

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 1981

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

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Chief Safety Engineer and Chief Inspector of Machinery, Construction Work and Motor Vehicles for the year ended 30 June 1981

President of the Industrial Court of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1981

Anzac Day Trust for the year ended 30 June 1981

Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the year ended 30 June 1981

Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Council for the year ended 30 June 1981

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Grammar Schools Act and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979

Statutes under the Griffith University Act 1971-1980

Reports—

Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations for the year ended 30 June 1981

Planning Committee on Future Grain and Oilseed Handling, Storage and Transport in Queensland to the year 2000, together with a summary of the report

Position paper published by the Department of Forestry, Queensland, concerning timber production from North Queensland's rain forests

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Penalties for Cruelty to Animals

From Mr Burns (324 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will increase penalties for cruelty to animals.

[A similar petition was received from Mr Kruger (137 signatories).]

Use of Road Safety Flares

From Mr Kruger (19 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will legislate for the use of road safety flares.

Petitions read and received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

Questions submitted on notice by members were answered as follows:—

1. Statement by Mr Lang Hancock

Mr D'Arcy asked the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

With reference to the announcement by the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police that the police are to be given harsh new powers to deal with people who incite racial violence—

(1) Will he recommend that Mr Lang Hancock be charged over his recent statement advocating sterilisation of half-caste aborigines, as such statements are clearly intended to incite racial violence as well as being an affront to civilised opinion in this State?

(2) Why has he been so conspicuously silent on Mr Hancock's suggestion when he was quick to denounce the World Council of Churches' report which exposed the appalling treatment of Aboriginal and Islander peoples by the Queensland Government?

(3) Does his silence imply Government support for Mr Hancock's views and, if not, why hasn't he spoken out against such racist views and defended the Aboriginal and Islander peoples of Queensland?

(4) Will he now outline his position on Mr Hancock's statement?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I did not hear the alleged statements, and would not wish to be associated with the published reports. However, I have seen the writings of the ALP member for Capricornia and shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Dr Doug Everingham, MHR, who, alluding to "Aboriginal problems of Excessive Births", wrote—

"One is by free sterilising operations which I advocate, but this will take slow effect unless positive education is done . . ."

and subsequently pursued the issue by suggesting not only voluntary but compulsory sterilisation. Therefore, I was not surprised that the ALP saw fit to promote Dr Everingham to be the Federal Minister for Health, a position in which the ALP no doubt considered he would best be able to put into effect the policies he advocated. Naturally, I dissociate myself entirely from such views. As Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, I am concerned with promoting life and well-being, not sterilisation and suffering.

The World Council of Churches' "report"—and I use the word "report" with much scepticism—should not be ignored, as it purports to be an authoritative pronouncement indicting all Australians of disgraceful and apparently contrived neglect of a section of fellow Australians. Indeed, I am surprised that the ALP has obviously been quick to accept the report at face value, since it so blatantly condemns the Australian people who have, according to the so-called "evidence" of the report, allowed a terrible situation to develop. The accuracy and veracity of the document are much in doubt.

2. Conditions of Employment at Solo Oil Australia Petrol Retailing Outlets

Mrs Nelson asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

(1) Are conditions of employment for staff of ACTU Solo petrol retailing outlets in Queensland proving to be a matter of great concern?

(2) What action is his department taking to ensure that conditions of employment at ACTU Solo outlets in Queensland are such that employees are able to earn a decent living and enjoy the sort of reasonable working conditions which the ACTU professes to be interested in?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Some concern has been expressed by the Queensland Motor Industry Association in relation to the payment received in return for the hours worked by persons employed on Solo Oil Australia service station sites in Queensland.

Solo Petroleum Pty Ltd, a Victorian company, carries on business in Queensland as Solo Oil Australia, and is linked through directorship with other Victorian based companies ACTU Solo Oil Pty Ltd and ACTU-Solo Enterprises Pty Ltd.

A formal complaint on the grounds of payment received for the excessive hours worked each week has been lodged with my department. The Chief Industrial Inspector has been examining the complaint in relation to the conditions laid down for employees under the Motoring Services Award—South-Eastern District. Investigations into the complaint are expected to commence shortly.

3. Music Specialists, Class 2 Schools, North Brisbane Region

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Education—

Which Class 2 schools in the North Brisbane Region have the services of a music specialist?

Answer:—

The Nundah, Eagle Junction and Stafford Heights Schools are served by music specialists on a part-time basis.

4. Services Provided to SGIO by Government Departments

Mr Gygar asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What services, if any, are provided to the SGIO by Government departments or other statutory authorities, apart from power, water and similar basic services?

(2) What was the value of each of these services, by category, in each of the last three years?

(3) Does the Government offer the same services, at the same cost, to private enterprise insurance companies?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The SGIO receives certain services from State Government departments which other insurers would obtain from private sources or from within their own organisations.

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act and with the policy of maintaining as completely a competitive position as possible with private insurers, the SGIO pays for these services at cost.

Payments made in the last three years were as follows:

	Auditor-General	Public Service Board	Solicitor-General	Clerks of Court
1978-79 ..	\$ 136,000	\$ 29,440	\$ 23,920	\$ 284,264
1979-80 ..	189,250	65,000	23,920	289,573
1980-81 ..	217,000	71,300	not yet accounted	298,536

(3) The agencies referred to do not generally provide services of a professional nature to private enterprise in competition with their equivalents, if any, in private enterprise, and I am not aware of any situation where their services are provided to private insurance companies.

5. SGIO Share of Insurance Market

Mr Gygar asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What percentage of the total Queensland insurance market was held by the SGIO in 1970?

(2) What percentage was held by the SGIO in the last year for which detailed statistics are available?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Available statistics show that 26.5 per cent of the total Queensland insurance market was held by the SGIO in 1979-80.

Because of the inclusion of workers' compensation business and the change in the available insurers in compulsory third party insurance, a comparable figure for 1970 is difficult to obtain. I have asked the SGIO to supply me with the required information as soon as possible and this will be made available to the honourable member.

6. State Treatment Works, Irvinebank

Mr Vaughan asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) Have tenders for the sale of the State Treatment Works at Irvinebank been called and, if so, (a) when did they close and (b) have they been evaluated, and has any tender been accepted?

(2) When is it expected that the contract of sale will be signed?

(3) How many tenders were received?

(4) Has a date been set for the take-over and/or closure of the plant and, if so, when will such take-over or closure take place?

Answer:—

(1) No; tender documents are in the course of preparation.

(2 to 4) See (1).

7. Mineral Royalties

Mr Vaughan asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

What was the amount of royalty received by the Government from (a) all mineral production, (b) all mineral production other than coal, (c) coal production, (d) Mount Isa Mines, (e) bauxite production, (f) uranium production and (g) nickel production in the State in 1979-80 and 1980-81?

Answer:—

Royalties received in the two years 1979-80 and 1980-81 under headings sought by the honourable member are as follows:—

	1979-80	1980-81
	\$M	\$M
(a) All mineral production	72.8	72.6
(b) All mineral production other than coal ..	39.7	37.5
(c) Coal	33.1	35.1
(d) Mount Isa Mines	28.1	24.0
(e) Bauxite	7.8	10.2
(f) Uranium	1.1	Nil
(g) Nickel	0.3	0.3

8. Railway Crossing, Banyo

Mr Vaughan asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the recent accident whereby an elderly woman was killed when struck by a train at the end of the Banyo Railway Station—

(1) Has the Railway Department investigated the feasibility of lowering the railway line through Banyo with a view to eliminating the level crossing and allowing motor vehicles and pedestrians to cross above the line?

(2) If so, what are the results of that investigation?

(3) If no such investigation has been undertaken, in view of the ever-increasing amount of traffic in and around the Banyo shopping centre and through the Banyo level crossing, and in view of the increased rail traffic that will eventuate as a result of the electrification of the Shorncliffe line, will he undertake such an investigation as soon as possible?

(4) If not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The Brisbane Transport Policy Study Committee is currently studying the question of the elimination of level crossings in the metropolitan area as a result of recommendations made by the Commissioner for Railways.

The level crossing at Banyo referred to by the honourable member will certainly be included in this study. I should point out that an expenditure of considerable magnitude would be involved in overcoming difficulties associated with the site.

9. Rolling-stock Shortages, North Queensland

Mr Row asked the Minister for Transport—

Since it has been claimed in a front page headline in "The Herbert River Express" of 3 October that transport threatens melon crop movement, claiming a shortage of rail containers and semi-trailers, will he give an indication of why this should be so and what action the Queensland Railway Department has taken in the light of farmer complaints of railway rolling-stock shortages in North Queensland?

Answer:—

To facilitate the handling of fruit and vegetables from Central and North Queensland to Sydney and Melbourne, the Railway Department modified 14 bridges between Brisbane and Cairns at a cost of \$600,000. This enabled the operation of RACE containers in Queensland and thus obviated manual transfer at Clapham. These containers are owned by the NSW Railways and all available containers are in use for the fruit and vegetable traffic.

The demand for RACE containers at present exceeds the supply but there are ample louvered box wagons available for the melon traffic. Growers can assist by using pallet cages to expedite trans-shipment.

