member for Rockhampton North on 2 April 1980.

This and other matters are the subject of ongoing consideration and attention within the Department of Children's Services.

#### 41. REMEDIAL TEACHING

Mr Fouras asked the Minister for Education—

I refer to an Australian Teachers Federation survey that stated that Queensland schoolchildren are the worst served of all Australian States with regard to remedial teaching and I ask whether he is concerned about this and what will he do to overcome this appalling deficiency?

Answer:—

Remedial and resource teachers in Queensland schools are experienced primary teachers who have undertaken a one-year post-graduate level diploma course in special education specialising in remedial techniques. This course is regarded as equal to the best available in Australia. In many Australian States, remedial teachers are simply nominated by their principals for a few weeks' training and do not receive the intensive specialist training of our teachers.

Under these circumstances, it is not true that Queensland schoolchildren are the worst served of all Australian States with regard to remedial teaching. Our remedial services are of the highest quality.

My Division of Special Education is working systematically within its budgetary and staffing limitations to increase the remedial and resource teacher service. Ten new centres were opened in July of this year and further experienced primary teachers will be placed in training in 1981.

#### 42. DEERAGUN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

**Dr Scott-Young** asked the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services—

(1) Has the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development a program of promotion for industrial estates and what efforts have been made to promote the estate in the Deeragun area in the electorate of Townsville?

(2) What is the state of development of this estate and how many applications have been made by manufacturers to set up industries in this area?

*Answer:—*

(1 & 2) I am sure all members of this House are aware of this Government's policy of fostering manufacturing industry by the provision of land on Crown industrial estates at very reasonable rentals. I know that Queensland is the only State in Australia that provides such tangible assistance to developing manufacturing industries. It is a Government program of which I am justifiably proud. Currently, there are 46 Crown industrial estates spread the length and width of this State and reserved land is also held in another 18 centres.

The area that the honourable member mentions is included in our reserved land. It is situated in the Thuringowa Shire close to Townsville. The land has not been developed at this stage and therefore no applications have been received from manufacturers.

Considerable land is still available on the Bohle Industrial Estate in Townsville and it is anticipated that, while this situation remains, the land at Thuringowa would not be developed for some time. However, let me hasten to add that the growth pattern of manufacturing industry in this State is constantly under review by my department, and should particular interest be shown in the Thuringowa land, appropriate action will be taken to look to its development.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MILAN BRYCH

**Mr CASEY:** In asking the Premier this question I refer to articles in today's "Australian" and "Telegraph", both of which report that Mr Milan Brych, the infamous cancer quack—he was imprisoned in Czechoslovakia on self-confessed serious charges, and was struck off the medical register in New Zealand and fled the Cook Islands following a change of Government—was arrested yesterday in California for cancer quackery, grand theft and conspiracy with another man to commit grand theft. I now ask the Premier whether, in the light of this development, he still supports this man who plays on desperate, unfortunate people, or will he now drop any further consideration of establishing him in Queensland?

**Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I can imagine the Leader of the Opposition asking a question like that. I do not make judgments without knowing all the facts. The honourable member ought to know that he cannot take everything for granted that he reads in the Press. I do not think it is quite the story that the honourable member is trying to make out. I am quite sure that Milan Brych will be able to look after himself as he has done up to this point of time.

**Mr Prest:** Like Wiley Fancher.

**Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN:** No; don't worry about that.

The Leader of the Opposition should not judge the case before it is heard and he knows what it is all about, because it probably is not exactly what he thinks it is. As I have said, I have nothing to gain from any of this. I did have the pleasure of meeting certain people in Brisbane—about half a dozen of them—who were sent home to die but are still alive today. I could go on and on in this area. There are many more such people in Melbourne—about 70 of them. Do not let us judge anyone, whoever he may be. I do not even pass judgment on the Leader of the Opposition, although perhaps I would like to do so.

I will say this: throughout the years of history people who have tried to innovate, or have come forward with new ideas, have run into problems. I think of penicillin, for example. We must not judge this case too early. Let us keep an open mind and see what happens.

#### DONATIONS TO BJELKE-PETERSEN FOUNDATION

**Mr CASEY:** In asking the Deputy Premier and Treasurer this question I refer to a question that I asked him about a statement made last week by Mr Eric Robinson about favours being granted in return for contributions to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation and his answer on Tuesday that he did not intend to comment on the issue because, he claimed, the question was based solely on a newspaper

report. I now direct his attention to a television interview last week with Dr Herron, the State President of the Liberal Party, who stated that he was present at the function when Mr Robinson made his statement about a donation to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation for favours extended to a Victorian businessman. Dr Herron further indicated that he was sufficiently concerned at the allegation to pursue the matter privately with Mr Robinson.

I now ask the Deputy Premier: Seeing that the president of his party saw fit to discuss the matter further with Mr Robinson why did he himself not pursue it with Mr Robinson? Did he not follow this up because he knew already that the statement was authentic and that he was involved as a member of Cabinet in Government decisions favourable to the Victorian businessman who contributed to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation?

**Dr EDWARDS:** Let me say at the outset that no decision by the State Government or by the Cabinet at any time has been influenced by any aspect of activity by any person. Decisions are made in the light of information made available and in the light of judgment made by the Ministers at the Cabinet table. I did not see the interview to which the honourable member refers, so I do not know what Dr Herron said.

#### POKER MACHINES

**Mr CASEY:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer if he is aware that, in the New South Wales Budget presented last week, an estimated \$131m in State Government revenue from poker machines is being channelled into the improvement of hospital services? In view of his Government's preference for imported forms of gambling such as "in line" machines, I ask: In determining his objections to poker machines in licensed clubs in Queensland, did he consider the available statistics that show that some 75 per cent of revenue earned by clubs over the border in Tweed Heads is derived from Queensland, either from our residents or visitors from the State? Would he not agree that this considerable revenue which has been estimated at several million dollars would be better channelled into welfare services in this State?

**Dr EDWARDS:** I can understand the honourable member's anxiety over his policy on poker machines. If I were in his position I would be just as anxious because of the number of clubs throughout the State that are approaching us as members, as we move throughout the State, dissociating themselves totally from the Labor Party's policy. If ever the Leader of the Opposition sits on a bombshell, this is it. He can laugh as much as he likes. If this is not a bombshell, I am very surprised because the poker machine issue will be the Achilles' heel of the Labor

Party in the coming election. This Government is prepared to fight the election on the poker machine issue alone if that is what the Leader of the Opposition wants.

**Mr Casey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Casey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I shall not reprimand the Leader of the Opposition again. Unless he changes his attitude, he might make history today.

**Dr EDWARDS:** It is no wonder that the New South Wales Government is spending a large amount on welfare and health services because poker machines are contributing to the very poor welfare in that State. Last night, at a function in Sydney, a number of people came to me and said, "Whatever you do, don't introduce poker machines in Queensland." The Government's position is clear and the Opposition's position is clear.

There is no doubt that, to finance the number of promises that the Leader of the Opposition has made throughout the State, he would need to find something. He has committed a future Labor Government to spending millions of dollars. The Government and both coalition parties will not be associated with legislation for the introduction of poker machines. In the next few days, there could be developments that will further embarrass the Leader of the Opposition.

#### KIOSK, PEEL ISLAND

**Mr GOLEBY:** I ask the Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation: Has he read a report in today's "Courier-Mail" which states that the Government intends to build a kiosk on Peel Island? Is that statement correct?

**Mr I. J. GIBBS:** I thank the honourable member for drawing this matter to my attention. I am aware of the article in "The Courier-Mail". It is an incorrect statement that the Government will build a kiosk on Peel Island. It resulted from an interview yesterday with a journalist who asked about the new type of national parks that we will legislate for in the near future. I am not sure of the name that will be given to them. We discussed in general terms what might be included in the legislation and what would be allowed in those parks.

The trustee of Peel Island will be the Redland Shire Council and it will dictate the needs for that island. It is important that the island be kept for recreational purposes for the boating people of Queensland. We are interested in preserving it in the long term. Anything erected on the island will have to be requested by the council and the people who use it. I can assure the honourable member that the Government has no intention of saying what should or should not

go on the island. There is certainly no intention on the Government's part to build a kiosk on the island.

#### REMARKS OF FORMER AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN

**Mr ARMSTRONG:** In asking the Premier a question without notice, I draw his attention to a report in this morning's "Courier-Mail" in which the former Australian Ambassador to Japan, Mr Menadue, is reported to have said—

"In the same time, there has been a large number of State Premiers and Ministers. State Government aspirations in Japan are a wasteful fact of life, but we should not let the Commonwealth ministerial role go by default."

Is the Premier in a position to assure this House that there is no basis to the statements alleged to have been made by the former ambassador?

**Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Yes, I did read the report in "The Courier-Mail" attributed to Mr John Menadue on his return to Australia. Quite obviously, it is again the typical Canberra bureaucratic public servant coming out in Mr Menadue. He has reverted to his old role again. I am disgusted and disappointed to see a man, who I thought had risen above expressing this sort of attitude, take this stand. It is quite clear that it is sour grapes on his part when he indicates that the States do not know what is in their best interests. We know very well, through our office in Tokyo, that our action has been well and truly worth while. We have to have our own representation there because Canberra will never look after us. I will watch Mr Menadue with great suspicion from now on in whatever area he might find himself.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN TOWNSVILLE

**Mr WILSON:** I ask the Minister for Transport: Has he released the confidential report entitled "Public Passenger Transport in the Townsville Urban Area" to the National Party candidate for Townsville South, Mr Allan Metcalfe? Why has he not made the document public? Will he assure the Parliament that his department will now act on the recommendations contained in the report and help the Townsville City Council to work towards an upgraded public transport system in Queensland's second city of Townsville? When can the citizens of Townsville and the Townsville City Council expect to hear from the Minister an official statement declaring Townsville to be a major city eligible for funding under the State's urban public transport legislation.

**Mr TOMKINS:** The honourable member has asked a tremendously long question to

be answered off the cuff. All I can say to him is that, if he returns to this Parliament after the next election, I shall answer the question in the next session.

#### LUCKY NUMBERS STALLS, KEDRON AND REDCLIFFE

**Mr FRAWLEY:** I ask the Treasurer: Will he investigate the operations of the lucky numbers stall which is allegedly being run by ALP branch members in Gympie Road, Kedron, adjacent to the Edinburgh Castle Hotel? Will Government officers examine the books of the operation to determine who pays for the prizes, what amount is paid to the operators, what amount is paid to the permit-holder, what is the percentage of operating profit and who gets the profit? Will they also examine the stalls being run by the ALP in Redcliffe where the pensioners are also being robbed?

**Dr EDWARDS:** I am unaware of the complaints made by the honourable member but, in the light of the past history of the ALP and the rackets associated with the Australian Pensioners League, they do not surprise me. As a result of the honourable member's raising this matter, I will certainly ask the Minister for Justice to investigate it and take whatever action is needed.

#### THURSDAY ISLAND OFFICE OF THE DAIA

**Mr T. A. WHITE:** I ask a question of the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs. I refer to recent correspondence from Mr Facey about the operation of the Thursday Island office of the DAIA, particularly in respect of the approach to him by the former manager, Mr Harris, to write off \$500 worth of crayfish from the York Island Fish Freezer as damaged, and Mr Facey's subsequent refusal to comply with this request. Will the Minister inform the House why this complaint was not investigated by his department and, in Mr Facey's case, why no answers to these questions were ever provided? Finally, why were all the accounting records from the project taken from under his authority?

**Mr PORTER:** The honourable member's concern on behalf of his constituent is appreciated. I do not know that there can be anything usefully added to the reply that Mr Facey received from the Public Service Board on 10 March last. There was an investigation, the results of which did not support the tenor of Mr Facey's allegations. I am very sure that any impropriety of that nature would be picked up by the Auditor-General and commented upon in his report.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr **WRIGHT** (Rockhampton) (12 noon), by leave: On Thursday, 18 September, I spoke in this House on the Works and Housing Estimates and at that time I raised the involvement of the member for Pine Rivers in cases associated with the Builders Registration Board.

It is not my intention to prosecute a quarrel here, but I believe the matter has to be clarified. I claimed that money had been paid to Akers Tan & Associates by a Mr Gibson, who contracted to have a house built, but that was denied by the member for Pine Rivers. I claimed that the honourable member was the builder of the home of Mr Ong, which was again denied by the member for Pine Rivers.

I now table first the receipts received by Mr R. Gibson and also a letter from Akers Tan & Associates clearly stating that an amount of \$1,890 was paid by Mr Gibson to the partnership of Akers Tan & Associates.

In regard to Mr Ong, I now table a contract which states—

"Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into this fourth day of July one thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine between Robert George Akers of 251 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill... and Jimmy Hean Ching Ong & Janette Christine Ong of 89 Bourbong Street, Chapel Hill."

Mr **AKERS**: I rise to a point of order. The member for Rockhampton asked the leave of this House to make a personal explanation. In that nothing that he has said relates to himself, he is far from making a personal explanation.

Mr **SPEAKER**: Order! I must uphold the point of order. If a member rises to make a personal explanation he must prove to the House that he has been personally maligned. So far the member for Rockhampton has not done so. If the honourable member proceeds along the lines I have stated, I will allow him to continue. Otherwise, I cannot allow him to continue.

Mr **CASEY**: I rise to a point of order. This habit has crept into the proceedings of the House. Unfortunately the point of order taken by the member for Pine Rivers, and also a personal explanation that he made at that particular time, cast aspersions on the integrity of the member for Rockhampton. I believe that the member for Rockhampton is now clarifying the point and the information that he previously put before the House.

Mr **SPEAKER**: Order! If the honourable member for Rockhampton clarifies that point, I will allow him to continue.

Mr **WRIGHT**: I intended to do that.

It was stated by the member for Pine Rivers—

"My conscience is clear in each case, and I am surprised that the member for Rockhampton, who professes to be a Christian, says he never casts a slur upon any person in this House and usually tells the truth, has allowed himself to be used in this shabby manner, obviously without checking the facts . . ."

I therefore believe my personal explanation is necessary and I table the documents in question.

I did not mislead the House, but the honourable member for Pine Rivers did. He also made a personal attack on Mr Gibson and I leave it to the electors of Pine Rivers to deal with him at the next election.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid the documents on the table.*

*In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House proceeded with Government business.*

## SUPPLY

## SIXTH ALLOTTED DAY—RECEPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions reported from Committee of Supply on 23 September were presented and, on motion of Dr Edwards, received.

## ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions being taken as read—

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

"That the Resolutions be now agreed to."

Motion agreed to.

## WAYS AND MEANS

## OPENING OF COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Committees (Mr W. D. Hewitt, Greenslopes) in the chair

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

"(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1980-1981, a further sum not exceeding \$1,310,177,520 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.

"(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1980-1981, a further sum not exceeding \$1,357,383,433 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1980-1981, a further sum

not exceeding \$131,734,431 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.

"(d) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1979-1980, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$98,239,664 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.

"(e) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1979-1980, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$86,454,664 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(f) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1979-1980, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$10,011,205 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.

"(g) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1981-1982, a sum not exceeding \$420,000,000 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.

"(h) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1981-1982, a sum not exceeding \$490,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(i) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1981-1982, a sum not exceeding \$60,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund."

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, received and agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

### FIRST READING

A Bill, founded on the Resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, was introduced and read a first time.

### SECOND READING

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (12.11 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

This Bill is the second and final Appropriation Bill for the current financial year. It seeks parliamentary approval to cover expenditure included in the Budget Estimates for this year, unforeseen expenditure incurred during 1979-80, and expenditure for the first two months of the financial year 1981-82 to maintain Government activities until further Supply can be granted.

An amount of \$4,974.3m is provided for 1980-81 to cover anticipated expenditures for Supply services from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, Trust and Special Funds and the Loan Fund and represents the total of Parts III, IV and V of the schedule to this Bill. The amount represents the appropriation for the full 1980-81 financial year apart from \$201.1m appropriated under specific Acts for special services and shown in Parts I and II of the schedule to the Bill. It also incorporates the amount of \$770m for Supply services appropriated in the Appropriation Act 1979-80 (No. 2) and the further amount of \$1,405m appropriated in the Appropriation Act 1980-81 (No. 1), which was assented to on 20 August to provide for Government services until the passing of this Bill.

Unforeseen expenditure for 1979-80 totalling \$194.7m is also incorporated in the Bill. This amount had Executive authority but now requires parliamentary approval. Full details of this amount are set out in Parts VI, VII and VIII of the schedule to this Bill.

The Bill also provides for an amount of \$970m to provide Supply for the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Trust and Special Funds, and Loan Fund for the first two months of the financial year 1981-82. Adequate provision has been allowed to cover cost escalations in the interim period.

While the Bill is somewhat technical in nature, opportunity has been taken in the past to comment on matters of importance to the State's economic and financial situation, both present and future. I propose to comment briefly on several issues.

The Queensland economy has moved ahead rapidly in the past two decades, mainly as a result of the development of our vast natural resources. Our traditional reliance on primary industries such as sugar, beef, wool, wheat, and so on, has significantly diminished. This does not mean that the importance of the primary sector has lessened. It certainly has not—a fact which is evidenced by production and export statistics and by the attention given to its needs by the Government, particularly in these times of severe continuing drought conditions.

The rural sector is experiencing enormous problems at present because of extreme drought conditions, and the Government pledges continuing assistance at both Federal and State levels.

**Mr Simpson:** Mining production is important, too.

**Dr EDWARDS:** As the honourable member for Cooroora indicates, there has been a tremendous amount of public interest in and emphasis on mining production. However, the rural industries are the real economic base and must continue to retain their importance in the minds of the community and the Government.

What it does mean is that our economy is much more diversified and inherently stronger. We are in a better position to withstand the vagaries of national and international economic trends.

I am firmly convinced that the past development in this State has really only scratched the surface of our potential. As I have said on a number of occasions, the '80s will see Queensland move into an exciting new phase in the development process. Most importantly, I am confident that the close attention that has been paid to the formulation of realistic and sensible policies in past years will ensure that the crescendo of activity will not disrupt the economy or be beyond the level with which the resources of the State can cope.

I know that most people are conscious of the growing importance and magnitude of our mineral-based developments and are aware that the State is a major producer of coal, copper, silver lead, zinc, bauxite, nickel, mineral sands, and so on. But, as I have said, the surface of the State's potential has only been scratched.

To illustrate, let me point briefly to some of the new major developments commenced or in the planning stage.

- Two new export coking-coal mines at Gregory and Norwich Park have commenced production, with combined annual output of 7.3 million tonnes.
- Two further export coking-coal mines are in the process of being brought into production, with maximum annual output of 6 million tonnes.
- It is confidently anticipated that by 1984, at least one further coking-coal mine will be committed, with probably a further two in the second half of the 1980s.
- There are at least 10 steaming-coal projects in various stages of feasibility study at the present moment. More can be anticipated as world demand for steaming coal increases.
- Firm power options exist for two aluminium smelters, with a further smelter possible in the mid to late 1980s.
- The Rundle oil-shale project could be anticipated to move toward full production.

It is interesting to note that the Labor Party, in stating its policy, has announced that it will review the franchise agreement entered into in relation to the Rundle oil-shale project. I warn the people of Queensland that a Labor Government would do nothing other than hinder the progress and development of the natural resources of this State.

To continue—

- A caustic soda-chlorine chemical complex costing about \$2.3 billion in two stages is under investigation for Gladstone.

- A coking-coal plant involving expenditure of about \$1.2 billion is also being studied.
- Coal-to-oil conversion plants remain a distinct possibility. Total capital expenditure involved in these major projects alone is about \$12 billion.

I stress that these are known major projects only. They do not take account of the many smaller developments that will undoubtedly flow as a direct result of these projects or the ongoing development from other normal activities.

The effect of these developments in terms of increase in the State product and economic growth will be tremendous. The employment aspects augur well for the future of the State's economy.

The major undertakings I have outlined could make available directly up to 15 000 new permanent jobs. The employment multiplier effects of this could see as many as 50 000 new jobs created throughout the economy. All of this would be in addition to our usual basic growth flowing from our ongoing economic base.

In the past, the major new developments have largely been capital-intensive in nature. As our economic base expands, there will be an increasing movement toward more labour-intensive manufacturing and processing industries to service industry and cater for increasing demand. The proposed smelters in Gladstone are a substantial step in this direction. Other industries such as manufacturing and fabrication using outputs from the major industries should follow.

The basic fundamentals are such that the potential of Queensland is unlimited. We are a resource-rich State. We have the resources that an energy-hungry world wants and needs. We have the potential and capacity to produce a vast range of products that the world requires.

It is a tremendously exciting time. It is also a time that requires stable and responsible government to foster this development.

Adequate and proper planning will be required. For example, the potential developments will place great demands on infrastructure requirements. New rail and transport facilities will be needed. Ports must be expanded and developed to move our product. Water, electricity and other basics will be demanded. These are the direct needs.

What is sometimes forgotten, though, is that development places great demand on basic community services. New schools, hospitals, police stations, court-houses and so on will be needed for the new towns that will be built and to meet the needs of rapidly expanding populations in existing towns.

Part of the expenditure which this Bill authorises is in respect of just such basic infrastructure needs.

The demands for infrastructure are great. Available funds are limited. It is the Government's responsibility to ensure that available funds are used to best advantage to maximise the potential. Short-term needs must be weighed against the longer-term good.

I am proud to say that this Government has grasped the nettle and adopted responsible policies that will carry Queensland well into the 1980s and later. Our record proves this. We stand on our record. The developments taking place are the tangible evidence. They are the envy of every other State in Australia.

As I have already indicated, the demand on available funds is great. In recent years, the State has resorted to off-shore borrowings to finance the necessary infrastructure development. It will increasingly need to do this in the future.

The reality is that, unless the planners and the Government have done their jobs and the infrastructure is there, the development will not take place. The economy will not grow and the people of this State will not share in the prosperity to which they might reasonably aspire. It is vital to our progress.

The potential of Queensland is well-recognised overseas and investors are always keen—indeed, very keen—to do business with us. Our credit-rating is of the highest possible order. The terms and conditions under which we borrow are the most advantageous of any State in Australia—indeed, in many cases, better than the Commonwealth Government.

Undoubtedly, the greatest infrastructure demand the State will have in the '80s is for power generation. The proposed major developments are all major users of power and there will be an increasing demand for power as the economics of using electricity relative to other fuels are exploited to the fullest. For example, the demand for electricity in Queensland is anticipated to almost treble over the next decade from 2 327 MW in 1980 to 6 594 MW in 1990. That is an enormous growth which, I am sure, every member of the House recognises. This demand will require three or four new power-stations after Tarong. I should emphasise that these figures are calculated on a very conservative basis, having regard to reasonably firm power requirements. It will take only some further potential or new developments to occur and the present estimate of a trebling of power demand could end up being very much understated.

The accelerated electricity development program that is planned for the next 10 years will cost a total of \$5.7 billion at 1980-81 prices. Of this, internal funds, ordinary loan borrowings, and previously approved special loans will be able to fund about \$3.2 billion. This will leave about \$2.5 billion to be raised, mainly, if not all, from overseas. The State has already applied to the Australian Loan Council for

the necessary approvals. The sums are huge. Their impact, totally, on the Australian economy will be great. Demand for goods and services will escalate. There will be the ever-present danger of the economy overheating with consequent inflationary effects. It will be a testing time. Sound economic and financial management will be required. An increasing responsibility will be thrust on Governments to ensure that the development takes place in an orderly fashion and that there is an equitable sharing of the prosperity that will undoubtedly flow from the development of our natural resources.

