

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 14 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:—

Proclamation under the Forestry Act 1959-1981

Orders in Council under—

Electricity Act 1976-1980

Forestry Act 1959-1981

Diseases in Timber Act 1975 and the Stock Routes and Rural Lands protection Act 1944-1978

Regulation under the Forestry Act 1959-1981

Reports—

Timber Research and Development Advisory Council of North Queensland for the year 1980-81

Timber Research and Development Advisory Council of South and Central Queensland for the year 1980-81

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Alleged Queensland Mafia Operation

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police) (11.2 a.m.): Serious allegations were made in this House yesterday by the honourable member for Archerfield relating to what he described as a Queensland mafia.

On too many occasions in the past the honourable member for Archerfield has used the privilege offered by the House to defame and attack individual citizens and organisations. His apparent fetish with illegal gambling, prostitution and crime has attracted the headlines many times but on no occasion has the honourable member been able to substantiate his allegations. I now call on the honourable member for Archerfield to produce to me, within 24 hours, any documented evidence he may have to back up his allegations. Quite frankly, I do not believe he has any proof whatsoever to substantiate claims of a Queensland mafia controlled by so-called godfathers.

Should the honourable member produce any documented evidence whatsoever to substantiate his allegations, it will be investigated and consideration will be given to tabling such documents in the Chamber. Should the honourable member not be able to produce any documented evidence within 24 hours—a reasonable time, as he knows so much about this matter—he should take the only course open to him and withdraw his allegations.

Claims by the honourable member of senior political and Police Department involvement in a Queensland mafia operation, cast a shadow over every member of this Chamber and every senior police officer in this State. I totally reject the honourable member's allegations on this matter. The honourable member for Archerfield now has that period in which to produce documented evidence of his allegations.

Debate on Queensland Marine Act Amendment Bill; Allegations by Member for Lytton

Hon. V. J. BIRD (Burdekin—Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services) (11.5 a.m.): On Thursday, 8 October 1981, during the debate at the Committee stage of the Queensland Marine Act Amendment Bill, the member for Lytton said that I had stated during the debate on Tuesday, 6 October, that I had discussed with the unions

the matters contained in the Bill. I objected to that and said that it was incorrect. He then referred to the unrevised proofs of "Hansard" and claimed that "Hansard" recorded that I had made the statement that I had personally discussed this with union representatives.

As a result of that, I have spoken to the Chief Reporter, and I have listened to the tape-recording of the proceedings. For the record, I would now like to clarify the position for the Parliament.

I am sure that anybody who still has doubts about the statement would be very welcome to listen to that recording. Referring to the unrevised proof, the honourable member for Lytton said that the Minister did not discuss this matter with the unions. I believe that it was because of his phraseology that that appeared in "Hansard" as it did. In reply, I was alleged to have said, "Of course I did." The tape clearly indicates that I said, "Of course they did." If anybody cares to check that, he will find that what I say is correct.

Further on I suggested to the member for Lytton that he go back and talk to the leaders of the unions and not to the individuals. However, it was recorded in "Hansard" that I said that I wanted to go back and talk to the leaders of the unions and not to the individuals. I believe that if that is corrected and is recorded for all time, it will be clearly seen that what I said at that time was that I wanted the member himself to go back and talk to the leaders. I say that purely for the record. I appreciate that it is too late now to have the matter corrected in "Hansard".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr HOOPER (Archerfield) (11.7 a.m.), by leave: Today in a ministerial statement the Minister for Police (Mr Hinze) made a futile attempt to sweep under the carpet the allegations I made in this House yesterday concerning illegal gambling and organised prostitution run by a Queensland mafia. I point out that it is not my job to act as prosecutor. My job as a responsible member of Parliament is to bring matters before the House. It is then the Minister's responsibility to initiate a thorough investigation into my allegations. It would appear from the vague remarks of the Minister that both he and the Police Commissioner (Mr Terry Lewis) have been caught with their proverbial pants down. If Mr Hinze and Mr Lewis were unaware of the illegal activities in Fortitude Valley, they are both unfit to hold public office and should resign immediately.

Mr Minister, if I find you are one of the politicians involved in the corruption, I'll have your guts for garters.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I rise to a point of order. The allegations made by the honourable member for Archerfield are very serious. I can assure this House that the Minister will take every action to find out from the honourable member—

Mr Hooper: Why didn't he say that?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member will have every chance to confirm what he has been saying here. As I was saying, the Minister will make sure that the honourable member will have every opportunity—

Mr Hooper: Make sure you are not Queensland's Bob Askin, either.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member will be called upon to produce the evidence.

PETITION

The Clerk-Assistant announced the receipt of the following petition—

Protection of North Queensland Rain Forests

From Mr McLean (1 126 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will afford total protection to all rain forests in North Queensland.

Petition received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

1. Drainage Problems, Macleay Island Land

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

With reference to the development of land on the Moreton Bay islands of Russell, Macleay, Karragarra and Lamb and attendant drainage problems—

(1) Is he aware that land which could have drainage problems is again being prepared for sale on one of these islands?

(2) In view of local reports from Macleay Island where the development is in progress, will he give an assurance that none of this land will be offered for sale for residential purposes until drainage problems are rectified?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I am advised that, as a result of certain allegations made recently in this regard, the Redland Shire Council had the matter investigated.

It was found that five adjoining allotments had been partly cleared and additional minor drains were constructed by the owner or owners to alleviate a local drainage problem which resulted from the filling of land and poor drainage associated with road-works in the area. The investigation revealed that the land was not in a drainage problem area and, subject to filling to council's requirements, would be suitable for residential development.

2. Road-works and Traffic Lights, Old Cleveland Road

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

With reference to traffic considerations on Old Cleveland Road—

(1) When will road-works at present being carried out by the Main Roads Department on Old Cleveland Road, Chandler, be completed as far as the intersection with New Cleveland Road?

(2) With the dramatic increase in traffic using Old Cleveland Road at Capalaba since the opening of the new major shopping centre, will his department install traffic lights at the Dollery and Raymond Street intersections so as to allow traffic to enter Old Cleveland Road?

Answer:—

(1) It has always been the aim to complete these works in ample time to provide suitable approaches to the Commonwealth Games venue at Chandler, and there is nothing to indicate that this aim will not be achieved.

(2) Consideration will be given to a suitable arrangement for traffic signals on Old Cleveland Road in the vicinity of the new shopping centre in conjunction with the proposal to extend four-lane construction from Dollery Street to Birkdale Road, where traffic signals have recently been installed. Due weight will be given to overall design requirements and to current traffic figures, which will be obtained in the near future.

3. Caboolture River Bridge, Morayfield

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

When is it proposed to construct a new bridge across the Caboolture River at Morayfield to replace the present structure, which is too narrow and presents a traffic hazard for motorists and pedestrians?

Answer:—

The Main Roads Department has not been able to include a replacement structure in the current five-year planning program. The eventual date of replacement is not known at this stage.

4. **Wilson Youth Hospital**

Mr Frawley asked the Minister for Welfare Services—

(1) Has he seen two articles on Wilson Youth Hospital which have appeared in recent issues of the magazine "People" and, if so, will he comment on (a) heavy use of solitary confinement, (b) apparent heavy use of sedatives for trouble-makers, (c) lack of educational facilities, (d) atmosphere of violence and (e) removal of Christmas presents from children?

(2) Is he satisfied with the management of the hospital?

Answer:—

(1) Yes, I have seen the two articles and, in fact, I spent some time interviewing the reporter. I regret that the articles are written in a rather sensational style with a selective perception of the facts. I regret also that Reverend Father Wally Dethlefs has been quoted as an authority on Wilson Youth Hospital. To the best of my knowledge, Father Dethlefs has not been to Wilson Youth Hospital for approximately four years, and during that four years he has at no time sought an authoritative statement from me or from the Department of Children's Services. He is quoted in the article as saying he "believes" that the rules and atmosphere have improved. I consider it would have been in the public interest for him to have assured himself of the present facts, and I offer Father Dethlefs the opportunity of visiting Wilson Youth Hospital and discussing the present regime so that he might be better informed in future.

(a) There is absolutely no use of solitary confinement under the conditions described in the article. Girls are sometimes segregated in an open area where they can see and can be seen by a staff member at all times with whom they can communicate regularly. Moreover, the use of this area is usually only for a brief period of less than 15 minutes. Boys are segregated in a small room under similar conditions. No boy is secluded for a period of one hour and the whole process is carefully monitored and managed.

(b) If drugs are administered, the administration is on the basis of prescription from the medical staff employed by the Department of Health.

(c) The education program at the institution has been less than satisfactory, but substantial progress has been made in this area. There is a remedial teacher who spends all his time with the boys who need remedial assistance.

A large number of children go out to schools, and those who are not able to do so because of the nature of their detention or the seriousness of their offence receive assistance with their educational program from staff of the Department of Education.

(d) I have visited Wilson Youth Hospital many times. I deny that there is a strong atmosphere of violence within the institution.

(e) Children at Christmas-time and on Christmas Day are given presents. The present is given to the child and, whether it is edible or not edible, the child is able to use the gift and include it among his or her possessions.

(2) I and my predecessor have taken a number of initiatives towards the introduction of a new type of facility. Under the prevailing conditions, I do, however, wish to state that I have every confidence in the manager and the matron of Wilson Youth Hospital. I believe that those two officers and the large majority of their staff are dedicated to the rehabilitation of young people placed in their custody.

I would draw the attention of all members of the House to the fact that not all of these young people are easy to handle and that the manager and his staff have done a very fine job.

5. Government Subsidies and Grants to Caboolture Shire Council

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

What subsidies, Government grants, both State and Federal, and ex gratia payments, in detail, have been made to the Caboolture Shire Council from 1 July 1972 to 30 June 1981?

Answer:—

The information requested by the honourable member is being extracted and I will furnish the information to him by letter.

6 & 7. Loan to Flameless Incineration Pty Ltd

Mr Hansen asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

With reference to the Auditor-General's report relating to the loan to Flameless Incineration Pty Ltd of \$100,000 at the rate of one per cent for the last 10 years of the 15 year term—

(1) What was the rate of interest for the first five years of the loan?

(2) Who were the principals of Flameless Incineration Pty Ltd at the time of the loan negotiation?

(3) Has Flameless Incineration Pty Ltd sold the pilot plant and, if so, to whom has it been sold and what was the sale price?

