Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 1982

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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:—

Proclamations under—
- Health Act Amendment Act 1980 (No. 2)
- Occupational Therapists Act 1979
- Medical Act and Other Acts (Administration) Act Amendment Act 1980
- Medical Act Amendment Act 1981

Orders in Council under—
- Mines Regulation Act 1964-1979
- River Improvement Trust Act 1940-1977
- Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act 1958-1979 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
- Water Act 1926-1981
- Water Act 1926-1981 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
- City of Brisbane (Flood Mitigation Works Approval) Act 1952-1974
- Irrigation Act 1922-1979 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
- Associations (Natural Disaster Relief) Act 1976

Regulations under—
- Fire Brigades Act 1964-1979
- State Transport Act 1960-1972
- Traffic Act 1949-1980
- River Improvement Trust Act 1940-1981
- Water Act 1926-1981
- Irrigation Act 1922-1979
- Health Act 1937-1981
- Cremation Act 1913-1978
- Radioactive Substances Act 1958-1978
- Hospitals Act 1936-1981
- Chiropodists Act 1969-1975
- Medical Act 1939-1981
- Prisons Act 1958-1974

By-laws under—

Railways Act 1914-1978
Water Act 1926-1981
Occupational Therapists Act 1979
Optometrists Act 1974
Medical Act 1939-1981

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Federal Government's Education Funding

From Mr Wright (53 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will restore education funding to 25.6 per cent of the State Budget and endeavour to increase the Federal Government's commitment to education.

Livestock on Public Roadways

From Mr Bird (1 123 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will introduce further legislation to ensure that livestock do not stray onto public roadways.

Class Sizes

From Mr Lickiss (729 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will make further provision of funds to implement the recommendation of the Ahern report in relation to class sizes.

Beams/Handford Roads Intersection

From Mrs Nelson (248 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will alleviate the dangerous traffic situation which affects both pedestrians and traffic flow at the corner of Beams and Handford Roads, Zillmere.

Electoral Redistribution

From Mr Mackenroth (101 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend the Electoral Districts Act 1971–1977 to provide a uniform electoral quota for all electoral districts.

State Service Superannuation Scheme

From Mr Prest (16 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will remove all discrimination from the State Service Superannuation Scheme.

Noxious Industries, Teneriffe and New Farm

From Mr Lane (18 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will remove cement works and other noxious industries from within Teneriffe and New Farm.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

1. "Shine on Brisbane" Advertising Campaign by Brisbane City Council

Mrs Nelson asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Do the provisions of the Elections Act (Qld) apply to the conduct of the Brisbane City Council elections?

(2) Has his attention been drawn to an expensive colour supplement entitled "Shine on Brisbane" which was inserted in "The Sunday Mail" of 28 February?

(3) Does this document fall into the category of party political propaganda because of its unstinting and unwarranted praise for the present ALP city administration?

(4) As this document is obviously designed to mislead people into voting for the present City Hall administration, is it in breach of the Elections Act because it does not acknowledge who authorised this political propaganda?

Answer:—

(1) Yes. Section 17 (6) of the City of Brisbane Act 1924-1980 applies the provisions of the State Elections Act to elections of aldermen for the City of Brisbane.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes. The supplement is a blatant campaign brochure which has been published within a month of the coming election and links story after story of so-called glowing achievements with the Australian Labor Party and its elected representatives who constitute the current Brisbane City Council administration.

The headline quoted "Solid gold city management" underlines the complete political bias that runs through the whole supplement.

It is clearly an integral part of the Australian Labor Party's campaign program conveniently funded out of the ratepayers' purse.

(4) There is no evidence of any authorisation of this blatant Australian Labor Party campaign brochure but it would be necessary to examine its legality in terms of the City of Brisbane Act which is administered by my Honourable colleague the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police.