The policies of this Government have always been formulated in full recognition of our heavy responsibilities in this area. The Government has always believed that the interests of the people of Queensland—and I speak of both present and future generations—can best be served by a rational and orderly development of the resource potential of the State. Long-term economic and financial stability must take precedence over any short-term advantages that might be derived by the Government's adopting a less conscientious attitude to its great responsibilities. That the people of Queensland have benefited directly from this Government's long-sighted, well-balanced and extremely well-planned approach cannot be disputed. Over the years, they have seen the abolition of taxes such as death duties, road transport fees, road maintenance charges and a very substantial relief in pay-roll tax and land tax.

The people of Queensland have a Government which, with confidence in its ability to ensure the maximisation of returns from resource developments and to manage these and its other revenues efficiently and productively, is committed to a policy of not increasing taxation and to reducing it wherever possible. They have seen almost \$330 m diverted from the Government's normal day-to-day operating Budget over the last five years and injected into the capital works area to provide additional roads, houses, irrigation works, schools and so on, thereby creating and maintaining employment opportunities for many thousands of Queensland workers—employment in the Government work-force, in industries that contract for Government works and industries throughout the State which support these works with materials and services.

The fact that the Government has been able to do all this while at the same time Queenslanders have the lowest taxation of any State in Australia is, I believe, tangible proof of the effectiveness of this Government's policies.

I will be forwarding to all honourable members, within the next few days, a Bureau of Statistics breakdown of taxation in the whole of Australia. It clearly bears out my statement.

All of these things have been possible because of the contribution of increasing

returns from major resource developments, coupled with sound financial management and efficient and economic delivery of services.

Royalties in 1980-81 will total over \$73m. But for the effects of the recent dispute on the coalfields, this would have been \$80m. Rail profits on mineral haulages are well in excess of \$100m. In other words, almost \$200m annually flows to the State directly from its mining developments and the figure is escalating.

**Mr Vaughan:** Did you say rail profits?

**Dr EDWARDS:** Rail profits. That indicates the tremendous benefits that the State is reaping. I was sure that the honourable member would be enlightened by that figure, judging by some figures I heard him use on radio the other morning which indicated that he did not understand the facts.

These royalties and rail haulage profits are the direct cash benefits to the people of this great State. The indirect economic benefits are many times more again. The increased prosperity in the State generally leads to better living standards and this increases demands for goods and services and, hence, increases employment prospects. In time this prosperity, along with advancements in technology, will lead to higher wages and incomes, reduced working hours and so more leisure time. The way of life of Queenslanders will be transformed.

While the Bill is essentially an authorisation of expenditure by the Government, it is an essential part of the ongoing processes that enable the Government to give the kinds of direction and encouragement which are needed for the orderly development of this State to take place. The expenditures authorised therein will further responsible policies adopted by the Government for the attainment of sound worthwhile goals for the benefit of the people of Queensland.

I commend the Bill to honourable members.

**Mr WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.28 p.m.):** Because of the limited opportunity that Opposition members and some Government back-benchers had to speak in the Supply debate, an agreement has been reached that members will voluntarily restrict their speeches in this debate to 20 minutes. I intend to do just that. That limits me to speaking on just one aspect of the financial management of this State.

The Treasurer said that he was standing on his record. While he could do that in some areas of development, he could not in regard to the financial arrangements and assistance given to local authorities in Queensland through the Local Government Grants Commission.

On 19 August, when I was speaking to the Appropriation Bill (No. 1), I raised the issue of the Local Government Grants Commission. I expressed some personal concern

specifically in relation to the allocation given to Rockhampton. Members will recall that the thrust of my comments was centred on claims made some days earlier by the mayor of Rockhampton, Alderman Rex Pilbeam. He stated that allocations to some local authorities were influenced by party politics and depended upon the political nature of the State electorates in which those authorities were located.

These claims were hotly contested by the Treasurer. He stated—

“Alderman Pilbeam is well off the beam.”

Later he said—

“The commission is a totally independent body appointed by the Government consisting of representatives of local authorities who make recommendations to the Government on a basic formula.”

I am not one to doubt the truth of the Treasurer's statements, but I took the time to investigate the difficulties that the local authorities have been experiencing with local government grants.

**Dr Edwards:** Did you talk to the commissioners?

**Mr WRIGHT:** No, I have not got to that point. However, after I have spoken, the Treasurer might arrange for not only me but also a number of other members to speak to the commissioners.

**Dr Edwards:** We have made an offer on a number of occasions.

**Mr WRIGHT:** An offer was not made to me at that time, but I shall certainly accept this offer.

I investigated the grants that have been received and I have discussed the matter with some local authorities. Only yesterday, at the invitation and initiative of the member for Ipswich West, Mr Dave Underwood, I had discussion with Alderman Des Freeman of the Ipswich City Council. I would sum up my findings of the investigations that I have carried out firstly by saying that there is an urgent need to totally review the present terms of reference of the commission, especially as they relate to element B. The allocations since 1977-78, when the State Government took responsibility and established its State-based commission, have been devoid of method and have had as their main characteristic virtually unexplainable fluctuations over a four-year period. As Alderman Pilbeam did state some weeks ago, there is strong evidence to suggest that the allocations are made on party-political grounds and not on the basic formula, as the Treasurer has stated.

**Dr Edwards:** It was absolutely correct. When the Whitlam Government—

**Mr WRIGHT:** I do not believe that is so, and I will take the Treasurer's point when I return to the statistical presentation that I will make.

It seems that my views are supported by a number of local authority people. I note in a speech made by Councillor Fred Rogers this statement—

"The recent announcement by the Local Government Grants Commission of the distribution of Commonwealth Funds to Local Authorities is in my opinion nothing short of a disaster and in no way will the Commission's recommendations instill in Local Authorities any confidence in the Commission."

That is not my comment; it is a comment made by a person who would probably have a political affiliation similar to that of the Treasurer, if not that of the Premier.

**Dr Edwards:** And a member of the Grants Commission, and he unanimously signed the report.

**Mr WRIGHT:** Not at that point of time. As I said at the beginning, I have no particular argument with the break-up of the grant into the two elements of A and B. That is reasonable and rational. I have no argument with the population and area criteria used in determining assessments under element A. My criticism is aimed at element B, which accounts for 70 per cent of the total grant. There are unexplainable

variations. It is difficult to understand how the commissioners translate the information provided by councils into money terms. There is a secrecy surrounding the method used by the commissioners in interpreting the "needs" aspect into hard cash terms. Fluctuations year after year are incomprehensible. The question arises: do the commissioners know what they are about—are they using some sort of rule of thumb—or are they not responsible for their decisions, because in fact the final determination is not theirs, but that of the Treasurer or the Government parties?

I back up these criticisms with statistical evidence. I look first of all at the fluctuations that have taken place. I have here a comparative study from 1974-75 right through to 1980-81. Whilst the Treasurer might try to blame the Australian Labor Party, one notes that, in the first couple of years when the Federal Labor Government was involved, there was a considerable increase in funds to local authorities. In fact, it was welcomed and appreciated greatly by local authorities.

Let us look at these fluctuations, keeping in mind that in the latter years, 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81, the State averages were 8 per cent, 22 per cent and 36 per cent. The fluctuations in various shires are as follows—

Local Authority	1975-76 Percentage increase	1976-77 Percentage increase	1977-78 Percentage increase	1978-79 Percentage increase	1979-80 Percentage increase	1980-81 Percentage increase
Albert .. ..	38.9	68.8	25.1	17.8	-32.0	50.0
Balonne .. ..	57.8	68.3	5.0	9.9	6.0	50.0
Bowen .. ..	31.0	68.9	5.2	2.2	15.0	49.51
Brisbane .. ..	25.0	68.6	16.5	2.3	17.0	37.98
Bundaberg .. ..	42.3	68.6	5.1	0.0	5.0	17.44
Cairns .. ..	61.9	68.8	7.1	2.3	21.0	42.65
Charters Towers ..	28.9	68.8	5.2	0.0	5.0	10.3
Cook .. ..	163.2	69.0	24.9	18.0	36.0	41.29
Eidsvold .. ..	211.1	67.9	25.5	27.1	12.0	50.0
Gooburrum ..	57.5	68.3	4.7	18.0	5.0	36.95
Maryborough ..	42.3	68.6	5.1	0.0	5.0	10.17
Millmerran ..	500.0	66.7	37.5	27.2	81.0	45.66

When I first looked at the figures I thought that in the last couple of years, except for 1980-81, there were some problems about the amount of money available. Honourable members will note that while some shires received no increase, some received 5 per cent and others received 50 per cent increase. While one shire received 2.3 per

cent increase, another received 18 per cent and yet another received 27.2 per cent increase.

**Dr Edwards:** Mr Wright—

**Mr WRIGHT:** I have not got much time because I am sticking to the agreement.

**Dr Edwards:** Are you talking about 2 per cent this year?

**Dr Edwards:** That is not true.

**Mr WRIGHT:** No, I am not. I am talking about the comparisons in that period, 1978-79 and 1979-80, because the reason that was given for the great drop-back in 1978-79 and 1979-80, from 1977-78, was the amount of money allocated by the Commonwealth, and therefore the overall increase in various areas had to be cut back.

**Mr WRIGHT:** That has been one of the excuses given, that it was not the State's fault; it was the total amount of the grant made available by the Commonwealth to the State. Naturally if there is only a certain amount of money to distribute, then it cannot be done willy-nilly so that one shire gets a huge amount and others receive lesser amounts. I will now give some more examples of the fluctuations—

Local Authority	1975-76 Percentage increase	1976-77 Percentage increase	1977-78 Percentage increase	1978-79 Percentage increase	1979-80 Percentage increase	1980-81 Percentage increase
Taroom .. ..	427.3	69.0	25.5	26.8	60.0	50.0
Warwick .. ..	35.9	68.9	5.0	0.0	5.0	10.15

It goes on and on. Those figures are a comparison of the total grants received, combining elements A and B. If one looks at element B alone one starts to appreciate that the increase is even greater and the change is just amazing. I cite the following statistics—

Authority	1978-79 % increase over 77-78 State average 8.5%	1979-80 % increase over 78-79 State average 23.6%	1980-81 % increase over 79-80 State average 35.6%
Albert .. ..	19.4	-16.0	46.45
Balonne .. ..	10.4	2.6	53.67
Barcaldine .. ..	1.1	26.7	18.15
Bowen .. ..	0.9	12.5	53.78
Eidsvold .. ..	30.0	11.0	52.6
Gladstone .. ..	-0.2	-1.1	36.10
Jericho .. ..	19.9	22.5	42.90

No doubt the improved figures for Gladstone were as a result of representations made by the member for Port Curtis (Mr Bill Prest).

**Mr WRIGHT:** With respect, I am not reflecting on anybody. If an inference has been taken, I apologise to the commission at this point.

**Dr EDWARDS:** I rise to a point of order. I ask the honourable member to withdraw that statement implying that the Grants Commission is subjected, and indeed responds, to political representations. That is absolutely inaccurate and I believe it is a reflection on the integrity of the Grants Commission, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr WRIGHT:** Mr Speaker, that is not a reflection on the Treasurer himself. As you would appreciate, there is no point of order.

**Dr EDWARDS:** I take this point of order and I ask that in all decency the honourable member, in recognition of the integrity of an independent commission, withdraws those remarks because they reflect on the character, personality and ability of the Grants Commission.

I now wish to go on because my third comparison, unfortunately for the Treasurer, substantiates my claim. A study has been carried out by the Ipswich City Council of some 36 councils. The shires covered are: Allora, Barcoo, Bauhinia, Beaudesert, Belyando, Boonah, Boulia, Bulloo, Bungil, Chinchilla, Clifton, Cook, Croyden, Diamantina, Esk, Glengallan, Hinchinbrook, Isisford, Jondaryan, Kilkivan, Maroochy, Millmerran, Monto, Moreton, Nebo, Noosa, Peak Downs, Perry, Pioneer, Pittsworth, Rosalie, Rosenthal, Taroom, Thuringowa, Wambo and Woocoo. Those 36 councils are the ones that have received major increases, not just in the last year, although they are substantial in an election year, but also for 1978-79, 1979-80 and now for this financial year. As the Treasurer said, in prophesying what I was about to say (because no doubt

the criticism has been made), 94 per cent of the 36 named here—the recipients of the greatest increases—are National Party. Why?

**Dr Edwards:** What despicable behaviour! You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

**Mr WRIGHT:** I am not ashamed of myself. It is not the Australian Labor Party that suffers here; it is not the individual representatives—the aldermen or the councillors; it is the people. That is what the Treasurer seems to forget.

**Dr Edwards:** You didn't even have the decency to come to the commission and ask about the allocations. That is irresponsible.

**Mr WRIGHT:** I was not invited to the commission. I am prepared to meet with the commissioners. I am hoping they might invite me themselves, because I am not really pleased with the commission. The fact of the matter is that there are no proper terms of reference used. No-one can explain exactly what type of method is used to interpret the submissions made into money terms.

**Mr Warburton:** Neither is the Local Government Association invited.

**Dr Edwards:** The Local Government Association is represented in the membership of the commission. Four of the five of them are aldermen.

**Mr WRIGHT:** That means nothing. With due respect to the Honourable the Treasurer, it is like the Electoral Redistribution Commission in Queensland. It could well be said that we have competent people there—but we know their political affiliations, unfortunately. I am not casting that comparison as an aspersion on the commission, but something is wrong. Something is wrong when we can pick out the 36 shires that have received the largest increases in this State and we find that 94 per cent of them are National Party. Why?

**Dr Edwards:** Don't you think their needs might be there?

**Mr WRIGHT:** If it was a needs basis, then I would expect that; but that is not so.

**Dr Edwards:** Then you haven't been in the West, I can assure you.

**Mr WRIGHT:** I don't believe that it is so. I think that there have to be some changes. We have to ensure that the Commission is truly representative of the councils. Whilst it is a personal opinion, I put it forward to this Assembly that the commission ought to be changed so that the allocations are made not only on element A and element B but also as they relate to

city councils, town councils and shires. Let us divide it up. Let us put it into three different categories.

**Dr Edwards:** You want to put political affiliations into it, too. You might as well say it now.

**Mr WRIGHT:** No, I do not. I do not want that and I have never advocated such a thing. I take exception to such a remark. What I want to see is that city councils are represented properly; that town and shire councils are represented properly. What is wrong with that? What is wrong with having three specific representatives from three divisions of local government in Queensland on the commission so that they can air the specific problems for their areas? Each would be a totally different case. We know that submissions are made by the various councils, but there is no rhyme or reason for the final allocations made—and it is not just my saying it. It is Fred Rogers and Rex Pilbeam—people of totally different affiliations from mine.

There ought to be proper representation on the commission. There ought to be explanations given with each allocation and there ought to be some right of appeal. There should be a right of appeal so that those councils that are aggrieved and believe they have been discriminated against, victimised in some way or disadvantaged—who might say there has been political interference—can appeal. This is certainly not so at present.

Because of the fluctuations that take place, at the moment the councils are totally unable to plan for the future. One year they get 2.3 per cent, the next year they get 5 per cent, then it jumps to 50 and then drops back to 17. They are the official statistics that have been given. There needs to be a special review of element B. We need to reconsider the guide-lines that have been given to councils and establish a clear methodology for assessments and allocations. There almost has to be a revolution over the financial assistance given to local authorities in this State. The equalisation principle that has been the very basis—the whole object—of what this scheme is supposed to be about is being lost because there is no way it can be shown that the councils are getting equal or fair treatment based on needs and priorities as well as on population and area.

It would seem that the local authorities have become pawns in the hands of the State Government. It would seem that their limited autonomy is being eroded away. There needs to be a review of the financial arrangements between the Commonwealth, States and local authorities. I question why it is necessary for all the Commonwealth moneys that go eventually to local authorities to be put through a State authority or a State commission. The councils are the ones that should have the major say; but it seems, in practice anyway, that

they are at the mercy of the commission. The councils are at the mercy of the Liberal Party and the National Party in this State. They are at the mercy of those who are influencing the final decisions.

**Dr Edwards:** You will regret saying that.

**Mr WRIGHT:** I will not regret it, because I know that I have the backing of local authorities on this question.

**Dr Edwards:** You have spoken to two local authorities, the Rockhampton City Council and the Ipswich City Council. What about the other 134, many of which have written to the Government?

**Mr WRIGHT:** I have spoken to a number of the councillors at the conference held in Rockhampton. The Treasurer forgets that I took the opportunity to speak to councillors from a number of different shires. Some of them were pleased because they had received more money. The Government is playing one lot of shires off against the others. It is using against the shires exactly the same tactics that the Commonwealth uses against the States. It must keep the numbers. It has 36 on side from the National Party's point of view, and it aims to keep playing them off against the others.

It is not the ALP, the Opposition, the councillors, the aldermen, the chairmen and the mayors who are really suffering. It is not the representatives but the people who are disadvantaged, and they are the ones who are suffering. The political interference—"preference" might be a more positive way of putting it—does not hurt me or other members of this Assembly; it hurts the ratepayers and the residents. It is the State Government that must come to grips with the problem. It is the State Government that can be accused of political interference.

**Dr Edwards:** That is not true. You are misleading the House.

**Mr WRIGHT:** I am not. If that was the case, I would apologise. I am looking at facts and figures, and that is what the Government should begin doing. The honourable gentleman may rise in this Chamber and say that he is not involved. The fact is that shire after shire and city after city is being disadvantaged because of the way in which the commissioners appointed by the Government assess element B.

**Dr Edwards:** You are misleading the House. You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

**Mr WRIGHT:** The Government really determines the value of the needs and priorities and how much councils are to get. Honourable members opposite are the ones who are supposed to be promoting the equalisation of standards. It sounds great in principle, but it is discriminative in practice.

The Treasurer says that the Government will stand on its record. I say that its record in local authority financial arrangements is dismal and miserable. It may not be the Treasurer's fault, because he has been Treasurer for only a short time. I suggest that he talk to local authorities about their interest and redemption payments, about the problems that they are facing, about the way in which the Government handicaps them and puts handcuffs on them in their financial administration. They have to kowtow to the Government and bow down to the Government because it controls them, not only under the Local Government Act and the City of Brisbane Act but also by means of the financial arrangements that are made and the financial benefits and assistance given through the Local Government Grants Commission. In view of that, I do not think that the Treasurer can honestly claim that the Government will stand on its record.

**Mrs KYBURZ (Salisbury) (12.47 p.m.):** In beginning my comments on the Appropriation Bill, I must say first that I totally reject the arguments put forward by the spokesman for the Opposition in relation to the Local Government Grants Commission. It is patently obvious, even to city members who are often accused of not caring, that the western shires have been struggling along for years. I say quite frankly that they need additional money. If they are receiving additional money, I say "Good luck" to them.

It is obvious that many of the shires mentioned by the honourable member for Rockhampton have been struggling during the drought. As he said, it is not the representatives who are suffering but the people who live there. They are entitled to a better quality of life, however it can be given to them.

As a ratepayer in the Brisbane City Council area, I reject the way in which the Brisbane City Council wastes money. It receives an absolutely enormous financial allocation, but it pays millions of dollars for renting buildings and millions of dollars for developing land—something that I do not think a local authority ought to be doing.

One of the shires mentioned by the honourable member for Rockhampton was the Noosa Shire, and it has been struggling valiantly. It has an expanding population and is having difficulty in keeping up with the demand for water and other services, although the honourable member for Cooroorra has obviously represented the people there well. In my opinion, the Noosa Shire Council is entitled to money from the coffers of the State because of its expanding population, and I will rise in this Chamber and defend the right of every shire in Queensland, particularly those that are drought-stricken, to receive additional money from the Local Government Grants Commission.

I totally reject the statement that allocations to local authorities are made on a political basis.

**Mr Davis:** Of course they are!

**Mrs KYBURZ:** That is absolute rot, and I do not believe that Mr Rogers would have made that statement, because I know him to be a sincere, hard-working man, fighting on behalf of local authorities.

The other item I wish to mention concerns education. Contrary to claims made by the media and the teachers union, and indeed by the Minister for Education himself, the Government's record on education funding is an excellent one. It speaks for itself. Education expenditure has grown by leaps and bounds over the last 10 years. The total expenditure on education has grown from \$134m to \$600.9m, which represents an increase of 348 per cent. Various allocations have increased so much that I simply cannot understand the criticism levelled at funding in this State.

I intend to offer criticisms of the education system that have nothing whatever to do with funds. I intend to prove that a high standard of education does not rely on funds alone. A good education system is made up of caring, interested teachers, not of carpets on the floor and pictures on the wall, nor of all the other accoutrement that people would have us believe are so important.

The teacher strength in State schools has grown by 53 per cent and in TAFE colleges by 143 per cent. The greatest expenditure over the past 10 years has been on teacher aides. Many people, including teachers, forget this.

Teacher aides were introduced in the 1973-74 Budget, or less than 10 years ago. This State now has over 6 000 teacher aides. I suggest that many of them are people who previously worked in schools and acquired excellent experience. Teachers, however, tend to forget that prior to 1973 there was no such thing as a teacher aide to do the dirty work of washing the paint brushes, putting the paints out, taking little ones to the toilet and all the other things that teacher aides now do. Before 1973 we, the teachers, did all that, and no-one complained. Why are people complaining bitterly now? What are they complaining about? Teachers want teacher aides to perform playground duties, they want the teacher aides to mark the rolls, and we have even heard talk about having the teacher aides work out the curricular programs. What nonsense! If a teacher who has spent three years in a college of advanced education has not learned to write a program, the teacher is in the wrong job. He or she should be pushing bottles along a factory assembly line, because that is all the teacher is good for.

The total grants to non-Government schools has grown also. However, non-Government schools have criticised the Government supposedly for not giving them enough money. In fact, I have not heard anyone say that he has been entirely happy with his grants.

The sector of our education system from which I have heard the most whinging is the teachers union. It whinges that the teachers, whom it purports to represent, are not getting enough money. That is an utter lie. This Government's expenditure on the education system has been enormous.

Because of the whinging and moaning that we have heard, one might ask: Who is involved in the whole education process? The whole *raison d'être* for schools should be questioned, not only by members of Parliament but also by the community.

Some people see schools solely as places where pedagogues stand up and teach students, pushing particular subjects into students so that they can then pass an examination. I reject that view. It is, however, the view held by a materially oriented community that sees a certificate as a means of getting a job. That is very sad. I do not believe that this situation will continue into the future.

Because a certificate is a tangible end of the education process, the community sees it as a legitimate goal for schools to strive for. I do not see it as a legitimate goal. Many businessmen who argue that the student should come out of school and be able to fit perfectly as a cog in the wheels of industry have unreal expectations of the schools system. That is not what schooling is all about.

The contrary view is that the school is an institution and that, as well as teaching subjects and giving certificates, it teaches children to develop and analyse ideas—to reject some and to take in others. That is what we should be trying to do for our schools.

The value system on which society is based should be passed on to knowledgeable citizens so that they fit into the world and do not turn against each other. Those are very real goals in our school system. Students, teachers and parents should be working towards them.

In the late '60s and early '70s the education system needed an injection of funds. The whole community accepted that view, and both State and Federal Governments responded. As a result, teacher aides were provided and the number of students per teacher was reduced. A whole range of new and additional equipment was also provided. In the last 10 years use of audio-visual equipment has become so widespread that teachers who do not have access to audio-visual equipment consider themselves to be under-equipped. They ignore the fact that "chalk and talk" are very important. Many teachers

have lost sight of the fact that if they have a blackboard, a piece of chalk and are intelligent, they should be able to teach.