There also is a heavy demand for transport of fruit and vegetables under refrigeration, and 100 refrigerated containers have been provided for this traffic and tenders are about to be called for a further 50 refrigerated containers. The drastic reduction in Commonwealth funds precludes the construction of further containers at the present time.

10. Townsville-Tully Section, Bruce Highway

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

When will a major reconstruction be carried out on the Bruce Highway between Townsville and Tully, as this section of the highway must be among the most hazardous in Queensland?

Answer:—

Current programs include projects which will extend over the next 18 months to two years. These projects provide for the widening and strengthening of several sections totalling 14.5 km, and for the construction of a new concrete bridge at Arnot Creek. Resumptions for future works and overlays of sections of existing road are also planned.

Approximately \$1m will be spent on the national highway between Townsville and Tully in 1981-82. However, this represents only a relatively small proportion of the total cost of the proposed works, and the rate of construction will depend upon the availability of funds in the ensuing financial year.

11. Macquarie Dictionary

Mr Row asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Is he aware that Queensland members of Parliament have recently received a large and elaborate brochure from the Macquarie Library offering the Macquarie Dictionary Limited Edition at \$1,000 per copy claiming that the book is a landmark in Australian publishing and that it is the first dictionary of our language?

(2) Since English is the official language of Australia, how can anyone claim credit for the documentation of a new Australian language and since the book appears to contain slang, will he ensure that any such denigration of the English language is not permitted to enter the official Queensland educational curriculum, for the teaching of English?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The existence of Australian English has long been recognised by the makers of dictionaries. The Concise Oxford Dictionary includes Australian words and variations in meanings as well as what might be termed "Americanisms". Quite simply, it is a fact that English has developed in a variety of ways in different regions of the world. A number of Australian editions of well-known dictionaries, including the Australian Pocket Oxford Dictionary and the Collins Dictionary of the English Language: Australian Edition, have been published previously. These have also documented Australian usage.

The significance of the Macquarie Dictionary lies in its comprehensiveness, which in the words of the editor-in-chief, "tries to do justice to the distinctiveness of Australian usage". It is claimed that it is the first reference dictionary in which "all the pronunciations, all the spellings, and all the definitions of meaning are taken from the use of English in Australia, and in which Australian English becomes the basis of comparison with other national varieties of English".

All major dictionaries, including the Concise Oxford Dictionary, contain both formal and informal usage, and are generally descriptive rather than prescriptive. English is a living language where meanings change over periods of time and where new words are constantly being added. The honourable member will appreciate that each year quite a number of new words come out of this Chamber. Dictionaries record these changes and reflect current use.

My department is aware of this dictionary and has been impressed with the quality of the research undertaken in its preparation. There is no possibility of any detrimental effect on the teaching of English in Queensland schools.

12. State and Federal Funds for Housing

Mr Scassola asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) What total sums of money from State and Federal sources are to be made available for welfare housing in 1981-82?

(2) What moneys from either source will be made available to the co-operative building society movement?

Answer:—

(1) Omitting internally generated money, welfare funds available in 1981-82 are—

Earmarked Funds					\$
Commonwealth grant for Aboriginal housing	..	..	..	..	6,628,000
Commonwealth grant for pensioner housing	..	..	..	..	5,009,000
Unearmarked Funds					
Commonwealth grant for rental housing	..	..	..	..	4,845,000
Commonwealth Advance	..	..	..	..	14,148,000
State Treasury Advance	..	..	..	..	10,000,000

(2) It is regretted that the shortage of money does not allow allocations of welfare funds through co-operative terminating societies. The Government remains committed to its original purpose of encouraging formation of co-operatives to tap additional money for home-ownership by guaranteeing their borrowings. I have advised the movement that I am prepared to support an approach for the Treasurer's guarantee on any funds they can raise privately and the Treasurer has assured me on this point. I have also advised them of other potential opportunities which they might canvass in obtaining ownership finance.

13. Long-term Loans for Small Businesses

Mr Scassola asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

With reference to the recent announcement of the setting up of a young farmer's establishment scheme, when will the Government announce the establishment of a scheme whereby long-term loans at concessional interest rates may be made available to the embattled small business people of Queensland?

Answer:—

I would suggest to the honourable member that Government funding is not the cure-all for whatever problems may be faced by small business.

Generally speaking, small business operates in the market-place on a competitive basis in accordance with the free enterprise principles, which I had understood to be espoused by the honourable member. Whilst I am aware of the fact that some small businesses face difficult times, the provision of funding for such activities is the province of the well-established banking and other financial institutions.

I would add that the possibility of introducing schemes to provide financial assistance to small business is given consideration from time to time and if in the future any such action is contemplated, then an official announcement will be made.

14. Investigation into Tenancy Conditions in Shopping Centres

Mr Scassola asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

With reference to the answer which he gave to my question of 16 September concerning the committee appointed to investigate the report of the Small Business Development Corporation in relation to leasing procedures in shopping complexes—

(1) Has that committee completed its investigation?

(2) Notwithstanding the answer to (1), with whom has the committee consulted and from whom has it received submissions?

(3) Has the committee consulted or communicated with the Small Business Development Corporation?

Answer:—

(1) No.

(2 & 3) I have no doubt that the details sought by the honourable member will be set out in the committee's report. At this stage, as the committee is still proceeding with its inquiries and has further discussions and visits scheduled over the next two weeks, I do not propose to set out a comprehensive list of the committee's activities and the individuals with whom it has consulted. However, the committee has visited several shopping complexes in the metropolitan area and had discussions with individual tenants, shopping complex owners and managers. The committee will be consulting with the Small Business Development Corporation and having detailed discussions with corporation representatives prior to concluding its inquiries.

15. Asian Bee Mites

Mr Blake asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to world-wide reports of serious threats to honey production and plant pollination by rapidly spreading infestations of Asian bee mites, which are originally from Indonesia, what is the present situation regarding (a) the risk of infestation in the Australian industry and (b) the application of practical methods known to prevent its introduction?

Answer:—

There are two Asian bee mites. One is *Varroa jacobsonii* which was first reported in 1904 in Java and currently infests bees throughout Asia, many European countries and South America. It is present on the Africanised bee, which is spreading from South America to North America. The other mite is *Tropilaelaps clareae*, first recorded in 1961 from the Philippines and now known to be present throughout tropical Asia.

To prevent these species from entering Australia, bee imports are allowed only from North America, Canada and New Zealand. The present method of control involves importing queen bees with escort bees. The latter are killed and examined. If they are found to be infested with Asian mites the queens are also destroyed. This system of control will change when the bee quarantine station recently completed near Sydney comes into operation. From that point only progeny from imported queen bees will be released to the industry. This procedure will give additional assurance that exotic diseases will not be imported with introduced queens.

16. Importation of New Zealand Sea Perch

Mr Blake asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Is New Zealand sea perch which is being imported into Australia and Queensland to the detriment of the local fishing industry the product of a joint New Zealand-Russian fishing enterprise which is not permitted under New Zealand laws to market its catch in New Zealand?

(2) If so, would it not be possible for the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, to ban or argue against the importation of sea perch from that enterprise without prejudice to his philosophy of free trade with New Zealand?

(3) Has any Queensland approach been made seeking this prohibition?

Answer:—

(1) It is correct that import of New Zealand sea perch into Australia is causing some economic damage to the domestic fishing industry. I am aware that the fish are caught under a joint-venture arrangement which includes New Zealand and Russian interests. I am unaware of any outright prohibition by the New Zealand Government on the sale of sea perch in New Zealand. However, it should be recognised that Orange Roughy, or sea perch, is not regarded highly by New Zealand consumers as a desirable edible fish.

(2) Negotiations are under way in this regard.

(3) Yes. Discussions have been entered into both at Queensland Government and Queensland Fish Board level in an endeavour to resolve this problem. Queensland has also included this issue in discussions with the Commonwealth Government with regard to negotiations concerning closer economic relations between Australia and New Zealand.

I would add that I view with concern the impact which imports of Orange Roughy, or New Zealand sea perch as it is marketed here, are having on the economic viability of the Queensland fishing industry. I would hope that the current series of negotiations will result in some reasonable arrangement which will ensure a balanced supply of fish to meet consumer demand without causing disruption to this State's fishing industry.

17. Tenancy Conditions Imposed by SGIO

Mr Prentice asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Will he investigate and report to the Parliament on suggestions that the SGIO in a metropolitan shopping centre complex or arcade has made provision for or required prospective or new tenants to agree to the installation of computer-linked cash registers?

(2) If the investigation shows this to be so, will he take positive action to prohibit this invasion of privacy?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I have heard suggestions of this nature and, while I understand they are incorrect, I have called for a report from the State Government Insurance Office. When this is to hand, I will advise the honourable member of the outcome.

18. Special Assistance to Disabled Persons

Mr Prentice asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) As 1981 is designated as the International Year of Disabled Persons, what special arrangements has his department made to assist disabled persons?

(2) Do any special arrangements made include (a) increased employment of disabled persons and (b) improved access for disabled persons to any building or other facility occupied by or constructed by his department and, if so, what are the details?