I am not surprised at the absence of any formal authorisation of this supplement which clearly acknowledges the source as the Australian Labor Party and frankly I see the supplement as a continuum of the extravagant million-dollar-a-year propaganda machine that has been operated so blatantly by the current administration out of public funds.

2. Mathematics Courses and Teachers, Secondary Schools

Mrs Nelson asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Is he aware of a report in "The Bulletin" magazine of 2 March, pages 77 and 78, which expresses concern about poor mathematical skills in American high school graduates?

(2) How many Grade 10, 11 and 12 students in Queensland are taking the advanced mathematics course as opposed to ordinary and modified courses available?

(3) What percentage is this number of the total number of Grade 10, 11 and 12 students?

(4) Is there a shortage of secondary school teachers with mathematical qualifications in Queensland?

(5) How many teachers with other qualifications are teaching mathematics in Grades 10, 11 and 12?

(6) Does his department ensure that adequate numbers of qualified mathematics teachers are available?

Answer:—

(1) The article referred to by the honourable member has not been drawn to my attention previously. There is no crisis in the teaching of mathematics in Queensland as is described for the case of the United States. However, there is a major effort at present in Queensland to increase the relevance to everyday life of the content of mathematics and to improve the skills of problem-solving.

(2 & 3) Statistics are available for the enrolments of students in 1981 in the various mathematics subjects for Years 10 and 12 for the Junior and Senior certificates.

YEAR 10

Subject	Enrolment	% of Year Level Enrolment
Advanced Maths ..	15 117	40·56
Ordinary Maths ..	17 760	47·65
General Maths	3 848	10·32

YEAR 12

Maths I	7 809	51·06
Maths II	3 399	22·22
Social Maths	5 624	36·77

No other statistics are readily available.

(4) There is a mild shortage of qualified teachers of mathematics in Years 11 and 12. This can be accounted for by unpredictable fluctuations which occur in requirements and by unexpected migration of students from interstate.

(5) Teachers teaching mathematics in State secondary schools are trained in the skills of teaching the subject. There are no statistics readily available as to the number with tertiary qualifications in mathematics.

(6) Every effort is made to ensure that adequate numbers of qualified teachers of mathematics are available.

3. Advertising of Brisbane City Council Bus Service

Mrs Nelson asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the full-page coloured advertisement for a new Brisbane City Council bus service on the last page of the "Telegraph" of 26 February?

(2) What is the estimated cost of this advertisement?

(3) Did he ever find it necessary to insert such expensive advertisements when electrification occurred on Brisbane suburban railway lines?

(4) Why has the council found it necessary to use such expensive advertising techniques in relation to this service?

Answer:—

(1) My attention has been drawn to the lavish four-colour full-page advertisement by the Brisbane City Council in last Friday's "Telegraph" advertising a new bus service in Brisbane.

(2) Such an advertisement would cost well in excess of $3,500 and that would not take into account actual production and design costs.

(3) In my experience and that of my departments it has never been found necessary to spend such huge amounts of money on a single newspaper advertisement.

Mr Fouras interjected.

Mr LANE: Honourable members opposite cannot take it. They can throw all the muck in the world, but when proper criticism is made of the party's activities they just cannot take it.

Answer (contd):—

Indeed not even our largest private transport undertakings see fit to squander such excessive amounts on colour newspaper advertisements when this money can be used to much greater advantage upgrading the service provided.

(4) I would suggest to honourable members that the glossy colour advertisement was designed more to help the ALP city council get elected than inform the public. Indeed it is typical of the way this Labor council has used ratepayers' money with gay abandon to establish its elaborate million-dollar-a-year propaganda machine.

Mr Fouras interjected.

Mr LANE: The honourable member will not drown me out. When his party misuses public funds like this he will not shout me down; I intend to bring it up in the House.

Mr Fouras: What about Joh?

Mr LANE: The Labor Party's action is a blatant misuse of the ratepayers' money.