Extra time has been allocated to secondary school teachers for preparation and correction. Some high school teachers are whinging because they teach for 22 hours a week. And they object to playground duty! I often thought that playground duty was difficult for the teachers, particularly when they had to supervise large numbers in unsealed playgrounds. But for 50 or 60 years—ever since the schools were established there—teachers in the West taught seven grades at a time in multiple class-room areas. At the same time they did playground duty, and they did the roneo and gestetner work. They organised rolls, talked to parents and coped with every facet of the children's lives. Why can't city teachers do that?

Mr Vaughan: They are not treated too well by the Government.

Mrs KYBURZ: That is absolute nonsense.

The Queensland Teachers Union, by its campaign, convinced sections of the community and, indeed, some sections of the Government, that huge additional funds were necessary to raise educational standards. "To raise educational standards" is a crux phrase, and I will deal with it. Money has been important, and it is now receiving importance. Care is important, and so is dedication. The money, the additional teachers, and the equipment have been provided, and there is no basis for complaint on that score. But what do we find? Parents are complaining about the standard of education their children are receiving. I am sure that all honourable members have received such complaints. Employers complain about the standard of education of young people wanting jobs.

No child should leave the school system without at least being able to read and write. With the standard of literacy in Australia, it is totally reprehensible for any school to send out a pupil illequipped to face the world. And a student is certainly ill-equipped if he cannot read or write.

I worked in India where teachers thought that if they had a literacy rate of 3 per cent they were doing a brilliant job. If three in 100 children were taught to read and write, the teachers were satisfied. Here in Australia we have a literacy rate of 97 per cent. That means that 3 in 100 children leave our schools without being able to read and write. That is just not good enough when the facilities are available and the children do not have to attend school without having eaten for a week and after sleeping in the gutters and being unable to sleep properly because cows were walking over them. I have seen children go to school in India without having had shelter or food for a week. That does not happen in Australia.

One complaint often made about the school education system is that young people lack ability in the basic skills of reading and writing. Many young people have difficulty in looking up a name in the telephone book. That is taught in Year 3; it is a library skill that is easily and rapidly taught. It is absolutely disgusting that some 14 and 15-year-olds cannot look up a name in a telephone book. I suggest that both the State and Federal Governments have largely met the objective of providing the means for teachers to give children an adequate standard of education.

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

Mrs KYBURZ: The main point that I wish to make is that the Queensland Teachers Union is afraid of public accountability in education. Schools must now become more open and accountable to both the parents and the community in general because the traditional view of the school as the special preserve of specialists and experts as the sole custodians of knowledge and controllers of the curriculum is strengthened by this special educational jargon, which both educationists and indeed the people who are capable of understanding it perpetuate to render ordinary citizens and parents and citizens associations inarticulate as they are outside the special jargon. This educational jargon is unknown to ordinary people in their own homes, pubs, work places and factories and, because schools estrange themselves from the community, educational authorities often mistakenly believe that parents are not interested in the education of their children. Parents are extremely interested in the education of their children if they can bridge the gap of understanding between the schools and the community. That is very important. The means—the financial resources in schools—have largely been provided, but it is now up to teachers to deliver in their performance.

What we have seen in the Queensland Teachers Union recently is a classic case of a bureaucracy perpetuating itself. It is a classic example of empire-building of the worst order. When there was a need for additional funding in education, the ordinary rank-and-file back-bencher of the Teachers Union made the sacrifice by paying higher union fees to employ larger professional staff to push the objectives of increased education funding. That took place primarily in the late 1960s.

Now that those objectives have been achieved the professional officers of the Teachers Union have set even higher objectives for all Governments to meet to justify their continued employment at the expense of the average teacher. The average teacher has had a gutful of paying union fees and seeing the money go down the drain, seeing the money go on union officers' expenses, which does absolutely nothing for education in this State.

What will happen once Governments have met all of the union's objectives, if that were possible? Of course, it is not. The professional bureaucracy will set even higher objectives and, if Governments continually respond to Teachers Union bureaucracy, we will be on a never-ending treadmill of money, money, money and no stopping.

I believe that the community will agree that it is up to the teachers to deliver an improved performance all round. Money itself will not raise educational standards, and many members of the community realise that. It is up to the teachers themselves in using the facilities provided, and there have been many additional facilities provided within the last 10 years.

For example, I am certain that parents have no sympathy for teachers who call for pupil-free days every now and then so that they can catch up on their work. In this place, criticism has been levelled at the length of holidays enjoyed by teachers and all sorts of additional facilities. The only people whom I would criticise are the teachers in high schools who have now cut themselves back to 20 to 22 hours a week. I do not think many parents know about that. Many schools already have pupil-free days, and they have them illegally.

In future there will be court cases by class action groups whereby teachers will be able to take various educational authorities to court for not delivering the goods, so to speak. There are particular schools, especially in high growth areas, where facilities have been below standard.

At this time we have seen so much money poured into education. I have said in the past what needs to be seen is a reallocation. If there is overspending in one area, expenditure should be cut back and the money spent where it is needed. More money should be spent on pre-school education and early intervention units.

That is my main criticism, because I believe that social irresponsibility on the part of some parents has contributed to the poor educational standards of some children. The Teachers Union is not concerned about those matters. It is not concerned about the fundamental principle of providing a good education for everybody in this State. Obviously, the Government has done its best to rectify the deficiencies in buildings, staffing and equipment.

As regards open education—I can cite the case of a high school in my electorate. It happens to be a high school in a supposedly low socio-economic area. I refer to the Woodridge High School. The principal and staff at that school have co-operated to such an extent—

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** Mr D'Arcy looks after Woodridge.

**Mrs KYBURZ:** Woodridge is in my electorate, and I will have no criticism of that high school from the honourable member or from other members of the Labor Party. After all, that school has fought uphill to bring the parents into the school, to force them to become interested in the school and not use it as a creche and kindergarten in which to plonk 14 and 15-year-olds to keep them off the street. I wish to give a boost to the Woodridge High School, including the principal and his staff, because I believe that they have carried on the open-education policy.

This Government, and every Government, has a responsibility to set the priorities for the spending of funds. Every department does that in the way it sees fit. If there are mistakes in education funding, then it is the responsibility of the Education Department. The needs of all departments have to be balanced internally as well as externally. The Treasury has to balance not only the needs of education but also the needs of the Health Department, the Welfare Department, the Transport Department, recreational facilities, cultural facilities and so on. This Government has good stories to tell in both the Health Department and the Education Department. Until we go out and spread the message that accountability in education depends on openness in schools, then we will let the Teachers Union get away with the spurious nonsense that it has been going on with. I think it is time that we made it quite clear to parents that they should be part of the entire educational process.

I turn now to the Auditor-General's report on departmental accounts. I refer to the heading under the Department of Works which deals with the destruction of schools by fire. It indicates that four schools in the Brisbane area and one school in Bundaberg were destroyed or damaged by fire. The Government has done its best to deal with this situation. An inter-departmental committee has been set up to look at the question.

I believe that the only way in which we can come to grips with this kind of vandalism is to set up a community council comprising staff, parents and pupils who will keep a watchful eye on schools. Everyone will then take an interest in what is an owned and shared community asset. The vandalism that is occurring in schools is absolutely disgusting. It results from two things: a lack of discipline on the part of parents and social alienation on the part of young people. We often hear talk about boredom. I think that unfortunately that word is over-used. It is usually used by parents to excuse their children for crimes that they have committed. Lack of parental discipline often results in the destruction of schools, and I am sad to see this occurring so often in our community.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (2.24 p.m.): This is probably the last Appropriation Bill that the Treasurer will ever introduce into the House. It is quite obvious that after the coming State election my colleague the member for Rockhampton (Mr Wright) will be introducing the next Appropriation Bill. Government members can laugh, but there are a lot of nervous tummies on their side of the House. It is well known that the Treasurer is regarded as being a religious man, so I think it appropriate to make a comment in biblical terms. There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth because many Liberal Party candidates will be called during the coming election but few will be chosen.

I am reliably informed that, irrespective of the outcome of the election, the member for Greenslopes will not be seeking re-election as Chairman of Committees. It would be churlish of me if I did not pay tribute to the manner in which he has discharged his duties as Chairman of this Parliament. Let me put it on record that I believe that the member for Greenslopes has been one of the fairest and most impartial Chairmen to have held that position since I have been in this House. Over a number of years I have been the victim of some very foul decisions, but I must say that I have never suffered under the chairmanship of the member for Greenslopes.

**Dr Edwards:** I did not know you were on the way out.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** Who knows? As I said before, many are called but few are chosen.

I would like to take the opportunity in this debate to once again raise the manner in which public moneys have been spent at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education and the manner in which the Bjelke-Petersen Government has discharged its responsibilities in supervising the expenditure of those funds. On 19 August in the debate on Appropriation Bill (No. 1) I also addressed myself to this matter. Today I present new information to this House on breaches of the Companies Act by certain persons associated with the institute and the closely associated Darling Downs College of Advanced Education. I now wish to table some documentation.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid the documents on the table.*

I turn to other aspects. The institute is run by the council whose members are drawn from both inside and outside the institute. They include the director of the institute, a Mr L. J. Barker, a one-time unsuccessful aspirant for Liberal Party pre-selection for the Federal seat of Darling Downs, who has been director of this institute since its inception. The Council chairman is Mr H. A. (Bunty) Griffiths, who also

heads the Southern Cross group of companies, the largest employer in Toowoomba. Southern Cross has a foundry, a brickworks, a hardware company, an insurance company and separate franchises to distribute British Leyland and Ford products. Another member of the council is Mr N. A. Hodge, who runs a construction company bearing his name.

From its early days the council of the institute has been very secretive about its operations. Why has it been so secretive? What was there to hide? We already know what Mr Scanlan, an inspector of the Auditor-General's Department, found on his investigation of the institute's finances. It revealed shady deals and malpractices. The truth is we see buildings built with bricks from Bunty Griffiths's Southern Cross company.

**Mr WARNER:** I rise to a point of order. I would like that remark withdrawn. No such findings were made. I ask that that remark be withdrawn.

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

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** Of course there is not! I will repeat it. The truth is that buildings were made from bricks purchased from Bunty Griffiths's Southern Cross company. All sorts of hardware products were purchased from the Southern Cross company. Even the mini-jet irrigators in window-boxes were purchased from Southern Cross.

If the residential colleges of the institute are investigated, the story is found to be the same. There are two colleges; Davis College is an integral part of the institute and McGregor College is run by a company called the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education Limited. As Mr Scanlan noted, six of the directors of the company are also members of the institute council. They include Bunty Griffiths, Fowler, Hodge and Barker. I point out that the institute runs the day-to-day affairs of McGregor College, including catering, cleaning and some insurance, etc. The college is charged for these services by the institute.

I return to the Southern Cross group of companies. If a person is chairman of the insured party and managing director of the insurance company as well, he can do two things. The insured party can be made to accept higher premiums for various forms of insurance. As honourable members know, recently there was a fire at the institute. In the event of such a claim, there are usually doubts about the extent of the liability to be borne by the insurance company. The chairman of the insured party has a great advantage because he can ensure that the insurance company that he owns is not pressed too severely.

While I am on the subject of insurance at McGregor College, I refer to a blatant breach of company law. I am sorry that the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General (Mr Lickiss) is not in the House, although a lot of the accusations I have made today have fallen on his deaf ears. Nevertheless, if he were in the House today, I feel he would have to take some cognisance of what I am about to say. It is interesting to note that there was no objection when the board of directors running that college, on the motion of one of its directors, Bunty Griffiths, decided to place some insurance directly with Toowoomba Insurance Pty Ltd, of which, I might add, Bunty Griffiths is managing director—a very cosy agreement indeed! The above association is a company registered in the State of Queensland.

**Mr Powell:** Hardly a cosy situation in Toowoomba.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** There is an agreement between both Whips in the House that we will limit our speeches to 20 minutes, and I am certainly not going to waste my 20 minutes taking inane interjections from the lightweight member for Isis.

At the end of 1978, directors were required to make a declaration pursuant to the Companies Act. This they did at a duly constituted meeting, the minutes of which I have already tabled. The declaration to which Bunty Griffiths was a party reads—

“No director has received or is entitled to receive any benefit directly or indirectly by reason of a contract made by the company.”

I say quite categorically that Mr Bunty Griffiths has made a false declaration and stands criminally liable.

Let me now move away from insurance and concentrate on the buildings of the institute.

**Mr Warner:** Say it outside the House.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** I have been challenged by the honourable member for Toowoomba South to say it outside the House. After I had made a speech about this some weeks ago, the following Wednesday in the debate on the Matters of Public Interest the honourable member for Toowoomba South read a speech in this House prepared by Mr Barker, a director of the institute.

**Mr WARNER:** I rise to a point of order. That speech was not written by Mr Bunty Griffiths. It was written by me on the facts of the whole issue. I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** I accept the denial.

Mr N. A. Hodge, whose presence on the institute council was already noted, has as a point of fact benefited from several major building contracts at the institute.

For example, his company is busy right now building the engineering annexe at the institute, for an amount of \$90,000. Incidentally, he was chairman of the institute council building committee and, as such, presided over decisions on tenders which included tenders from his own company. If that is not a blatant conflict of interest, I have never seen one. However, he has also been careless—most white-collar crooks do become careless because of the weakness in the company laws of this State—in the same way as his friend Mr Bunty Griffiths. I might add that Mr Hodge, also a director of the Darling Downs Association for Advanced Education Limited, had made the same declaration as Mr Griffiths, pursuant to the Act, for the year 1978. His company benefited from constructing modular buildings for the association. In my opinion and in the opinion of most fair-minded honourable members, this clearly breaches the Companies Act. Mr N. A. Hodge, deemed to be the principal of A. H. Hodge & Son, has made a false declaration and also stands criminally liable. I demand, on behalf of the Opposition—and I might add that I have the full backing of my leader (Mr Casey) in making this demand—that criminal proceedings be instituted forthwith against H. A. Griffiths and N. A. Hodge.

Five areas remain for me to discuss today. Irregularities have occurred in the tendering for carpets, tendering for printing and the disposal of institute cars at the end of their useful life. Information I have received shows that the company made five separate payments in 1979 to the Southern Cross group. As I have already stated, Bunty Griffiths is the managing director. Four of those separate payments were made to the Southern Cross Printery and one to Elvery's Pty. Ltd. Notwithstanding these payments, which constitute obvious breaches of the Companies Act, Bunty Griffiths made an identical declaration in 1979 as he did in 1978. So again, having made a false declaration, he stands criminally liable.

There are two other matters I desire to raise. As honourable members in this House would know—even the honourable member for Toowoomba South, who is certainly not the most shining star on the National Party back bench; nevertheless, I pay him the tribute that he is not completely stupid and what I am about to say will probably sink through even his thick skull—until recently the payment of Commonwealth fees to colleges of advanced education was partly based on the number of students enrolled. The more students they had, the more they received. Inspector Scanlan from the Auditor-General's Department reported on part of this problem. I submit that, quite apart from distinguishing the number of its genuine students, the institute's then registrar—I am not sure of the pronunciation, but it is spelt T-r-e-y-a-u-d—

**Mr Underwood** interjected.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** I thank my erudite friend the honourable member for Ipswich West, who was a schoolteacher before coming into this Chamber and, therefore, very well versed in grammatical matters.

Mr Treyaud boosted enrolments by listing returns of students who did not physically take up places at the institute and students who, although taking up their places, remained for but a brief period. In my opinion, that was a conspiracy to defraud the Commonwealth. All honourable members have heard of cases in which some unscrupulous employers have had phantom people on the pay-roll. This is a clear case of phantom students.

It is clear to me that the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education was, and is, run by an inner group of the council; one could almost term it an academic Mafia. It is also clear that benefits were derived by certain businessmen in that inner group, and I am sure that prosecutions would be launched if there was an investigation by the Fraud Squad.

**Mr Underwood:** I was on the council there, and you are exactly right.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** My good friend and colleague the honourable member for Ipswich West tells me that he was on the council and that what I am saying is spot on. There is the corroboration.

On the evidence that I have presented today, the establishment of a judicial inquiry into the affairs of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education is imperative. That is quite separate from the criminal proceedings, which are now mandatory, and separate from a Police Fraud Squad investigation, which clearly is required.

I should now like to turn to the appropriation covering the Department of Survey and Valuation. That department has an annual budget of \$14m, \$9m allocated to the Department of Mapping and Surveying and \$5m to the Department of Valuer-General.

The portfolio was originally created as a means of finding a Cabinet berth for Mr Lickiss. I think honourable members will agree that that is a large allocation for such a small department, which should still be part of the Department of Justice. Survey and Valuation is still regarded as a ministerial backwater. Despite that, the Minister (Mr John Greenwood) managed to spend an additional \$10,000 on entertainment.

When Parliament resumed on 19 August 1980, the Minister's department expected the Opposition to launch an attack, in concert with the Society of Surveyors' attack in the magazine "Metes and Bounds", and also other interests who were at that time organising to defeat the Minister in his seat of Ashgrove.

Most of the money to which I have just referred was spent on wining and dining surveyors who are already members of the Liberal Party, or at least on its fringes. Feasting took place on the 17th floor of Watkins Place, and fine food and wine was supplied by one of Brisbane's leading restaurants, Milano.

**An Opposition Member:** And a dancing girl jumped out of a cake.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** Well, a dancing girl could have jumped out of the cake; I would not know. I am also told that there were hot and cold running blondes at some of these functions.

A trust fund has been set up by the solicitors' firm of Goss & Downey to run an independent candidate in Ashgrove, and I am also told that writs have been taken out by Mr Greenwood and his associate Alderman John Andrews, who is a front man for shopping-centre interests and land owned by Mr Lickiss at Moggill for rezoning from rural to residential.

The grounds on which I base my allegations are general incompetence and blatant nepotism. I am told that staff of the department were told to stand by the phones on 19 August in case they were required to provide ammunition to repulse an attack on the Minister. So it is quite obvious that he had a guilty conscience.

In April 1979, Mr Serisier, the head of the department, and Mr Kevin Davies were carpeted by the Premier, following complaints by the Society of Registered Surveyors concerning maladministration by Mr Greenwood and Mr Davies. The Premier took no action; he let them walk away unscathed. However, he has been very suspicious of them ever since, and it is quite obvious that Mr Greenwood's star has waned.

I take this opportunity to remind honourable members that Mr Serisier was a member of the Federal redistribution committee that fixed the electoral boundaries prior to the 1977 Federal election. Honourable members will vividly recall the aftermath of the redistribution. Information emanating from someone on that committee resulted in the suspension of the Federal Finance Minister, Mr Robinson, and the sacking of the Government Leader in the Senate, Senator Reg Withers. Mr Serisier was forced to appear before the commission of inquiry, where he denied that he had been approached by Mr Kevin Davies to rig the Federal election boundaries in Queensland. I hear no howls from the Government members now; they are strangely silent.

**An Opposition Member:** They know it's all true.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** Of course they know it's true.

**Dr Edwards:** We were talking to one another about something important.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** It would be a very empty-headed conversation.

Why did Mr Greenwood appoint Barry Smith to the top position in Corporate Affairs? Why was he appointed later to the position of director of the Legal Aid Commission? I point out that Mr Smith was chairman of The Gap Branch of the Liberal Party and also Mr Lickiss's campaign director. Furthermore, he was associated with buying poultry farms at The Gap under the provisions of the Hen Quota Act and later putting them on the market and selling them as prime residential land.

I would point out also that Mr Smith went broke as a solicitor. His practice was based on land-sharking, and when land speculation crashed in the early 1970s it foundered. He then stumbled and bumbled from job to job, until his old real estate mate, Mr Bill Lickiss, found him a safe niche in Corporate Affairs.

If the Minister for Justice were here, I would put the question to him: Does he deny that he is part of the syndicate? I challenge Mr Lickiss to make a statement.

Finally, Smith ends up as the executive director of the new Legal Aid Commission. This is a scandal. I know that over the years there have been a lot of scandals associated with this Government, but this is one of the worst. It is just a case of Liberal "jobs for the boys". The Liberal Party is almost as bad as the National Party—and that is saying something.

I am amazed that the former Liberal Leader, Sir William Knox, even plucked Mr Greenwood from the back bench. He was certainly recognised as a man of obvious incompetence and very little ability. He boasted about being junior counsel before the Privy Council. He did have one thing going for him that may have interested Sir William Knox—he was a member of the right clubs. Perhaps Sir William hoped that Mr Greenwood would propose him for membership of that opulent National Party dining room and headquarters of the bunyip aristocracy, the Queensland Club. After all, it blackballed a better man than he—Sir Gordon Chalk.

I am told that Mr Greenwood regales his cronies at the Queensland Club with accounts of his appearances before the Privy Council. He says in a plummy voice, "London is a frightfully civilised place, old chap." What he does not mention is that he was only the junior counsel and only carried his senior counsel's wig. To compound the felony, they even lost the case.

In conclusion, I point out that no suburb in the electorate of Ashgrove is good enough

for this bunyip aristocrat, Mr John Greenwood, who epitomises pomposity in this House, to live in. He resides in "millionaires' row" at Fig Tree Pocket.

I see that the Treasurer is listening to me with great interest. I might say to him that I cannot understand for the life of me why he has not sacked this incompetent, bungling bunyip aristocrat, Mr John Ward Greenwood.

**Mr WARNER** (Toowoomba South) (2.44 p.m.): The honourable member for Archerfield forgot to bow. I feel that I must reply to comments that he made. Even though this is a wide-ranging debate, he did not speak at all to the Appropriation Bill.

**An Opposition Member:** He doesn't have to.

**Mr WARNER:** That is correct—more's the pity.

Today he has again used this House as what has been described in today's Press as a cesspit.

I intend to reply to the accusations that have been made concerning the DDIAE and its directors.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** But you're a stooge for Bunty Griffiths.

**Mr WARNER:** I am not a stooge for anyone, especially for the DDIAE.

The matters that were raised today were old hat; they have been dealt with beforehand. These accusations that the member for Archerfield has made would, if made outside the House, result in something that the member for Archerfield would take care to avoid. That is why they are made here. I will not say more than that. The honourable member for Archerfield has used this House, in the last hours of this Government—

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** You said that.

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

**Mr WARNER:** The honourable member for Archerfield has used the last hours of this Parliament to defame people in a way that he would not do outside. I have said that on many other occasions.

On this particular occasion, there is no way that he can be brought before the Committee of Privileges—and he knows that—unless that is done next year, and he knows also that that cannot happen. He has used the House to abuse privilege to the limit. I will not continue in that vein, but his conduct was inexcusable.

Because of the lack of opportunity to debate the Estimates fully, I take this opportunity to refer very briefly to matters associated with transport. I wonder why one of the best forms of transport in the past, and even today, for carrying freight and livestock is apparently not being used as much as it should be. I refer, of course, to our railway system.

The continuing increased losses on general operations are, in the Treasurer's words, "of great concern". As the losses exceed \$240m, they must be a matter of concern to all. The Treasurer pointed out that they are not so bad when offset by the returns from other areas.