(3) What budgetary allocations were made in 1980-81 and 1981-82 to facilitate arrangements for disabled persons in his department?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The policy adopted by the Department of Works is that, in the design of new Government buildings used by the public, provisions are to be made for access and use by handicapped persons. Furthermore, the provision of similar facilities in existing buildings is included when major renovations are undertaken. All other individual cases are considered in the light of merit and the availability of funds.

The most recent major projects undertaken by the department, such as the Parliamentary Annexe, the Supreme Court complex, old Parliament House restoration and the Queensland Cultural Centre complex have all been designed with this policy in mind. Where possible, provisions for disabled persons have been integrated with facilities normally provided so that the special provisions provided for disabled persons will, in fact, enhance the accessibility and use of the buildings for all people.

For instance, a study of the Queensland Cultural Centre complex reveals that the following provisions have been made to ensure that the buildings can be used, and the facilities enjoyed, by as many people as possible—

A number of car-parking spaces have been provided which are not less than three metres wide to allow easy loading and unloading of wheelchairs from motor vehicles.

Adequate width has been allowed in circulation spaces to provide comfortable wheelchair movement.

Ramps have been provided with gradient of up to 1:12.

Camber of crowning of external walkways has been avoided.

Continuous handrails have been provided on stairs at 900 mm above the nosings.

Doorways have been made suitable widths to accommodate wheelchair access.

Adequate size lift cars have been provided with the control buttons at no more than 1 500 mm above floor level.

Suitably sized toilet cubicles with conveniently located grab rails have been provided.

Access to all areas has been made possible for disabled persons by a combination of lifts and ramps.

As can be seen from this example, the Department of Works is giving much thought and attention to the needs of disabled persons when designing its buildings.

The Queensland Public Service Board recently conducted a seminar to discuss employment for the disabled in the Queensland public service, and it is proposed that a program will be developed for the placing of persons with disabilities in employment within their capabilities in some departments.

The Queensland Housing Commission has, for some time now, taken into account the needs and requirements of disabled persons in its housing operations, as follows—

It has made adaptations to approximately 100 of its homes to meet the needs of families who have disabled members.

It has also assisted a number of families who have renal patients as members of the family, adapting the home to provide for home dialysis equipment.

Last year, prior to the International Year of Disabled Persons, it co-operated with the State Health Department to instigate what is one of the first—possibly the first of its kind in the world—housing schemes to provide independent living facilities for the significantly intellectually handicapped. Under this scheme, the Housing Commission made available a number of houses to the Health Department for on-letting to groups of such persons. The outcome of this scheme is that quite a number of intellectually handicapped people who would previously have been housed in institutional accommodation are now living in their own homes as groups and have learned through the process to develop their own living skills and to make their way back into the community at large.

Following on this most successful move, the commission, in this the International Year of Disabled Persons, is co-operating with the accommodation sub-committee of the International Year of Disabled Persons to provide similar housing for the physically disabled and, to date, two such houses have already been provided.

One of the aims of this program is to demonstrate to landlords in the private sector that such people do make good tenants and thus encourage landlords to increase the availability of such housing for the handicapped.

(3) No specific allocations have been made in programs for this purpose, but funds have been allotted to relevant projects as outlined previously.

19.

Karalee Sand and Gravel Supplies

Mr Underwood asked the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services—

With reference to the extraction without permit of the Brisbane River bed below Colleges Crossing by a firm known as Karalee Sand and Gravel Supplies which is owned by Mr Royal Rea—

(1) Is he aware that Karalee Sand and Gravel Supplies is continuing to extract large amounts of the material from the river bed?

(2) Will he take immediate action to have this illegal operation stopped?

(3) Will he institute legal proceedings against this firm, which was made well aware on his recent visit of the illegality of this operation?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) Since my visit to the area referred to by the honourable member, Mr Rea of Karalee Sand and Gravel has been advised in writing by my department that, as no permit has been granted to him to extract gravel from the Brisbane River, no further material is to be removed from the river or from other Crown land in the vicinity. He has further been advised that the drag-line access bund placed in the river is to be removed without delay by spreading the material in the bund evenly over the bed of the river. If necessary, appropriate legal action will be instituted to ensure that this direction is complied with.

20. Cairns Hospitals Board Take-over of DAIA Hospitals

Mr Underwood asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Are there plans for the Cairns Hospitals Board to take over the running of the Kowanyama DAIA Hospital and other DAIA mainland and island hospitals and medical aid posts on aboriginal reserves?

(2) If so, what are they?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) On 3 September 1979, Cabinet decided inter alia—

“That it be the ultimate objective to transfer responsibility for all health and medical services in Aboriginal Communities and Missions, which are currently provided by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement or a Mission Authority, to the Department of Health and appropriate Hospitals Boards, but that this phasing-in process be a gradual one.”

An interdepartmental committee has been set up to consider this matter and has made several recommendations to both departments. No firm decisions have yet been made in this regard, and the Cairns Hospitals Board has not taken over any health establishments in the reserves referred to by the honourable member.

21. Division of Psychiatric Services

Mr Underwood asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What are the reasons for the cut-back in staff of the Division of Psychiatric Services?

(2) Does he still hold to his earlier statement that there is an increasing demand for the services offered by this division?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) It is not clear which category of staff the honourable member is referring to. If specific details are supplied, I will endeavour to supply specific information.

22. Purchase of Houses for Rental by Housing Commission

Mrs Kyburz asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many established houses have been bought by the Queensland Housing Commission for rental purposes in the Brisbane city area?

(2) What was the price range paid for such housing and by which criteria are the houses deemed suitable?

Answer:—

(1) Since October 1973 the Commission has bought 364 individual houses and 65 units for rental in the metropolitan area.

(2) Prices range from \$14,000 to \$35,000, but in the past two years have been in the range of \$28,000 to \$33,000 for houses and \$20,000 to \$30,000 for units including land.

Criteria used are: location; random spread; suitability for the several commission programs covering families, pensioners and the disabled; soundness of construction; and prime and ongoing costs.

The intention is to use market opportunity for price advantage of purchase as against construction as well as to improve social mix in the community generally and to enhance locational and style options.

23. Cranes, Gold Coast

Mr Jennings asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

With reference to the tremendous increase in building activity on the Gold Coast and as claims have been made that “rust bucket” cranes are in use on Gold Coast construction sites—

(1) Are all cranes inspected and load tested by his department prior to their being worked and at regular intervals thereafter?

(2) Does he have any knowledge of safety devices on cranes being tied or warning devices being silenced?

(3) Has he any knowledge of reject cranes from other States being brought to Queensland for possible use on the Gold Coast?

(4) How many used cranes from interstate have been registered by his department in the last 12 months?

(5) What practical experience and what type of certificate is the operator of a construction site tower crane required to hold?

(6) How many certificated crane operators have had their certificates cancelled or suspended in the last 12 months?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) No, there is no evidence of safety devices being tied. Warning devices are not mandatory. Several machines fitted with audible alarms have been found to be muffled as the noise of their operation apparently irritated the operator.

(3) There is a constant traffic of machinery between States, including tower cranes. Every machine installed is inspected and load tested as stated in (1).

(4) This information is difficult to extract without a great many hours of research which is not possible in the present instance. All tower cranes from interstate are inspected and tested as stated in (1).

(5) Such an operator requires at least 200 hours' experience under the supervision of a certificated crane driver, and he must provide documentary evidence of this experience clearly stating the name and address of his employer. The certificate he then would be eligible to be examined for would be a 1st class crane driver of the category tower cranes, stiff-leg jib cranes and portal cranes.

In addition to the 200 hours' practical experience he would require a knowledge of the construction of all types of cranes, a sound knowledge of the safety precautions for the operation of cranes, particularly jib cranes used in close proximity to electric lines and the standard visual and sound signals, a knowledge of the maintenance, storage and handling of lifting tackle and slings and the defects likely to arise therein, and a knowledge of the servicing of all crane mechanism.

(6) One certificated crane operator had his certificate suspended for three months. This suspension is still current. This penalty was imposed by the board of examiners following the collapse of a crane in April of this year, which, upon investigation, was found to be grossly overloaded.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Auditor-General's Report on the Government's Purchase of Shares; Establishment of Public Accounts Committee

Mr D'ARCY: In asking the Premier this question without notice I refer him to the Auditor-General's report on the Queensland Industry Investment Fund and the buying of shares by the Government in Evans Deakin and Walkers. Is the Premier aware that the Auditor-General stated that the investment was made under the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977-1978, and that he believes the Act cannot authorise such an investment, which means that the purchase of the shares must have been illegal because it could not be made under existing legislation? Right throughout the report

there is evidence of mismanagement of public funds and the breaching of legislation involving the Treasury, Commerce and Industry, Lands and Forestry, Mines and Energy, Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs portfolios. I now ask the Premier: Will he set in motion the establishment of a public accounts committee in this House that would be able to vet the accounts of the Parliament and the Government?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I think I have made it quite clear, over a long period of time, that a public accounts committee is unacceptable to the Government. That has been so since the defeat of the Labor Government in 1957. The Government is elected to govern. Ministers are sworn in as Ministers, and they undertake to act in a responsible manner. The Auditor-General has his opportunity to survey the scene generally and report to this Parliament. The various departments, through their own audit sections, make a very careful check, and account for the money spent by Ministers. The honourable member should know that. To suggest that a group of members of Parliament from three different parties would be the solution to anything that he thinks might not be quite what it ought to be, is quite wrong. That would only create confusion.