Answer (contd):—

Is it any wonder that rates have escalated over 183 per cent in the last 5-6 years. What the Labor Party has failed to raise in political donations because of its splits and factions it has sought to find by plundering ratepayers' funds to sponsor its covert political advertising in this campaign.

The only thing missing in the council's full page advertisement on last Friday was the disclaimer required for political advertising, namely, "Authorised by Peter Beattie, ALP secretary."

4. [*Deferred*]

5. Party Political Advertising by Local Authorities

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

(1) Is it usual for local authorities in Queensland to take out weekly full page advertisements in local newspapers containing party political propaganda on behalf of the party controlling the council?

(2) How much per week is the Brisbane City Council spending on full page political advertisements?

(3) How can ratepayers protect themselves and their rate moneys from such blatant abuses of power?

Answer:—

(1) No.

(2) I am informed by the Brisbane City Council that its weekly full-page advertisement comprises a selection of council activities on which it considers residents need to be advised. Honourable members can draw their own conclusions from the fact that we are now coming up to a council election. I am not aware of the costs of such advertisements.

(3) Electors of the city have the right to exercise the franchise at the triennial election of the council to be held on Saturday, 27 March 1982.

6 & 7. "Shine on Brisbane" Advertising Campaign by Brisbane City Council

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

With reference to his responsibility for corporate affairs—

(1) Is the copyright in the slogan "Shine on Brisbane" owned by the Brisbane City Council?

(2) Is the Brisbane City Council charging royalties for the use of this slogan?

(3) If so, are the moneys generated from these royalties put into council general revenue or are they poured into further political propaganda on behalf of the ALP?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) As the honourable member would be aware, the question of copyright falls under Federal jurisdiction and I can only presume that the slogan "Shine on Brisbane" is in fact owned by the Brisbane City Council and that, in line with normal business practice, the council would be charging royalties for its use.

However, on the basis of the Australian Labor Party city council administration's track record in the use of public funds for extravagant propaganda, I would expect it would be likely that any royalties earned by this slogan are being ultimately ploughed into the generation of further party campaign material on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

I would not care to conjecture on the method by which these revenues are being directed to Australian Labor Party propaganda but I am certain that the people of Brisbane are becoming increasingly aware of the current administration's willingness to undertake blatant public relations exercises of this nature under the cloak of so-called official publication of the council's activities.

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

(1) When did the Brisbane City Council start its "Shine on Brisbane" advertising campaign?

(2) What is the objective of this campaign and how long will it run?

(3) What is the estimated cost of the whole campaign?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I do not have the information sought, but I shall certainly obtain it and convey it to the honourable member as quickly as possible.

I understand that the Brisbane City Council considers that the "Shine on Brisbane" advertising campaign is an exercise to promote the city of Brisbane prior to the election and also in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games.

8. High-speed Police Chases

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

(1) How many road accidents have occurred in each of the last five years involving police in high-speed chases?

(2) How many police vehicles were damaged and what was the cost of the damage?

(3) How many citizens' vehicles were damaged and what was the cost of damage?

(4) How many civilians and police have been injured?

(5) How many civilians and police have been killed?

(6) What was the nature of each offence that necessitated each high-speed chase?

Answer:—

(1 to 6) I look at this question and get the impression that it is another attempt by the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labor Party to denigrate the Police Force in this State. The answer is very simple. Police records are not categorised in such a fashion as to enable me to supply the information required. To extract this information would be not only an enormous but virtually an impossible task, and it is not proposed to direct Police Department employees, who are already fully committed, to researching records to extract the data sought.

9. "City Report" Television Program

Mr Prentice asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) For how long has the Brisbane City Council weekly television program "City Report" been running on Brisbane television?

(2) What is the estimated cost of this program?

(3) Is this party political broadcast paid for by the Australian Labor Party or is the cost of this propaganda being charged to the ratepayers of Brisbane?