The policy designed to integrate road, water and rail transportation has not worked as well as it should have. In fact, I believe it has had a contrary effect. The open-road policy of challenging rail services has cost the railways dearly. It was supposed to remove the railway monopoly and provide competition in the market-place, but it has had a very deleterious effect on the railway's returns. In order to compete, the railways were forced into massive dieselisation and modernisation of rolling-stock and other facilities at enormous cost.

At the time, a program was initiated to upgrade the permanent way in various parts of the State to facilitate faster and more efficient train services, but that just has not happened to any great extent. Movements have taken place in the right direction with upgrading, but the enormity of the cost is such that the railways cannot hope to compete with air and road transport for many years to come, especially in passenger-carrying services. Without a major increase in the number of passengers carried by rail, the losses will continue.

We have only to drive on any highway to realise how freight is being carried and how the public is travelling. The increase in the number of trucks and cars on the roads is enormous. If the trend continues, the road system will be unable to cope with the huge transports equipped with trailers and the increased number of cars. It is becoming increasingly dangerous for the average driver to travel behind one of these huge vehicles, especially in the morning and afternoon peak traffic.

**Mr Frawley:** It is not so dangerous behind; it is when you travel in front of them and they tail-gate.

**Mr WARNER:** Whatever it is, they are dangerous—and they are becoming more dangerous.

Experts warn repeatedly that we are using too much fuel, that fuel is a finite resource and that it will not be around for much longer than 20 or 30 years. These warnings seem like fairy tales to most motorists. More

and more cars and trucks are being registered, as disclosed by the registration of commercial vehicles in Toowoomba.

That we should continue a program of dieselisation with the costs that are involved, together with the knowledge of the inevitable lack of oil, seems to be quite the wrong way to go about conserving fuel or making the railways pay. Electrification is the only answer.

Queensland has enormous energy resources to provide electric power all over the State. Coal is available virtually everywhere and it is the same sort of coal that has driven steam trains for 100 years and developed Australia and every other nation in the world. Today, in China, railways are still being built to get to those odd areas which cannot be got to otherwise. It is coal that will drive steam trains for hundreds of years to come if we want it to. If we want to harness it again we can.

In the name of modernisation we have been phasing out coal-burning engines for some time because, as the environmentalists say, of pollution. It is about time that we began to think about phasing it back in again. It is nonsense to suggest that coal is still a dirty fuel. It is not. It can be used without environmental problems.

If we are to be continually limited by Commonwealth assistance and access to growth revenues, as the Treasurer said in his Budget speech, in obtaining a fair return of tax income so that electrification can become a reality, we ourselves have to make it a reality in Queensland.

I am not impressed with the findings of P.G. Pak-Poy and Associates Pty Ltd. The findings of that body were that there was no present justification for the electrification of the rail service between Brisbane and Toowoomba, but they would give consideration to this project after the electrification of the Brisbane-Blackwater section. The yardstick Pak-Poy and Associates used in preparing their report to Cabinet has never been revealed. At least I do not know anything about it. If present and future traffic patterns had any bearing on that report, electrification of the Toowoomba-Brisbane line should now be in the preliminary design stages to start next year.

**Mr Vaughan:** How much did it cost?

**Mr WARNER:** I have the figure somewhere, but I cannot give it at the moment.

The Darling Downs provides significant and increasing rail traffic each year. It is increasing every year to such an extent that something will have to be done about the problems it creates. Huge grain crops are being harvested each year and they are returning enormous revenue to the State.

This is reflected in the number of trains that pass through Toowoomba, much to the

distress of many motorists who are continually held up at street crossings. Approximately 15 trains cross daily on the southern line at Margaret Street, which is the main highway, 23 daily at Jellicoe Street on the western line and 24 daily on the main line. These numbers increase by 50 per cent during the harvest period. What will happen in the next few years, goodness knows. All the trains, unfortunately, pass through the heart of Toowoomba.

Undoubtedly the present rail route to Brisbane must fast be approaching the limit of its capacity, and greater freight tonnage can be envisaged in the very near future. It seems more than appropriate that the department and Cabinet give immediate consideration to relocation and upgrading of this line to permit improved operating conditions.

The projected development of coal resources at Millmerran and as far out as Chinchilla will add to the already overtaxed capacity of the existing rail facilities, especially on the track up the Toowoomba Range. The grading and alignment up the range leave much to be desired. It is not inappropriate that the department and this Government give serious consideration to the relocation of the railway line and to the possibility of long tunnels, which would enable great loads to be taken from one side of the range straight through to the other side with few or no gradient worries.

The savings in fuel would be enormous. Certainly tunnels of the size needed through the Toowoomba Range are being built every year in other countries. Ventilation is no problem these days. I have investigated this matter in several countries. Such a tunnel or tunnels would be costly, that is for sure, but the cost would be nothing compared with the cost of the realignment and regrading of a new track up the Toowoomba Range. I am impressed with the response of the Transport Minister to my idea that such a tunnel is feasible; and that also applies to the Premier.

As I have said, such tunnels are built in other countries, especially in conjunction with electrification. If such a scheme were approved, the investment would be a very rewarding one for the State. It would be something of which all Queenslanders would be proud and it would represent a move towards bringing Queensland railway operations up to world standards.

As time is precious, I will not say anything more on this matter this afternoon. I just repeat that it was very sad to see the member for Archerfield use the last few hours of this Parliament in the way he did.

**Mr AKERS (Pine Rivers) (2.56 p.m.):** Today we are debating a formal motion moved by the Treasurer to approve the Appropriation Bill. This allows a wide-ranging debate—

**Mr DAVIS:** I rise to a point of order. I was under the impression that the speaking

list today was one member from the Government side and one from the Opposition side.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller):** I am sorry, I was not aware that there was such an arrangement. The normal arrangement is two speakers from the Government side and one from the Opposition side. I was not told about the arrangement, and I have already called the member for Pine Rivers. I apologise to the member for Port Curtis. As I say, I was not aware of the arrangement.

**Mr AKERS:** This motion allows a wide-ranging debate on the financial position of Queensland, but I will restrict my comments in the short time available to me to the Government's record in the Pine Rivers electorate. I am proud to say that the Government's record in that electorate is an excellent one. Although there are, and always will be, problems in each of the areas in that electorate controlled by this Government, the general position in the fields of main roads, schools and education generally, health, industrial development, consumer affairs, electricity supply, mapping, welfare housing, primary industries and railway services is satisfactory.

Before I go into those matters, there are two other matters that I wish to raise. One is to set the public record straight about the matter that the member for Rockhampton raised last week and again today. He has allowed himself to be used by a blackmailer by the name of Mr Ronald Gibson, a dentist, who has threatened Dr Edwards and the director of the Liberal Party, as well as me, with just the shabby, shady and really quite pathetic action with which the member for Rockhampton has politically prostituted himself here today. He made the threat that unless I totally capitulated to him, he would supply information, which was damaging to me politically, to the member for Rockhampton or to the ALP. That is precisely what he has done, and the member has fallen for it.

**Mr Frawley:** Gibson kicked in \$3,000 to his campaign funds.

**Mr AKERS:** I do not doubt that Gibson has done something like that.

I answered the accusations of the member for Rockhampton last week in a personal explanation, but he has been given some more misleading statements by Gibson for tabling here today. I do not have the time to answer in detail every point that was made today, but nothing that the honourable member has tabled here today conflicts with my statement last Thursday, and my conscience is totally clear.

For practical purposes I am not the builder on any of the projects mentioned. No money has been paid to me. I have not been connected, for any practical or financial purposes, with any project undertaken by Akers

Tan & Associates since my election to this Parliament in December 1974. I might add that since that time the firm has had many very happy and contented clients. It has designed and supervised the building of the Ferny Hills State School activities block on a reduced-fee basis. The Pine Rivers South Parish of the Church of England has a worship centre, which is the talk of church circles in Queensland, as a result of the care and attention of Mr Hemmant Naib, one of the partners of that firm. Many families are living happily in homes designed by this firm.

It would indicate some responsibility on the part of the member for Rockhampton, and certainly a normal Christian attitude, if he checked his facts before digging into the rubbish for mud to sling in this place. I urge him to follow the line that he has always professed in this place, if by some mischance he is re-elected at the next election.

The second matter I wish to raise today is the danger of impending legislation, both under the State and Federal Governments, to cover the patenting of plant varieties. Much has been made of the preservation of the rights of overseas companies that breed new varieties of plants. I understand the Federal and State Governments are at present having discussions on this matter. I believe the Federal Government has said that it will defer any further steps until after the election. I hope that constituents make it very clear to their members that they are against any such proposal. The danger to farmers and consumers in Australia is great. The dangers that will follow have already been proven in the United Kingdom and especially in Canada.

A very large and well-financed lobby for the introduction of this legislation already exists in Australia. That lobby is being financed by several firms such as the Continental Overseas Company, the second largest shipper of food grain in the world, the Shell Company of Australia and Wright Stephenson & Co. Aust., a seed company. I did not pull these names out of the air; they were taken from the minutes of the Continental Industries Commission on PVR held on 9 June 1977. The Dutch Shell Oil Company is the largest seed company in the world. All other seed companies of any note are either agri-chemical or chemical companies. All are transnational companies. Obviously these companies can impose great control on the future food supplies of Australia and the world. This legislation is a great danger to both farmers and consumers. If somebody is prepared to put his money into developing something, I support the principle that the development should be safeguarded and the company should profit from it. Overseas the net result of the legislation has gone far beyond that. Many varieties of plants have ceased to be available. The potential harm to world food supplies is great. The controls provided by

the legislation will increase production costs of farmers and therefore the cost of food to consumers will increase.

In the United Kingdom, before the ink was dry on the legislation, a company called Rank, Hovis, McDougall took over 84 small companies. By the time the dust settled around that legislation, over 100 companies had been taken over by that one company. If transnational companies gain control over the seed industry, it is reasonable to presume that they will also gain control over genetic resources as well. Other companies involved in this are Union Carbide, Pfizer, Ciba-Geigy, Cargill, IIT, Monsanto and Occidental Petroleum.

Nature's foil against crop pests and diseases is diversity. The crops grown in the temperate regions of the world, including the industrialised West, are relatively uniform. In order to survive they need regular infusions of new genetic material. The raw material (germ plasma) needed in the development of all the world's food crops is derived from the traditional crops, and their wild relatives, grown in nine tropical areas of genetic diversity, all situated in the Third World. These areas are named the Vavilov centres after their founder. Many of these traditional crops have already been lost for ever. They have been replaced in the Third World countries by hybrid varieties introduced in the last two decades. These hybrids will breed out the genetic varieties that are available, and the net result will be a total loss of food supplies over a very long term for the people of the world.

**Mr Moore:** They become weak and useless.

**Mr AKERS:** As the member says, the varieties become weak and useless without the breeding into them of native varieties—of wild varieties—that have built up their own resistance.

**Mr Frawley:** It's like breeding dingoes back into cattle dogs.

**Mr AKERS:** Yes. A similar problem might result. The danger is great and I call on this Government to resist any attempt at all by the Federal Government, and by the very highly financed lobby that is active at the moment, to become involved in this legislation. The danger is far too great.

I would like to spend more time on this subject, as well as on the developments that have taken place in the electorate of Pine Rivers in the last three years and on the financial position of this State. But, because of an agreement that has been reached between the Whips, we are all limiting our time to allow as many members as possible to speak, so I will not speak any further. However, I urge the Ministers of whatever Government is in power after the coming election (I hope it will be a Liberal/National Party Government, but even if it is a Labor

Government I urge it to give a similar assurance) not to become involved in this plant breeders legislation.

**Mr PREST** (Port Curtis) (3.6 p.m.): In speaking to the Appropriation Bill (No. 2), one can express nothing but disappointment that in this election year no party—State or Federal—could introduce a Budget acceptable to the public and please most organisations by proposing to spend more funds to create job opportunities, to restore confidence in the private sector, and to engender a feeling that the nation, and Queensland in particular, was in a healthy financial state. However, that was not to be. Instead, we have seen cut-backs and restraint in some areas and lack of confidence on the part of the National/Liberal Government, a Government that has not given a lead to the private business sector and has certainly not shown the public that it can look forward to better days. If it had given such a lead, the citizens of this State would be looking at lower costs of goods and services, lower taxation (direct and, particularly, indirect), better housing (particularly for private ownership), an adequate number of homes available for rental at a fair and reasonable price and better educational facilities, including teacher housing.

We also need better medical facilities. The Government should eliminate crowding in hospital wards and reduce the waiting time in the out-patient departments of public hospitals. We all know, of course, that the cause of both those problems has been the action taken by the Federal Government in the health field, with the result that more people are opting out of medical benefit funds and going back to public hospitals.

What we are looking for in this State particularly is more money spent on roads, especially in country areas. I could go on and on speaking about the number of unemployed and other problems facing the community, but I wish to direct my attention to matters that concern me personally. Because of our mineral wealth, Australia is a prosperous nation, but we as Australians should reap the benefits of that wealth and not allow it to be siphoned off by overseas companies.

Recently I attended the Queensland Local Government Association conference in Rockhampton. One of the things stressed to me there was the discontent of local authorities not only with the State Government but also with the Federal Government.

**Dr Edwards:** The results will not show that.

**Mr PREST:** I am sorry to say that they will, and I ask the honourable gentleman to listen.

Their expression of dissatisfaction was supported by the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police (Mr Hinze).

They were particularly dissatisfied with road funding. Although the Federal Government is ripping off \$4,000m a year through its petrol pricing policy, the allocations that it is to make to the States over the next five year are as follows—

Year	Amount Allocated \$m	Increase on Preceding Year
1980-81 .. ..	628	11.8 per cent
1981-82 .. ..	685	7.1 per cent
1982-83 .. ..	734	7.1 per cent
1983-84 .. ..	778	6 per cent
1984-85 .. ..	845	6 per cent

They are firm figures for the relevant years, no provision being made under the Act for inflation or cost escalations.

In the later years, the increase will be down to 6 per cent and, as honourable members are aware, inflation is about 11.2 per cent at present, and is continuing to rise. Therefore, roads throughout Queensland and all the other Australian States will not improve but will deteriorate. As I said, motorists are being ripped off to the tune of \$4,000m at present because of the policy of Fraser federalism, and the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police said that he was ashamed and unhappy about the contribution being made by the Commonwealth.

Earlier in the debate I heard honourable members speaking about the contribution made by the Local Government Grants Commission. At the conference in Rockhampton, local authorities indicated very clearly and strongly that they were disappointed with the allocations being made. After a very passionate plea by Charlie Palmer for tolerance, Mr Jack Duggan finally came to the rescue of the commission when he spoke in favour of it and asked the respective local authorities to bear with it a little longer. When the vote was taken, it was 131 to 80. There should have been 247 to 250 delegates at the conference, so some of the delegates were missing when the vote was taken.

**Mr Akers:** How do you get 270 delegates from 130 local authorities?

**Mr PREST:** I said 247 to 250.

**Mr Akers:** How do you get that?

**Mr PREST:** Most of them sent two delegates. As I said, the vote was 131 to 80, so apparently another 40 local authorities were unhappy with the system.

In his address to the conference, Mr Rogers said—

“However, I must say that although a member of the Commission, the wide disparity in the percentage of distribution to individual local authorities is something of

real concern to me after the Local Government Grants Commission has been in operation for almost four years. Many Local Government Clerks have expressed dissatisfaction over the workload and effort to present submissions, which they feel are not receiving just recognition. In my discussions with Commissioners of the other States, all Commissions with the exception of New South Wales seem to have reached a stable level of relativity in their distributions. I have not hesitated to express my real concern to my fellow Commissioners and I pledge myself to endeavour to bring about some stability in the level of future grant distributions."

**Dr Edwards:** Why did he sign a unanimous decision of the grants commission?

**Mr PREST:** I do not know. I am only reading from his report.

**Dr Edwards:** Would you think it is a bit inconsistent?

**Mr PREST:** Earlier in his report Councilor Rogers said—

"Admittedly, Local Government involvement in many ways is increasing but even with the revenue sharing assistance, many Councils find it most necessary to increase rates well beyond the level of inflation."

Of course, he meant after the grants commission money had been distributed.

In my opinion, the life of local government is very short, and all honourable members are aware that the Government is strangling the efforts of local government. Where these problems exist, the Government refuses to heed local government's call for assistance. Local authorities are in debt. They owe more than \$1,100 billion. The figure is going higher each year. No wonder local authorities are hamstrung and are being strangled.

The Treasurer has introduced a scheme to give a 50 per cent remission to local government by way of assistance. I have spoken about this matter on earlier occasions. I merely repeat that that 50 per cent is unacceptable to the Queensland Local Government Association in its present form. The association will be endeavouring to talk to the Minister to try to obtain satisfaction.

I want to spend some time dealing with my area. Recently we asked that the Premier receive a deputation concerning financial assistance for the infrastructure associated with the development that is taking place in my area. A week or so ago, we were notified that because the Premier had a tight schedule he was unable to meet us. Today we are told that the Premier recognised the need to meet us and had agreed to a meeting. Unfortunately, the mayor of Gladstone, without consulting other groups such as the rate revolt group, the chamber of commerce and the Trades and

Labor Council, declined to accept an invitation to meet the Premier at the time stated, which was 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Gladstone has been given adverse publicity by the media, particularly on television. The facts and figures that could have been presented to the Premier this afternoon should have been readily available. They should have been presented to the various Government departments when various agreements such as the Rundle agreement were being spoken about. Other industrialists are talking about coming to Gladstone. They should be making some contribution towards the infrastructure in the area.

As I have said, I am disappointed that the mayor of Gladstone did not accept the invitation to attend the meeting set down for 3 o'clock this afternoon. I am disappointed that the members of the deputation are not here.

Local government is being neglected. Instead of being assisted by the Federal and State Governments, the local authorities are providing the infrastructure and amenities used by industry. In the long term, the one who has to pay is the ratepayer. He, of course, stands to gain nothing at all.

Recent TV programs, particularly "Nation-wide" and "TDT", claimed that Gladstone is a dirty town with inadequate public services and high rates. It was said that it is experiencing an ugly boom and is a doom town. Any ugliness has been brought about by pollution and inadequate housing. No-one can be blamed except the Government. It has entered into arrangements with industry, without ensuring that industry provides sufficient housing and contributes towards the cost of maintaining the infrastructure.

I am very pleased to note in the Works Department report tabled today that Gladstone has received a mention in relation to a technical college, a high school at Toolooa and a number of modular buildings. Although we are getting something, we are not getting enough. Gladstone is years behind in the provision of schools.

Teacher housing in Gladstone is very limited. If we have an unhappy work-force we have problems on our hands. The Housing Commission has called tenders for 18 houses in the area, but that is far from enough. If it were to call tenders for 1800 they would not be enough. The ordinary people and pensioners are being priced out of their homes by increased rents. Over the years schoolteachers and railwaymen in particular have been affected adversely.

Last year a special capital allocation was made to provide housing for railway workers, but it was only a ripple in a big pond. This year a reduction of \$60m has been made in the special allocation. Although \$40m is to be spent on deepening the Gladstone Harbour to allow increased tonnages of coal to be shifted, nothing is planned for the railwaymen who work long hours under very adverse conditions.

We need housing for the ordinary people—for the pensioners and schoolteachers and particularly for the railwaymen.

Today, a dispute is taking place in Gladstone about railway houses that were set aside for certain classifications. When people are living in caravans and other temporary accommodation the railway houses should be used. When the jobs are eventually filled the railways will have to make alternative arrangements for housing the men.

There will be big increases in rail traffic to shift the enormous tonnages of coal coming from the new mines. It is envisaged that 7 million tonnes of coal will come to Gladstone in the mid '80s for the coke plant. The time is ripe for planning a double line from Gladstone to the coalfields, or at least between Gladstone and Rockhampton. Ordinary rail passengers are not being catered for adequately.

I emphasise that people should not be living in caravans, but housed adequately. The Queensland Housing Commission does a fine job with its limited resources. Unfortunately the finance available for borrowing from the Housing Commission and the co-operative building societies has been cut. Much more money must be made available for housing.

I was very pleased to note the increase in the allocation for sport. This year \$60,000 will be spent in my area on junior coaching. With the Commonwealth Games only a couple of years away, and the Olympic Games being held in America in four years' time, that is an excellent concept. One of the greatest coaches whose services were obtained under this scheme was Sir Stanley Matthews, who visited Queensland during the year and coached in the junior field. I am quite certain that what those children learnt from him will stand them in good stead in the coming years.

**Mr UNDERWOOD:** Mr Deputy Speaker

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Miller): The honourable member for Ipswich West.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** I rise to a point of order. I thought that we were alternating one Government member and one Opposition member.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When I relieved Mr Speaker in the chair, I was not aware of that agreement and during my occupancy of the chair I called the honourable member for Pine Rivers. He was called out of order. He was called, not under the arrangement, but because of the usual procedure of two Government members to one Opposition member. I am now rectifying the matter by calling two consecutive members of the Opposition.

**Mr UNDERWOOD** (Ipswich West) (3.26 p.m.): White-collar criminals are rampaging round this State having a field day. They are

undetected, uncontrolled and not brought to justice. This is happening purely and simply because the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs is understaffed and because of the disbandment of the police squad attached to that office. There was a special reason for that, of course.

I should like to refer to the sad case of a lady who is currently being ripped off by a white-collar criminal whose company name is Caversham Holdings Pty Ltd. I have a letter and document that the lady received from her solicitor. The letter reads—

"We were consulted by a lady in mid August, who had entered into a contract with the above company, on the 11th July, 1980. She instructed us it was a transport company operating from the Professional Suites, 138 Albert Street, City. To the best of her knowledge, the terms of the Contract were that she would deliver parcels for the company and be paid a monthly amount dependent on the number of parcels.

"She could not be sure of the exact terms and was not provided with a copy of the Contract. She did however, pay a \$3,000 security bond on that day. Our client did the job for three days but found it was nowhere near as remunerative as promised and accordingly, she spoke to Mr. Russell Williams Greaves, who she had previously dealt with, as Manager of the company. He said he could not pay the security bond back. Our client continually pressed the matter and was eventually given an undertaking signed by Mr. Greaves, a copy of which is attached.

"We did a company search and found the Directors of the company to be a Mr. & Mrs. Edmonds. These two people run a quite reputable self-company business called Shelco Services. They advised us that Greaves and a Mr. C. P. Fuller had purchased the self-company but had failed to allot new Directors. They also advised us that the company was now called Blair Gowrie, its directors were, Theodore Winston Svensen and the abovenamed Mr. Greaves and that it was presently trading from the same professional suites.

"Greaves then entered into a similar Contract, as he had with our client, with another lady. This time the security deposit was in the sum of \$3,500. That lady is presently also attempting to recover the amount.

"Our contacts in the Companies office advise us that there has been no breach of Company Law and accordingly, their hands are tied, however, they have passed the matter on to the Fraud Squad. They are however, familiar with the abovenamed Mr. Fuller, who is noted for dubious corporate dealings of this nature.

"The Legal Aid Office Queensland has approved legal aid to Kirmos & Associates, Solicitors, who act for a number of truck drivers, who entered into similar contracts with the company. The legal aid is to be

used to wind up the company. However, Kirmos & Associates advise us that they are reticent to wind up the company as they believe there would be insufficient funds to pay the liquidator.

"The Hayden Sargent Show has done a story on the company, but it still appears to be trading. The written undertaking received by our client does not in our opinion, constitute either a promissory note or a personal guarantee and therefore cannot be used to pin personal liability on Mr. Greaves. Accordingly, our client's only remedy would involve winding up the company, which is an expensive and unrewarding process, particularly as the company has featured in the last two issues of White Mercantile as owing substantial sums of money.