(4) As the plant is now dismantled, what arrangements have been made for repayments of the loan and, in particular, are the repayments extended over 15 years?

Answer:—

(1) Nil.

(2) A Companies Office search on 28 March 1979 disclosed that the directors of the company were Mr P. V. Gay and Mr R. B. Kille.

(3) No. The principal components, the property of the company, are stored at the company's premises.

(4) On 14 May 1979, a deed of loan incorporating repayment arrangements was concluded between the company and the Honourable the Minister for Industry and Administrative Services. The loan is to be repaid by annual instalments over a 10-year period commencing on 16 May 1985.

Mr Hansen asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

With reference to his reply on 8 October to a question from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition regarding the loan to Flameless Incineration Pty Ltd that he was made aware some weeks ago of the situation and did not propose to take any further action—

(1) Have any other loans been made from the Estates Maintenance Fund prior to or since this loan?

(2) What rate of interest is usual in such cases?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) No other loans have been made.

8. Hospitalisation of Overseas Students in Public Hospitals

Mr Fitzgerald asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the hospitalisation of overseas students in Queensland public hospitals—

(1) Do these patients receive hospitalisation at the expense of the Queensland Government?

(2) If not, does the Commonwealth Government reimburse the State for charges levied?

(3) If not, do the students pay these charges out of their meagre allowances if they do not have hospital insurance cover?

Answer:—

(1) No. (These patients are charged in accordance with regulations prescribed under the Hospitals Act 1936-1980).

(2) No.

(3) It would be expected that overseas students, or parents or guardians of overseas students, would take out health insurance cover or make suitable arrangements for unforeseen circumstances such as hospitalisation whilst in Queensland.

9. Reimbursement of Private Patients for X-ray Services in Public Hospitals

Mr Fitzgerald asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to part of the answer given to a question asked by the member for Gympie on 6 October in which he stated that "it is not possible for private in-patients who are insured to obtain reimbursement from benefit funds for radiological procedures wholly carried out by hospital board staff with hospital equipment and where the hospitals board raises the charge on the private in-patient. Cases such as these, however are infrequent"—

(1) Is he aware that this is a real problem in many country hospitals, such as the Gatton hospital, where many insured patients, some of them with limited finances, for whom doctors have ordered X-rays to check on suspected fractures are faced with a return trip to Toowoomba?

(2) Is it possible to overcome this anomaly with the co-operation of his federal counterpart?

Answer:—

(1) This is a hypothetical question which would appear to relate to out-patients, and out-patients, as such, are not charged for X-rays taken at Queensland public hospitals. Private insured in-patients who are treated by private radiologists can, of course, claim on benefit funds.

(2) Continued dialogue is maintained with the Commonwealth Minister for Health in an endeavour to obtain the greatest degree of benefit for both the patients of the State public hospitals and the State of Queensland.

10. Cost of Security, District Courts Building

Mr Innes asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

What was the cost in 1980-81 of the security on the new District Courts building, then being used by the Supreme Court, and by how many personnel and at what times of the day was that security provided?

Answer:—

The overall security-manning provision for the District Courts building, formerly used by the Supreme Court, for a 24-hour coverage included manning for perimeter building security of two stations during normal office hours and one station outside normal office hours, and the calculated annual cost for these personnel was \$68,972.00.

11. Biotechnology

Mr Innes asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the great advances in biotechnology that have taken place in the last few years and the fact that advanced biotechnology has great application to agriculture—

(1) What action is being taken to evaluate areas of primary production in Queensland where the applications of biotechnology may be of benefit?

(2) What action is being taken to attract to Queensland professional people with competence in this area?

(3) Does the Government intend to take initiatives in this area?

Answer:—

(1) I assume that the honourable member is referring to developments in re-combinant DNA technology, or genetic engineering, as it is sometimes called, and to closely related fields. Staff of my department are closely following the scientific literature and attending relevant scientific meetings to discuss recent developments in these fields, with a view to adapting the work, where appropriate, to practical agricultural problems.

The Government is also giving consideration to nominating a Minister who will liaise with the Commonwealth Minister for Science and Technology with respect to a monitoring system for re-combinant DNA technology.

(2) At this stage, no special arrangements are being made by my department to recruit professional staff with particular competence in this area. Our approach is to arrange special training for existing staff.

(3) At present, most of the research in genetic engineering is basic in nature. I believe that it has immense potential, but in most fields it has not reached the applied stage. My department will continue to assess developments with a view to taking initiatives which will benefit Queensland agriculture as appropriate opportunities arise.

12. Housing Commission Houses Occupied by Defence Personnel

Mr Milliner asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many houses constructed by the Queensland Housing Commission are now occupied by defence personnel?

(2) Is the commission responsible for the maintenance on these houses and, if so, do the defence forces reimburse the commission for the work carried out on these premises?

(3) What has been the cost of repairs to the houses over the last year?

Answer:—

(1) 3810.

(2) The commission is responsible for maintenance, but rents charged include an element to cover maintenance costs.

(3) Individual costs are not maintained for specific groupings of houses, and dissecting accounts would involve considerable time and the cost would be hard to justify. However, all costs, including maintenance, are recovered in rents charged to the Commonwealth.

13. Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation Assistance for Japanese Tourists

Mr Milliner asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

With reference to the recent announcement by QANTAS of a Tokyo—Brisbane run—

What plans has the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation made to supply interpreters and other infrastructure to accommodate Japanese tourists, and will the corporation assign an experienced travel consultant to the Queensland office in Tokyo to assist Japanese tourists with tourism inquiries in Queensland?

Answer:—

The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has already taken the necessary steps to ensure that our Japanese visitors are catered for in the proper manner, and the corporation's representation in Japan, through the Queensland Government Office in Tokyo, and the Australian Tourist Commission, through Qantas, and through travel wholesalers, is quite adequate for the present.

14. Safety Inspections of Machinery and Construction Sites

Mrs Nelson asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

With reference to the Chief Safety Engineer's report and statements in the Auditor-General's Report concerning inadequacies in "machinery" and "construction" inspections—

(1) How long have he and his department been aware of the problem?

(2) Has he had the necessary support from the Public Service Board to increase present staff levels?

(3) What action is he taking to rectify the present staff shortages, particularly in the area of "machinery" and "construction" inspections?

(4) What efforts are being made to maintain a safe-working attitude in the construction industry?

(5) What is proposed to reverse the distressing increase in falls on demolition and construction sites?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) The honourable member will be well aware of the rapid development which has taken place throughout the State in recent years. This has placed a heavy demand on the staff of my department, particularly inspectors in the Division of Occupational Safety.

Every endeavour has been made, within the staffing constraints placed on Government departments, to meet the demands in the building and construction industry. In view of the rate of development which has been experienced, it has been necessary to concentrate the existing staffing resources on construction work considered to be of a high risk.

Earlier this year an inspector of construction work was transferred from Brisbane to the Gold Coast in an endeavour to meet the demands being placed on the department in that region. Furthermore, Cabinet recently agreed to refer to the Public Service Board for consideration a proposal for the creation of an additional position of inspector of construction work. On Monday last I raised at Cabinet the matter of the need of an additional inspector of machinery to be attached to the South Coast District. As a result, the matter has been referred for consideration by the Public Service Board and Treasury in conjunction with the review to be carried out for the purposes of recommending staff establishment variations as announced in the Budget speech of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

In answer to a similar question, I advised the House on 19 August 1981 that the need to ensure that all safety precautions are being taken is being enforced by officers

of my department. In this regard, approval had been granted for inspectors of construction work to work overtime at night on the Gold Coast following reports that adequate lighting had not been provided on certain construction sites after dark.

My department is currently liaising with the Public Service Board with a view to undertaking an extensive examination of the present recruiting strategy and salary structure of the inspectorates in the Division of Occupational Safety of my department. The existing staff of the inspectorates have been instructed to concentrate on high risk areas. In addition, project safety officer courses are being conducted at which most of the major building contractors have representation. Regular courses for scaffolders, riggers, dogmen and explosive power tool operators are conducted.

In the last financial year, 12 project safety officer courses were held involving 184 trainees, and 258 supervisors also received training; 2495 certificates of competency were granted to workers under the Construction Safety Act and 9034 persons received certificates to operate various types of machinery under the Inspection of Machinery Act.

15. **Dioxin Levels in 2,4,5-T**

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

How many times have tests been carried out in the last ten years to determine the dioxin levels in 2,4,5-T used in Queensland and what were the results of those tests in each case?

Answer:—

Analyses of 2,4,5-T for dioxin are carried out by the Commonwealth Government. My department co-operates by drawing samples. The first samples of 2,4,5-T in Queensland to be analysed for dioxin were taken in 1975. There were two. Six samples were taken in 1978, three in 1979, and seven in 1980. All samples contained less than the maximum level for dioxin set in the Australia Standard Specifications for 2,4,5-T. A further five samples have been taken this year, but the analysis results have not been received.

16. **House-cladding**

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

With reference to recent criticisms of standards and practices in the cladding industry published in "Choice" magazine—

What action is being taken to protect house owners from the activities of unlicensed and unqualified cladding operators whose work usually results in the deterioration of the value of properties on which they work?

Answer:—

The Consumer Affairs Bureau is continually endeavouring to alert consumers as to pitfalls that may be encountered when dealing with house-cladding and coating firms, in the annual reports of the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs.

However, it would appear that, at least in Queensland, the industry has taken action to improve the standard of workmanship and the number of complaints for cladding and coating received by the bureau for the year ended 30 June 1981 was only 30 compared with 53 received the previous year.

If the activities of any suspect wall-cladding firm come to the attention of the bureau, the media in the particular area are contacted immediately to ensure that consumers are made aware of any possible risks involved in wall-cladding and coating transactions.

The honourable member might note that registration of builders is the responsibility of the Builders' Registration Board, which, in its brochure "Home Buyers

Beware!", exhorts persons who are contemplating having a house built, or alterations, extensions or improvements (which includes cladding) carried out exceeding \$3,000, to approach only registered builders.

17. Appreciation Course for Industrial Personnel

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

With reference to the Appreciation Course for Industrial Personnel mentioned in the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops—

(1) What are the objectives of these courses and what aspects of industrial legislation are covered?

(2) What is the duration of each course and is any fee payable?

(3) Who is eligible to attend these courses and how many attended in the last 12 months?