(4) What other methods does the council use to divert rate moneys into ALP political propaganda and how much a year are the people of Brisbane unwillingly contributing to the Labor Party for these campaigns?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I am informed that except for a short break "City Report" has been seen for some years and is a report blatantly used by the Brisbane City Council to promote the present council often on matters funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments for which little or no credit is given.

No estimate of costs are available, but with concessional tariffs the cost would be about $5,000 weekly or $260,000 annually. Other estimated expenditures of public monies for publicity include—

Weekly full-page advertisements costing approximately $5,000 weekly or $260,000 annually.

Colour inserts in "The Sunday Mail" costing approximately $21,000.

"Telegraph" full-colour advertisements in the "Telegraph" costing $3,500 each.

"Shine-on Brisbane Campaign" costing approximately $21,000.

This means that even in non-election years, with staff and production costs, over $1,000,000 annually is being spent on publicity to promote the present council.

10. Benefits to Female Contributors, State Service Superannuation Fund

Mrs Kyburz asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Has any further consideration been given to the unfair anomalies in the State Service Superannuation Fund for female contributors?

(2) If not, will the Government immediately review the situation and will the Treasurer accept submissions to change the rules so that female contributors receive equal benefits?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The contributions payable and benefits receivable by female contributors to the Public Service Superannuation Fund are presently under review in conjunction with an actuarial evaluation of the fund, which is presently being carried out.

I am advised that the Public Service Superannuation Board has received submissions and representations in this regard from a great number of people and further submissions are not likely to add significantly to its awareness of the matter.

However, should any further interested persons wish to make submissions to the board, they are perfectly free to do so.

11. Brisbane City Council Budget Surplus and Rate Increases

Mrs Kyburz asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What was the surplus in the last Brisbane City Council municipal Budget?

(2) How much of this surplus was made up of rate moneys, and how much was loan funds?

(3) How much extra will the Brisbane City Council collect in 1981-1982 as a result of recent rate increases?

(4) What is the justification for these rate increases in view of the Budget surplus in 1980-1981?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) From information available to me, it appears the Budget surplus in the 1981-82 Brisbane City Council Budget could be as high as $19.5m.

Relating to the question of funds received from increases in rates charged by the Brisbane City Council to ratepayers, the figure has been conservatively estimated to be $7.5m.

I therefore find it very strange that the Brisbane City Council is always complaining about lack of funds and indeed also charging increased rates (in fact over 182 per cent increase in the last 6 years) when it appears that almost $20m is lying in surplus in Budget estimates.

There is no doubt that if these facts from Budget documents are correct the ratepayers of Brisbane have been charged increased rates this year unnecessarily.

12. Golden Staph in Queensland Hospitals

Mr Borbidge asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the problem of golden staph infection in hospitals in some areas of Australia and in particular reports from Victoria that the problem is of major concern in that State, what is the present situation regarding golden staph in Queensland hospitals?

Answer:—

The organism has been isolated in Queensland hospitals. Staff have been aware of the problem for some time and have taken all appropriate steps to limit the effects. The main control measures are related to recognition of carriers and infected patients and their subsequent isolation. The sterilisation of materials and the introduction of disposable products in some cases have been necessary. These measures serve to minimise the problem but the organism remains present. It is not a serious risk to well people and is a significant danger only to special groups who have their natural resistance lowered.

13. Beenleigh-Gold Coast Rail Link

Mr Borbidge asked the Minister for Transport—

What stage has been reached in the investigations into the feasibility of an extension of the rail link from Beenleigh to the Gold Coast?

Answer:—

Studies completed to date have broadly identified the route for a railway of modern standard from Beenleigh to the Gold Coast, which, together with improvements planned for the existing railway between Brisbane and Beenleigh, could provide a 100 to 120 km/h trunk corridor between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. An initial estimate of the cost of the total project is $180m.