"I would be happy if the above could be of any use to you but if not, so, be it.

Yours faithfully,"

I shall also read the note, signed by the manager, outlined in the letter that I have just read. It states—

"Caversham Holdings Pty Ltd  
8th Floor Professional Suites  
138 Albert Street Brisbane 4000  
Phone 221 0232 1-8-80

"We hereby undertake to pay Mrs Elaine Williamson the sum of three thousand dollars by the 6th August 1980."

She still has not received that money. That is a small example of white-collar crime. For that lady, as well as for the other people mentioned in the letter, it is a devastating financial blow. Quite clearly there is a need for a drastic restructuring of the Corporate Affairs Office and the members of the Fraud Squad attached to it so that once again we have the situation where these white-collar criminals can be investigated and brought to justice. In addition, we need a dramatic restructuring of the Companies Act so that these sorts of people can be brought to justice without great legal trauma and without their being able to escape the law.

I wish to turn now to a subject that is very important to many people in the Ipswich area. I refer to the railway workshops. I commence my remarks on this matter by reading a memo that was recently sent to an apprentice who is shortly to come out of his time at the Ipswich workshops. It states—

**"COMPLETION OF APPRENTICESHIP: APPRENTICE IPSWICH WORKSHOPS**

"It is anticipated that you will complete your Apprenticeship on approximately the 5th March, 1981, and on present indications it may not be possible to retain your services in your trade classification from that date. There may be a certain number of vacancies, and these will be filled by Apprentices, in Seniority Order, as they complete their Apprenticeship, if their services are satisfactory.

"Should it become necessary to terminate your services in your trade classification, your name will be listed for re-employment in your Trade, if you so desire, and your application will receive preferential treatment, if, and when a vacancy occurs.

"Would you please advise this Office in writing as soon as possible if you desire to continue employment in the Department as a Labourer, after the completion of your Apprenticeship, provided such a vacancy exists at that time.

"In the event of the position changing between now and the completion of your Apprenticeship, the retention of your services in your trade classification will receive further consideration.

Chief Mechanical Engineer and  
Workshops Superintendent."

That is just one case. It is a shocking indictment of the incredible lack of manpower planning within the railway industry, and particularly within the workshops section.

At the moment railway employees feel that they are under threat, and they are. Not only is their job security under threat; their trade training and positions in their trade are also under threat. Similar memos will be issued to other young men this year. One only has to look at the number of apprenticeships offered to see the general decline in the number of apprenticeships available. In 1975, 94 apprenticeships were offered in the Ipswich area, including the Ipswich and Redbank workshops. This year about 30 apprenticeships will be offered. Last year the number was 29. The report of the Commissioner for Railways to Parliament shows that last year there were 2380 applicants for the 82 apprenticeships offered—a ratio of 1:29. I believe the situation is similar this year.

At the beginning of the decade there were 672 applicants for 184 apprenticeships—a ratio of 1:3.7. In 1974-75 there were 752 applicants for 160 apprenticeships. So it has been a decade of decline in the number of apprenticeships offered in the railways and also in the Ipswich area. Recently the Government has been skiting about the increase in the number of apprenticeships offered in Queensland. The opposite has happened in Ipswich, and that fact is borne out by the figures given by the State Apprenticeship Committee.

Let us look at the figures for the Ipswich area for the railways and other industries. The figures for the building industry were 123 for last year and 206 in 1975. In the coach and motor-building industry, they were 31 last year and 35 in 1975. In the electrical trades the figure for last year was 53 and in 1975 it was 58. Last year 241 were employed in engineering and in 1975 there were 253. Those industries take in both the public and private sectors in the Ipswich area. Those figures put the lie to the Government propaganda that it is doing something about jobs. They are proof of the Government's

policy to wind down the private sector and shunt out the public sector in the railway industry and give the work to interstate and overseas companies. Those figures prove that work is not going to companies in the Ipswich area.

The workers at Redbank are concerned that work that could be done in the workshops is being sent to outside firms. Because additional equipment has not been purchased to enable the repair and maintenance work to be done, it cannot be done in the Redbank workshops. The workers are also concerned that the work they used to do is now done by outside companies while machinery in the workshops is lying idle. This downturn in work has created a lack of job opportunities for apprentices. Once they have completed their time they are either offered a job as a labourer or left to fend for themselves in the outside world. To my way of thinking that is untenable, and it is contrary to my party's policy.

Because the workshops now do not have enough men, some of the repairs to traction motors, which used to be done at the railway workshops, are now done by outside firms. That has been the result of the policy on staff ceilings. It is about time that the maintenance work was given back to the men who have traditionally done it. Traditionally, new rolling-stock has been built by private industry, and that will continue to be the case. However, private industry is now taking over the repair and maintenance section.

The repair of the Wick lubrication system for traction motors is now carried out by private industry. Not only that; railway materials are provided to outside industry to do that work. The dipping of armatures is done in New South Wales, and instruments used in that work are lying idle at Redbank. These are the sorts of things that cause railway apprentices to be employed as labourers or threatened with being laid off. That has been a problem for a number of years.

Some weeks ago the employees at Redbank wished to meet the Minister for Transport, the Commissioner for Railways and the Treasurer, but the meeting was with only the Minister for Transport and the commissioner. As has been mentioned to the House, shortly after the commencement of the meeting, the Minister for Transport handed over to the commissioner and went to sleep.

The Treasurer was invited through the office of the Minister for Transport. Everything was done to suit the convenience of the Treasurer, but over a number of weeks of planning and even on the day before the meeting neither the Treasurer's secretary nor the Treasurer could be contacted. I say to the Treasurer that the people at Redbank will not allow him to run away from this; he must face the truth.

**Dr EDWARDS:** I rise to a point of order. Once again the honourable member has misled the House in regard to my movements.

I was approached about that meeting on the day before, when I received a telephone call inquiring if I could attend the meeting. I was already committed to travel South, so I was unable to attend. The first I knew of the meeting was the day before.

**Mr UNDERWOOD:** That is not true.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Miller): Order! I ask the member to accept the word of the Treasurer.

**Mr UNDERWOOD:** Unless the office of the Minister for Transport has misled me about its contact with the Treasurer's office—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I asked the honourable member to accept the word of the Treasurer.

**Mr UNDERWOOD:** I will accept it in the interests of time.

**Mr Casey:** In other words, he doesn't believe you, Llew.

**Mr UNDERWOOD:** Neither do the people up in Ipswich.

**Dr Edwards:** This is his valedictory speech.

**Mr UNDERWOOD:** The Treasurer is the one in trouble, not me.

Even in the foundry section, where the patents are owned by the Queensland Railways, work on the manufacture of articles for other railway systems is being sent to outside firms. This is untenable. I believe that the work is being sent to the Westinghouse brake company.

I have been asked, in the interests of time, to close off so that other members may speak. However, I would like to say that a relatively small amount of money needs to be spent at the Redbank workshops to allow the men to work in decent, safe conditions and to have the standards that applied 30 years ago updated to present-day levels to enable the men to compete with outside industries, particularly interstate and overseas. In so many areas they are working in pre-20th Century conditions. These matters are not being remedied, because it is the policy of this Government to wind down its industries.

The Government's actions speak louder than its words of denial. What about the type of waste revealed yesterday in the documents relating to ministerial expenses? What about the statement in "The Courier-Mail" this morning by Mr Menadue, the retiring ambassador to Japan, that trips to Japan by State Ministers have been a waste of time? Previously the Treasurer has told us that it has been necessary for him to go up there to tie up contracts, yet we find Mr Menadue saying that those trips have been a waste of time. One wonders how that \$50,000 could have been spent.

One wonders how the \$70,000 or \$100,000 that it is rumoured PA consultants was paid to recommend systems of streamlining Redbank workshops could have been spent. That amount could have been saved by taking the advice of the men on the floor, who have been saying exactly the same thing for years. It could have been spent upgrading the foundries so that the men's jobs were assured, so that there was continuity of trade training and so that in 18 months' time or so the Railway Department would not be short of trained men. With the construction jobs that are finally commencing, these men will be leaving the railway service for higher paid jobs and the railways will be short. As a result of bad manpower planning, insufficient men have been trained to take over the role of those tradesmen who will need to be replaced as a result of death, retirement or the boom in the building industry. It was this Government that said that this State—this nation of ours—does not have sufficient skilled men.

**Mr ELLIOTT (Cunningham)** (3.43 p.m.): In the few minutes left, I wish to make the following points. In particular, I call for an increased allocation for the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. We should be looking very closely to the benefits accruing to this State from its tourist industry. When one considers the troubles that primary production is experiencing because of the dry season, the difficulties of some of our other industries and the downturn in the economy, we should realise that the tourist industry gives us an opportunity to employ people whether the season is good or bad. Therefore, all of us should look closely at the results we have achieved in terms of the number of visitors attracted to Queensland.

It is interesting to consider the hundreds of millions of dollars allocated to the upgrading of airports at Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Coolangatta—the list goes on ad infinitum. What are we doing to justify the expenditure of that amount of money on airports? We have made a move in the right direction by setting up the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. However, we must ensure that a penny-pinching attitude does not prevent the tourist industry from receiving the greatest possible benefit from the work of the corporation.

**Mr Davis:** What tourist attractions have you got up there?

**Mr ELLIOTT:** There are many tourist attractions on the Darling Downs—the Jondaryan Woolshed and Brookvale Park, to name only two.

**Mr R. J. Gibbs:** You are a tourist attraction yourself.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** Not as big a one as the honourable member for Wolston, particularly when he stands on his head outside his office near the road to Ipswich. One quite often sees him there.

As I said, Mr Deputy Speaker, we must ensure that the program does not stall because of lack of funds.

I wish to deal now with roads in my area, particularly the Bowenville-Norwin Road, which is in a terrible state of repair. Regrettably, there is a regular pattern of heavy traffic—anhydrous ammonia tankers, grain trucks and local traffic—over that road, and it is disastrous that it has been in such poor condition for so long. People who have the misfortune to travel over it are concerned not only about what it is doing to their vehicles but also about their safety. In addition, we must bear in mind that children's lives are at stake when school buses travel over roads that are in a dangerous condition, and I make a plea to the Government to improve that road in the very near future.

I should also like to go on record as supporting the efforts of the honourable member for Balonne to have the Millmerran-Goondivindi back road completed. When it has been completed, it will be the shortest route to the South from Brisbane and, purely and simply because of the grades, heavy transports will be able to use it and avoid some of the steeper grades that they now experience. Of course, the Inglewood Highway through Goondivindi has no steep grades other than at Cunningham's Gap. Completion of the road will have a tremendous impact on the town of Millmerran and surrounding areas and give them a tremendous boost.

I also plead for funds to be made available to enable the Railway Department to install flashing light at level crossings. Again, I have safety in mind more than anything else. A fatal accident and several other accidents have already occurred at the crossing at Cambooya. There is a long down grade into the station from the Greenmount end, and trains running down that grade have great difficulty in stopping. If a vehicle stalls on the crossing, the train eventually collides with it. I ask that serious consideration be given to my request.

Public transport is not greatly needed in most country areas, but there is a very definite and increasing need for public transport at Oakey because Army aviation personnel and pensioners need to commute between Toowoomba and Oakey. We should be looking closely at the possibility of reintroducing a railmotor service on a regular basis between Toowoomba and Oakey. The colonel at the Army base has indicated to me that he would be prepared to arrange for a bus to pick men up from the railmotor, provided the service could be conducted at suitable times.

Instead of having a large number of people travelling between Toowoomba and Oakey in private cars containing one or two persons, and burning up fuel, the Government should organise public transport to

carry people to and from their homes in Toowoomba. Such a service would be much more practical.

Finally, I make a plea to the Minister for Health to include in next year's Estimates an allocation for full maternal and child welfare facilities at Oakey. There is a need for such facilities. At present, the town receives visits from a lady who comes to it to provide a maternal and child welfare service. However, the demand for these services is increasing with the expansion that is taking place at Oakey. Army wives seem to have quite a few children. I do not know whether that statement applies to the wives of those honourable members who have served in the Army—and I am not looking at anyone in particular! However, a maternal and child welfare service is needed in Oakey.

Having made those comments, I shall leave the remainder of my time to other members who wish to make their points.

**Hon. W. D. LICKISS** (Mt Coot-tha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (3.52 p.m.): On this the last day of this Parliament, the honourable member for Archerfield, Mr Hooper, is apparently up to his old cowardly antics again. And Opposition members had better go and bring him into the House, because I have a few things to say about him.

He seems to obtain some sort of sadistic satisfaction from his practice of engaging in character-assassination in this place. He is, of course, a past master at it. Undoubtedly this House has become the poorer with the presence of this psychotic moron and the way in which he performs in the House.

We have already heard the last speech of the honourable member for Ipswich West, which did not surpass that of the member for Archerfield by very much. I thought that, as it was the last speech the member for Ipswich West made in this House, he could have made a better one.

I believe that earlier today, during my absence, the honourable member for Archerfield cast aspersions in relation to a particular person who he said was a front man for shopping-centre interests, and also for the rezoning of land owned by me at Moggill from rural to residential purposes.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** That's true, too.

**Mr LICKISS:** It's a downright lie, and he knows it. The honourable member is, of course, one of those—

**Mr UNDERWOOD:** I rise to a point of order. The word "lie" was used. It is unparliamentary and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr LICKISS:** I did not catch that, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Miller): The honourable member for Ipswich West has taken exception to the word used by the Minister and asks that it be withdrawn.

**Mr LICKISS:** Might I find out which word he takes exception to?

**Mr Underwood:** How about "lie"?

**Mr LICKISS:** I was replying to the comments made by the honourable member for Archerfield.

Opposition Members interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Archerfield himself must be the one who asks for the withdrawal.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** I rise to a point of order. I have been grossly offended by the Minister's reference to me as a liar. I find it offensive and ask that he withdraw it forthwith.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw the word.

**Mr LICKISS:** I am absolutely amazed, Mr Deputy Speaker, but I withdraw it. I ask the honourable member for Archerfield to sit there, because I have some more for him.

I am saying quite frankly that his accusation this morning was a deliberate lie, and he ought to know it.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** I rise to a point of order. I must protest at the Minister's colourful language in saying that I told a deliberate lie. I have never told a deliberate lie in this House.

Honourable Members interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. I ask the Minister to accept the word of the honourable member for Archerfield.

**Mr LICKISS:** I accept that denial and withdraw the word. I would suggest that 81 other members here would know the difference.

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

**Mr LICKISS:** I have to draw attention again to a slanderous attack on a person who is not here to defend himself. I refer to a person by the name of Mr Barry Smith who is presently the Director of Legal Aid and not a member of the State Public Service.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** That is right, you put him there; he's your campaign director.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** You would not send me out on the last day, would you Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Don't try me.

**Mr LICKISS:** Mr Smith was appointed to a position at Corporate Affairs prior to my becoming Minister for Justice. I think that was done during the time of my colleague,

the Honourable Sir William Knox. He suffered a medical set-back, made a very good recovery and offered himself to the Public Service. He was an excellent officer and, in fact, resigned from that position to take over the position of Director of Legal Aid.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** You organised that for him.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr LICKISS:** This is interesting. The honourable member is blatantly misleading the House. If I have to brand him—

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** I rise to a point of order. I do not like getting to my feet all the time but, unfortunately, the Minister is being very provocative. He is not telling the truth. I have never misled the House, nor would I ever do so.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I intend to hear the Minister for Justice. I intend not to have persistent interjections from the member for Archerfield. He has had his opportunity to put his point of view to the House and I intend to hear the Minister for Justice.

**Mr LICKISS:** The honourable member is always trying to prevent the truth from coming out. He is not known to be a main-tainer of the truth in this place.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** I rise to another point of order. I do not want to impose on your tolerance, Mr Deputy Speaker, but the Minister said that I usually do not maintain the truth in this House. I always maintain the truth in this House. The reference is offensive to me and I ask the Minister to withdraw it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member finds the Minister's words offensive and asks for their withdrawal.

**Mr LICKISS:** If that is disturbing him I can say that I am not prepared to take his recommendation of his own character—and I do not think anyone else would.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister will withdraw the words.

**Mr LICKISS:** I withdrew the words.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** No you didn't!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Minister will withdraw without qualification.

**Mr LICKISS:** I withdraw the words without qualification.

In continuing my speech I will say that I will not accept the honourable member's personal recommendation on anything

because no-one else in this place or any member of the community would do so. The people know him for what he is.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** I rise to a point of order. This is getting rather tedious. Once again I do not wish to impose on your tolerance, Mr Deputy Speaker, but the Minister is implying that no member of this House or any member of the community respects my integrity. That is grossly offensive and untrue. I ask the Minister to withdraw the remark.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the Minister to withdraw the words that the honourable member for Archerfield finds offensive.

**Mr LICKISS:** I am only too happy to withdraw those words, but I am not prepared to take any assurance that the honourable member gives at any time on any subject, and I am sure that I am joined by many thousands of others in the community.

The vileness of the honourable member's attack was not designed to bring the truth before this Parliament. I hope he takes exception to that because the truth is well known by the community at large and by members of this House. His attack was designed purely as a slanderous way for him to make cheap political gain.

I repeat that this House is poorer for the type of person such as the honourable member for Archerfield (Mr Hooper). Some of the displays that he has put on in this House—and I am sure that there are plenty of people who will accept this and agree with me—have been vile and low, calculated to make this a poorer place.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** I rise to a point of order. Once again I have to take exception to the Minister's remarks. The phrase "vile and low" is definitely unparliamentary and I ask the Minister to apologise.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw the words.

**Mr Davis:** You are lowering the dignity of Parliament.

Honourable Members interjected.

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

**Mr LICKISS:** I never cease to be amazed by honourable members opposite. If I am to withdraw the words which are offensive to him, I believe they might be "vile and low". It could be put either way; vile and low or low and vile. I give him the option. If they are the words that he feels are offensive to him, I withdraw them.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** Are you denying you own land at Moggill?

**Mr LICKISS:** I live in the general Moggill area. I certainly own that land at Moggill and I live on it. The only land I own in the area is the land on which I live and the adjoining block which, for the purposes of rating—

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** Is that the only piece of land you own at Moggill? Therein lies the tale.

**Mr LICKISS:** The honourable member should not make a fool of himself. It is accepted as being one block of land. It is 5 acres of land. The honourable member can look at it if he likes. It is a glorious spot. I have had it since 1965.

I do not like to have to enter a debate and be critical of other members of Parliament, but I think we have reached the dizzy limit when honourable members, such as the honourable member for Archerfield, the honourable member for Ipswich West, who just made his last speech in this House, and the Leader of the Opposition are prepared to come into this place and, using parliamentary privilege, besmirch the character of other members of this House and also members of the public who cannot defend themselves. Everyone outside this place would agree with me when I say that I absolutely deplore the despicable way in which these members act and indulge in character assassination. I repeat that they do nothing to enhance this place. The House would be richer for their absence.

**Mr VAUGHAN (Nudgee) (4.2 p.m.):** I should like to use the limited time at my disposal on the last day of my first three years in State Parliament—I hope to be back next year to continue the battle—to say a few words following on what was said by the last speaker. From my point of view, it has been a very interesting three years. As has been espoused in this Chamber on numerous occasions, there is a need for us to smarten up the manner in which we conduct ourselves. To some extent I endorse the remarks of the previous speaker, but not those in respect of my colleague.

To a great extent we do not enhance our own reputations. Our big responsibility is to represent our constituents in the best possible way, and we should try to overcome the damage we do to ourselves both inside and outside this Chamber.

During the Budget debate I intended to raise a matter, but I was not given the opportunity to speak. I wanted to refer to an article that appeared on the front page of "The Courier-Mail" on Saturday, 9 August 1980. It contained a photograph of the Minister for Health. It does not do any good for any one of us to go to the Press and denigrate this place or the members in it. I was very upset about the article. I thought that I would have seen a retraction by the Minister for Health. The Minister referred to stuttering, inarticulate politicians who could not put their thoughts

together, idiot cards, a bunch of bores so meek that they needed a microphone, and having to retreat to the Press room to tape an interview to get the message across.

**Sir WILLIAM KNOX:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member may, quite rightly, refer to that article. I have since addressed myself to the editor, who has sent me an apology for the misrepresentation of that speech. It was not a correct reporting of the speech that I made.

**Mr VAUGHAN:** That is exactly what I wanted to hear from the Minister. I would have liked not only the Minister to receive an apology; I would have liked that apology to have been published.

**Sir William Knox:** So would I.

**Mr VAUGHAN:** I think that the Minister should have pressed that point. I have made my point. I do not think we do ourselves any good. We have the devil's own job countering the adverse publicity that we get from the media, particularly from editors on many occasions, about the job that we are trying to do.

In that regard, I want to take the Treasurer to task for a statement that he made on 17 September when he was replying to the debate on the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Subsidy Bill. It is with monotonous regularity that we hear the Treasurer, when he is trying to make a point or to score off somebody, say, "For the record, I want to say this and that." That is fair enough; he can make his point. In his reply to that debate, he said—

"It is very interesting to note that the member for Nudgee refused, as he does on every occasion . . ."

I take exception to that.

**Dr Edwards:** You are very thin-skinned.

**Mr VAUGHAN:** We will see how thin-skinned the Treasurer is very shortly. When I am speaking I try to be as forthright as I can and also to present the facts. On that occasion we were talking about the import parity pricing of Australian-produced crude oil. The Treasurer was maintaining that I had refused to answer a question. He said—

"I am glad that his refusal is contained in the records of this Parliament."

What point was he trying to make there? What I did say, as the Treasurer would have known if he had been listening, was that I did not intend to answer him at that time, for a particular reason, and that reason was that every time he has the opportunity he tries to twist other people's words around. As I said the other day—the Treasurer was not in the House at the time—he has a very acid tongue.

Now I want to talk about the Australian Labor Party policy on import parity oil prices. The Fraser Government was elected in 1975, and Bass Strait crude oil prices

increased from \$4.33 per barrel to \$27.50 per barrel in July 1980. The retail price of petrol increased from 15.6c per litre in December 1975 to 36c per litre in August 1980. The Federal Government has received from the crude oil levy \$257m in 1975-76, \$309m in 1976-77, \$443m in 1977-78, \$1,189m in 1978-79 and \$2,227m in 1979-80 and it expects to receive \$3,054m in 1980-81. The Treasurer was making the point about what would be done with the revenue from import parity pricing. Of course, one must first look at what the Fraser Government has done with the revenue that it has received.

The import parity pricing policy was introduced initially to try to reduce the consumption of our liquid fuel supplies. It has not reduced consumption; in fact, it is still increasing. The policy was also supposed to be designed to help us find new oilfields in order to maintain our self-sufficiency at the current level of 70 per cent. Let us look at the position of our self-sufficiency in oil. During the three years since the introduction of the import parity pricing policy in August 1977, 151 wells have been drilled. Despite a trebling of revenue to oil producers and an almost sixfold increase in Government crude oil revenue, we have drilled only 151 wells in order to try to maintain our self-sufficiency. By comparison, over 3 000 wells have been drilled in Canada and over 50 000 wells in the US. All we have been able to manage is 151 wells. There were four wells drilled in Queensand in 1975, 17 in 1976, none in 1977 and 20 in 1978, and it is expected that 32 will be drilled this year.