Answer:—

(1) The Appreciation Course for Industrial Personnel aims at giving industrial personnel in private industry a basic knowledge and understanding of those aspects of industrial regulations which affect the conditions of employment of workers in Queensland. In doing so, it is hoped that the course will contribute in some degree towards improving industrial relations at the operations level.

There are a considerable number of industrial personnel whose field of operation involves the making of decisions or the giving of advice on day-to-day work problems. It might concern the correct payment of wages and overtime for work performed or the entitlement of an employee to long service leave. It might involve the rights of an employer and employee in a matter of termination of employment, or whether or not dressing and dining facilities in a factory are adequate. The decisions made and the advice given on these problems play quite an important role in the overall field of industrial relations.

The course covers those questions which frequently arise on matters such as annual holidays, sick leave, statutory holidays and long service leave. Other sessions are designed to give a better understanding of difficult areas such as the rights and obligations of employers and employees in relation to engagement and termination of employment. The more important sections of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act and the Factories and Shops Act are also included in the course.

This course does not duplicate any of the subject matter of courses in industrial relations which are available at tertiary institutions.

(2) The course is conducted on four consecutive Tuesdays of each month from February to November. Each session commences at 9.15 a.m. and ceases at 1 p.m. A paper is presented on each of the 10 subjects dealt with during the course. Altogether there are over 70 pages of valuable and instructive notes which may be kept by those persons attending the course for reference purposes. The course is provided free of charge and morning tea is provided.

(3) The course is aimed at trainee industrial officers, newly appointed trade union officials, personnel officers, wages clerks, supervisors and other interested persons.

It is considered that the course is of benefit to all personnel in the industrial field and particularly those whose duties are associated with the employment and payment of the work-force in private industry. The course is conducted on a group-discussion basis, and this means that the number of persons attending is limited to groups consisting of from eight to 12 persons.

During the year ended 30 June 1981, 75 persons attended the 10 courses which were held.

18. Increases in Departmental Fees and Charges

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

With reference to the increases in public fees and charges that have occurred in departments under his control following the presentation of the Budget—

- (1) Why were these increases not announced in the Budget?
- (2) Which departments under his control have increased their fees and charges to the public?
- (3) What are the areas and the increases?
- (4) Will he table the new charges in all departments?

Answer:—

(1) The honourable member's attention is drawn to the head of page 8 of the Financial Statement of the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer made in this House on 17 September 1981.

In accordance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the fees and charges of the Department of Justice were reviewed and increases were approved to take effect from 1 October 1981.

(2) The fees and charges prescribed under certain Acts administered by the Chief Office and the following subdepartments have been increased—Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, Titles Office, Registrar General's Office, Licensing Commission, Court Reporting Bureau and the Supreme Court, District Courts and Magistrates Courts.

(3) The scales of fees under the undermentioned Acts were increased by approximately 12 per cent:—

Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976
 Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971-1981
 Bills of Sale and Other Instruments Act 1955-1971
 Building Societies Act 1886-1976
 Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980
 Business Names Act 1962-1979
 Co-operative and Other Societies Act 1967-1978
 Coroners Act 1958-1980
 District Courts Act 1967-1980
 Invasion of Privacy Act 1971-1976
 Justices Act 1886-1980
 Liquor Act 1912-1981
 Magistrates Courts Act 1921-1976
 Money Lenders Act 1916-1979
 Property Law Act 1974-1978
 Real Property Act 1861-1981
 Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1962-1981
 Supreme Court Act 1921-1979
 Cash Orders Regulation Acts, 1946 to 1959
 Recording of Evidence Acts, 1962 to 1968.

(4) The relevant Orders in Council, regulations and Rules of Court prescribing the increased fees were laid upon the table of this House on 6 October 1981.

19. Airstrips on Land Leased by Land Administration Commission

Mr McLean asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

(1) How many tourism leases administered by the Land Administration Commission, having airstrips constructed and maintained by lessees, are there in Queensland and where are they situated?

(2) What conditions for usage of such airstrips are specified in lease or other documents by the Land Administration Commission, and do lessees have the right to restrict the use of airstrips to their own clients?

Answer:—

(1) To my knowledge, there are nine airstrips associated with tourism leases within Queensland, these being on Lizard Island, Dunk Island, Wild Duck Island, Tangalooma, Great Keppel Island, Hamilton Island, Lindeman Island, Fraser Island and Brampton Island.

(2) Generally, the conditions are that such airstrips be installed and maintained by lessees to the requirements of the Commonwealth Department of Transport. Lessees generally have the power to restrict and/or charge for usage of airstrips other than by their own clients.

20. Early-education and Pre-school Facilities, Non-State Schools

Mr Row asked the Minister for Education—

What encouragement is given by his department to those non-State schools that wish to add early-education or pre-school facilities to their primary school establishments?

Answer:—

Per capita payments are available to non-State schools operating pre-school facilities. These recurrent grants equal 50 per cent of those paid in respect of primary school children. Interest payments on approved capital expenditure may also be subsidised.

21. Land Administration Commission Land, Toohey Forest Park Area

Mr Scassola asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

(1) Is the Land Administration Commission the owner of land on the south-western side of Messines Ridge Road, Mt Gravatt, opposite Gaynesford Road, forming part of what is commonly known as Toohey Forest Park?

(2) What is the description and area of such land?

(3) Does the Land Administration Commission propose to subdivide such land and, if so, what is the purpose of any such subdivision?

Answer:—

(1) The Crown is the owner of the land referred to, which is not, and never has been, part of Toohey Forest Park. Land comprising that park is held in fee simple by the Brisbane City Council.

(2) At present, the subject area of about 7 ha is vacant Crown land and is contained in portions 338, 339 and part of Shire Road.

(3) Yes. It is proposed to subdivide the subject land into 70 high-quality residential allotments. Planning for this development has already commenced.

22. Assistance to Handicapped Children Under Schools Commission Special Education Program

Mr Scassola asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Has his department made application under the Schools Commission Special Education Program for allocation of moneys to assist in the integration of handicapped children into regular schools?

(2) How have any such moneys been expended?

(3) In particular, what classes of handicap and what numbers of handicapped children have been integrated under that program?

Answer:—

(1) The Commonwealth Schools Commission, under the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act of 1980, made available to the State Department of Education on 14 July 1981 funds totalling \$112,450 to assist in the integration of handicapped children into regular schools during 1981. A further \$52,550 was made available to non-Government schools in Queensland. It is anticipated that further funds will be made available each year until 1984. Guide-lines for the use of funds have been laid down by the Schools Commission.

(2) The Integration of Handicapped Children in Regular Schools Program has been administered in Queensland by a joint committee of representatives from my Department of Education, the Catholic Education Commission, and the Association of Independent Schools. This committee reviewed submissions and recommended specific projects to the Schools Commission for funding. Funds were subsequently made available for integration programs in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Gympie, Murgon, Warwick and Nambour areas and to the Isolated Children's Special Education Unit which services children on correspondence and in small schools in outback areas.

(3) Children benefiting from the funds allocated in 1981 include the intellectually handicapped, the cerebral palsied, the emotionally disturbed, the learning disabled and the geographically disadvantaged. The broad scope of the projects funded and the short period of operation preclude the availability of precise details at the present time.

23. Traffic-planning for Commonwealth Games

Mr Scassola asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware of allegations recently made by Alderman St Ledger of the Brisbane City Council that the State Government has lacked initiative in traffic-planning for the Commonwealth Games?

(2) Will he outline the initiatives taken by the Government in this important matter?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) No. If such an allegation were made it would be without foundation, as the Brisbane City Council itself, as the traffic authority for the area, is responsible for the traffic-planning for the Commonwealth Games.

The council is represented on various State Government committees which are actively assisting in the planning of transport and traffic requirements for the Games, such as the Brisbane Transportation Study Policy Committee and its Technical Committee and the Metropolitan Transit Authority and its Planning Advisory Committee.

The State Government, of course, is also represented on the Commonwealth Games Foundation Transport Committee, which is actively pursuing co-ordinated planning for the Games. I might mention also the Government's decision to push ahead with the electrification of the rail line to Kingston to enable the Brisbane City Council to co-ordinate bus services to Sunnybank and Banoon with the Commonwealth Games site.

In addition, the Metropolitan Transit Authority has appointed a transport co-ordinator to liaise with all the authorities concerned with traffic-planning for the Games, particularly the Brisbane City Council, to ensure that everything possible is done to effectively plan the traffic and transport requirements.

The honourable member would also be aware of the Government's decision to push ahead with the extension of the freeway past the Commonwealth Games site to ensure that traffic movement to and from the city is unimpeded.

24. Low-interest Government Loans

Mr Eaton asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

What loans has this Government made, with or without security, at 1 per cent interest for any purpose such as the fishing industry, rural industries, small business or housing?

Answer:—

I refer the honourable member to page seven of the Auditor-General's Report upon the Audits of Departmental Accounts and other Accounts wherein reference is made to a 1 per cent interest rate. I know of no other.

25. Housing Commission Accommodation, Rural Areas and Innisfail Area

Mr Eaton asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

With reference to the shortage of housing in the smaller rural areas for both public servants and the general public—

(1) Has the Government any set program regarding the building of Queensland Housing Commission residences in these areas, such as Mt Garnet, Ravenshoe and Herberton?

(2) Has the Government any plans for building more Queensland Housing Commission houses in Innisfail for rental in view of the number of applications to the Queensland Housing Commission for loans by intending house owners in the Innisfail area?

Answer:—

(1) The Housing Commission caters for welfare housing, and its construction program for rental is framed on the basis of demand shown in applications. It has one rental house at Mount Garnet, three at Ravenshoe and none at Herberton. There are no applications at any centre.

Welfare lending by first-mortgage finance follows the pattern of consumer demand irrespective of location.

(2) At Innisfail, the commission has 63 rental houses for welfare letting. There are 13 applications, including two with some degree of under-housing.

In the past 12 months, 10 houses, including nine defence houses, have been transferred from other purposes to welfare housing.

In the three months July, August and September 1981, three requests for low-income mortgage finance were received from Innisfail, of which two were approved.

Construction programs are reviewed annually.

26. Solar Water-heating in Government Houses

Mr Prentice asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many houses are owned by the State Government and what proportion of these are equipped with solar water-heating systems?

(2) Have any State Government houses been converted to solar water-heating in the last two years and, if so, how many?

(3) What plans exist to convert to or equip houses with solar water-heating in the future?

Answer:—

(1) 2 429 houses are owned by the State Government for use by Crown employees (excluding Railway Department) and six of these have been equipped with solar hot-water systems over recent years. Four of these were provided with monitoring equipment to evaluate performance.