As has been said previously by the Treasurer, the honourable member fails to recognise the importance and value of the Government action that was taken. He may wish to argue that the action taken was incorrect, as he has already suggested, but the point that interests and concerns me greatly is that we were able to maintain for Queensland a very viable, important organisation which employs many people. It has grown considerably since the time of the Government's action, and that is the vital, important point.

The honourable member can rest assured that, by the best management of the finances for which we are responsible, we will continue to do the right thing by the people of this State.

Cranes, Gold Coast

Mr JENNINGS: I ask the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations: Further to the answer he gave about cranes operating on the Gold Coast, will he take steps to ensure that more inspectors are made available to continually maintain proper and regular inspections of Gold Coast construction site cranes?

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: I appreciate the honourable member's concern. He has made representations to me to have more inspectors made available at the Gold Coast, not only for safety purposes but also for the purpose of ensuring that permits are approved and issued in good time. More work is being done at the Gold Coast than anywhere else in Australia. It is one of the fastest developing areas in Australia.

I have taken action. I have, with Cabinet's approval, asked the Public Service Board to approve the employment of additional people at the Gold Coast. That is being done. In the meantime, I have arranged for special inspectors to go to the Gold Coast for several days a fortnight to undertake spot checks of safety arrangements, building permits and so on. I hope that will alleviate the pressure in that area.

Extension of Parliamentary Term From Three to Four Years

Mr GREENWOOD: I refer the Premier to the recent referendum in New South Wales, which showed strong public support for an extension of the New South Wales parliamentary term from a maximum of three years to a maximum of four years, and ask: Will he indicate to the House his views of the pros and cons of an increase in the term of the Queensland Parliament or the Commonwealth Parliament?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I thank the honourable member for raising the question and drawing the attention of the House to the result of the referendum in New South Wales. For some time I have made by personal views known. Perhaps they are not those of parties or organisations that might make the final decision.

I am concerned about the suggestion that the term should be extended. I am facing that side of the question first because it is possible to have a bad Government, as became evident in the Federal sphere not long ago. That Government created chaos in the economy

of the nation and the country still has not recovered from it. If that Government had run its full term or had been elected for an extended term, and had been able to carry out all the proposals it put forward, such as a \$4,000m loan—

Sir William Knox: We would have been run by Iraqis.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Goodness knows where we would have been today. Certainly, we would have been sold out to countries in the Middle East and be run by them.

So it is a very serious matter to suggest that the term of Parliament should be extended from three to four years. I have always said that three years is a long enough term to enable any responsible Government to do its duty. That is the side of the argument that I have always supported. Of course, it would be easier for me and for my colleagues if the Government had a four-year term. However, I know that we will be here for a long time—till well past the turn of the century. Be that as it may, I want to make sure that we do not support the lead given by New South Wales.

I know that the other side of the argument stresses the enormous cost of elections. The question is asked: where do we get the money from? The party organisations must find the wherewithal to fight election campaigns. I do not believe that the New South Wales system of public funding of election campaigns is the correct one, but that is only my personal view.

There is also the argument that a four-year term gives Governments a longer time to plan for and carry out projects. That is true; but militating against that argument is the very dangerous prospect that some of the other States might end up with Governments similar to the former Federal Labor Government that wreaked such havoc and caused such devastation in this nation. My general attitude, therefore, is to stick with what we have and continue as we are.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I know that honourable members opposite do not accept that argument, but that is my personal view. What our organisations come up with at a later date is another matter; I have simply expressed a few different points of view.

Survey of Employment Agencies

Mr GREENWOOD: I ask the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations: As there have been reports in the media that the Minister has recently undertaken a survey of employment agencies, is he in a position to report to the House the result of that survey?

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: As at this time of the year young people are contemplating leaving school and entering the work-force, I thought it was desirable to let the world know that jobs are available and that young people, in particular, should seek to obtain those jobs now and then complete their school year in the normal way, knowing that employment is pre-ordained for them by the efforts that either they or their parents have made to line up a job. When they leave school, a great number of young people tend to want to take their holidays in the normal way and then start looking for work early in the new year when, of course, the situation is a little more difficult. But in an endeavour to find out exactly what was the position before making any statement, last week I had conducted a telephone survey of a number of leading employment agencies. They reported to me that they had available a tremendous number of vacancies and that in some cases they had no applications for the vacancies. They informed me that for some jobs they were receiving plenty of applications from New Zealand and from people recently arrived in this country as migrants but very few applications from people living in Brisbane. They reported that in some cases they had had no responses to advertisements for everyday jobs that are available at present and will be available for some time.

Mr Davis: Like selling encyclopaedias.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: None of that nonsense; these were typing, shorthand and secretarial jobs for women, and office jobs dealing with computers and so on. The employers were prepared to train people; the applicants did not have to be experienced. In many cases there have been no applications for those jobs. Some agencies reported to me that they are still looking for applicants, particularly school-leavers, and do not expect them to start work next week. They just want to line them up with prospective employers.

I discovered from this rather cursory survey—I am not saying that it was a scientific study—that a considerable number of jobs are available at the present time. Indeed, just to add to the story, a North Queensland employer advertised throughout Queensland for quite some time for a number of people to work in a heavy engineering machinery area. He received no applications, and he rang me a couple of weeks ago. I suggested that he place an advertisement in a newspaper in Melbourne. As a result of that advertisement, he received 21 applications, and he went to Melbourne to interview 11 of the applicants.

The situation in Queensland is not the same as that in other parts of Australia. There is a great number of vacancies. In the last 12 months, about 38 000 new jobs have been created in this State—almost the same number that were created in New South Wales, which has well over twice the population of Queensland. The prospects for young people leaving school are good, but at this time they should be making overtures to prospective employers.

Youth Leadership Program

Mr GREENWOOD: In directing a question to the Minister for Welfare Services, I refer to the successful youth leadership program introduced last year. I ask: In view of some reports that members of the National Fitness Council have advocated ending this program and redirecting the funds, is the Minister prepared to indicate to the House his views on this matter?

Mr WHITE: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is certainly true that among many options that were recommended by the National Fitness Council was one to discontinue the funding of the current youth leadership program, which was instituted by my predecessor the present Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

I think that the introduction of this program was probably one of the more positive steps that the Government has taken in more recent times in youth affairs. The program involves the training of people who are working with youth groups at the grass roots level. Those youth groups include young unemployed youth, girl guides, recreational groups, scouts and sporting groups. In general, the program involves groups that have been formed in the community to assist, develop, and train young people. I think that this Government should do everything it can to encourage and further develop that program.

I make it clear to the House that there is no intention by my department or indeed the Government to discontinue the youth leadership program. Recently my colleague the member for Ithaca (Mr Miller) travelled to Central Queensland to represent me at the final presentation of awards, and I know that he came away very impressed with the program. It is an excellent program, it will be continued, and I sincerely hope that we will be able to develop it further in the foreseeable future.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Aboriginal Land Rights

Mr WILSON (Townsville South) (12 noon): During the two-week recess two of my colleagues, the Opposition's shadow Minister for Health and member for Ipswich West (Mr Underwood) and the member for Cook (Mr Scott), and I, as elected representatives of the Australian Labor Party, visited a number of Aboriginal communities on the west and east coasts of the Cape York Peninsula. We visited Kowanyama, Edward River, Weipa South, Lockhart River and Yarrabah. We also visited Torres Strait Islander people at Bamaga, Tamwoy Town on Thursday Island, and Badu and Yorke Islands to learn at first hand what the people of the communities wanted in relation to land rights and self-determination.

It was not our intention, nor at any time did we attempt, to influence the people in the decision-making on these two questions. The attitude of the Labor Party is one of finding out what the Aboriginal and Islander people want. At no time have we suggested what they should have or what we think is good for them. We believe that the Aboriginal and Islander people are the only ones capable of making that decision. That is totally opposite to the attitude of the Government and the administration.

As a result of listening to the people, we found out that they wanted inalienable freehold title to the land and self-determination—the right to administer their own affairs. Those points were made loud and clear. It is no good claiming that the people do not understand the differences between a 50-year lease, perpetual lease, freehold title and inalienable freehold title. They are well aware of the differences. They want inalienable freehold title to the land so that it will always belong to the Aboriginal or Islander people, as the case may be.

These people do not want to be able to sell the land; they want it to belong to future generations. They want land that they can call their own—land on which they can put down their roots. Their consideration for future generations is in stark contrast to the present Government's rape of our natural resources regardless of how that affects future generations.

The Aboriginal and Islander people also want the right to make their own decisions and to manage their own affairs. They are well aware that they will need advice in certain areas. They will employ people with the necessary expertise in areas where they need advice, in the same way as other communities and this Government have done.