Preliminary work has commenced towards a more precise definition of the route between Beenleigh and the Gold Coast and the identification of actual land requirements. Meanwhile, the Government has approved in principle a program for the upgrading and electrification of the existing railway between Kingston and Beenleigh to suit Gold Coast rail link requirements, at a cost of $9m, and a commencement will be made on detailed design and construction as soon as funds can be made available.

14. Development of Port Clinton

Mr Hartwig asked the Premier—

With reference to the aerial inspection of Port Clinton made by himself and other Cabinet officials recently—

(1) What plans are in hand or envisaged to develop Port Clinton as a mineral export port?

(2) Will there be any large resumptions of cattle properties adjoining the Shoalwater Army Base to build a railway line to Port Clinton and in the development of the proposed Port Clinton site?

Answer:—

(1) My concern is for the provision of a further deep-water port for the export of coal from Queensland and the sheltered waters of Port Clinton are admirably suitable for that purpose.

(2) Had the honourable member chosen to note my statements, he would be aware that on numerous occasions I have made it perfectly clear that no Queenslanders will be disadvantaged by such a development.

15. Additional Casino Licences

Mr Hartwig asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Will he consider granting two extra casino licences, one within the Brisbane area and the other in Central Queensland, to counterbalance the opportunity for gambling on the Gold Coast and in northern New South Wales, thus offsetting resultant revenue drain out of the State and providing a greater spread of such facilities?

Answer:—

It has been consistently stated that casino licences will be limited to two locations and I cannot give an indication that the Government will consider the issue of further licences. What I can say is that the two proposed licencees will not be given an exclusivity arrangement that will rule out the possibility of additional licences being issued at some time in the distant future.

From the applications that were received for the two licences, it is abundantly clear that the Gold Coast region was the favoured site for the establishment of the southern casino and that Townsville and Cairns were favoured for the siting of the northern casino.

Whilst the selection of Breakwater Island Resort Pty Ltd for the northern licence was made on the grounds of a host of issues, of which siting was but one element, it does transpire that a Gold Coast and a Townsville siting provides a good spread of such facilities in Queensland.

16. Biloela Railway Station

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the dilapidated state of the railway station in Biloela, and the resulting deplorable conditions in which railway staff have to work, will he ensure that a new railway station is built in the town of Biloela?

Answer:—

I would refer the honourable member to my answer to a similar question asked by him on 6 May 1981. It has so far not been found practicable to allocate finance for this purpose, having regard to the many demands upon the Railway Department's resources. The matter will, however, receive further consideration in conjunction with the formulation of the railway capital works program for next financial year.

17. Special Committee to Investigate Sheep Industry

Mr Turner asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) What are the aims of the special committee appointed to investigate the sheep industry in Queensland and the role of the Department of Primary Industries in this regard?

(2) Are there any plans to reduce the important role played by the Department of Primary Industries in the wool areas of Queensland?

Answer:—

(1) The sheep region of Western Queensland has undergone tremendous change in recent years with increasing numbers of cattle and the adoption of cropping. These developments have required my department to reassess the types of services provided in the region.

As members will be well aware, there have been representations to me for increased departmental effort in the Maranoa region and also in the Central West. I consider it important that I should get an independent committee to assess what is presently being done and what the various sections of the industry in the sheep zone consider needs to be done to maximise economic production in the region consistent with conservation of resources.

I have carefully selected the members of the special committee as being objective thinkers who can come up with a plan for providing a more relevant and efficient departmental service in the region.

(2) I have given the committee a free hand in determining the direction and type of advice they give me. They can recommend additional staff, different types of officers to meet changing needs in the region, and different research programs. I will look at their recommendations. If they recommend more staff and funds and I consider that I can support them to Cabinet, I shall do so.

I consider that this is an exciting concept. It is one of the first times an industry team has been asked to look in a systematic fashion at the departmental services provided in a region and recommend improvements. I hope that people in the region see it as a genuine effort to do a better job and give the committee every help in its task.