(2) Approval has recently been given for one residence in Townsville to be converted to solar water-heating but work has not yet commenced.

(3) None at this stage. Insufficient data is available to justify conversion, but on preliminary information available it is doubtful whether solar hot-water will be a proposition. It will take approximately another 12 months before results can be tabulated and analysed and conclusions reached.

In addition to solar hot-water systems installed in public service housing, 186 solar hot-water systems have been installed in new residences built by the Department of Works for the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement in the north of the State, mainly in the Gulf area.

The Queensland Housing Commission has 21 311 single houses with no installations of solar hot-water system and there are no plans at this time to make such installations.

27. Crane Accident, Burleigh Heads

Mr Jennings asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

With reference to the crane accident at Burleigh Heads on Saturday, 3 October—

(1) How long has this crane been in operation in Queensland and did it have a current certificate of inspection?

(2) Has it been used in other parts of Australia and, if so, for how long?

(3) Have problems been experienced with this type of crane when operated in high winds?

(4) Were certificated and experienced personnel in charge at the time of the accident?

Answer:—

(1) This machine was first inspected in Brisbane on 7 August 1980 and from time to time in Brisbane until May 1981. The machine was erected on the Gold Coast and tested in August 1981 and found satisfactory. A certificate of inspection has been issued.

(2) Departmental technical experts believe that the only models of this crane are in Queensland. They have seen service in Darwin but not in any other State.

(3) No. Departmental technical experts advise that this type of crane is designed to operate in winds up to 20 metres per second (45 miles per hour). However, it would be expected that a responsible contractor would cease operating long before winds reached such a strength.

(4) A properly certificated crane driver was operating the machine and a properly certificated dogman was directing the crane driver and others from the ground.

28. Tower Cranes, Gold Coast Construction Sites

Mr Jennings asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

With reference to his answer to my question of 7 October, wherein he advised that information about tower cranes on the Gold Coast is difficult to extract and would take many hours to research, is it now possible to obtain details of the tower cranes in operation on the Gold Coast construction sites?

Answer:—

It has not been possible to obtain detailed information of the origin of all tower cranes in use on the Gold Coast. Nevertheless, a list has been prepared detailing other relevant information on every crane in use in the area.

As the table is difficult to read out, I ask leave for it to be incorporated in "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

Answer (contd):—

The amount of work on the Gold Coast exceeds that of any other area of Australia.

South Coast Machine No.	Make and Size of Machine	Owner of Machine	Builder	Location	Last Annual Inspection	Last Patrol Inspection	Present Installation Approval (Division)	Condition at last Inspection
M1251 ..	Favco 250 ..	McMaster ..	McMaster ..	"Cashelmara" Burleigh	13-8-81	13-8-81	3268/84B	Satisfactory
M918 ..	Favco 350 ..	J. K. Hire ..	Fletcher Watts	"Esplanade" Burleigh	12-8-81	12-8-81	5226/124B	Satisfactory
M1732 ..	Favco 350 ..	F. A. Pidgeon ..	F. A. Pidgeon ..	"Talisman" Broadbeach	14-5-81	7-7-81	5226/113B	Satisfactory
M1731 ..	Favco 250 ..	General Contract ..	Carlton P/L ..	"Ocean Royale" Broadbeach	15-5-81	29-9-81	3268/89B	Satisfactory
M1408 ..	Favco 350 ..	Westminster Plant Hire ..	Jennings Ind. ..	"Carool" Coolangatta	20-10-80	9-9-81	5226/120B	Satisfactory
M1398 ..	Favco 350 ..	Project Hire ..	Fletcher Watts	"Sunbird Plaza" Main Beach	15-10-80	1-10-81	5226/126B	Satisfactory
M1746 ..	Superjoey ..	Watkins ..	Watkins ..	"Norfolk" Main Beach	6-5-81	24-8-81	7036/4B	Satisfactory
M1402 ..	Favco 350 ..	Project Hire ..	Dainford P/L ..	"Peninsula" Surfers	14-5-81	10-9-81	5226/127B	Satisfactory
M1236 ..	Favco 350 ..	Project Hire ..	Dainford P/L ..	"Peninsula" Surfers	14-5-81	10-9-81	5226/127B	Satisfactory
M1785 ..	Favco 350 ..	Project Hire ..	Dainford P/L ..	"Peninsula" Surfers	10-9-81	10-9-81	5226/127B	Satisfactory
M1756 ..	Favco 250 ..	General Contract ..	Kislap P/L ..	"Chateau Royale" Coolangatta	10-7-81	9-9-81	3268/100B	Satisfactory
M1766 ..	Favco 750 ..	Project Hire ..	Fletcher Watts	"Surfrider" Main Beach	29-7-81	29-7-81	4410/13B	Satisfactory
M1754 ..	Favco 250 ..	General Contract ..	Raptis Dev. ..	"Biarritz" Broadbeach	13-7-81	7-9-81	3268/94B	Satisfactory

South Coast Machine No.	Make and Size of Machine	Owner of Machine	Builder	Location	Last Annual Inspection	Last Patrol Inspection	Present Installation Approval (Division)	Condition at last Inspection
M1445 ..	Favco 350 ..	Mars Contract ..	Hansen & Yunc-ken	"Eamon" South-port	6-3-81	21-9-81	5226/119B	Satisfactory
M1662 ..	Favco 350 ..	Allover Crane Hire	Hansen & Yunc-ken	"Aspen" South-port	25-3-81	20-8-81	5226/119B	Satisfactory
M655 ..	Favco 250 ..	McMaster ..	McMaster ..	"Edgewater" Surfers	12-8-81	12-8-81	3268/75B	Satisfactory
M1617 ..	Favco 500 ..	Graham Evans	Graham Evans	"Atlantis" Surfers	19-11-80	21-9-81	4410/15B	Satisfactory
M39 ..	Favco 350 ..	Graham Evans	Graham Evans	"Atlantis" Surfers	20-5-81	20-5-81	5226/111B	Satisfactory
M886 ..	Favco 250 ..	McMaster ..	Carlton P/L ..	"Ocean Royale" Broadbeach	12-11-81	15-9-81	3268/89B	Satisfactory
M1291 ..	Favco 250 ..	A.H.R. ..	A.H.R. ..	"Hibiscus" Main Beach	3-8-81	3-8-81	3268/88B	Satisfactory
M1675 ..	Favco 250 ..	Fricker Bros. ..	Fricker Bros. ..	"Carrington" Main Beach	6-3-81	22-9-81	3268/83B	Satisfactory
M1727 ..	Favco 350 ..	Hansen & Yunc-ken	Hansen & Yunc-ken	"Resort" Surfers	7-5-81	17-9-81	5226/120B	Satisfactory
M879 ..	Favco 350 ..	F. A. Pidgeon ..	F. A. Pidgeon ..	"Zenith" Surfers	3-5-81	27-8-81	5226/110B	Satisfactory
M1612 ..	Favco 350 ..	Project Hire ..	Dainford P/L	"Beachcomber" Surfers	14-5-81	10-9-81	5226/114B	Satisfactory
M1487 ..	Favco 350 ..	Project Hire ..	Fletcher Watts	"Sunbird Plaza" Main Beach	15-5-81	1-10-81	5226/126B	Satisfactory
M1643 ..	Favco 250 ..	General Contract	Raptis Dev. ..	"Acapulco" Surfers	5-1-81	4-8-81	3268/86B	Satisfactory
M1755 ..	Favco 250 ..	General Contract	Raptis Dev. ..	"Biarritz" Broad-beach	13-7-81	7-9-81	3268/94B	Satisfactory

South Coast Machine No.	Make and Size of Machine	Owner of Machine	Builder	Location	Last Annual Inspection	Last Patrol Inspection	Present Installation Approval (Division)	Condition at last Inspection
M1768 ..	Favco 250 ..	J. K. Hydraul. . .	Fletcher Watts	"Chealsea" Broadbeach	21-7-81	21-7-81	3268/	Satisfactory
M1605 ..	Favco 250 ..	Westminster Plant Hire	Costain Aust. . .	"Old Burleigh Place" Burleigh	4-11-80	18-8-8	3268/98B	Satisfactory
M1786 ..	Favco 250 ..	A.H.R. . .	A.H.R. . .	"Capricorn One" Main Beach	21-8-81	12-8-81	3268/	Satisfactory
M1272 ..	Favco 250 ..	World Services	Graham Evans	"Atlantis" Surfers	13-8-81	13-8-81	3268/103B	Satisfactory
E22730 ..	Leibherr ..	Pontello ..	Pontello ..	Main Beach ..	Awaiting file	6-8-81		Satisfactory
M1787 ..	Favco 350 ..	White Ind. . .	White Ind. . .	"Boulevard" Broadbeach	18-9-81	18-9-81	5226/131B	Satisfactory
M1793 ..	Favco 250 ..	Hodge Hire	Chard Roberts	Albert Ave Broadbeach	29-9-81	29-9-81	3268/100B	Satisfactory
M1794 ..	Favco 500 ..	Melco Hire	McMaster ..	"Colwell" Burleigh	1-10-81	1-10-81	4410/	Satisfactory
M1488 ..	Favco 350 ..	Allover Hire	Hansen & Yunc-ken	"East West" Surfers	1-10-81	1-10-81	5226/105B	Satisfactory
M1795 ..	Favco 250 ..	Watkins ..	Watkins ..	"La Pacificque" Burleigh	Insp. owners yard recently Brisbane	Erected 8-10-81	3268/4B	Satisfactory

29. TAB Race-broadcasting Service

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

With reference to the statement in its 1981 report that the TAB had entered into an agreement with radio station 4BC to give “effective from 1/10/81 a vastly increased broadcasting service throughout Queensland which will result in greater investments in the TAB”—

- (1) How many Queensland radio stations have access to this race-broadcasting service?
- (2) Which is the most northerly of these?
- (3) When will the service be made available to radio stations in the far northern listening area, and what are the names of these stations?
- (4) What will the service cost each of the stations involved?
- (5) Will each of these stations have a discretion to take up and use the land-line service made available?

Answer:—

(1) It is not known at this stage how many radio stations will ultimately avail themselves of this service.

(2) Queensland stations comprehensively using the new facility are in the south-east corner of Queensland.

(3) Negotiations are taking place with Telecom for the provisions of land-lines to all TAB offices so that race descriptions and information will be disseminated from the TAB offices for the use by radio stations in all these areas.