The 50-year lease referred to by the Premier is unacceptable to the people of these communities. I refer to these areas as communities; I do not refer to them as reserves. One councillor likened the areas to a game reserve. In view of the Government's intentions in relation to land rights and its offer of a 50-year lease, with the people having practically no say in the administration of their own affairs, one can only wonder whether the Government considers these people to be fair game.

Let me turn to what the Government is offering these people. It amounts to nothing. As to land rights, the Government offers a 50-year lease of the land to all communities. I take it that that means all the land known as reserves, with the exception of one, namely, Aurukun. At Aurukun the Government is offering a 50-year lease of only 2800 ha of land, whereas the reserve contains an area of approximately 2600 square miles. I wonder whether the fact that bauxite is abundant in the area has anything to do with the Government's decision.

At present, Comalco is conducting a survey of the bauxite deposits in the area. It is expected that a decision will be made within 12 months as to whether Comalco considers the field to be economically viable.

I do not have any fears in that direction, as I believe that the bauxite deposits at Aurukun are as big as, if not bigger than, those at Weipa. One has only to scratch the surface to unearth bauxite. The roads and airstrip are laid with bauxite. As I was flying out I viewed another airstrip, in the middle of a forest, that was red with bauxite. I wonder whether this had anything to do with the Government's decision to create the local government area of Aurukun, thereby allowing the Minister for Local Government to override any decision made by the local authority. He has already done that to the Gold Coast City Council, and he intends to set up a ward system for the election of aldermen to the Townsville City Council, against the wishes of the people of Townsville. He will be denying them the right to make their own determination at a referendum. That attitude is typical of the Government's approach.

The Premier's attitude towards Mr Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, based on the fact that he does not like his politics because they are different from his own, cannot be excused. His snubbing of Mr Mugabe cannot be accepted. The Premier's outburst against the people representing the World Council of Churches and his support for the invasion of Namibia by South Africa clearly indicates his brand of politics.

At Tamwoy Town on Thursday Island we attended a public meeting of some 60 people, with representatives coming from Darnley and Sue Islands. The people at that meeting left us in no doubt as to where they stood in relation to land rights and self-determination. They know what they want and clearly understand what is meant by an inalienable freehold title to the islands that they thought they owned until the border controversy between the Queensland Government, the Federal Government and Papua New Guinea.

It is interesting to note that when the Islanders realised that they did not in fact own the islands, even though they had occupied them for thousands of years before the white man came, they told the former Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs that they

wanted to own the islands in the Torres Strait and that they were rightfully theirs. The then Minister (Mr Charles Porter) said, "Have you got \$166m to buy them?" That demonstrates the contempt that he had for the Torres Strait Islanders.

We also spoke to the people on Badu Island, representatives also coming over from St Pauls. They were of the same opinion as the Islander people in other areas, as were the people on Yorke Island, in relation to land rights and self-administration. The people know exactly what they want—that is, inalienable freehold title to the islands in Torres Strait, and the right to administer their own affairs.

Mr Bertoni: Yes, and what a mess they will make of it, too.

Mr WILSON: It will be no bigger mess than the Government is making of it.

We of the Australian Labor Party went among the people and listened to them to find out what the Aboriginal and Islander people wanted. As I said before, we did not meet the people to tell them what we thought they wanted. After listening to them, we of the Australian Labor Party believe that the Aboriginal and Islander people know what they want, and they told us quite clearly what they want. We believe that they did that with dignity, and we allowed them to maintain their dignity, which is in complete contrast with the attitude of the Government and the Premier.

The Premier of Queensland refused to meet representatives of the Islander people when they came to Brisbane to talk with him and they were forced to go to Canberra to talk to the Federal Government. The Premier was given an opportunity to meet the representatives of the Islander people and hear their case, but he failed to do that. The loss of dignity was his, not theirs.

Greyhound Racing Control Board

Mrs KYBURZ (Salisbury) (12.8 p.m.): Today I am forced to make some fairly harsh statements concerning cruelty to animals. Firstly, I must call for the sacking of the Greyhound Racing Control Board because of the corruption and ineptitude of some members of that board. The Greyhound Racing Control Board is an absolutely and utterly fraudulent public body.

When the issue of greyhound trainers using live animals has been raised in the past, the Greyhound Racing Control Board has been very quick to defend both itself and the "industry"—and that is a misnomer, if ever there was one.

I can cite two instances of corruption and ineptitude in which the board has not acted as it should have. Under Rule 88, the Greyhound Racing Control Board—

Mr Davis interjected.

Mrs KYBURZ: Fancy the honourable member defending them!

Mr Davis: I have to be fair. If the board finds any licensed trainer using a live bait, he is out for life.

Mrs KYBURZ: The honourable member may say that but I intend to cite a case in which the Greyhound Racing Control Board has not acted in that way under such circumstances. I am sure that the honourable member will have to publicly agree with me that it should be sacked.

I cite the case of Constance Martin, who has a greyhound racing track at Lot 4, Dennis Road, Springwood. She was charged under Rule 88, which deals with a person convicted of cruelty. Because she was convicted under Rule 88, the Greyhound Racing Control Board should deregister Constance Martin so that she cannot be involved in the training of greyhounds. She is still training greyhounds. She has not been deregistered. Why has the board refused to deregister Constance Martin? I believe it is because there is a person on the board named Mason who is covering for her. He is also covering for other people. He is involved in Galaxy Lodge where the Greyhound Racing Control Board has been flagrantly flouting Rule 88, which has been mentioned by other honourable members.

The Greyhound Racing Control Board is now open to a public inquiry into its practices. In every other instance in which cruelty to animals has been raised, vis-a-vis the greyhound

business—and it is a business, not an industry—the board has stipulated that it will deregister trainers if they are found guilty under Rule 88. Why hasn't that happened in the Springwood case? It behoves the Greyhound Racing Control Board to move quickly.

The other instance that I wish to raise concerns the Ipswich Golf Club. In a letter to the Greyhound Racing Control Board, the club pointed out that members, when playing golf, have been shocked to find mauled and savaged small animals lightly buried in sand traps. The club wrote to the board and asked that action be taken against greyhound trainers who were using the golf course in that manner. No action has been taken by the board. Someone could quite easily be sent to the golf course early in the morning to catch the greyhound trainers who are guilty of this act. The only way in which animal lovers will be satisfied is for the board to be sacked.

Along with other members, I suppose, I received a letter from the Queensland Police Union asking for the lifting of the prohibition on police officers owning racehorses and dogs. Frankly, my reply to the union will be, "No." I will not support any legislation to allow policemen and police women to own racehorses and dogs.

Mr Hooper: Why not?

Mrs KYBURZ: Because there is too much corruption in both fields. There could be a conflict of interest. When Rule 88 has been breached, particularly by the use of live animals in the training of greyhounds, the first person to be called in by the RQSPC is a police officer. If that police officer knew that another police officer was the owner of a greyhound that was being trained with live lures, there could be a conflict of interest. That should not be allowed to arise. The easiest way to ensure that it does not arise is to not allow police officers to own horses or dogs. I shall make that plain to the union. If the union can prove to me that there is no corruption in the greyhound business, I will be happy to support it. It will not be able to prove it so I know what my answer will be.

I also wish to raise the case in Longreach that received a great deal of publicity recently, and rightly so. The man Hodgens, who was charged in that instance, was also charged last year over the holding of some 100 dogs at Tivoli outside Ipswich. It is the same man.

Mr Underwood: The RQSPC said it was OK, that he was not doing any harm. It was exactly the same situation, but now they have changed their tune.

Mrs KYBURZ: Because now the society knows precisely what he was doing with the animals.

Mr Underwood: Everyone could see what he was doing for two or three years.

Mrs KYBURZ: Did you know?

Mr R. J. Gibbs: He was selling them for dogfights.

Mrs KYBURZ: Yes, he was selling the animals to a Mr Les Abbot, who owns a property outside Beenleigh. There is reason to believe that dogfights are taking place on this property. This Hodgens creature was selling the dogs to him. Hodgens was also guilty of what I believe should be an offence under the legislation, in that in his possession he had instruments of torture, and traps in which he intended to lower live animals into North Queensland rivers as crocodile bait. Quite frankly, the whole thing is so revolting that I cannot understand how he was given self bail; it is just beyond belief.

In the case of Mr Abbot from Beenleigh, he now advertises in "The Courier-Mail" pet section as the Beenleigh Dog Refuge. I do not believe that "The Courier-Mail" realises what it is advertising. This man advertises that he gives a good home to lost pets, but what he does is use these animals in dogfights. The editor of "The Courier-Mail" should be told loudly and clearly that this man's advertisements should be checked. He is duping the public into believing that he runs a dog refuge, a place to which lost and homeless animals can be taken, whereas in fact the poor creatures are used in dogfights.

The Woodridge police are making every effort to catch Abbot in flagrante. The police, the RQSPC and I believe that Abbot should be put behind bars for what he is doing, and nothing short of that. I wish "The Courier-Mail" would take a little more

care when it comes to the placement of advertisements, although I realise that it would take quite a few people to check up on what he is doing before it could take any action.