18. Rural Power Connection, Warrego Region

Mr Turner asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

What are the latest developments in relation to proposals for the connection of rural power to rural properties in the Warrego region?

Answer:—

The Government has already approved very favourable subsidy conditions for these prospective consumers under the Rural Electricity Subsidy Scheme with the increased subsidy assistance approved by Cabinet last year. Also, the introduction of interest-free time-payment provisions approved at the same time would help to spread the cost burden to these consumers faced with high capital contributions.

Following my recent visit, at the honourable member's invitation, to the Charleville, Cunnamulla and Quilpie areas to discuss the problems associated with high cost rural connections with representatives of the various groups, I cannot promise any more favourable conditions as to capital subsidy.

However, I hope that soon I will be in a position to inform the honourable member that some relief will be forthcoming in respect to the payment of the contributions by instalments for these high-cost consumers.

19. Coppabella

Mr Randell asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to his commitment to the provision of improved facilities for the citizens of the railway township of Coppabella—

(1) What stage has the provision of these facilities reached?

(2) What is the timetable for the completion of the project?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) There is a long list of improvements which have already been effected to accommodation and other facilities at Coppabella. I request that the list be incorporated in "Hansard" and, if that is done, I will give a copy to the honourable member.

(Leave granted.)

Mr LANE: Since the list was compiled, documents have been completed for the construction of an activities centre. These documents will be issued this week to registered tenderers. I know that the honourable member will be very pleased about that news. A completion time of 32 weeks has been specified for construction of the activities centre.

Improvements at Coppabella

Washing Facilities—Caravan Park

Washing machines and washing tubs have been installed.

Elevated Child's Washing Bath

The women in the caravan park were contacted to ascertain what was required. A baby bath was not available at Mackay or Rockhampton and arrangements were made for a shower base 3 feet x 3 feet x 1 foot deep on an elevated stand to be provided. This has now been installed.

Shelter for Motor Vehicles—Caravan Park

The persons concerned were advised that applications for permission to erect shelters should be forwarded to the General Manager, Rockhampton with details of the proposed structures. Notices were posted by the Station Master but no applications have yet been received.

Cleaning of Drain Near Caravan Park

Arrangements were made with V. Stroppiana and Company to carry out cleaning of the drain. This work has been completed.

Drainage near Coppabella School

Arrangements were made for this work to be carried out by V. Stroppiana and Company in conjunction with the cleaning of the drain near the caravan park. Earth works or major diversion drains and levee bank were completed and the banks have been seeded in an endeavour to stabilise exposed earth with grass.

Sewerage Treatment Plant

Survey levels have been received and design of reticulation is proceeding in conjunction with the next stage of housing development. Design of the outfall sewer from the Community Centre to the existing sewer has been completed.

Warning Alarm—Sewerage Treatment Plant

All necessary work has been completed with the exception of the installation of the alarm, supply of which is awaited.

Supply of Equipment—Coppabella Fire Station

Rubber gloves have been provided but although bolt cutters have been ordered they have not been supplied.

Kindergarten Playgroup

The supply of two sets of swings, two slippery slides, a playground gymnasium and a wading pool has been approved. Quotations have been called for the supply of this equipment.

Housing—Coppabella

The occupants of "C" type residences have been interviewed and tenants of residences 2, 4, 10, 15, 20, 21 and 23 have agreed to the provision of alternative access to the buildings. This work will be attended to when enclosing under the residences is completed.

The occupant of No. 18 residence does not desire any alteration and the occupants of Nos. 7 and 12 were on leave and are to be interviewed when they resume duty.

The matter of providing additional residences is awaiting survey information prior to sub-division design.

Enclosing Under Residences

Seven residences have now been enclosed and work is required on five more. Concreting under the residences is continuing. Three have been completed and work is proceeding on a further two.

Refrigeration—"D" Quarters

A refrigerator was supplied but when received the freezing compartment was not working. Arrangements were made for the local agents to attend to the matter which is now in order.