(4) There will not be any cost for the service to the radio stations availing themselves of it.

(5) Yes.

I take cognisance of the honourable member's question. I appreciate that some areas in the State are not presently receiving this service. When it is understood that the land-lines are provided free into places such as Townsville, Cairns and elsewhere, I believe that radio stations in those areas will be obliged to take advantage of them and provide a service to their many listeners. It is obvious that questions such as that asked by the honourable member should help to get the story across.

30. Destruction of Rain Forests, Helenvale/Rossville Area

Mr Scott asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

(1) Do his departmental officers make regular inspections of the Helenvale/Rossville area to ensure that the extensive destruction of rain forests being carried out by mining companies in this area does not involve the loss of millable timber?

(2) What account do his officers take of the loss of juvenile timber species in this extensive mining disruption of the terrain?

(3) Do his officers volunteer reports to the Mines Department on which an assessment of mining companies' performance in regard to their environmental responsibilities can be based?

(4) When did his officers last assess the area referred to?

(5) Has the department placed locked gates on roads leading from the Rossville area to the Windsor Tableland?

Answer:—

(1) Forestry officers do not make regular inspections of the Helenvale/Rossville area, because it is a timber reserve rather than a State forest, and because of its isolation from any significant forestry operations. The conditions of the mining leases provide that the mining companies shall pay royalty on the millable timber destroyed in their operations.

(2) Conditions of mining leases on timber reserves require minimum destruction of trees, including juvenile trees, during mining operations. The mining companies are not charged for juvenile trees destroyed.

(3) It is not standard practice for forestry officers to provide reports to the Mines Department on the performance of mining companies.

(4) The Forest Ranger, Cairns, has recently inspected operations on one of the mining leases in the Rossville area.

(5) No.

31.

Auckland-Gold Coast Direct Air Link

Mr Borbidge asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

(1) Is he aware of statements made in Auckland on the weekend of 10/11 October by the Deputy Premier of Tasmania that his Government would ask Canberra to permit additional Trans-Tasman flights between Hobart and major New Zealand cities?

(2) Will he make further representations to Canberra in regard to a direct air link between Auckland and the Gold Coast, especially taking into account the fact that the Gold Coast is the favoured holiday destination of New Zealanders?

Answer:—

(1) Yes, although I am informed that the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation is not aware of any approach made by any airline for a second Tasmania-New Zealand connection.

(2) Recent representations made in this regard to the Commonwealth Minister for Transport brought the reply that his Government has reaffirmed its policy that QANTAS should continue as Australia's sole international airline until at least the end of 1981. He stated that, in view of this decision, the Commonwealth Government will not be considering proposals by Australian domestic airlines to operate international services in their own right before the review of airline policy has been completed. When that review is completed and the Commonwealth Government has decided on the review recommendations, the future of Cooloongatta as an international airport will be re-examined and no doubt consideration given to a Gold Coast-New Zealand connection.

However, in the meantime, and because of the honourable member's positive efforts and concern in this regard, I will certainly arrange for his representations to be brought to the notice of the Commonwealth Minister for Transport so that the Minister is aware that the establishment of such an air link is considered of great importance to the Gold Coast and to Queensland.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Machinery Inspections

Mr CASEY: In directing a question to the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations, I refer to the answer that he gave to the member for Everton during question-time yesterday regarding the concern expressed by the Auditor-General at the lack of machinery inspections being carried out by the Department of Employment and Labour Relations, and, consequently, the concern regarding safety standards in the construction industry in Queensland.

I also refer to the annual report of the Chief Safety Engineer and Chief Inspector of Machinery (Construction Work and Motor Vehicles) which was recently tabled by him in State Parliament. The report of the chief inspector on page one states—

“At the present time the complement of inspectors is far below the establishment . . . unless replacements can be appointed shortly the high safety level in industry brought about currently by efforts of officers of this division must surely fall.”

They are very grave words indeed coming from the chief inspector. I now ask the Minister: As the Estimates of his department currently before the Parliament show that there will

be no increase in the staff ceilings and limitations placed on that department in 1981-82, what action is he going to take to overcome this grave problem which is of concern to every industry and every employee in Queensland?

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: If the Leader of the Opposition had listened to the answers given this morning to questions on notice—obviously he hadn't—he would have heard me outline, in answer to a question from the honourable member for Aspley, some of the matters that have received attention. In fact, the honourable member for Aspley asked the very question that the Leader of the Opposition is now asking, and I refer him to my answer to her question, No. 14.

Mr Casey: It was a different question.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: No, it is not. There is no need for the Leader of the Opposition to be impudent, as he was when asking his question. He should listen to the information that is provided.

As I said yesterday, the level of safety in industry is very high. This is revealed in the report that I tabled. The fact that all inspections cannot be carried out is a matter of concern to me, as it is to the Chief Safety Engineer. My answer today indicated the action that has been taken to overcome the problem. Of course, many construction sites do not have to be inspected; the inspectors have a discretion. As well, many are not reported to the department, so naturally inspections cannot be carried out.

As I pointed out yesterday when I released the figures, the increase in the work performed by the department is quite phenomenal and in recent years the safety record has improved.

Balances in Primary Industries Trust and Special Funds

Mr CASEY: In directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, I refer him to the balances in the Trust and Special Funds that are controlled by his department. The Beef Cattle Industry Assistance Fund has a balance of \$7.7m and will have an estimated income of \$2.6m, yet only an estimated expenditure for 1981-82 of \$1.4m; the Rural Reconstruction Fund has a balance of \$9.5m, an estimated income of \$7.9m, yet an estimated expenditure for 1981-82 of \$8.4m; and the Rural Adjustment Fund a balance of \$12.5m, an estimated income of \$10.6m and expenditure of \$6.9m for the year. I now ask: Why are these balances, which by the end of the year will total almost \$44m, being maintained at such a high level? Why is it that funds are not being utilised more effectively to benefit the farmers of Queensland?

Mr AHERN: I believe that this matter could be dealt with more properly during the debate on my department's Estimates, which are listed for discussion in this session.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Alleged Queensland Mafia Operation

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police) (12 noon): Mr Speaker, I advise the Parliament that I have taken the necessary steps to commence police inquiries into serious allegations made by the honourable member for Archerfield against senior police officers and members of Parliament. As the House is not sitting this afternoon, I have asked the Commissioner for Police to wait on the honourable member at his convenience. The commissioner will also speak to any other member of Parliament or any member of the news media who believes that he has any information in his possession that could assist the Police Department in its inquiries into these obviously serious allegations. The commissioner has advised me that he will commence the investigation immediately.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Sale of Blair Athol Steaming Coal

Mr VAUGHAN (Nudgee) (12.1 p.m.): In this Matters of Public Interest debate today I want to speak about the recently announced sale of Blair Athol steaming coal to Japanese power companies.

On page 1 of "The Courier-Mail" of Saturday, 18 July 1981, the heading of an article by Noel Bushnell read, "Japan signs up in \$2,700m coal deal". The article went on to state that a \$2,700m contract had been signed to sell 72 million tonnes of Blair Athol steaming coal to the Japan Coal Development Company Ltd and the Japanese Electric Power Development Company Ltd over a period of 15 years from 1984. According to my calculations 72 million tonnes for \$2,700m works out at \$37.50 a tonne.

However, the then acting Minister for Mines and Energy (Mr Wharton) claimed that that figure was "way off the mark" and that the contract, on an energy-adjusted basis, provides the highest freight-on-board price ever negotiated anywhere in the world for a long-term agreement of that nature. Notwithstanding what the acting Minister might have meant by the term "energy-adjusted"—and I would like to know what he meant—either the report in "The Courier-Mail" was not correct or the Government has developed its own method of accounting.

I hope the report in "The Courier-Mail" is not correct and that in fact the contract is for much more than \$2,700m. If what the acting Minister says is true then the report is not correct. If that is the case I want to know how such an incorrect report came to be published and why it has not been corrected. Does it mean that the announcement which was released by the Blair Athol Coal Company on Friday, 17 July 1981, on which "The Courier-Mail" article was based contained incorrect or false information or does it mean that the announcement was misreported? As the Opposition Mines and Energy spokesman I would like to know what the true position is.

What are the terms of the contract? How much per tonne are we selling our prime steaming coal for? I take this opportunity to call on the Minister for Mines and Energy to provide this Parliament with the correct terms of the contract because the people of this State are entitled to know exactly how and for how much the natural resources of this State are being disposed of by this Government.

As I have said, I sincerely hope that we are to receive more than \$37.50 a tonne for 72 million tonnes of Blair Athol steaming coal because, according to figures issued by the Queensland Coal Board on Wednesday, 22 July 1981, the current price of steaming coal is \$40-plus a tonne. If that is the price now, what will it be in three years' time when the contract starts and what will it be in 1999 when the 15 years are up?

I point out that in May 1979, when this contract was first being talked about, the price was quoted as \$24 a tonne. In August 1979, another report in "The Courier-Mail" mentioned a \$2,000m deal to sell 75 million tonnes of Blair Athol coal, which puts the price at around \$27 a tonne.

Another interesting point is the comment of the former Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr Camm, when he returned from a visit to Japan in March 1980. Mr Camm was reported as saying—

"During the past nine months or so, steaming coal prices have risen by about \$10 a tonne to \$36 a tonne and there is every likelihood that it will not be very long before the price of steaming coal is matching the current price of about \$50 a tonne for coking coal and even going beyond that figure."

I would emphasise that that was the position in March last year.

Another interesting comment made by Mr Camm at that time was his reference to the Japan Coal Development Company, which he said would be involving itself in the purchasing of coal for Japan's nine electricity-generating companies and the Government-involved Electric Power Development Company.

In view of Mr Camm's remarks, the position seems to be that a contract has been entered into to supply 72 million tonnes of prime quality steaming coal to the whole of

Japan's power industry at a price of only \$37.50 a tonne up to the year 1999. If the Minister, on behalf of the Government, will not come forward with the terms of the contract, as I have asked him to do, I believe that the Federal Government should intervene. If we are not to get any more than the \$37.50 a tonne, the Federal Government should insist that the contract be re-negotiated, with Government involvement in such negotiations to ensure that the interests of the people are protected. If the Blair Athol Coal Company, in which of course the Japanese power companies will have an interest, is satisfied with a price of \$37.50 a tonne, I believe that anything that can be negotiated above that figure should go to the Government.