Hodgens and Abbot are using the same barrister to defend them. Quite frankly, I think the barrister is now also suspect for defending two such creatures. He is obviously not a fair and honest person.

The legislation should be amended to make the possession of instruments of torture an offence. Such instruments were found on both properties. As well, wire netting that was to be used for the purpose of lowering animals into rivers was found. Obviously there is no excuse for the possession of such instruments.

(Time expired.)

Dingo Barrier Fence

Mr McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (12.19 p.m.): I am prompted to speak about the proposed dingo barrier fence following an article appearing in the "Goondiwindi Argus" dated 30 September which stated that last week Cabinet accepted that it would have to pay about one-third, estimated at \$300,000 a year, of the annual maintenance cost of the fence. This simply is not true. State Cabinet has not made such a decision. It did agree to fund the realignment of the fence, but it has not as yet agreed to pay maintenance costs. The report is inaccurate. I do not blame the "Goondiwindi Argus". It obviously just accepted in good faith and printed something that it was told.

I was aware that Cabinet was expected to discuss the dingo barrier fence at about that time. I wish to read into "Hansard" and make public a document that I circulated to Cabinet Ministers containing some points of interest on the dingo barrier fence proposal. It states—

"(1) The Cattlemens Union President was quoted in the Stanthorpe Border Post (27.8.1981) to the effect that cattle and grain industries should not have to contribute to a management tool for the sheep industry, when that tool would not be totally effective. He was referring to the Dingo Barrier Fence.

(2) While the Queensland Graingrowers Association supports the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board Proposal, a large majority of branches surveyed by the Association do not support the actual proposal put forward by the Board.

(3) The United Graziers Association is divided on the issue.

(4) The Inland Division of the National Party, which covers nearly all National Party Branches in the proposed 'protected' area, strongly opposes the proposal put forward by the Board.

(5) A majority of Local Authorities in the area are opposed to the proposal put forward by the Board.

(6) Inglewood, Waggamba and Tara Shire Ratepayers would have to subsidize Western Shires; but there is no proposal to protect Inglewood Shire, in particular, from Dingoes entering Queensland from N.S.W. between Dalveen and Texas.

(7) Residents living in the 'protected' area would have to pay towards upgrading the existing fence, as well as towards future maintenance costs, because the Board has agreed to help some graziers restore their existing fences.

(8) The grain industry, tobacco industry, cotton farmers, etc. pay to control their own pests with very little help from the sheep industry. Why should they then largely remove the burden of fighting dingoes from the sheep industry?

(9) As dingoes are predators of feral pigs, their destruction could have a detrimental affect on the grain industry. However, I want to make it clear that I believe in the destruction of the dingo, but I think it is immoral to expect the grain industry to contribute heavily to the cost.

(10) It could be argued that, if the dingo menace is increased, then sheepmen will turn to grain and consequently cause overproduction in the grain industry. This argument is invalid as wheat is the main grain crop and all arable land in the 'protected' area could be turned to wheat production and that would not influence the World price at all.

(11) The Minister for Lands (Mr. Glasson) has agreed to make available detailed costing and maps showing sections of the existing fence that are to be ungraded, and also the new alignment, to Members of Parliament representing that area of Queensland and to the relevant Local Authorities. He has also agreed to make this information available so we can study the proposal in detail before any final decision is taken. Therefore, if Cabinet happens to agree to fund the scheme, then at least 8 weeks should be allowed to elapse from the funding decision until the Government is committed to any particular scheme; so Members of Parliament, and Shire Councils can study the proposal in detail.

(12) A Branch of the Queensland Graingrowers Association has stated:—

'Firstly this Branch was not in favour of financing the fence, but when it was realised that each landholder in their particular shire would only have to pay \$2 or \$3 the Branch was prepared to go along with it.'

This sums up a good point:—

If the levy is not expensive, other landholders do not mind subsidizing the sheep industry. Therefore, I believe the taxpayers of Queensland could heavily subsidize the fence and the cost per taxpayer would be minute. Hence, I would strongly support a proposal if the Government could subsidize the maintenance of the fence by $\frac{3}{4}$ or better. A subsidy of only one third would be too much of a burden on landholders in the 'protected' area. That is, I would agree to the landholders paying a levy if the local authority contributions were $\frac{1}{4}$ and State Government $\frac{3}{4}$; as well as the State Government paying 100% of re-alignment and restoration costs.

If this cannot be agreed to, then I believe the concept should be abandoned and the problem handed over to individual Local Authorities or groups of landholders who want to participate. The Government should assist these Local Authorities or groups of landholders by way of subsidy. Participating Councils should be exempted from the present precepts.

(13) If the Government wants to help the sheep industry, that is good. However, it should not ask only a section of the State to subsidize an industry when it is doubtful that all people paying the levy in that area of the State will benefit to any great degree from the proposal."

According to that article in the "Goondiwindi Argus", Councillor Peter Warner, the chairman of the Waggamba Shire Council, has been critical of State Government inaction for a considerable number of years on the dingo barrier fence. The Waggamba Shire Council, the Inglewood Shire Council and the Tara Shire Council, in particular, have taken a responsible attitude and are prepared to paddle their own boats and look after the fence in their own areas, provided they are exempt from future precepts. They have the ability to do it, and in my opinion they have a much better chance of keeping their costs at a more reasonable level than the costs that will be inflicted upon the Government, the landholders and the councils if this proposal of the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board goes ahead.

I am pleased that I have on file a letter from Mr Anderson, the clerk of the Waggamba Shire Council, thanking me for some assistance that I gave in regard to a meeting in Brisbane. That shire was a little tardy in going to its State members of Parliament about the problems that it was experiencing with the fence. It is dangerous to draw comparisons, but I think I should mention that I have an excellent relationship with the Inglewood Shire Council and I could not ask for greater co-operation. If there is the slightest hint of any problem in the Inglewood Shire, I am kept informed.

However, the situation in Waggamba is not quite the same. That shire believes that it is capable of paddling its own canoe—and full marks to it for that—but I think that its ratepayers could be better served if, when problems arise, Councillor Warner contacts the member for Balonne (Mr Neal) and me a little earlier than he did—at least in my case—about the problem of the dingo barrier fence. Despite that, I congratulate the Waggamba Shire Council for trying to solve the problem by putting forward what it believes to be a workable proposal.

(Time expired.)

State Government Treatment of Aborigines

Mr UNDERWOOD (Ipswich West) (12.29 p.m.): A fortnight ago I was part of a Queensland ALP parliamentary team that visited and spoke with our fellow Queenslanders who live in the isolated communities on Cape York Peninsula and in the Torrest Strait. It was an experience that I will never forget, not only because of the welcome and hospitality of the local people and the rugged and beautiful terrain, but also because of the tragic plight of that group of Queensland citizens.

In the few minutes available to me this afternoon, I can only scratch the surface of the problems facing these Queenslanders. If problems similar to those now existing in Far North Queensland communities existed in other parts of Queensland, especially in Brisbane, the State Government, together with its colleagues in Canberra, would produce open cheques and have task forces roaming from street to street to overcome them. Of course, the Government is not doing that for the communities that we visited.

The shamefully low standard of health suffered by these people and the non-existent or grossly inadequate health-care deliveries offered by the State Government vary from community to community. They are to Queensland's shame and a disgrace to the Australian nation. I am sure that all other Queenslanders, if they were able to visit these isolated communities, would be as shocked as I was. They would see the situation at first hand and would demand immediate action to put an end to this form of State Government oppression.

Mr Moore: Name one settlement where all this occurred. You are talking broadly. Name one.

Mr UNDERWOOD: The member for Windsor, of course, was too busy grogging it up on the "Melbidir" to notice the problems faced by the people of those areas.

What I have said is not new. Report after report lays bare the tragedy of Far North Queensland. As these Queenslanders struggle along on the crumbs thrown from the table of this filthy-rich Queensland Government, the Government is impervious to damning criticism levelled at it by a continuous stream of learned reports and respected individuals as well as by the people themselves.

Of course, there are tragic statements such as that of the Premier himself, reported on 7 June 1981 in the following way under the headline "We do right by Aborigines says Joh"—

"Queensland Government's policy on treatment of Aborigines is the right one, no matter what anybody else thinks, says Premier Mr Joh Bjelke-Petersen . . .

. . . the State Government believes they must have the same rights and obligations as all other citizens."

Of course, they do not.

On another occasion the Premier said that Queensland Aborigines were "living in clover"; yet this morning in the House the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs claimed that he was concerned with promoting the life and well-being of these Queenslanders. In the same breath, about the World Council of Churches report, he said, "The accuracy and veracity of the document is in doubt."

The basic findings in that report were merely a repetition of all the other reports and statements of recent years. There is nothing new in the report by the World Council of Churches. It has been verified by a report put out by the Government's colleagues in Canberra, to which I will refer in a few moments.

I want to quote from a letter by "Nugget" Coombs, a noted Australian academic and a man learned in the problems of Aborigines. Reported in "The Australian" on 20 August 1981, it said—

"The report of the World Council of Churches' delegation on the condition and status of Aboriginal Australians is a salutary reminder to Australians generally that their international reputation continues to be sullied by their neglect and inhumanity towards these Australian citizens.