Is this using import parity revenue for the purpose for which it was designed? I say that it is not because the fact of the matter is that all the Federal Government is doing, with the support of this Government, is putting the money aside and using it to reduce the Budget deficit. As the policy of the Australian Labor Party states, we should be applying the benefits of import parity pricing to the exploration for new oil reserves so that companies will have an incentive to drill a few new wells. If the good doctor would get his facts right, he might put some pressure on the Federal Government to use its revenue from import parity pricing for the purpose for which it is designed.

Let us have a look at the revenue that the oil producers are receiving. In 1975-76 they received \$360m in windfall profits. In 1976-77 the figure was \$367m. In 1980-81, it is anticipated to be \$1,220m.

The Treasurer wanted to know the policy of the Australian Labor Party on import parity pricing. If the policy that the Labor Party has espoused for the forthcoming election had been applied in the last 12 months, petrol would be 5.2c a litre (23c a gallon) cheaper than it currently is. That is what the Labor Party's policy would do! The Labor Party is also examining the option of dropping the excise on petroleum products by 3c a litre at a cost of \$300m.

**Dr Edwards:** Paul Keating did not say that last night.

**Mr VAUGHAN:** The Treasurer should stick to what Senator Carrick says because he is of the same mould.

The Fraser Government has relied exclusively on price as a means of controlling energy but has made no attempt to implement measures aimed directly at decreasing energy wastage or to provide alternatives such as public transport. A Labor Government would implement such measures. The major initiatives of the Labor Party would include a more efficient public transport system, the imposition of fuel consumption standards for motor vehicle manufacturers in order to improve fuel efficiency, the establishment of a national liquid fuel consumption goal, and, together with the States, exploring the possibility of imposing selective registration fees for motor vehicles based upon fuel consumption.

**Mr FRAWLEY (Caboolture) (4.12 p.m.):** I want to speak about something sensible, unlike most previous speakers. First of all, the member for Port Curtis breached the agreement reached between the Whips and spoke for 18 minutes. The Labor Party had agreed to restrict speeches to 10 minutes. That is action typical of somebody who cannot be trusted.

**Mr PREST:** I rise to a point of order. I entered into no agreement. I was told that I could speak for 20 minutes.

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

**Mr FRAWLEY:** I want to speak about the despicable action of SEQEB in regard to the Caboolture Meals on Wheels Association. It is about time this was exposed in the House; I am fed up with it. That association provides a community service for old people. Members of the Opposition should take note of this because some of them will be old themselves one day—in fact they look it now. Meals on Wheels shares a house in Caboolture which is part of the Community Health Centre run by the Department of Health. The agreement is that Meals on Wheels pays the electricity bill, reduced by \$6 for the electricity used by the Health Department. That is quite acceptable. On 17 March 1980 that association wrote to SEQEB and stated that the bulk of the energy that is consumed is used by them. A further investigation showed that apart from the hot water usage the account is billed as commercial tariff. The association asked the SEQEB to give consideration to having that account charged for at the domestic tariff. After all, they are using the kitchen of a house which is owned by the Health Department. It is not a commercial enterprise at all; it is supplying meals to old people for \$1.20. They get a lousy subsidy from the Federal Government.

**Mr Akers:** They should get it free.

**Mr FRAWLEY:** Of course they should.

They were receiving a subsidy of 30c per meal. It has now been increased to 50c. That is no credit to the Federal Government. On 24 April SEQEB wrote back to the association stating that the request for a review of tariff had been noted, and that following a visit to the premises by an officer on 23 March, it had been determined that the general supply-block tariff (code 2) was the most appropriate. It also stated that the operations of Meals on Wheels are not carried out in private residences and therefore do not qualify for the domestic tariff, as had been suggested.

I have the account from SEQEB, which states that the meter was read on 28 August. Under tariff 2, which is the commercial tariff, the bill for the first 1500 units at 12.78c came to \$191.70; the next 620 at 9.73c came to \$60.33, and the total for the hot water system of 650 units at 3.69c came to \$23.99. The total was \$276.02. If the association had been on a domestic tariff, the first 90 units would have been charged at 13.97c (\$12.57), the next 450 units at 4.79c (\$21.55) and the remaining 1580 units at 3.99c (\$63.04). The hot water bill would have remained the same—\$23.99—but the total bill would have been reduced to \$121.15. In my opinion Meals on Wheels were over-charged by \$154.87. If they had been on the domestic tariff they would have saved \$154. I think that it is a disgraceful action by the SEQEB. That situation applies not only in Caboolture but to all Meals on Wheels organisations. The Caboolture association is quite happy to pay for power at the domestic tariff. What is wrong with that? I have written to the Minister asking for something to be done. I only hope he can achieve results.

**Mr Vaughan:** It won't do any good.

**Mr FRAWLEY:** I sincerely hope something is done.

Over the years members of the Labor Party, particularly in my electorate, have complained bitterly about Government subsidies to sport. Let me tell the House this: when the ALP was in power it gave nothing to sport—not 10c. All it was interested in was two-up—and it used to take a kickback from the profits in Albert Street and Margaret Street.

**Mr Prest:** And your mother's still complaining!

**Mr Vaughan:** Did you hear that?

**Mr FRAWLEY:** What was that? I'll bet it was something low—miserable and low down! It would have been: just like the gutter tactics that we have seen from him before in this House. Since I came to this Parliament in 1972 I have had to lower myself to the Opposition members' level to match them. If they get down to the bottom of the barrel, I will get down there, too.

This Government has given the following amounts as encouragement to sport—

Financial Year	\$
1972-73 .. ..	117,806.10
1973-74 .. ..	468,615.58
1974-75 .. ..	824,995.45
1975-76 .. ..	1,320,000.00
1976-77 .. ..	1,560,000.00
1977-78 .. ..	2,422,964.45
1978-79 .. ..	2,238,265.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,952,646.74</b>

The allocation in the 1979-80 financial year was a further \$2,916,410. In addition, the Government has paid money to the Brisbane City Council as part of its \$10m grant for the Commonwealth Games. So when I hear members of the Opposition and Labor candidates in my electorate saying that this Government has given nothing for sport, I have to put the record straight by listing its contributions.

While I am on the subject of sport, let me say that sporting bodies in Caboolture in 1978-79 received \$23,327 from this Government.

**Mr Davis:** Is that all?

**Mr FRAWLEY:** That is a darned sight more than Labor ever gave.

In 1979-80 the subsidies totalled \$70,825 and in this financial year those bodies will receive \$59,758. All told, in the last three years grants in the Caboolture area have totalled \$282,793. That is most commendable and shows that this Government does take an interest in sport.

**Mr Davis:** What about the Wamuran Bridge Club? What do they get? Nothing!

**Mr FRAWLEY:** I am not going to waste time answering tomtoits; I am going to shoot down the eagles today.

I am sick and tired of people whinging and whining about the amount of grants to local authorities. Many local authorities have councillors or aldermen who are too lazy to get off their backsides. They want the Government to do everything for them. I served on the Redcliffe City Council for six years. We did not go whinging and whining to the State Government for money. We got in and ran the council. My brother is now the mayor and he does the same thing. We do not hear the Redcliffe City Council crying for more money. It is satisfied about the contributions for pensioner rate concessions. In 1977 the Caboolture Shire Council received a total of \$200,000, in 1978 it received \$236,000—an 18 per cent increase—and in 1979 it received \$340,000. There have been no complaints from the Caboolture Shire Council, which is Labor dominated—although I have no doubt that with the election coming up we will get some complaints.

I have heard the member for Port Curtis and others complain bitterly about the rebate the Government is giving to local authorities in respect of pensioners' rates and charges.

**Mr Kruger:** We have been worrying you.

**Mr FRAWLEY:** It is not worrying me one bit. When I was on the Redcliffe council, we gave a 50 per cent rebate of the general rate for pensioners. At the present time Redcliffe gives 60 per cent.

**Mr Milliner:** All pensioners?

**Mr FRAWLEY:** Not pensioners like the member for Everton. We gave rebates to the genuine pensioners. The member for Everton will be on a pension after this election.

The Caboolture Shire Council gives 40 per cent rebate on general rates only. If pensioners wish to obtain the Government subsidy, they must ensure that their councillors and aldermen do their work, and councils have to be prepared to make a contribution to pensioners. Some councils are giving absolutely nothing. They are the ones who must contribute something.

**An Opposition Member interjected.**

**Mr FRAWLEY:** I am not arguing about that. I am talking about the councils in my electorate.

Councils everywhere must give rebates to pensioners. If the pensioners want to get the 20 per cent generously given by the Government on all rates—not just on general rates, but on water-supply and sewerage rates and other rates—they will receive a 50 per cent subsidy up to 75 per cent. I cited the case of the Caboolture Shire Council, which is giving 40 per cent now. If it continues to do so, the Government will give another 20 per cent provided it is passed on to pensioners.

Many councils have been pressing the Government to kick in money towards council rate reductions. They thought they would get a golden handshake, and many of them expected to put the money into their own coffers. Because the Government was too smart to give it to some of the lazy councils, they are now whinging about it. As far as I am concerned, the ones who are complaining are a lot of whingers. If councillors did their work and looked after their constituents instead of dabbling in politics, they would do much better. Let them stay in local government. If they want to dabble in politics, let them get out of the council and stand for Parliament.

**Mr Davis:** Why don't you stand for the local authority?

**Mr FRAWLEY:** I will put the record straight right now. I am going to stand for

the Caboolture Shire Council when I get out of Parliament. I am going to put my actions where my mouth is.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr FRAWLEY:** Some of the councillors are already shaking in their boots because they know I am going to do them as I have done ALP candidates in three State elections.

**Mr BURNS (Lytton) (4.22 p.m.):** If Parliament were a school, a report would be put out at the end of the term on the performance of the pupils, the parliamentarians. I should like to look at the type of report one would write about this Government in its three years of office.

First, I look at the statement by the Liberal leader (Dr Edwards) in which he spoke of the Liberal policy on parliamentary and governmental activities, and I am drawn to the point that he made that one of the major responsibilities of Parliament is to call to account those who govern to explain and justify matters of policy and to account to the Parliament for all activities of the Executive. There is a Business Paper in this place, and after each election, at the first meeting of the Parliament, a large number of members hop up in this Chamber and put a large number of notices of motion on that paper. They seek details of—

Payments made by the Government to public relations agencies or consultants—not tabled;

Payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors—not tabled;

The number of overseas loans raised by the Queensland Government, the value of each overseas loan, the currency, the length, etc—not tabled.

That is accountability by Liberal Ministers who profess to stand by the policy that Cabinet should be accountable to the Parliament. They have failed to stand up for the very things they have included in their policy document. Why has not this Parliament, on the last day of the session, at least been given the material that it asked for? If Liberal Ministers say that the Cabinet should be accountable, why has not the information been supplied? On accountability the score is zero—a failure.

**Dr Edwards:** You didn't last very long at the top of the class.

**Mr BURNS:** I was Opposition Leader for four out of the eight years that I have been in Parliament, which is half of my parliamentary life. As I have said to the honourable gentleman before, if he had the courage of his convictions and had a look at his own performance, he would mark himself a failure and get out of the job.

**Mr Akers:** Was that what you did?

**Mr BURNS:** I can say truthfully that what I did was done so that my party could do better with someone else at the top. I like to see my party do as well as it can.

**Mr Akers:** They haven't done very well.

**Mr BURNS:** I am pleased that the honourable member for Pine Rivers came in, because I would like to remind him that a contract signed by him was tabled in this Chamber today, and he has been up twice denying that he had anything to do with the Ong case. Receipts showing that the honourable member and his partnership received \$1,800 were tabled in this Chamber this morning, and he has denied that here. If this Parliament was going on, the honourable member would be before the Privileges Committee for telling lies.

**Mr AKERS:** I rise to a point of order. The material tabled this morning does not in the slightest prove the statement by the honourable member for Rockhampton. It does not support the statement made now by the honourable member for Lytton, and I ask him to withdraw the statement.

**Mr BURNS:** I will withdraw the statement but I will repeat what I saw happen in this Chamber. I withdraw the statement because the honourable member has requested that I withdraw it; that is the form.

A copy of a Housing Commission contract that the honourable member signed was tabled this morning. That is a fact.

**Mr AKERS:** I rise to a point of order. The contract tabled this morning does not refer to the actual building that was going on in the matter raised by the honourable member.

**Mr Wright:** That is a lie.

**Mr AKERS:** I will have you outside after if you keep it up.

Honourable Members interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller):** Order! The House will come to order.

**Mr Burns:** You couldn't last two rounds in a revolving door.

**Mr AKERS:** I'll last a lot longer than the pseudo-Christian.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BURNS:** Can I go ahead with my speech?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member for Rockhampton to withdraw his statement.

**Mr WRIGHT:** Yes; it was unparliamentary. I used the wrong word. The honourable member is simply not telling the truth. The contract clearly shows that it was signed by the honourable member. It is a Housing Commission home for Mr Ong, and it will cost \$40,000 to try to fix it up.

**Mr AKERS:** I rise to a point of order. The point that I just made is that the contract tabled this morning by the honourable member does not refer to the building that has been going on. It is something totally separate from the matter raised by the member in the House. Any complaints that Mr Ong has are not related to that contract. I ask the honourable member to withdraw his accusations. Obviously he just does not understand when the truth is being told.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to accept the word of the honourable member for Pine Rivers that that receipt does not have any connection with the matter.

**Mr BURNS:** He must have a drawer full of them at home.

For a Government that gave us Milan Brych and the hydrogen car, its performance is fairly poor. I am reminded of the Premier's statement, "The hydrogen car is fantastic. All you have to do is put water in the tank." The hydrogen car might turn out to be Milan Brych on wheels.

I want to speak about the Liberal Party policy speech for 1977. Sir William Knox said—

"To supplement and support the existing Brisbane hospital services, top priority will be given to the construction of a number of holding hospitals in the metropolitan area."

Top priority! The Government promised this in 1977 and it turned the first sod in 1980. It calls that top priority! One wouldn't want to have an accident and wait for admission to the hospital system controlled by Sir William Knox. If the accident happened on Friday, one would have to wait until Monday to be admitted. So for "top priority" schemes, we mark Government report card zero.

Sir William Knox went on to say that every pre-school child would be given treatment by a fully trained school sister. I know of some pre-schools that, over the past 12 months, have not received visits from a trained sister. So obviously that scheme is not on.

Concerning welfare, he said—

"We will establish a Department of Family Welfare to replace the existing Children's Services Department. The new department will be responsible for the co-ordination, and development, of all Government activities in the field of family welfare."

At the conclusion of that part of his statement, he said—

"This is another first for Queensland."

It hasn't happened yet; we haven't got it. This is something else that was promised for Queensland in 1977. It hasn't arrived. Mark the report card zero.

As to ethnic affairs, Sir William Knox said—

“We will upgrade the State Migration Office by the establishment of a Sub-department of Ethnic Affairs and the appointment of an Ethnic Affairs Advisory Council . . .”

We haven't got that yet, three years after the last election.

Sir William Knox went on to say—

“The Government will expand the availability of school facilities at evenings and week-ends for community groups and sporting bodies.”

Has any honourable member tried to get the use of a school for a sporting body or other community group after the school closes? Every obstacle is put in the way.

He also said—

“We will also introduce legislation to extend to small business, partnerships, farmers and graziers the same protection in their dealings with large corporations that is now available to consumers.”

The Queensland Graingrowers Association and others had to set up a voluntary organisation in consultation with the farm machinery groups that supply it because that legislation has not been forthcoming.

Later, Sir William Knox said—

“We will establish a working group to report on the feasibility of establishing a Manufacturing Research Institute . . .”

Have you got it yet, Mr Lee?

Mr Lee: No worries.

Mr BURNS: Has he got it? That was to be established in association with the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development.

Concerning racing, Sir William Knox said—

“We will appoint two citizens—a man and a woman—to the board of the TAB as ‘punters’ representatives’ to look after the interests . . .”

Another promise in the policy speech, and it has not been honoured yet. Another zero on the report card.

On transport, he said—

“We will up-grade and extend river transport services in Brisbane.”

He was referring to the ferry services. I have not seen one new ferry service commenced as the result of the promises made by Sir William Knox.

Concerning privacy, he said—

“Every citizen wants his or her basic right to privacy to be protected . . . The recommendations of the Law Reform Commission will be implemented without delay.”

Today, three years later, they still have not been implemented. That was another promise in the Liberal Party speech.

Mr Milliner: Tomorrow.

Mr BURNS: Yes, tomorrow. So much for Sir William Knox's policy speech!

Let us look at other promises. I attended a meeting with the Minister for Justice at which we were told the Government would do something about stamp duty and fire brigade levies on high-rise buildings. Has anything been done about the fire insurance problems confronting strata-title home-unit owners? Not a thing! What about the portability of long-service leave that Mr Campbell promised the unions on a number of occasions? How many times has that come forward? The Premier said there would be \$2,000,000 in the Budget for rail projects—\$2,000,000 for the Redland Bay project and \$2,000,000 for the Redcliffe link. Only \$650,000 was allocated in the Budget for each of those; it was only \$1,350,000 short. On arithmetic, I would give the Government a minus on a report card. The Government is no good on performance, and worse on promises, attendance, aptitude, application or co-operation. When we watch Government members here we see that they are not much good on behaviour, either. If I were marking their score card after three years here I would give them a minus—I would fail them.

In relation to proposed legislation Mr Campbell said that a criminal injuries compensation tribunal would be set up—another minus; it is not here; it is missing from the agenda. Mr Lickiss said that there would be credit union control, but he did nothing about it—another minus. The National Party said that it wanted corporate police, a review of legal aid and an Upper House. Mr Austin wanted compulsory third-party property-damage insurance for motor vehicles. Have we got it? We were promised a special Government committee to investigate a special housing subsidy for low-income earners, but we did not get it; legislation to allow unincorporated bodies to sue or be sued, but we did not get it; legislation to stop porn by mail, but we never got it. The Government wanted a juvenile review and we did not get it. Joh said that it would be all aboard for the Gold Coast express and that the railway line would be electrified.

I would make the point that I lost half the time for my speech because other people were having a brawl.

Hon. J. W. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove—Minister for Survey and Valuation) (4.32 p.m.): I would not dream of calling the honourable member for Archerfield a liar. I shall simply say that, as usual, there is no element of truth in what he said. I will add that most members of this House take no notice whatsoever of anything he

says. I would not normally bother to answer him, but some unsuspecting people who read "Hansard" just might believe him.

Firstly, he prefaced the remarks about Mr Lickiss and me with a reference to the portfolio that I now administer. At the start he referred to a Budget of \$14m for my departments. That was his first statement—that was his first error. The group figure, of course, is \$17m. That is the figure in the Appropriation Bill that we are debating. Only Mr Hooper could get something wrong when it is there in front of him in black and white in the printed Bill.

The honourable member's next point was that my department should still be part of the Department of Justice. That is an incomprehensible remark. Neither of my departments was ever part of the Department of Justice.

Next the honourable member talked about the Milano Restaurant catering for a function at my office. So far as I am aware it has never done so. The honourable member then alleged that Mr Serisier and Mr Davies had been carpeted by the Premier. I am authorised by the Premier to say that that allegation also is quite untrue and without foundation. The honourable member also said that I appointed Mr Barry Smith to the top position in Corporate Affairs. That, too, is quite untrue.

**Mr K. J. HOOPER:** I rise to a point of order. If my memory serves me correctly, I said that he was appointed by Mr Lickiss, and not Billy Bunter.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Miller): Order! The honourable member for Archerfield will refer to the Minister by his correct title.

**Mr K. J. Hooper:** The honourable Minister for Survey, Valuation and maps, Mr John Ward Greenwood, QC.

**Mr GREENWOOD:** Obviously the honourable member's memory is even more defective than I thought it was. I repeat that he said I appointed Mr Barry Smith to the top position in Corporate Affairs. That, of course, is quite untrue. I was I suppose, part of the Executive Council, but that was certainly my first knowledge of the matter. That appointment was the responsibility of another portfolio which Mr Hooper should, indeed, know.

The honourable member also talked about the Privy Council. Here, again, he was quite wrong. I recall receiving four briefs to appear before that tribunal, two of which were argued. It is true that in one of the matters argued mine was a junior brief, and very glad I was to have it, too.

Might I conclude by suggesting to the honourable member that he should be more polite to the legal profession because, judging by this performance, he is likely to be in need of it in the future.

**Mr LANE** (Merthyr) (4.35 p.m.): I will not delay the House long. I wish to put in a plug for a somewhat forgotten group in the community, certainly in our local community at Parliament House—the parliamentary attendants.

It came as rather a surprise to me today to discover the very low salary paid to these people who slave and toil among us. They fetch and carry for us and exhibit great loyalty to us. They work odd and long hours. I discovered that they do so for a take-home pay of something like \$200 a fortnight, with their meal allowance thrown in. We have among us those dignified gentlemen in grey uniforms working for \$100 a week clear. It is just not good enough.

A lot of time has been spent recently by members of the Opposition and even some Government members on the benefits that flow to parliamentarians, particularly the highest of us who are in the ministry. But those who have gone unnoticed are the staff at Parliament House.

One would have thought that the members of the Opposition, who claim to be the champions of the wage-earner, would have been on their feet and saying something in this regard. Apparently it has been a matter of complete disinterest to them.

At this late stage of the session I do not want to get into a political harangue but I think it is worth mentioning, placing on record and drawing to the attention of all members that the majority of the attendants in Parliament House work 40 hours a week for the princely sum of \$100. Some among us spend more than that each week on alcohol and on buying flowers to send to various ladies in the community.

There is an odd distinction between attendants and assistants. By some quirk of fate some are classified as parliamentary attendants. They might have been the ones who came over from the old building. Their salary is somewhat more lush. They earn \$304 a fortnight clear. The rest of them are general assistants. They are paid the same salary as the public servants who carry letters from one office to another, put files in pigeon-holes and do the other odd jobs at the lower end of things—the unclassified staff who work in Government offices.

It might be news to our Cabinet Ministers to learn that the majority in this section are only general assistants. While they are employed by the Legislative Assembly, come under the control of Mr Speaker and carry out those duties, they are not paid as much as parliamentary attendants.

**Mr Bishop:** They couldn't live on it.

**Mr LANE:** As the honourable member said, they couldn't live on it.

Some of them have a wife and family to sustain. There must be a great temptation for them to perform work outside to supplement their income. It is not fair, and something should be done about it.

The State Service Union has abandoned them. It will not interfere as it considers Parliament is unique. The employees are unique in that they can be dismissed readily by Mr Speaker. Therefore the State Service Union does not grapple with the problem. I would like to grapple with it today. When Ministers and members put their hands out for their parliamentary salaries and expenses, I invite them to think of those looking after us in this place who take home to their families only \$100 a week.

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (4.40 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to this debate today, but I do say with some sincerity that it has been a very disappointing debate. On the last day of this Parliament when an opportunity was given to honourable members to debate an economic Bill, I thought that some worthwhile contributions would have been made.

What we have had has been a rather disappointing effort by some members who have used this place, on the last day of the last session of this Parliament, to besmirch the character of people both in and outside this House. I think it has done a lot of discredit to those honourable members who have engaged in that conduct. I do not intend to name them, but they know that this is unacceptable under the parliamentary standards that should be set by us. I hope that the next Parliament sets much higher standards. In any case, those honourable members who have engaged in that conduct have not contributed anything to this Parliament during their service here.