Blair Athol coal is a prime steaming coal. It is a high-energy coal which is low in ash and impurities, and it is ideal for steam production. That is why the Japanese power companies want it.

According to the 1979-80 Queensland Coal Board annual report, the price of Blair Athol coal at the pit-head was \$10.85 per tonne as at June 1980, compared with \$25.53 for West Moreton steaming coal. The reason that Blair Athol coal can be produced for such a low price is that it can be mined by open-cut methods and the actual seam is 29 metres (95 feet) thick. If honourable members look at the photograph on the front page of this report—

Mr Moore: It cannot be put in "Hansard".

Mr VAUGHAN: I know. They can see the black mark on the photograph. That is coal. It is such a beautiful coal seam.

Because of these factors and because of the increasing world demand for steaming coal, it is my opinion that we should not be selling Blair Athol coal by direct contract. While we have an abundance of steaming coal—estimated to be at least 12 000 million tonnes—much of it is underground coal and it is not all of the same high quality as Blair Athol coal.

I believe that, in view of the anticipated demand for steaming coal, we should be doing everything possible now to ensure maximum utilisation of this State's steaming coal resources. According to the figures released recently by the Queensland Coal Board, exports of steaming coal increased from only 360 000 tonnes in 1979-80 to 1.4 million tonnes in 1980-81—an increase of 68.4 per cent. According to the world coal study which was released last year, this is only the start.

Rather than rushing in to sell off our low-cost, prime-quality steaming coal such as at Blair Athol, before we commit ourselves to long-term contracts such as the one I have mentioned we should be planning the way in which we can develop our steaming coal resources so that we have rationalisation of production between the cheap open-cut coal and the dearer underground coal. We should also be investigating how we can blend our high-quality coal with low-quality coal to produce a product acceptable to potential customers. I believe that in this way we can find ready use for the millions of tonnes of discard coal that is produced each year from the mining of coal in this State—9 million tonnes in 1979-80, 24 per cent of all raw coal mined.

But we have to do these things now, not in five or ten years' time. I would like to see the Queensland Coal Board controlling and co-ordinating the production and sale of all of our coal. In this way I believe we would have planned balanced development, which would be in the best interest of the staff and the people in it.

The way we are going about things at present is not, in my opinion, the best way of doing things. Certainly the Queensland Coal Board exercises control of the production and sale of coal for the domestic market, but why not for the export market? The power is there under existing legislation if the Government wants to allow it.

While I fully appreciate that the Government is a free-enterprise Government and that it believes that coal-mining companies should be allowed to negotiate the sale of our coal around the world unrestrained, I believe that that is being extremely short-sighted and is playing right into the hands of the overseas buyers. Queensland companies are competing against each other for sales while the buyers play each company off against the other. It would not be so bad if the buyers acted individually but, as I see it, most of them buy as a group and do not compete against one another.

As I have pointed out in respect of the Blair Athol contract, the contract is not to sell steaming coal to individual Japanese power companies. The contract is to sell 72 million tonnes of steaming coal to the Japan Coal Development Company, which, as Mr Camm said, purchases coal for Japan's nine power-generating companies and the Japanese Government's Electric Power Development Company Ltd.

I have said it before and I will say it again: steaming coal to us could be what oil is to the Arabs. It all depends how we develop and sell this valuable resource. It is no good the Government telling us what a rich State we live in, unless the people of the State derive some real benefit from the development and sale of those valuable resources.

Sitting Hours of Parliament

Mr SCASSOLA (Mt Gravatt) (12.11 p.m.): I desire to make some observations on the practices followed in the conduct of the business of the House.

This Parliament is in the twilight of its first session. Excluding this week, some six weeks, or 18 sitting days, remain. For three of those weeks the House will have as its primary business the examination of six departmental Estimates. As a result, only six days will remain for the consideration of legislation.

Since the House resumed sitting in early August, a number of Bills have been dealt with, most of which have been relatively minor or machinery. An examination of the Bills currently on the Business Paper certainly does not disclose any legislation of earth-shattering significance, but of course that might well change. I believe that as the end of the session approaches the Government will inevitably be tempted to have the House sit into the early hours of the morning to ensure the passage of legislation. We have seen some evidence of that.

Despite the fact that the House has for some weeks dealt with only relatively minor legislation, and, indeed on some occasions has adjourned early because it was felt that some business should remain on the Business Paper, last Tuesday week, the first day of the Budget debate, it was decided that the House should sit until 12.30 a.m. Last night the House debated legislation of a non-urgent nature until well after 11 o'clock.

Although I recognise that the Government is entitled to have its legislative program dealt with by the House, and although I recognise that from time to time occasions may arise that necessitate sitting late into the night, as a general rule I do not believe that there is any justification for the House to consider legislation till a late hour, and certainly not beyond 11 p.m. Sittings beyond that time are quite unnecessary; they are unreasonable and unwise. Certainly, the community regards late sittings as an absurdity. A comment that is frequently made to me is, "How can you possibly work at such a late hour? How can you properly consider matters before you? How can you concentrate?" Not only are most of us unable to function effectively at a late hour, but our performance on the following day is also affected.

Late sittings do nothing to enhance the standing of members of Parliament in the eyes of the community or to enhance the quality of debate. They have an adverse effect on the public perception of Parliament; indeed, they reflect on the management of Parliament. In short, they reflect no credit on the Parliament at all. It would be much more sensible for the House to sit on a Wednesday or a Friday and to rise at an earlier and more acceptable hour. In fact, I believe it would be much more sensible and much more effective, and, indeed, the House would sit for longer hours, if it commenced its business at 2.15 p.m. and continued until 10.30 p.m. on each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. That would enable Committees of the House, such as they are, to meet in the mornings and for party meetings to be disposed of so that the business of the House could be conducted without interruption during those hours. I believe that is a matter of considerable importance that requires urgent attention. There is no better time than now to look at that question.

I also express concern that important legislation will be brought forward for discussion and determination in the closing stages of this Parliament. When the present procedure for the processing of Bills through the House was introduced, the House was given an assurance that members would have reasonable opportunity, following the introduction of a Bill, to

consider it before the resumption of the second-reading debate. Despite that, we have seen instances in past sessions in which important legislation has passed through all stages in a matter of days.

I fear that not only will the House have a number of Bills presented to it in the twilight of this session, but also that in a number of instances its urgent approval of legislation will be sought. While I recognise that there are circumstances in which urgency may be established, in the vast majority of cases legislation presented to this Parliament should be allowed to remain on the table of the House for a sufficient period to enable members to peruse it, to absorb it, and to seek the views of the community on it.

The fact that there may be a bank-up of legislation is not of itself sufficient reason for seeking the urgent approval of legislation. There ought to be proper programming of legislation to ensure that that does not occur. Clearly, legislation which is lengthy, or legislation which deals with complex issues, important social questions or matters affecting a wide spectrum of the community, should remain on the table of the House for a period. The more complex or voluminous the legislation or the wider its impact, the longer that period should be. For example, I suggest that it was reasonable for a Bill containing the recent amendments to the Oaths Acts to be dealt with expeditiously—in a matter of days—because it was a very simple machinery matter. Very substantial legislation such as the Education Act should remain on the table of the House not for days but for weeks or even months, to allow adequate scrutiny and comment by members of the House and also comment from interested people in the community. I recognise that that has occurred in a number of instances in the past, and it has been to the credit of the Government that it has. The Government certainly has not suffered by it, and I would hope that we will see much more of that in the future.

It has been said by some members of the House that it is not necessary to consult because we are elected to make decisions. I beg to differ. I believe that consultation with one's constituents is an integral part of the duty of any member of Parliament and, indeed, is a very important part of the democratic process. Surely an individual citizen in a democracy is entitled to expect that he will be given the opportunity of making a comment, at the very least, on important legislation that is likely to affect his existence.

If the Government considers that a particular Bill falls within that exceptional category of legislation which should be dealt with urgently, I suggest that the Minister having the conduct of the legislation should intimate to the House that the Government regards the particular legislation as being urgent. He should also outline to the House the reasons supporting the claim for urgency. Last night we saw a step in the right direction when the Minister for Racing intimated that the Bill amending the Racing and Betting Act introduced last night and currently before the House was considered to be urgent. It is also important that the House be acquainted with the reasons for it.

In the light of what I have said, I believe that it is important to examine very carefully future proposals put forward for the urgent consideration of legislation. I reiterate that legislation of great importance ought to remain on the table of the House for such time as is necessary to enable it to be considered and to enable the consultative process to take effect.

Aboriginal and Islander Health

Mr ROW (Hinchinbrook) (12.21 p.m.): I believe that I have the support of all Government members when I express dissatisfaction and disgust at the fact that Aboriginal and Islander Queenslanders are being told constantly that their future is different from that facing their fellow Queenslanders and that they must live out that dismal prospect in the relative isolation that will result from the creation of separate circumstances that are the basis of the land rights issue. Of course, little support for those sentiments would be forthcoming from Opposition members, as often they have publicly committed themselves to such an immoral course of action.

Mr Scott: You don't even know them and you don't know what you are talking about.

Mr ROW: It is rather ironical that it was the honourable member for Cook who got rid of the only representative that the Aboriginal and Islander people of Queensland had in this Chamber. The hypocrisy displayed by Opposition members compels me not to take any further interjections from them on this issue.

Anyone who listens to comments by Opposition members on Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, reads newspapers or watches television cannot help reaching the conclusion that all activity relating to Aborigines and Islanders in Queensland revolves around the administration of reserves and that people are nothing. To some extent, I can understand the reasons for this one-sided and superficial view. The Labor Party has the unhappy task of trying to score points even though it has been out of government and relegated to the political wilderness for so long that I begin to wonder whether it knows what the issue is all about. The performance in this Chamber of Opposition members in relation to Aboriginal and Islander affairs would not encourage anyone to have faith or confidence in them. Labor members continue to set up the Aboriginal people as pawns in their game of shabby politics.

Unfortunately, all too often the media are interested only in the sensational, not in the commonplace and real story of steady success of most activities undertaken by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement. An examination of the department's annual reports reveals much detail and a picture of a wide-ranging approach to the advancement of assistance to Aboriginal and Islander citizens both on reserves and in the towns and cities throughout the State. A number of these aspects are seldom if ever recognised, yet I am sure that they are of tremendous significance to the people whom they assist. They are, of course, part and parcel of the overall policy of offering general and special assistance to Aboriginal and Islander citizens in need, so that they may have equal opportunity to that of all other citizens in the future.