There is nothing new in this report: its judgments can be validated in the work of independent academic research workers and in the reports of parliamentary and other committees and commissions of inquiry.

The report perhaps gives insufficient acknowledgment to the improvements which have been won over the past decade in the face of strong resistance to the increasing support among the general Australian community for the Aboriginal cause and above all to the widespread evidence of growing Aboriginal capacity to manage their own affairs, and to fight for their rights. Nevertheless in substance it remains a just assessment and a damning indictment of Australian governments and Parliaments, and of many powerful interests.

Attempts to attribute bias and political motivation to the delegation reflect simply the refusal of Mr Bjelke-Petersen, Sir Charles Court and others to accept the truth. Their response demonstrates that until the Commonwealth Parliament accepts the responsibility clearly given it in the referendum of 1967 to legislate in relation to Aborigines, there is little prospect of justice and fair dealing for Aboriginal Australians.

It is a pity that the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has followed his predecessors in making sympathetic noises, but in fact passing the issue back to the States where he knows that in most States—

and Queensland in particular, I might emphasise—

“and Territories the report will be ignored. This response is in essence a cowardly rejection of a clear obligation which he and his Cabinet colleagues share.”

We acknowledge that there have been improvements on the national and Queensland scene, particularly since the advent of the Federal Labor Government's emphasis on upgrading the status of these Queenslanders and Australians. Queensland could be doing better than the rest of Australia. In fact, some reports say so, and I do not doubt that.

But that is irrelevant to the deprivation suffered by these Northern Queenslanders. Those people live in the world of *Oliver Twist*—poverty of the 19th century with demographic patterns of high birth rates, high population growth, high mortality rates in adults and infants, as well as high levels of illiteracy and unemployment and a high incidence of morbidity largely of an infectious nature. That is a paragraph that I have borrowed, but it provides an apt description of the situation. It is a standard of health that no other Queensland community would tolerate.

The State Government can no longer say that this situation exists because of isolation. One only needs to make comparison of the health services available to other Queensland communities in isolated areas—and I have been able to do exactly that this year—to see plainly the neglect and oppression that the people of Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait area have suffered through the actions of the Queensland Government.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs report of 20 March 1979 condemns the State and Federal Governments' actions towards our fellow Aborigines and Islanders. The findings are still relevant because no advancement has been made to help these people. In fact, the current programs have been dismantled or have run down so much by lack of funding that they are non-existent in many places and the situation has worsened. In fact, the Queensland Minister for Health says that we have many problems in these areas. As he is only a new Minister, he may regret that remark. The Chairman of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs was Mr Phillip Ruddock, a Liberal MP from Sydney. The report states—

“Infant mortality and hospitalisation figures indicate an improvement in Aboriginal health. However, the Committee was informed that recurrence of the majority of infectious diseases prevalent amongst Aborigines is common and difficult to prevent because of the poor physical environment in most Aboriginal communities.”

That exists in North Queensland.

The report continues—

“The Committee received considerable evidence indicating that social and stress-related conditions amongst Aborigines such as depression, hypertension, alcoholism, diabetes, obesity, and traumatic injuries are increasing and becoming a major health concern.

On the basis of infant mortality rates, Aboriginal health is three to four times worse than for non-Aboriginals. Hospitalisation rates show a similar picture with rates for some environmental infectious diseases 12 times higher for Aboriginals than for non-Aboriginals.

It is apparent therefore that little progress has been made in raising the overall standard of Aboriginal health."

Those remarks apply equally to Queensland.

The report further states—

"The committee considers that this is a deplorable situation that would not be tolerated for non-Aboriginals."

The World Council of Churches has issued a report. A group of Cairns doctors published a report on Aboriginal health. A recent survey funded by the Federal Government reached similar conclusions. A Press report stated that, according to a survey funded by the Federal Government, Aboriginal health had reached crisis level in North Queensland.

The latest report issued for the CHOGM conference whitewashes the Aboriginal issue to keep Mr Fraser and his colleagues in this Government out of trouble. The publication "Aboriginals in Australia Today" states—

"Although significant improvements have been made in recent years, the health of Aboriginals, generally, is poor."

Under the heading "Environmental Health", it says—

"Because so much ill-health is directly related to poor living conditions, the Australian Government is to spend \$50m."

Most of that sum will be spent on bureaucrats' wages.

This is the case in Far North Queensland.

(Time expired.)

ALP Policy on Socialisation

Mr AKERS (Pine Rivers) (12.39 p.m.): A matter of extreme public interest is that the ALP has confirmed its position as a socialist party in the true sense of the word "socialism". It has been trying for a long time to tell the voters, "We are not really socialists; we are really in favour of private enterprise."

At the 34th Biennial National Conference of the ALP held at the Southern Cross Hotel in Melbourne in July 1981, only three months ago, the ALP confirmed its socialist objectives. The conference agreed on the following wording as to the party's objective—

"The Australian Labor Party is a democratic socialist party and has the objective of the democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange, to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in these fields."

Mr R. J. Gibbs: "To the extent necessary".

Mr AKERS: The last portion tries to convince us that there is nothing important in the objective, but it means that the ALP wants to control the entire life of every Australian, in every way. There is no real change.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr AKERS: As the honourable member tried to interject, that little phrase, "to the extent necessary", was added, but it was left in only by 28 to 22 votes. Its insertion was a pure token.

Mr DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Pine Rivers is quoting from a document. I ask him to table it as soon as he has finished with it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row): Order! The honourable member for Brisbane Central has asked for the tabling of the document. Will the honourable member table it?

Mr AKERS: I am quoting from some notes that were made. I do not intend to table them.

Mr R. J. GIBBS: I move—

“That the honourable member table the document.”

Mr AKERS: To save time I will happily table the document.

It is a document damning the ALP. If Opposition members want to read about what a mess they are in, they can do so.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

The objective was modified by the words “to the extent necessary”. That token amendment was carried by only 28 to 22 votes, despite speeches by political realists such as Hayden, Hawke, Keating, Bowen and Button against the socialist-Left proposal to delete the words entirely and to adopt, in truly honest terms, the politically suicidal, full socialisation policy. Only a mere four votes out of 50 kept those words in the objective.

The leading lights in the party knew that the adoption of full socialisation would have meant the complete political oblivion of the Labor Party in Australia. In reality, the ALP has as its party objective a decision made just three months ago approving unlimited control of industry, production, distribution and exchange throughout Australia—unlimited control of everything that happens in Australia.

As I said, the words, “to the extent necessary”, are only a token; they leave it entirely open to a Left-wing-dominated ALP to nationalise everything.

To take it further and to show the real, sinister intent of the ALP, its objectives say that socialisation is to be brought about not only through “constitutional action through the State and Australian Parliaments”, but also by union action.

Mr Davis: Hear, hear!

Mr AKERS: Did I hear, a “Hear, hear!” from members opposite?

Mr Davis: My word.

Mr AKERS: The honourable member for Brisbane Central wants the unions to control Australia, not the elected representatives of the people. How can Opposition members say that they are democratic socialists when they support the notion of rule by unelected unrepresentative union bosses? There is nothing democratic in that path to socialism.

Ownership of private property is also questioned in the ALP's objectives. One phrase in the objectives adopted each year declares support for “the right to own private property”. I am really amazed that the ALP has to write that into documents, but apparently it has found it necessary to do so. But how safe is that phrase? The socialist Left—it must be remembered that it had more than 44 per cent of the votes at that conference and is not a small minority to be ignored; in fact it almost controlled the conference—moved a formal motion that the conference go no further than support the right to own personal property. That was done even after the ALP's great saviour, Neville Wran, explained that, in law, personal property refers only to moveable items, which means that a person is allowed to keep a wallet in his pocket, but with nothing in it, of course. He cannot own his own house. That is what the socialist Left wanted. That motion also was defeated very narrowly. That illustrates how close the ALP is to total control of ownership of property.

Mr HOOPER: I rise to a point of order. I take exception to the remarks made by the member for Pine Rivers (Mr Kyburz). The figures are totally untrue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row): Order! There is no point of order. I remind honourable members that in the Chamber they must refer to other honourable members by the proper parliamentary title.

Mr HOOPER: I beg your pardon, Mr Deputy Speaker, and also beg the pardon of the honourable member for Pine Rivers.

Mr AKERS: I accept the apology. I have nothing to be ashamed of in being associated by my wife's name, but my name is mine.

The ALP members of this Parliament are very close to being committed to a policy against ownership of any private property at all, except moveable items. Members opposite have signed their souls away to implement ALP objectives and policies.

Another move—one that caught many observers by surprise—was the inclusion in the 22 principles adopted this year of a commitment to make Australia a republic. Labor politicians are now committed to—

“Reform of the Australian constitution and other political institutions so as to ensure that they reflect the will of the majority of Australian citizens and the existence of Australia as an independent republic.”

A Government Member: The majority of Australian citizens do not want a republic.