I do feel it is important to speak on one or two matters that have been raised. First of all, I refer to the contribution of the member for Rockhampton (Mr Wright). I have always found his contributions to this House to be perspective and fair. He has always been able and ready to express views on matters which he has obviously researched and which his colleagues have found difficulty in coming to grips with. I have always paid a tribute to him when it has been due. But I must say that his performance and attitude today were a great disappointment to me, because he obviously had not done any research and based most of his comments on information given to him yesterday by the Ipswich City Council. I think it is regrettable that he based his statement here today on those matters and did not deliver his usually high-standard speech.

His actions were even more reprehensible when one considers that he made no attempt to contact the chairman of the Local Government Grants Commission at any time, despite the fact that the honourable member was in Rockhampton for the hearings of the commission and heard the invitation given by the chairman of the commission to people, including councillors or anyone else present at the hearing who was concerned about the operations of the commission, to visit the

commission and hear the commissioners explain the details in full. I again extend an invitation to the honourable member here today, if he is interested, to talk to the commissioners or to the chairman of the commission. I will personally conduct him to the meeting and I will allow him to ask any questions he likes, and he will be given the correct information.

**Mr Wright:** I have accepted your invitation.

**Dr EDWARDS:** I look forward to hearing from the honourable member in the future.

Unfortunately, the honourable member has been talking to and influenced by some of the few disgruntled councils that do not fully understand the commissioner's charter or the manner in which it sets about fulfilling it. Obviously the honourable member has been misled, and it is regrettable that he did not check with anybody to ascertain the accuracy of his information.

The general acceptance of the work of the Grants Commission is indicated by the small number of complaints that have been received by the commission or by me as Treasurer. In 1977-78 there were 15 complaints; in 1978-79, 11 complaints; in 1979-80, 12 complaints; and in 1980-81, six complaints. In fact, numerous statements have been made by many local authorities to the effect that this is the first year in which the base is correct and in which there is an ideal system upon which the commission can distribute the funds.

The honourable member may not be aware that a fourth annual report of the Local Government Grants Commission has been presented. Yesterday in the Ipswich "Queensland Times" he proudly presented a third report. I hope he is aware that there is a fourth report, and I also hope that he reads it with great interest. The report that I tabled last week includes a full summary of the methods used by the commission and the data used by it to formulate indices, and the honourable member should refer to that.

I do not argue about the statements the honourable member made about the fluctuations in the level of grants received by councils from year to year, and the significant variations between the rates of increase in grants as between councils. These arise from the factors used by the commission in its assessments and reflect, amongst other things, inconsistencies in data provided by local authorities; and some of the submissions indicate that quite clearly. They also reflect a constant review and improvement in the commission's methodologies as it gains experience and finds it necessary to introduce new factors or revise weightings given to different factors. Local authorities tend to compare percentage increases, and I must make it clear that these have no relevance to the commission's considerations. It makes its determinations on the guide-lines which it has formulated after a great deal of research

and inquiry. The only relevance that a council's previous year's grant has in relation to the commission's considerations lies in its policy that no council receives a grant of lesser amount than it received in the preceding year.

It is, in fact, this policy which is one of the major causes of apparent inconsistencies in assessments as between councils because it results in councils that received more than their assessed entitlements in the previous year receiving a nil or relatively low increase.

The point that must be understood is that the commission does not exist simply to carve up an annual cake according to some simplistic mathematical formula that somebody has dreamed up. If the distribution could be done in this way, there would be no need for a commission. The role of the authority is one of equalisation of the ability of a local authority to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not appreciably below the standards of the other local authorities in the State. To suggest, as the honourable member did, that there was a National Party influence upon the Grants Commission is, I believe, unacceptable and totally irresponsible. His reason for saying that leaves me in no doubt about the political implications of the remarks he made.

The Ipswich City Council, which is of course a Labor-dominated council, suggested similar things to me. I regret that the administrators of that council made the statement to the member for Rockhampton in the same context as it was made to me. I believe that they should not make such statements when they are not based on fact. I want to make that perfectly clear. As I move through the local authorities in the State, especially in country areas, the need is there. The submissions that they make have been recognised by the Grants Commission. To suggest that the Local Authority Grants Commission is acting subject to National Party influence is indeed unparliamentary and deserves to be condemned.

The Grants Commission is a totally independent body. I do not even meet with the commission and have nothing to do with it. I believe that is how it should be and that has been accepted by the majority of local authorities throughout the State.

Mr Wright: Rex Pilbeam does not agree with you.

Dr EDWARDS: I do not think the member for Rockhampton would agree with Rex Pilbeam on everything, either. I think that would be the first time that he and Rex Pilbeam have ever been in agreement. To suggest that that is a reason why I should agree with Rex Pilbeam leaves me in some doubt as to the honourable member's reasons for raising this point. To illustrate that

Rockhampton and Ipswich are not disadvantaged but in fact advantaged by this arrangement, let me cite the following figures which show the per capita value of their grant—

	Per Capita	Percentage
Rockhampton ..	\$14.56	23.65
Townsville ..	\$16.96	17.37
Toowoomba ..	\$12.06	22.88
Ipswich ..	\$13.23	15.74
Brisbane ..	\$11.51	12.72

I hope that the honourable member for Rockhampton will take advantage of the offer that I made. I make that offer to every other member of this Parliament and every local authority in Queensland so that they can understand the workings of the commission. I am disappointed that the local government representative on the Grants Commission made that statement in his speech in Rockhampton.

Mr Wright: But he made that statement.

Dr EDWARDS: Well, he is a member of that commission.

Mr Wright: But he still made the statement.

Dr EDWARDS: That is for him to answer. One wonders why he should make such a statement. The other members of the commission are well known representatives of local authority. Alderman Abbott from Mackay—

Mr Casey: Which side of the National Party is he on up there at present?

Dr EDWARDS: The Leader of the Opposition has some doubt about which side of the Labor Party he is on. He has been a member of the Labor Party for a long time. I well remember that when I entered this House he was a member of no party, so he should not speak about which side of a party one should be on.

I thank honourable members for their interest in Treasury matters over the last two years that I have been Treasurer. I believe that we as a Government can continue to present to this House an appropriation that leaves Queensland as the leading State in Australia in economic matters. We as a Government will continue, and look forward to continuing, to develop this State in the future.

Motion (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Committees (Mr W. D. Hewitt, Greenslopes) in the chair

Clauses 1 to 5, and schedule, as read, agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, I have indicated privately—and I now want to indicate it to the Committee—that it is not my wish to be the Chairman of Committees in the next Parliament. I have enjoyed the 5½ years for which I have been

chairman, but I think the time has come for somebody else to do the job. I express my appreciation to all members for the support they have given to me in the discharge of my obligations. I hope that that support will be forthcoming in even richer measure to my successor, whoever he may be.

Bill reported, without amendment.

### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Dr Edwards, read a third time.

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (4.51 p.m.): I move—

“That this House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 o'clock a.m. on a date to be fixed by Mr Speaker in consultation with the Government of this State.”

Of course, it will be the same one as last time.

Motion (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

### VALEDICTORY

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (4.52 p.m.): I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

This particular hour, of course, is an occasion of very special significance to all members, but to some more than others. A number of members of this Parliament know that they will no longer continue in the positions they presently hold. They will be retiring—perhaps to an easier life—or seeking involvement in other activities. On the other hand, there are those who think they will be back but will not. Of course, many will be returned. So this is a great moment for very many members—to us all—as we adjourn the House before the coming election.

The Forty-second Parliament has contributed significantly to the history of Queensland and the future progress of this State in the decade of the '80s. Queensland will become a significant world energy supplier—that has been made quite evident—and this Parliament has contributed to the program of management of those resources. We have all been involved in that.

Each and every member has played his part in the interests of Queensland and it is acknowledged that this State has a healthy prospect and a bright future. The end of a Parliament is an appropriate time for reflection and for many it will be, as I said, the end of an era. Some of us will leave; others will return to meet the challenges of the '80s. I believe that firm foundations have been laid for Queensland during the term of this Parliament and I am certain that each of us believes in the future of Queensland and the prosperity of its citizens. All of

us, I am sure, have done everything we can in the interests of the people we have been privileged to serve and represent.

It is appropriate at this time to reflect on the personnel who have contributed to the Parliament in this very lively session, because it is a fact of life of the Westminster system that representation changes, be it voluntarily or through the ballot-box.

During this session, we have seen a number of members of the Executive Council resign or indicate that they will not be seeking re-election. Tragically, through ill health, John Herbert resigned from the Parliament after many years of distinguished public service and, unfortunately, did not survive to see the end of this session. I am sure that honourable members remember with gratitude the late John Herbert, who was a very good friend not only to all of us but also to the community generally.

Ron Camm, as a distinguished Minister for Mines and Energy, who set the course for progress in this vital area for the State, has left, together with Max Hodges, who held a variety of important portfolios during his parliamentary career. Both are continuing to make positive contributions to Queensland in their new careers.

Tom Newbery has been a hard-working Minister and, although retiring from the back bench, has, as a Minister and a parliamentarian, contributed significantly to the benefit of Queensland.

Distinguished administrators in Cabinet, Fred Campbell, Neville Hewitt and Charles Porter—very good friends of all of us—have all left their mark on the positive history of development during their terms in Parliament. I express my personal appreciation and thanks to them for their good will. They have been influential in the destiny of Queensland over a long period. No greater tribute can be paid to their outstanding efforts than to say that they have been distinguished in the service of Queensland. As I indicated, it is certainly the end of an era.

I also say farewell to Roy Armstrong, a very good personal friend of mine, a man of the North, who has ably represented his constituents, a man whose understanding of humanity must not be lost in future Parliaments.

During the Parliament we have seen Speaker Jim Houghton leave our ranks after a lengthy period and former Leader of the Opposition and long-time member Jack Houston also move into retirement.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the retirement of long-serving officers of this House, the former Clerk of the Parliament, George Wyborn, and the Chief Hansard Reporter, Baxter McCarthy. These officers and their staffs did ensure that this House functioned smoothly. The retirement of our first Parliamentary Commissioner, Sir David Longland, must also be

remembered as part of the history of the Forty-second Parliament, as must that of the former Auditor-General, Sir Alan Sewell.

The Forty-second Parliament had a change of venue, as the historic old Parliament House undergoes renovation to enable it to cope with the modern demands of progressive democratic Government. This new chamber has served us well, and I am sure that all honourable members have been pleased with their new conditions and facilities. I am also certain that the officers of the Parliament have appreciated their new surroundings.

I must thank the officers of the Parliament and the staff of Parliament House, who have ensured that we could proceed with the important business of the Parliament. It has been a very busy and very active Parliament, and it has been successfully managed because of the hard work of the Clerk, Mr Woodward and his staff, Mr Burns and the Hansard team, Mr Banenberg and the Library staff and, of course, Miss Glennie and her ladies, who have provided excellent food for us. We express our deep thanks to all of them.

As I have said, when we return here next year there will be a number of new faces through retirements and other causes—there is no need to mention them. One of the traditions of the valedictory has been to wish all honourable members the best for the festive season and, while we will all be doing plenty of hard work between now and Christmas, I do sincerely wish all honourable members the compliments of the season.

It is often a thankless task to be a parliamentarian, but I am sure that all of us who have been privileged to be part of the Forty-second Parliament have indeed benefited from the experience, and I sincerely believe that the people of Queensland have been served well during the term of this Parliament.

So, Mr Speaker, with those few words I wish everyone the compliments of the coming festive season, and offer my best wishes for their good health and whatever the future may hold for them.

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (5 p.m.): At the close of this the final session of the Forty-second Parliament of Queensland, I join with the Premier in thanking the people he mentioned. It is important that as we go to an election we go with open minds. No doubt the election campaign will generate much bitterness, but I hope that it is kept to the minimum so that we can go into the next Parliament with a spirit of co-operation in doing all we can for the betterment of those people we try to serve—the people of Queensland.

I join with the Premier in paying tribute to those people who are leaving us through retirement. I pay tribute particularly to my Deputy Leader, Mr Fred Campbell. He

has served the people of Queensland and this Parliament well. His family has suffered a great deal as the result of his tremendous dedication to Parliament and the people of Queensland. He is a most loyal man and one who has had a very difficult role to play in his important portfolio. It is remarkable that he has been able to administer it without making any enemies. He has, indeed, made many friends. I pay a tribute to him. He is a great Queenslander and a great Australian.

Parliament has been the better for his presence and the State has been the better for his many years' service. In losing Fred Campbell, we are losing a great friend, a great person and a man who has contributed a great deal to this Parliament.

To his wife I pay a tribute for her support, which she has given in a most admirable manner. I am delighted that she is in the public gallery to hear the tributes paid to her husband. We wish them both a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

Charles Porter, too, is retiring. He has had a long association with politics. He has always contributed in a forceful and eloquent manner. He has given sound advice to those of us who are younger than he is. Charles has left a mark on this Parliament. In his earlier days, he played a role in obtaining many of the privileges that we now enjoy. His contribution to the difficult portfolio that he has held will be long remembered. I thank him and his wife. We wish both a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mr Neville Hewitt is a good friend to all of us. He is a very popular member and one who has played a tremendous role in caring for the country people of Queensland. A couple of years ago I spent four days with him while visiting his electorate. It was an inspiration to me to see his genuine concern for people in rural areas who face many problems. I say without a shadow of doubt that no other member understands the rural problems as well as Neville Hewitt. His hard work for rural people and his good companionship have left a great mark on this Parliament. I wish him and his wife Nancy every success and happiness in the future. Neville will be missed a great deal.

Among the other members mentioned by the Premier is Mr Newbery, who was a Cabinet colleague for some years and contributed a great deal. We wish him and his wife every happiness for the future.

The Premier also mentioned Mr Armstrong. He is respected by all of us. As the Premier has said, he is a man from the North and he has certainly played an important role in that area.

The Premier mentioned other members who have left us. I join with him in paying tribute to Mr Camm, the late John Herbert, Mr Hodges, Mr Houghton and Mr Jack Houston.

To those members who are leaving this Parliament voluntarily we pay a great tribute. I am sure that they will continue to be our friends for a long time. They will be warmly welcomed whenever they return to this Parliament to pay us a visit.

I join with the Premier in paying tribute to you, Mr Speaker, on your conduct of the House in the past two years. You have always been approachable. You have had a difficult duty to perform. I pay tribute to your Chairman of Committees (Mr Hewitt) and the Temporary Chairmen of Committees. I pay tribute also to the officers of Parliament, who play a difficult role. I thank them sincerely, just as I thank the "Hansard" staff, the Parliamentary Library staff, the messengers and Miss Glennie and her staff.

Finally, I pay a big tribute to the families of members of Parliament. Our wives and families put up with a great deal. Those of us who are keen family people know the tremendous sacrifices our wives and families make, especially for the country members who have to spend a long time away from home, sometimes suffering the bitterness of parliamentary life. I place on record my deep respect for our wives and families who contribute so much to our lives and to the benefit of Queensland.

I join with the Premier in wishing everybody the best for the festive season. I hope, Mr Speaker, that when Parliament reassembles in the new year we have one basic aim, that is, to serve the people of this great State. We look forward to great prosperity and progress. I am sure that those of us who are re-elected will enjoy the part that we are able to play in the continuing development and progress of this great State. I wish retiring members every future happiness.

**Mr CASEY** (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (5.7 p.m.): I join with the Premier and Deputy Premier in expressing thanks to the people who have given great service during the term of this Forty-second Parliament. It is truly fitting that the first people I should thank are my own staff. They have been the hardest-working, most disadvantaged public servants in Queensland, especially since the office of the Leader of the Opposition was shifted away from the Parliament. This is the only Opposition under the Westminster system to be so treated.

**Mr Wharton:** I will give you a wailing wall.

**Mr CASEY:** I will give you a little more in a minute.

I give special thanks to the Clerk of the Parliament and his staff for the work they do and the tolerance they have displayed throughout the session. I pay tribute to the administrative staff, the messengers, the Hansard staff (particularly the girls who work for Hansard and stay here so late at night when we carry on with our midnight to

dawn nonsense). Likewise, I pay tribute to the girls in the correspondence room who help us, and the refreshment rooms staff. Other hard workers in this building are the members of the Works Department, the maintenance staff and the cleaners who have had to put up with all the problems in this new building. One has only to be here on a windy night to know that there are many problems.

I reserve special comment for the library staff members for their courtesy to me and all members of the Opposition. Their treatment has been excellent. In Queensland Opposition members do not have available to them the resources of departments for help and support. The Parliamentary Library is our resource centre and it does a tremendous job.

I join in expressions of goodwill to retiring members and those who will be returning. I thank honourable members for their companionship in Parliament. Most of those who are leaving are of a different political persuasion, but I have enjoyed my time with them in Parliament. I will miss some of the thrusts across the Chamber from time to time by members of the Government who are retiring. When I think of that, it is important to recall that we come and go, but Parliament itself continues.

At the end of the Forty-second Parliament it is appropriate to review its operations. The Premier reviewed its operations at the commencement of his speech. Maybe I see it in a completely different light. I believe that in the last three years this Parliament has creaked its way through the rituals of suppressing the very information that it should be providing for the people of Queensland. For three years it has virtually roared and snored its objections to the freedoms of expression and debate that should be the basis of its existence. Question-time is a joke and ministerial statements have become a time-abusing farce.

**Mr Bjelke-Petersen:** You make them a farce.

**Mr CASEY:** The Premier and his Ministers should allow ministerial statements to be debated, as they are in other Parliaments. We would then see how often Ministers made use of that practice, which often cuts down on question-time.

The past three years of this Parliament have been neither spectacular nor flattering. In a community which is facing the streamlined challenges of technology I cannot imagine a more rusty, reactionary institution to guide its adjustments. What chance is there of promoting public respect for democracy when the Parliament itself is undemocratically elected and run? There are jobs for the boys.

**Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I rise to a point of order. I take very great exception to this. It is the first time in my nearly 34 years in Parliament that a political speech has been

made by the Leader of the Opposition during the valedictory. He is trying to run down the Government and launch his election campaign. To me, this is completely wrong. This is not what a valedictory is for. It has been treated very seriously and genuinely up to the moment. I object strenuously to having a political speech rammed down my throat.

**Mr CASEY:** I am afraid, Mr Speaker, that you will have to refer to the introductory remarks of the Premier in which he praised the Government and its work and activities for the past three years. As usual, he set the pattern for political indiscretion.

There is no doubt that we have reached the stage where people in the community regard the Parliament and all members with disdain. This has happened because of the way in which Parliament has been conducted. It has even spun off into the media. Pumpkin scones seem to excite more interest in the media than the first election challenge by a Queenslander for the Prime Ministership in over 60 years. Few Queenslanders believe that Parliament matters, and even fewer pretend that the elections to be held soon will be anywhere near fair.

The Cabinet has become the censor of Parliament whereas it should be answerable to it. There is super-secrecy; there are contracts that cannot be explained. Even a senior Federal Liberal Minister recently declared publicly that Cabinet favours can be bought through the National Party's special fund.

Queenslanders are given more information on the movements of Russian satellites than on the activities of their own aircraft.

**Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Again I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is going outside the bounds of fairness and decency. The Deputy Premier and I could have made political speeches and said a lot of things about the Labor Party or somebody else. The Leader of the Opposition must recognise that this is not the occasion to be saying what he is saying.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am most disturbed at the comments of the Leader of the Opposition. I must severely reprimand him for the action he has taken under the present circumstances. Frankly, I think it is despicable. He has lost the support of a lot of people who may foolishly have been inclined to support him. Unless he reverts to adopting a more conventional stand, I shall do something that, I believe, has never been done before in circumstances such as these, that is, ask him to resume his seat.

**Mr CASEY:** Mr Speaker, I am rather surprised at your comments. There is a motion before the House. I am speaking in accordance with the Standing Rules and Orders. You have taken an oath that you are prepared to uphold them in this Parliament.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Within reasonable limits.

**Mr CASEY:** Parliament is the place where there should be accountability.

Only recently, for the first time in the past 23 years, we saw details of ministerial spending. It is no wonder that public confidence in the effectiveness of our parliamentary system has declined so dramatically over the past three years. The pattern is set by the Government.

Where else except in Queensland would there be special laws, made between midnight and dawn, to subdivide our beachfront for Iwasaki? Where else would the trappings of government be exploited to publicise the quackery of Milan Brych who, in another land, has recently been arrested for fraud and larceny? Where else would the State's leader publicly promote the unlikely invention of hydrogen cars that cannot start?

**Mr McKECHNIE:** I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is continually talking about abiding by conventions. He is a great proponent of abiding by conventions. He is breaking a convention which has never been broken before. I should like to draw that to your attention.

**Mr CASEY:** This Parliament stumbles along on Standing Orders that have not been looked at for more than seven years, much less reviewed, and persists with ceremonial traditions that go back to the days of "Dad and Dave". I believe that, as we adjourn for the last time in a Parliament elected in the '70s, it is time to spare a thought for the future of the Parliament itself in the '80s. The fall in the prestige of this Parliament, and with it parliamentarians, should be a matter of concern for every member in this House. That is why I said earlier that members come and go, but Parliament continues. There has been a fall in the prestige of this Parliament in the eyes of the community, and if each and every one of us does not accept that fact we are fools to ourselves. The fall in the prestige of this Parliament should be a matter of concern to everyone.

When an Opposition is given only about one-quarter the opportunities of expression and inquiry of the Government, as in Queensland today, then democracy is no more than a whisper. When the Cabinet Executive is the arbitrator of the Parliament and the Police Force is an instrument of that executive, then democracy, or what is left of it, is in danger of vanishing altogether.

I am glad this Parliament is finished and that the curtain is coming down on the worst three years of Government that this State has ever experienced. I would hope that at the start of the next Parliament—irrespective of who wins the election—a first priority will be a serious look at the deficiencies of our parliamentary system. I would hope a searching review can be organised involving Mr Speaker, political-party leaders, backbench representatives and parliamentary officials.

Through such a review and re-written administrative procedures, I believe we will begin the very challenging task of restoring public faith in parliamentary effectiveness in Queensland. That cannot occur while Parliament itself is the prisoner of an aggressive Cabinet "gang of 18" that is a law of convenience and patronage to itself beyond the reach of reproach or rebuke; a group that silences and suppresses with the frightened co-operation and reluctant submission of some sections of the media in this State.

It cannot occur while the favorites of this Cabinet jet their way around the world waiting to maximise their superannuation and hobble into new Government jobs at 66 years of age. It cannot occur while departmental Estimates are debated often only once in three years and there is no parliamentary committee to meet regularly on accountability.

I have delayed the farewell festivities of this Parliament long enough, and I close by once again expressing the appreciation of the last Labor Opposition for quite some time in this State to all who have given us their assistance in the Parliament now adjourning.

I say good-bye and good riddance to this the Forty-second Parliament. Queensland has to have change. Hopefully, it will come from the people themselves at the coming election and the Forty-third Parliament will lead us once more to the forefront of other States as we enter the '80s.

**Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL** (Aspley—Minister for Labour Relations) (5.17 p.m.): In the 30 years that I have been associated with politics and in the 20 years that I have been associated with this Parliament, I have never known the Australian Labor Party to be so poorly served by its leader.

I do not want to be nostalgic on my final parliamentary day, but I would be less than human if I were not to express my thanks for the friendships extended to me during the last 20 years. It has been a feature of the Queensland Parliament that even though members may argue viciously, and sometimes quite intemperately, there have been very few personal animosities—and I am sorry to have to say that I make one exclusion from that comment. Excluding that person, this is one of the fondest memories I will take with me.