This then is a very appropriate time for me to emphasise these important and often unrecognised services together with the very real achievements that are being made. Queensland is a leader in Aboriginal health. In recent weeks in this Chamber, the honourable members for Ipswich West and Townsville South have tried to denigrate that fact. Advances throughout Australia are based on work undertaken initially by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Here the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement works closely with the State Health Department on Aboriginal health programs and provides funds to the Queensland Health Education Council for the implementation of an Aboriginal health education program.

Throughout the State the provision of medical facilities in all Aboriginal and Islander communities has been given high priority by this Government. Facilities range from fully equipped hospitals to clinics and medical aid centres, backed up by outside assistance, including nearby hospitals, aerial ambulance and the Flying Doctor Service. Indeed, full-scale hospitals exist on some of the reserves. In the Torres Strait, light aircraft, ambulance launches and two-way radio provide medical staff with an effective service. Specialists also visit all communities on a regular basis.

The involvement of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement in the provision of medical facilities includes a co-ordinating function, the supply of specific services when these are not met by other State Government agencies and a support role to ensure that Aborigines and Islanders are able to take advantage of available facilities. The proof of the success of this concerted approach to health matters is to be found in statistics freely available to any honourable member on the other side of the House who shows sufficient genuine interest in Aboriginal and Island Affairs, and not just politically inspired cynicism, which is practised by some critics, and frequently supported by the media.

For those who have not bothered to make themselves acquainted with these matters, I draw particular attention to two recent reports, one by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Health and the other by the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists on Trachoma and Eye Health. The all-party House of Representatives Standing Committee's Report on Aboriginal Health was produced after months of on-the-spot study, the hearing of 136 highly expert witnesses and access to much statistical data.

That report could not possibly be seen to have any in-built bias towards the Queensland Government. It gives an absolute denial to the anti-Queensland slander so endlessly repeated by honourable members opposite. In fact, the Federal standing committee report at paragraph 99 on page 37, referring to surveys made by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs itself, reads—

“The D.A.A. surveys show information separately for the States and the Northern Territory. This generally confirms observations of the Committee and evidence received by it that the physical environmental conditions are better in Queensland than elsewhere, and worst in the Northern Territory.”

That, I should think, is explicit enough for anybody; but the Federal committee's report then provides statistics covering all the States, the Northern Territory and the nation as a whole to give a very revealing picture of how the indigenous peoples fare across the nation. The statistics show that the crude death rate for Aboriginal Queenslanders in the five years from 1973 to 1977 dropped from 14.6 per 1000 to 9.7 per 1000. They also show in the same period that the infant mortality rate (that is, deaths in the first 12 months per 1000 live births) more than halved, with a decrease from 109.9 to 54.3. That is not a bad beginning, but it is only a beginning in the provision of better standards in Aboriginal health in the State of Queensland. As a basis for comparison, in the Northern Territory, where the Commonwealth has spent money as though it were going out of fashion, the infant mortality rate has improved only marginally from 79.7 to 74.6—a very sorry comparison with the situation in Queensland.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee's report constantly stresses that Aboriginal health is heavily dependent on having access to satisfactory general living conditions. The question then arises as to how Queensland fares in relation to the rest of Australia in this vital area. The measuring rods for community living standards as this Federal committee saw them include whether people live in homes connected by water-pipes to mains, have sewerage, use power from lines and live in a house, flat or unit that is satisfactory in terms of normal, acceptable standards. On the report's statistics, Queensland, with a third of the Australian indigenous population, leads in virtually every aspect. Some 38 000 of our people, comprising 42.9 per cent (almost half) of the Australian total, live in homes serviced by water from mains. Some 26 500, 43.8 per cent—again almost half of Australia's total—live in homes that are seweraged. Some 40 500, or 40.6 per cent of the national total, have homes with electric services from power lines. In terms of communities, 43.9 per cent—once more approaching half of the indigenous people in Australia—occupying an acceptable house, flat or unit, live here in Queensland.

(Time expired.)

Foreign Ownership of Land

Mr KRUGER (Murrumba) (12.31 p.m.): In Queensland and Australia we have been very conscious of the need for soil conservation and the need to control soil erosion. For years and years, since we started developing our rural land and coastal strips, we have tried, as individuals and as Governments, to make money available to stop soil erosion.

Now, in 1981, we are experiencing erosion of a different kind. Our soil and our heritage are being eroded by foreign investment. Queenslanders and Australians are fast losing what their fathers and grandfathers fought and died for—our land and our Australia. If we wished to purchase land in Japan and Germany, to use only a couple of countries as examples, we would not be allowed to do so; yet our Governments are doing nothing to control this extensive take-over of land. I do not mind foreigners investing in Australia and Queensland, with the profits staying in our country. My objection is to the profits from the investments leaving Australia. This is of great concern to us all.

The magnitude of the problem can be spelt out fairly well and clearly by quoting from a “*Courier-Mail*” article on 15 September as follows—

“Foreign rural ‘upsurge’

Canberra—Unreleased Federal Government figures showed a dramatic upsurge in foreign ownership of Australian rural land, according to the Opposition.

The Labor Party claimed yesterday it was an 'absolute disgrace' for the government to claim it did not know the extent of foreign holdings.

The Federal Opposition economic affairs spokesman, Mr Willis, called for a full inquiry.

Mr Willis said Foreign Investment Review Board statistics showed the board had approved 66 proposals for foreigners to buy 888,000 ha of Australian land.

He said this figure, for the first six months of this year, compared with total foreign purchases of 725,000 ha during the whole of last year.

This meant foreigners had bought more than 14,500,000 ha of Australia's agricultural land worth \$210 million since 1976.

'Most of this has been bought by absentee landlords who will now control vast tracts of prime land from foreign capitals,' Mr Willis said."

Shortly after that Mr Anthony, the Leader of the National Country Party in the Federal sphere and at that time Acting Prime Minister, was reported as follows—

"Acting Prime Minister Doug Anthony has expressed opposition to foreign investment in Australian rural land.

'It's not something I want to encourage, in fact I would like to discourage it as much as possible,' Mr Anthony said.

But he told the National Rural Press Club last week that he would not adopt an 'absolutely adamant view' because some investment proposals benefited the industry."

He was speaking as leader of the party that should be concerned.

I draw to the attention of all honourable members a book entitled "A Guide for Investors." It is sent overseas to show investors just what we have in Australia to give to them. Under the heading, "Assistance to primary producers" there appears—

"There are a number of taxation concessions designed specifically to promote the long-term viability and efficiency of the rural sector."

The various concessions are outlined. The book is sent overseas and actually encourages people to come here and take over our land. That is most unusual. We should all be made aware of it.

I refer to the 1981 National Party Conference. Agenda item 54, which was submitted by the Mirani Electorate Council, reads—

"Freehold land for Australian citizens or residents; 'That Freeholding of land be restricted to Australian citizens or residents.'"

The Minister for Lands commented that the Queensland Government has no specific legislation covering foreign investment. He then went on to spell out that the FIRB only investigated proposed sales of over \$250,000. The Minister was of the view that the approach adopted should not be rigid but rather a flexible one that would allow quick responses as situations arose. That is a wishy-washy way for a Government to react to such important issues. What the Minister is saying is that the board will bend or manipulate the rules to suit companies that might be interested. In fact, the FIRB has only once blocked the sale of a property in Queensland. An article in the "Queensland Country Life" stated—

"The Federal Government has forbidden a United States-owned company from selling its cattle property in Cape York to two other US residents."

There could be only one reason why the board would investigate this sale and then block it when it has not prevented other sales of a similar magnitude. I believe it to be because the State Government could be interested on its own behalf, or on behalf of mining companies, in certain minerals that might be found on the property owned by Kalpower Pty Ltd in North Queensland. Anybody who checks this out will be surprised to find just what minerals are to be found in the area. I recommend that members read the reports of the FIRB to see what is happening and how serious the matter is.

I draw the attention of members to an article in "The Queensland Graingrower" which states that the Foreign Investment Review Board has not fully utilised its powers and has

suggested that any action is up to the States. The article states that investigations should have been made on behalf of the Australian people but that this has not been done. The board is not acting responsibly; nor do certain people want it to.

Foreign investment does not stop with the rural sector. We have had lots of complaints from grain growers on the Downs—I have mentioned this before and will not go into detail—that a lot of grain-producing land has been lost to foreign investors. They are also concerned that these investors are not staying in the area. They are moving in, buying the land and then leaving the country.

I now want to speak about the development of resort and urban areas along the Queensland coastline by foreign investors. I again draw attention to the Iwasaki franchise. The issuing of franchises is a new method by which to overcome the problem of foreign investment controls. Under the franchise Mr Iwasaki was given land on which to build a resort. We know the history of that development fairly well, but I am led to believe, even though the Premier has told me on various occasions when answering questions that everything is going to plan, that the first 52 units which were built are just standing idle. There has been no attempt to connect water, sewerage, electricity or other necessary facilities. I am also advised that the architects are no longer working on the next stage of the proposal, which leads me to believe that the whole project will not be of the magnitude suggested by the Premier and that this Government did the wrong thing in accepting Mr Iwasaki's proposals. But having said that, let me also say that developments of that type, whether successful or otherwise, could take place all the way up the coast. I am concerned that the profits from these investments will not stay in Australia. Some people might get work while construction is in progress, but once construction is finished the ensuing profits will be sent out of Australia.

I now want to talk about the amount of development in some local authority areas, mostly by overseas companies. The other night I mentioned the Albany Creek area. People from the South have bought into the Noosa area and are developing high-rise buildings one after the other. Those companies have quite a lot of Arab money behind them.

Mr Moore: There is a flow-on.

Mr KRUGER: There is a flow-on, admittedly, but I am talking about the take-overs about which this Government and the Federal Government are doing nothing. I do not want to see our land given away. If those people want to become Australians, then I have no objection. After all, originally we had English, Irish, Germans—people in chains when they arrived in Australia—but they made Australia the great country that it is. What I am complaining about is that there is no longer that degree of settlement by overseas people. There is a complete take-over by people for what they can rip out of the country. Unfortunately, Queenslanders and Australians are not receiving the benefits of such investment. Investment of that type in the rural, the coal-mining and general minerals sectors is definitely downgrading the standard of living of Australian citizens.