Mr AKERS: Evidently ALP members do not read their newspapers, because, not long before that, a survey conducted by “The Age” in Melbourne showed that 61 per cent of Australians are in favour of the existing system of government in Australia under the monarchy.

I am running short of time because some of my time has been wasted by Opposition members, so I will deal next with the national conference’s structural change that will reduce the effectiveness of Queensland’s voice at the conference, and the enlargement of the conference from 50 to 100. Mr Rod Wise, a former ALP official who is now with “The Australian Financial Review”, had this to say in that newspaper on 31 July this year—

“The immediate effect will be to enhance the position of the Left at policy making level—that is, national conference.”

Remember what the Left was after—some of the things I mentioned. Further on he said—

“. . . the requirement for delegations to be composed of women to the extent of 25 per cent is initially easier for the Left because women who have been activists tended to be on the Left.”

So it is all a move for the Left to take over. It could not gain control this year, so it will take it over through the back door.

In another move, the conference also showed its contempt for the youth of Australia. The Young Liberal Movement has eight delegates to the much smaller Liberal Federal Council. At its national conference in July this year, the ALP refused to increase Young Labor representation from one to three, in spite of the 100 per cent increase in the size of the conference that had already been approved. Later on, because of that contempt, the Young Labor delegate moved that Young Labor have a non-voting delegate on the national executive. But the motion lapsed for want of a seconder. The Young Labor delegate could not even get a seconder for a motion that there be a non-voting delegate from Young Labor. If the ALP has that much contempt for its own youth group, what does it care for the youth of Australia as a whole? The ALP has shown itself clearly—and it has confirmed it—as a socialist party in the full sense of that word, with contempt for Queenslanders, contempt for the system of government in Australia and contempt for the youth of Australia. Queenslanders should not be misled by attempts by members opposite to show the ALP as anything else.

(Time expired.)

Telephone Services in Remote Areas

Mr RANDELL (Mirani) (12.49 p.m.): I rise to speak on a matter of grave concern to a minor yet vital section of the community of my widespread electorate—those people in the remote areas who must maintain contact with the urban areas yet have to pay thousands of dollars for the privilege of having telephone communication to do so.

Mr Scott: Aren’t they lucky to have telephones?

Mr RANDELL: They cannot get them.

In some grazing areas in the Mirani electorate, namely in the brigalow development scheme, families—and I stress the word “families”—have been battling for years against the problems of the Outback, such as loneliness, adverse seasonal conditions and low cattle prices.

Of course, that is not peculiar to the Mirani electorate; it is happening all over Australia. Those families, many of whom have young children, cannot afford to install a telephone under the present system. With their remoteness, a telephone would be their link with the outside world, and their only way of obtaining help if urgent medical attention was required. In times of flood when all other means of communication are cut a telephone would give people the reassuring feeling that they were not alone. Just think what this would mean to the women of the Outback who have a mail service only once or twice a week. They are trying to educate their children in remote and lonely situations. What would a telephone mean to them if they could ring for advice and help? I have visited a lot of people in such circumstances and seen what a marvellous job they are doing. In the interests of our nation it is essential that we attract young people too, and keep them in, our rural industries, and a telephone is one thing that could help to make their lives so much easier.

Telephones should not be a luxury but an essential basic part of rural living. Anyone who has access to a telephone is inclined to take it for granted. When we walk out of this Chamber there is a telephone at every turn, but it is when one is not handy that people feel the pinch. In a recent survey some Outback graziers listed their priorities: firstly, a telephone; secondly, a telephone that works; and, thirdly, a telephone that works all the time.

I now want to tell members of the cost and trouble involved in obtaining a telephone in some Outback areas.

Mr Hooper: It is very difficult to get a telephone in Brisbane. What's the difference?

Mr RANDELL: If the honourable member gives me a chance, I will tell him.

The conditions applying to rural telephone connections within a 16 km radius of an exchange are that a new subscriber, or one whose line is being upgraded for the purpose of connection to an automatic exchange, whether the connection is by underground cable or radio signal, is connected for a fee of \$120, and he is required to pay the first six months' rental in advance. The annual rental is \$120.

Mr Hooper: Why don't you leave it to your Federal member, Mr Braithwaite, to bring this up? This is a Federal issue.

Mr RANDELL: That is right. I am raising it as a matter of public interest.

Beyond the 16 km free entitlement area the subscriber is charged at the rate of \$320 per kilometre. He may choose to pay the capital cost for his particular distance from the 16 km point, and should he desire to spread this cost over three years, interest is chargeable at the short term Telecom loan rate. Alternatively, he may choose to opt for a flat rate rental of \$500 per year, made up of the normal \$120 annual rental plus a special rental of \$380. I believe that at present Telecom guarantees a stay on this rental until the end of 1990. Beyond that date Telecom officials will not commit themselves.

The cost of \$320 per kilometre is that which applied to the laying of underground cable but, in rural areas, Telecom has changed over to radio telephone connections. In the case of radio telephones, the only construction is, of course, the concentrator itself and the equipment at the phone site, but the same charge applies as for the laying of cables.

Whilst Telecom officials claim that the \$320 per kilometre in fact bears little relation to the actual cost involved, which I know is much higher, they concede that radio telephone services cost very little more for greater distances. This results in the ridiculous situation where a subscriber 16 km from the exchange has to pay \$180 for a connection, while his neighbour 46 km from the exchange has to pay \$9,780, made up of a \$120 connection fee and \$60 half year rental in advance and 30 km at \$320 per kilometre, when in fact the second connection costs Telecom little more than the first.

Whilst I do not dispute Telecom's claim that the cost of providing a radio telephone service is in the region of \$10,000, I do dispute its method of charging, whereby the more remote subscriber is being discriminated against purely because of distance, and not because the cost of supplying the service varies. I could draw a parallel with the purchaser of a television set in the city paying \$600 to have it installed whilst his friend 46 km away would be required to pay \$9,780 for the installation of an identical set. That is completely unacceptable to me.

Although it is not reasonable to expect Telecom to bear the cost of hundreds of miles of overhead metallic circuit lines in rural areas, when this is the only means of operating into an automatic exchange, the picture is entirely changed with the development of the radio-telephone system. People within the 16 km free-entitlement area are not expected to contribute towards the cost of upgrading their exchanges to automatic operation, even to the extent of paying for the new telephones that must be installed. Where the radio-telephone system is available, Telecom will make the necessary adjustment free of charge to subscribers' telephones so that they may "direct dial" overseas. Therefore, it is totally unjust that an estimated 0.28 per cent of total connections should be so discriminated against.

Figures are very difficult to obtain, but it seems that by the end of 1985 Telecom expects to have approximately 12 000 subscribers beyond the 16 km limit. If one assumes that all those people would be paying \$500 rental per year, it is clear that Telecom would incur a revenue loss of something under \$5m for the year 1985 and subsequent years. When one considers that the total revenue from telephone rentals in one year is estimated to be \$915,800,000 by 1985, it is surely not unreasonable to expect that all Australians should be treated equally by the introduction of a standard installation fee and yearly rental. It is my belief that with the radio-telephone system making costly underground installations unnecessary, it is well within Telecom's capabilities to discard this discrimination against a section of the rural population. In fact, the time has come when all Australians are entitled to telephone communication at an equal cost to the subscriber.

Some citizens in my area have told me that they have received outlandish telephone accounts, supposedly for STD metered calls, which were very much higher than their usual accounts. In cases such as that, the subscriber has no choice but to pay up. If he does not, he loses the telephone. There have been too many instances of large telephone accounts that seem to bear no relationship to the number of calls made.

I have been told that telephone subscribers in the USA, using an STD system similar to that in Australia, get cheaper calls and a detailed statement on their account of each STD connection. I would not argue that the United States of America, with more than 220 million people, cannot spread the cost of its capital equipment over far more callers than can Australia, with 15 million people; but I cannot see why the technology which gives detailed statements in the United States cannot be used to give a similar service in Australia.

It is easy to argue that the larger population making urban calls helps to subsidise uneconomic country services; but a closer look at city calls would reveal that rural production pumps plenty of revenue into the telephone system. City-based stock agents, agricultural chemical companies, farm machinery distributors and a host of other businesses use a huge percentage of their telephone calls for country-generated business. So the consistent and enormous profits of Telecom should prove that it can afford to give a first-class service to the more remote rural areas of Australia, where total telephone revenue does not add up to profits on paper, and where people have the right to the basic amenities that all other Australians enjoy and do not have to regard as a privilege.

Electricity Reticulation in Rural Areas

Mr HARTWIG (Callide) (12.59 p.m.): I have only one minute in which to speak, and I wish to refer to the reticulation of electricity throughout Queensland. Women from, for example, Goovigen and Rannes have been telephoning me and complaining that they do not have reticulated power. Areas throughout Queensland do not have reticulated power, and I believe that the electricity distribution boards should make an all-out effort to reticulate power to these areas.

It is one thing to live in the country; it is another thing to be without power. Together with the telephone, power reticulation is very important not only to people in the remote areas but also to people in the more settled areas of Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order, the time allotted for the Matters of Public Interest debate has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.