Another will be the fact that the only time a parliamentary bowls team won the interstate carnival was when I was its president. Still another will be that I believe I am leaving politics with no enemies. I also leave industrialists with sound Government policy guide-lines and business with a new approach on trading hours and consumerism. I feel I have also made a contribution in the highly volatile area of labour relations.

One cannot hope for success in everything one takes on, but at least I have found that if a person is honest in his endeavours and

genuine in his dealings with people, he at least gains trust and that respect which can so often lead to agreement or advancement.

In my 13 years as a Minister I developed associations with a wide variety of civic, industrial and trade union groups. I say without hesitation for the record that the number of Queenslanders who have at heart the welfare and progress of this State is much larger than is generally thought. It has always been a matter of great consolation to me to know that I could always count on support for any legislation which is predicated on the interests of all.

Perhaps the legislation I remember most vividly was that which established the Industry and Commerce Training Commission and I thank all members for their contributions to and acceptance of it. It was probably the most important industrial legislation for decades and took Queensland into a new era of training for industry and commerce.

The other aspect which gives me great personal pride lies in the initiatives of the then fledgling Department of Industrial Development. I refer particularly to the industrial estates which have been developed from the Gold Coast to Cairns and out to Mt Isa—43 established estates and 18 areas earmarked for future development. I also refer to the initiatives which produced the handbook for small businesses. I suppose I could not express a greater tribute to these very valuable volumes than that expressed by the Director of the Small Business Administration in Washington when I presented him with a copy of the handbook. He said to me, "Mr Minister, that is the most valuable tool for businessmen that I have ever seen."

Another important aspect was the introduction of small business seminars which were held throughout the State and for which Brisbane businessmen gave of their time to the benefit of small businessmen throughout the State.

I recall the aftermath of the disastrous 1974 flood. When some of the hundreds of businessmen in the flood-affected areas opened their doors on the Monday morning they found, through no fault of their own, that they were virtually bankrupt. Through the then Department of Industrial Development, and with the assistance of the Commonwealth Government, within 10 days over 400 businessmen were able to go to their bank managers and state that the Government would stand behind their accounts, which it did. Otherwise they would have gone to the wall.

I think I got my greatest satisfaction from, and went through the greatest trials and tribulations with, the Industrial Relations portfolio. As I said earlier, that is a most volatile area which has so many facets and aspects. I pay tribute to the various industrialists and leaders of trade unions, whose acquaintance I made very early in the period of that ministry, for the guidance, assistance

and help that they gave me in an endeavour to keep the industrial relations of this State on an even keel.

I leave the Parliament confident that Queensland's base for continued expansion and development is firmly established. As has already been said on this side of the House, I am confident that it will become the richest and most economically sound State in Australia. I further believe that we in this House, despite our political differences, all have the same aim and hope.

Finally, I pay tribute to the parliamentary and departmental staff who have helped me throughout my parliamentary career. I have always been impressed by their courtesy and efficiency and I shall miss them on a personal basis.

Mr Speaker, I express to you my appreciation and, through you, to the Chairman of Committees and the parliamentary officers for their assistance and guidance, which they have been so cheerfully willing and keen to provide.

We all have our fights, of course. That is only natural in a political operation. However, as I said before, once the argument is over no personal affront remains.

In conclusion, let me say this: I have enjoyed my 20 years in Parliament. I am fully conscious of the honour that was bestowed on me when I became a Minister 13 years ago, and by my party when I was elected deputy leader. When I add to that my connection with the Liberal Party organisation and recall that I have held practically every office in it since 1949, it is reasonably clear that I have always enjoyed the confidence of the organisational wing.

I would personally like to thank the Premier, Deputy Premier and all of my colleagues for the assistance they have freely given to me during my period of responsibility. I thank my parliamentary friends for the friendship they have so cheerfully and willingly given.

So, Mr Speaker, I feel I can now retire with feelings of personal regret at the loss of so many friends but satisfied that I have done my bit to the best of my ability for those things in which I believe.

**Hon. C. R. PORTER** (Toowong—Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs) (5.26 p.m.): Mr Speaker, I am—how shall I say it—not only sorry but deeply dismayed that I should start a speech of this sort by having to say how appalled I am at the speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition, because we had a debate today—on the Appropriation Bill—when the bitterly vindictive and extremely political speech that he has just made could have been made. Instead, he chose to save it up and deliver it on this valedictory occasion. I can only feel sympathy for those over there he professes to lead.

Mr Speaker, I have been in this Parliament now for some 14 years. I have been

involved in Queensland politics for over 40 years. That is a very long time—the greatest part of my life. In that period, of course, there has been enormous change—four decades of it—some of it good, some of it bad. One of the areas of change that I cannot help but notice has been the way in which the media have lost a great deal of the independence that they once enjoyed. They have certainly lost a lot of their flexibility. They have become a lot more centralised and, if I might say so, have come under a lot more monopoly control than was the case when I entered Parliament.

One of the great factors of change—and a regrettable one—was the advent of television in the '50s, because nowadays reporting news no longer seems to be the thing. News nowadays is treated as entertainment, so it tends to be sensationalised rather than analysed—and to be trivialised in the process. It means, too, that in taking the mickey out of Parliament, which seems to be the favourite pursuit, in my belief the media vastly damage themselves. I find, in moving about the community, that the media—all organs of the media—are no longer respected or as believed as once was the case. I would say that today's journalism has to put aside its obsession with harrying and hounding public people. It is ignoring the sober analysis of issues; instead, it is trying to pitch everything that it writes at a kind of cock-fight level.

Because of this, one of the changes I have found over the years—one that I regret—is that too many parliamentarians nowadays are prepared to dance to the media tune. I think they lessen both themselves and the Parliament in the process, because it has now become almost an automatic fact of life to see the deliberate leak, the slanted story and the fabricated smear. Unhappily, all these are common coinage in today's political currency. I think that even in this Chamber there has been a growing tendency for members to perform in a way that they believe the media will feature. At times there isn't even any compunction about going to extremes in attacking colleagues.

Politics has always got to be robust. Everybody accepts that. But that does not include going to the extent of cannibalism. "Live and let live" is a very good motto for everybody who is engaged in politics.

Over the years, parliamentary style has changed much. Some of that is good and some of it is bad; but, while there have been many changes, the prime lesson I have learnt from 40 years of political involvement is that, the more things appear to change, the less do the fundamental and enduring things change at all.

We are today as a community—the community that the Parliament is here to serve and to represent—what we always were—the same sort of people, conservative, decent and staunchly independent. I would say

that politicians and parties—all parties—should not be misled by pseudo-intellectuals and trendy writers into believing that the permissive society is the indelible hallmark of the closing 20th Century. It is not, and Australia, in common with the whole world, is witnessing a swing back to what can largely be called the puritan ethic.

It is sad to have to say that I do find that respect for parliamentary democracy has been very much eroded over the decades, particularly so over the last decade, and that drift must be checked. Parties—all of them—are blameworthy. They must stop being too authoritarian; they must stop demanding excessive obedience from their parliamentary representatives; and they must certainly stop being too prone to interfere in governmental policy and administrative decisions. I believe—and I have always tried to act in this way—that a parliamentarian's first obligation is to the Queensland people, and it is only after that that he must begin satisfying his obligation to his party. I would hope that they would go hand in hand; but if they do not, the first obligation is to the people whom one represents. I think that the parties have to relearn their place in the scheme of political things, and the sooner they do it, the better.

Finally, let me say that my long political involvement has had its ups and its downs, but one thing is sure—that no man could long endure in this sphere without the support that he gets at home. If the road to success is not, as Lord Chersterfield said, crowded with women pushing their husbands along in front of them, certainly it is thronged by women supporting, comforting and helping their husbands in this very bruising race. I owe much more to my wife—certainly in staying here so long—than I could ever repay.

It is an eerie feeling knowing that, after such a long involvement with Parliament, one is standing in this place speaking for the last time. No man leaves this Chamber and ever completely severs his connections with it, because once politics is in the blood, it is there to stay. In common with other retiring members with whom I have been associated for a long time—with Fred Campbell back to the days when he was an aspiring president of the Liberal Party—I say with mixed feelings to my long-standing colleagues and to all fellow members of this House and all, including yourself, Mr Speaker, who serve the House in various ways, "Goodbye", but I hope it will not be farewell.

**Hon. N. T. E. HEWITT** (Auburn—Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources) (5.34 p.m.): I should like to speak on a theme a little different from that of other honourable members. I look back over a lengthy period and say that when I leave the House at the end of this term, there will be left in it only one member who served with me in Opposition—the Premier of the State.

I pay a particular tribute to the people who assisted me to become a member of this Assembly in the first place. I think of Senator Maher, who assisted me at a time when there was a united Labor Party in Queensland. If ever things looked impossible as far as I was concerned, they certainly did then. In fact, three or four days after the election Senator Maher wrote to me telling me that I was a young man and that he hoped I would stand again because I had done so well. Fortunately for me, some eight or nine days after the election I managed to get in front. I won the seat by 45 votes.

Today the Opposition mentioned gerrymanders. It wasn't a bad one back in 1956! So I thought, of course, that I would be a member of the Opposition for many years. But, be that as it may, we know what happened.

I have had the good fortune to serve in Government for 23 years. I trust and hope that when I leave this Parliament I will not be leaving behind many bad friends. I have endeavoured to do the right thing by everyone, no matter what his politics might be. I have not believed in playing politics, unless the other person wanted to play them. Of course, when the other person has played politics, I have always been prepared to mix it.

The honourable member for Toowong mentioned changes that have occurred in the media. I would have to agree with his comments. I look back to the days of Logan Sligo, Brian Harris and many others. If we deserved a kick in the seat, we got a kick in the seat; if we did something worth while, we got a pat on the back. There are still many excellent members of the media, but unfortunately too many of them just try to create sensationalism instead of giving the true picture.

I say a very sincere thank you to each and every one of the people whom I have come to know around this Parliament over the quarter of a century that I have been here. They have been friends to me and have helped me in many ways. I could not possibly name them all, but to them I say thank you.

Over the years, the Speakers have been so different from one another. We have had the late Johnno Mann, you, Mr Speaker, and others in the intervening years. Similarly with the Premiers. At first, there was Vince Gair. Since then I have had the pleasure to serve under four other Premiers.

I say a sincere thank you to my personal staff for the way in which they have helped along the road. They are more like personal friends, and at all times they were at my right hand and could be trusted totally.

I also take this opportunity of thanking the dedicated senior officers and public servants of the many departments covered by my portfolios over the past 11½ years.

I refer particularly to the Queensland Water Resources Commission with which I have been associated during my entire service as a Minister of the Crown.

I will always value the friendships that I have made here. I hope that I have made very few enemies.

I say a very sincere thank you to my family for the way in which they have been prepared to face up to the many difficulties that confronted us over those years. When I entered Parliament my daughter was approximately five years of age. Today she is about 30 years of age. My son is now 18 years old. So it can be seen that their mother has had a full-time job in bringing up the children.

I owe a great deal to a lot of people who have helped me. I thank the members of my party for their loyalty. Again I wish everyone well and look forward to enjoying everyone's friendship in the years that lie ahead. May you all enjoy very good health.

**Mr ARMSTRONG (Mulgrave) (5.38 p.m.):** I join with those previous speakers who will not be returning to the next Parliament. As I listened to my colleagues making their valedictory remarks, I felt a tinge of regret.

I have had the privilege of serving the people of Mulgrave for approximately 20 years. I have greatly appreciated and enjoyed that task. I say thank you to them for having been so kind over those years. I feel sure that they will continue to support the party that I have had the privilege to represent.

I, too, thank our political organisation which has seen fit to endorse me over the years and give me every support, without which I may not have been here.

I must endorse the remarks of my colleague and friend of long standing, the honourable member for Toowong, about political parties. Like him, I have spent something over 40 years serving the party to which I belong. I have seen changes during that period, some of which have not been for the better. There is nothing like a good, virile political party, but when members are elected to this House they are here to serve their electors in the first instance and then the people of Queensland, always being mindful of their party's policy.

I am pleased to have been a member of the progressive Governments in which I have served in the 20 years I have been here. I have seen great changes take place in our wonderful State. The foundation has been very firmly laid for nothing but prosperity in this country as long as we have the wisdom, energy and foresight to act as we should.

One thing that absolutely disgusts me—and it is getting worse and worse every day—is the industrial set-up in this State and nation. If anything will pull down and take away some of the opportunities that this and

other Governments have tried to provide it will be industrial trouble. Scarcely a day goes by when we do not pick up a paper and read about strikes of some description. A few months ago I was horrified when we were without electricity for days, and the union leaders came out to say that they knew nothing about it. It is a dreadful state of affairs when the people supposedly leading responsible unions have to put up with a few men walking off the job and holding up the whole State. The great hardships and penalties inflicted on women, children, the aged and others can only be deplored. I hope that the next Parliament will see a much better performance in the field of industrial order.

Until today I have always held the Leader of the Opposition in very high regard. When I had the opportunity of being with him in the old Bellevue building for a number of years I got to know him very well. I assure him that I greatly regret the remarks that he passed today. I feel that as the No. 1 speaker of his party he had an opportunity to speak in this way at any other time. If he had done that I would have had no argument with him. In fact, I would not have minded mixing it with him on occasions when I was in better form than I am in today. It hurt me to sit here and listen to his remarks on this occasion. I will have a very sad memory of that. I would have been much happier if I had not heard him make such comments.

During my years in this Parliament I have tried to maintain friendship with all parties and all members of parties. I hope I am not misleading myself, but I will be leaving with the thought that I have made some very good friends in the Opposition, some of whom are not here today, with members of other parties and Independents. I have always regarded this place as a very selective club, away from the hurly-burly part of politics, where we build up some sort of affinity with members, whether they be in Opposition or Government.

I hope this registers very sincerely with the Leader of the Opposition: As the years go by he will find that his regard for people with whom he has sat in this Chamber will grow and he will be happy to meet them. It is for that reason that I am very sorry the Leader of the Opposition saw fit to make those remarks.

To the Premier I express my sincere thanks. I express sincere thanks also to all of the Ministers who have served under him and to his staff in all departments. As he knows, I have taken many problems to him.

I have heard it said all over the State that he is a dictatorial man and an awful chap. I have been associated with him since I entered Parliament, and even before. He sat on one side of the table and I sat on the other. Therefore, I think I am well qualified to tell all honourable members that I have never detected anything dictatorial

about him. I have found him to be a man of conviction. I do not think anybody could argue with that.

I have gone to him with problems and, although he has had a totally different view, I have explained my cases to him and he has done what he could for me.

Those comments apply also to his Ministers. I thank him and the Ministers who have served under him. I have found them helpful in every regard.

My old friend the member for Aspley and I entered Parliament at the same time. I have had the closest of associations with him. I have served on all of his committees down through the years. I have shared his troubles, the mistakes we made and the joys we experienced. I have many happy memories of my association with him in Parliament and also as the father of our bowls club for three years.

Also, I have had a very close association with Mr Hewitt. I thank him and his entire staff in the departments that he has controlled. On every occasion that I have approached him I have found him to be sympathetic. He would do anything to help a constituent if it was humanly possible. I thank him and would appreciate his passing my thanks on to his entire staff, particularly those in the Lands Department and the Water Resources Commission.

I have had a close association with Mr Porter and have served on his committees. Only recently I had the opportunity and privilege of touring the islands with him. Some of the great critics of this man should have been with us when he met the chairmen of the various councils and heard some of the remarks passed about him. From the treatment handed out to him, they would have thought that he was almost our Saviour.

#### Opposition Members interjected.

Mr ARMSTRONG: Opposition members might laugh but it was a very serious occasion and other people and I witnessed it. Some of the people, whom I have known for 20 years, were almost crying when they were saying good-bye to him. As I said, Opposition members might laugh. That would be about the standard of their mentality. I might remind them that they do not have to do these things in politics. Some of the remarks they pass from time to time do not do them any good in their electorates, either, but they will know more about that towards the end of the year.

To you, Mr Speaker, I express my thanks for your courtesy, guidance and help. I thank the Clerk of the Parliament and his staff, the messengers, the girls in the correspondence room, Miss Glennie and her staff—in fact, the whole box and dice. Miss Glennie has looked after us and fed us well down through the years. I hope that, even when we are not members of this august Assembly, we will have the privilege of enjoying more of her hospitality.

I wish my retiring colleagues every happiness and a long and happy retirement. I wish their wives and families good health. Reference has been made to the great sacrifice that families make to keep a member in this House. That applies particularly to men such as Mr Hewitt and Mr McKechnie who come from the far-flung areas of Queensland. It is only the people who serve those areas who know what it is like to leave a young family at home. After being here for 20 years, I am afraid I must confess that it is a sacrifice not worth making.

To the rest of the members—I would like to thank them very sincerely for their friendship over the years. There have been times when we have disagreed, and I suppose that that situation will continue, but I have appreciated their friendship on all occasions and I look forward to fraternising with them in the years ahead.

I can only say now that I wish everyone well in the future and, along with the Premier, I wish everyone a happy Christmas and, I hope, a prosperous and healthy 1981.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in the final moments of this session, I feel it is appropriate for me to acknowledge the efforts of those persons who have assisted me tremendously during the term that I have been privileged to be the Speaker of this House. I refer, first of all, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Alan Woodward. We depend very heavily on his advice. On many occasions when I am confronted with a difficult situation, I feel quite confident that I can rely on him to give me a well-balanced judgment, and I am most grateful to him.

We extend a welcome to the Clerk-Assistant, Mr Robert Doyle. He is a newcomer to Queensland. I feel that he has fitted into the pattern of this Parliament very well. I believe that he has an interesting and long future ahead of him in this Parliament, and I wish him well.

To the remainder of the table staff—they, too, have at all times been extremely efficient and co-operative, and I think that we are very fortunate to have officers of that type.

I am sure all members will agree that our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr Doddrell, does his duty at all times with the maximum amount of efficiency, decorum and ability, and I pay a special tribute to him.

Turning to my own personal staff and assistants—Miss Dorothy Granger has been a tower of strength to me since I have been in this office. There are many administrative difficulties that one has to attempt to overcome. She has given me guidance and I believe that, in the majority of instances, it has been very sound. She is very dedicated and extremely loyal, and I pay a tribute to her.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of a number of other persons within the parliamentary system. I think, firstly, of our

Hansard staff. They work with dedication and for long hours. They document the brutal truth but, nevertheless, it is the truth and we must be appreciative of their efforts.

Then there is the refreshment room staff. Miss Glennie caters for unknown numbers of people at strange times. This afternoon an indication was given to her that this Parliament would probably rise at 4 p.m. That was not the case. This is the type of situation with which she is constantly confronted. I believe members expect that whenever they appear in the dining room—regardless of whether the numbers are 20 or 220—a meal should be provided. I pay a very special tribute to Miss Glennie and her staff for the work that they have undertaken.

A number of other people function very effectively and efficiently in this parliamentary system. I think of all the attendants about the House who regrettably, in many instances, are regarded as the whipping boys in the system. They accept this graciously. They do their job remarkably well and to the best of their ability. If they were to walk out overnight, we would realise for the first time the part that they play. I pay a very special tribute to them.

Our cleaners are seldom noticed because their work is performed at a time when many members, particularly those who represent metropolitan seats and do not reside here, are not present in the House. These people commence their duties at 6 a.m. and ensure that the House is spotless at all times. On occasions when dignitaries from interstate and overseas have visited this House they have complimented the staff on the standard of efficiency which they see portrayed. That speaks for itself, and I am very proud that we have people who do this.

We also have Mr Don Duncanson, who is not officially on my staff but who is a very good officer. He is always busy and does a remarkable job. My congratulations go to him and I pay him a very special tribute.

Apart from those persons, if honourable members look at the exterior of the building, I am sure we have reason to be fairly proud of our parliamentary establishment at the moment. The gardeners do an excellent job. Of course, all members are aware that this building has not been here for a great length of time. A lot of work is still being undertaken and many things have to be done, but these people are playing their part. Right throughout the whole of the parliamentary institution, since I have been privileged to be here I have been conscious of the fact that we have a number of very fine officers as members of the staff. We are very proud to have them.

I regret that so many of our Ministers are retiring on this occasion. For the past 11½ years I have been privileged to know all of them. They have been a source of inspiration to me and have guided me in many instances. I believe that there is not

a person, regardless of age, who cannot benefit from the advice of others experienced in a specific field. To all of the retiring Ministers, may I say that I believe you have been very good Ministers. I regret that you are leaving this Parliament. However, that is by choice; you have made your contribution and I feel that you have made it in an outstanding manner. May you have a long and happy retirement, and I wish you and your good ladies, who have made such an outstanding contribution over the years, all the very best.

To my old friend, the member for Mulgrave (Mr Roy Armstrong) I have much to say. When I entered this Parliament Roy was one of the older back-benchers. In the earlier part of my parliamentary experience he advised me quite regularly; he still does this. Roy and I have an understanding and I have respected his point of view. I have always regarded him as a gentleman. There is little more I can say other than to wish you the very best. I trust that you have a long and happy retirement, that your health is restored to the type of health to which you were accustomed when you came in here. I also extend my personal respects and best wishes to your good lady.

If history repeats itself, and invariably it does, there will be changes in this Parliament. That has occurred previously. In the light of the environment in which I find myself, I feel I should not comment, and I will not comment, but if those persons who are close to me wish to have a short list, I would be happy to provide it.

We have reached the end of another vigorous session. I compliment those members who have assisted me to perform what has in many instances been, in my opinion, a fairly difficult assignment. To those who have not co-operated so willingly, I trust that the Speaker of the future will continue to work on you and that some headway will be made.

All honourable members, despite any animosity which may have appeared to exist, I am sure realise that I have a job to do. From this position I cannot pussy-foot around; if I did I would be ignored. I hope you appreciate that it is a very difficult assignment.

In conclusion, to assure you that there is no ill-will whatsoever on my part, it is my very pleasant privilege, and duty of course, to invite you to enjoy refreshments with me in the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms immediately after the rising of the House.

**Honourable Members: Hear, hear!**

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (5.59 p.m.): As we adjourn, may I suggest that we remember all the good things, the friendships and the happy times.

Motion (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

## BILLS ASSENTED TO AT CLOSE OF SESSION

The following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty on the dates indicated:—

(25 September 1980)—

Bank of Adelaide Merger Bill;  
Groyne Construction (Palm Beach) Bill.

(30 September 1980)—

Appropriation Bill 1980–1981 (No. 2);  
Explosives Act Amendment Bill;  
Health Act Amendment Bill (No. 2);  
Oak Creek–Gregory Railway Bill;  
Supreme Court Acts Amendment Bill.

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The Transport (Water) Laws Validation Bill, which was passed during the Second Session of the Forty-second Parliament, was assented to by His Excellency the Governor on 7 August 1980.

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## DISSOLUTION

On 27 October 1980 the following Proclamation was issued by His Excellency the Governor:—

A PROCLAMATION by His Excellency Commodore Sir JAMES MAXWELL RAMSAY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Distinguished Service Cross, and Commodore in the Royal Australian Navy (Retired), Governor in and over the State of Queensland and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

[L.S.]

JAMES RAMSAY,  
*Governor.*

In pursuance of the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the State aforesaid, I, Sir JAMES MAXWELL RAMSAY, do, by this my Proclamation, Dissolve the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Brisbane, this twenty-seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty, and in the twenty-ninth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By Command,

J. BJELKE-PETERSEN.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

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