Sitting Hours of Parliament; Amendments to Commonwealth Copyright Act

Mr PRENTICE (Toowong) (12.40 p.m.): I wish to raise today the matter of the Commonwealth's Copyright Act; but first I shall refer to two points relative to the conduct of business in this Chamber.

When the Parliament meets, with members representing people from all parts of Queensland, the Government should ensure that members have an opportunity to examine each piece of legislation in detail, make an assessment of it and seek alternative opinions before it is agreed to. Equally, members ought to be able to discuss legislation at an hour when they can make an effective contribution to the debate. On a number of occasions recently the Opposition has moved that some pieces of legislation should not be debated again for seven days to allow time for the consideration to which I have referred. On those occasions I have supported the Government. But the point I wish to make at this stage is that, as the end of this session comes nearer, there is the possibility of the introduction into the House of significant legislation that will affect a number of areas. That legislation will be complex, and it will need the proper and lengthy consideration of the House.

In the past, as the Parliament has moved towards the end of a session, there has been a temptation to put legislation through very quickly. That must not be done during this session. In future, when important legislation is being discussed, Parliament must be given time to properly consider it, judge it and assess it. I shall examine each piece of legislation as it comes forward. If time is required to consider it, I shall act accordingly; and I believe that each member of the House should do the same.

Once the House sits beyond 11 or 12 o'clock at night, because of the lateness of the hour, members find themselves at a disadvantage in doing their duty. As the Parliament continues sitting into the night, no member can make the effective judgment that his constituents expect from him. Such late sittings are not necessary and, in future, members should be prepared to look at the matter and find an alternative.

The amendments made recently to the Copyright Act are of great importance in my electorate, and also, I believe, throughout the State. Those amendments have come into force and State schools in Queensland have received information as to their exact meaning. The Federal Government, in order to support the rights of authors, has made a decision that will be to the disadvantage of virtually every student attending a school in this State. In some instances the new copyright laws make it almost impossible for teachers to properly instruct their students.

An additional concern is that it could also make it extremely difficult for parents to provide a proper education for their children. Because of the restrictions of the Copyright Act—I will go into them shortly—it is possible that parents will be required, at great cost, to buy additional textbooks to ensure that their children can participate in the education that is provided. Some would say, "Ignore the law. Teachers should photocopy the material, anyway." To my mind, that simply is not an option. If the law stands, it should be obeyed. Equally, if it is a bad law, it should be changed. That is the case here.

What the Queensland Education Department, after studying the Act, has said to its teachers is somewhat amazing. The Education Office gazette of 28 August this year states—

"Multiple copying of insubstantial portions from a printed, published work—Such copying must be for the purpose of a course provided by a school and must be done either on the school's premises, or by a section of the Department which is declared by the Copyright Regulations to be an educational institution for the purposes of the Copyright Act . . .

From any one work, the quantity which may be copied is defined as follows:

(a) Provided that a complete work is not copied, then it is permitted to copy either two pages or else 1 per cent of the total number of pages in the publication, whichever is the greater."

How much leeway does that give? The document continues with this absurdity—

"(b) This particular concession does not permit the copying of a whole work, no matter how short. A short work such as a poem could be copied under statutory license as set out in Section 3."

Another publication given to Queensland teachers states that poems cannot be copied. Teachers in my electorate are concerned because they cannot copy poems to distribute to students at the various levels of schooling for individual perusal. If they cannot do that they must write the entire poem on the blackboard and have the students copy it. Teachers have difficulty in setting assignments for homework, and they cannot copy comprehension tests from books that are published for that purpose. Indeed, in that one area teachers simply cannot do their job.

Rigid requirements apply to the copying of sheet music and, on the information that I have so far, the end result is that students who wish to participate in such things as a school band or in music classes may have to purchase sheet music themselves, because in many cases the teachers will not be able to provide photocopied extracts of songs.

The problem goes across the board in many subjects. The complaints that I have received have come from many different areas of teaching in the State. This matter is to the detriment of every Queensland student. Quite frankly, it is a disgrace. The legislation should have been looked at in more detail and the Federal Government should have looked not only at the rights of the authors to receive remuneration but also at the effect on the education system.

Going with the legislation is a bureaucratic foul-up of immense proportions. Each school must have a register of every publication that is copied. Each sheet copied must "bear a notation showing the date of copying and the name of the school", and, "A record of such copying must be made, using the prescribed card." That list must be kept in the correct order. If that is not done, there is the possibility of a \$500 fine. If a record is missing from the file, a \$500 fine applies. All of that affects the future of Queensland children.

The Federal Government should have another look at the legislation. It is a question of balancing the rights of the authors against the needs of the community. When the rights of authors are to the detriment of the entire community, changes should be made.

The Parliamentary Library is subject to the same copyright laws. That means that the information that we seek from time to time is often reduced to such an extent that we cannot do our job properly. That is something that should be investigated. In the past there has been provision to ensure that the Parliamentary Library could operate.

Legislation of that type is another example of the importance of ensuring that members have a proper opportunity to consider legislation as it goes through the House. It is a situation that should be unacceptable to all members of this Parliament.

(Time expired).

North-South Dialogue; The Plight of Underdeveloped Countries

Mr HARTWIG (Callide) (12.50 p.m.): Last year I visited Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, as the Queensland Government representative at the world conference of the 26th Parliamentary Convention. Recently the leaders of the Commonwealth nations visited Australia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The leaders of the African nations told us about what is happening in that part of the world. Those of us who were fortunate to have been born in the developed areas of this earth have much to be thankful for. The difficulties and controversial subjects which divide rich and poor countries will certainly not be solved by prejudice, wishful thinking or empty words. At the last conference a lot of words were spoken but no action was taken.

The population of Zambia is approximately 7 million. 85 per cent of its population is unemployed. We have heard Mr Fraser talk about the assistance he will be giving to these people through the North-South dialogue. The North, which is taken to include Eastern Europe, comprises 25 per cent of the world's population but accounts for 80 per cent of its wealth; in other words, one quarter of the world's population generates four-fifths of its income. The South, which includes Red China, has a population of 3 billion or three-quarters of the world population, living on one-fifth of the world's income.

In the North the average person can expect to live for more than 70 years; he or she will rarely be hungry, and will be educated to secondary level. In the South, life expectancy in African countries is about 45 years. One in four children dies before the age of five years. Today, 50 per cent of children born in Africa have no chance to become literate. The United Children Fund estimated that in 1978 more than 12 million children under the age of five years died of hunger.

History has taught us that world wars produce hunger. Peace cannot prevail while hunger rules. He who wants to ban wars must also ban mass poverty. Morally, it makes no difference whether a human being is killed in war or is condemned to death by hunger. Today, the elimination of hunger is the most basic of all human needs. It is estimated that 700 million people in the world today are destitute. The quality of life is almost meaningless without health, education, housing and electricity. Health depends, of course, on proper nutrition and a healthy environment.

Annual expenditure on armaments in the world last year amounted to \$450 billion, while official developmental aid to the Third World amounted to only 5 per cent of that figure. For example, the military expenditure of only half a day would suffice to finance the whole malaria eradication program conducted by the World Health Organisation, and less would be needed to conquer river blindness, a vitamin deficiency suffered by coloured people. A modern army camp costs about \$1m. That amount of money would provide 1 000 class-rooms for 30 000 children. Mr Fraser and his compatriots recently have made utterances but they have done nothing positive to help those countries in need of assistance.

They cannot produce enough food to feed their people. One half of 1 per cent of one year's world military expenditure would pay for all the farm machinery needed to increase food production to keep pace with the population explosion in the Third World.

As to the present staggering growth in the world population—it is a fact that over one million people are added to the world's population every five days. By the year 2000, the world population, unless checked, will have increased from its present level of 4.3 billion to 6.5 billion. Most of this increase in population is occurring in Third World countries.

This huge population increase compounds the tasks of providing food, health services, water, sewerage facilities, shelter housing, education and jobs; of mitigating the absolute poverty of billions of people; and of meeting the colossal financial and administrative costs of supplying their needs.

Thousands of millions of dollars will be needed to fight disease alone. Malaria is rampant. As many as 30 million Africans suffer from sleeping sickness, venereal disease, malnutrition, hunger or the lack of communications, and their continent has a high birth rate. Lack of safe drinking water is a major cause of ill health among virtually half the world's population.

Few people in the North have any detailed conception of the extent of poverty in the Third World. We certainly have no idea of the form it takes. Many hundreds of millions of people in the poorer countries are preoccupied solely with survival and elementary needs. I have seen bullocks' hooves on sale in butcher shops at 30c a kilogram and cows' lungs on sale at 60c a kilogram, and they were covered with blowflies.

Mr Borbidge: Which country was that?

Mr HARTWIG: Zambia. I saw that in Livingstone, on the Zambesi River.

Mr Fraser would not allow South African sportsmen to land in Australia on their way to New Zealand. Who is getting behind a lot of the countries in Africa? Mugabe cannot overthrow his terrorists, who are virtually savages and armed to the teeth with guns from the Soviet Union—nowhere else.

I want Mr Fraser to tell us what is the fate of the white people in Africa. Thanks to his going over to Africa to "liberate" the people—two black Ministers in the Zambian Government told me that Mr Fraser had "liberated" them—they are now socialists. Those Ministers told me that they are all socialists now.

One of Mugabe's Ministers shot a white farmer and was acquitted; another urinated over a hotel veranda onto white people and was acquitted. The white people in Africa are doomed.

When I tried to leave Johannesburg on a Jumbo jet I was told that no seats would be available on planes out of South Africa for four months. I asked, "Why is that?" I was told, "Because of the exodus of white people from Africa." The white people are getting out with their lives. They are not allowed to take more than \$1,000 with them.

The white people in Africa are the last bastion between Communism and this country. Who could Australia fall back upon if we were attacked? We would have to fall back upon New Zealand, the country that Mr Fraser denigrated. He would not let Australians compete against New Zealanders in sport, yet he allows us to compete against communists and Russians in the Olympic Games. He shuns our white neighbours. He ought to hang his head in shame. I give full marks to Mr Muldoon, and to the South African Prime Minister who said this morning that Mr Fraser should take more care of his Aborigines.

What is Mr Fraser doing for the Aboriginal people? As he shows such concern for overseas people, why doesn't he invite about a dozen Aborigines down to his property and have them in his home for about four or six weeks? I guarantee that he wouldn't be in it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 10 March, the time allotted for the debate on matters of public interest has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.