"No Smoking" signs "D" Quarters

These signs were erected in bedrooms of quarters which are air-conditioned following complaints that smoke was distributed through the air-conditioning system.

Down Pipes—"D" Quarters

The down pipes referred to are drainage pipes from the roof of the building. Subsequent inspection has revealed that they are in good condition and do not require repair. The water dripping from the pipes at the time of the inspection has been attributed to heavy dew on the roof of the quarters.

Accommodation—Maintenance Staff

Arrangements were made for an ablution unit to be transferred from Yukan to Coppabella. It was anticipated facilities would be completed by the end of January. It is proposed to obtain finance from a mining project to purchase demountable camps for the Gangs.

Development of Matters Generally Affecting Residents

A plumber was assigned full time to the work of up-grading the water supply piping to each residence in the new estate. It is expected that the work will have been completed at the time of writing.

Approval in principle has been given to the route of the proposed Riverside Water Pipeline across Railway property as submitted by Messrs Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey, Consulting Engineers.

A pole at the Fire Station for use for hanging hoses has been received and erected.

A table-tennis table and dart board have been received and installed.

Lockers have been provided in the old quarters for the storage of tinned foodstuffs.

An electrically operated hygiene incinerator has been installed. A standard incinerator has been provided at the caravan park.

The Nebo Shire Council advised that it would be unable to carry out repairs to the roadway and approval was given to accept a quotation submitted by Roadmakers, Townsville, to carry out the work. Work commenced and the contractors left the area because screenings had not been received. The contractors are expected to return in the near future to complete the work.

Messrs. Briggs, Peterson and Burnett Pty. Ltd. have agreed to prepare the necessary tender documents for construction of a Community Centre at Coppabella at an estimated cost of $47,500. I recently approved of this expenditure.

Messrs. J. V. Kane and Associates Pty. Ltd., Consulting Surveyors, have been engaged to undertake the necessary field surveys of an engineering nature in respect of the railway land at Coppabella. These surveys relate to the long term drainage improvements required and are necessary in order that action can eventually be taken for the town to be handed over to the Nebo Shire Council. I recently approved an expenditure of $20,000 for the carrying out of these surveys.

The Mackay Regional Electricity Board carried out load tests on the electricity feeder at Coppabella. The Board is prepared to carry out limited power increases by modifications to existing switch gear and the necessary approval has been issued for the Board to do this work.

20. Rest Areas, Marlborough-Sarina Section, Bruce Highway

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

(1) With the upgrading and near completion of the section of the Bruce Highway south of St Lawrence, and the sharply increased traffic flow, and bearing in mind that there are no rest areas between Marlborough and Sarina, are there any plans to build such areas?

(2) If not, will he take action to provide these much-needed facilities for the ever-increasing number of citizens using this road?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) It is proposed to develop a rest area at the present campsite at Waverly Creek when the campsite is vacated at the end of 1982. The honourable member may be aware that a commercial development which will service the travelling public is being established near Tooloombah Creek.

21. Sleepers Used by Queensland Railways

Mr Hansen asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Have Queensland Railways adopted a practice of using only concrete sleepers on new rail lines?

(2) What studies have been carried out by the Railway Department regarding the useful life of treated timber sleepers as against concrete sleepers?

(3) What were the results?

(4) Will the department consider the use of chemically treated timber sleepers as opposed to untreated sleepers?

Answer:—

(1) It is proposed to use concrete sleepers on all new heavy-haul mineral railways in the central and northern divisions of the Queensland railway system.

(2) Extensive studies and trials with the use of treated sleepers have been carried out over a period of approximately 10 years.

(3) It has been concluded that treated timber sleepers would be satisfactory for maintenance work on lines carrying normal traffic and they will continue to be used for this purpose. It is considered, however, that it would be advantageous technically and economically to use concrete sleepers on heavy-haul lines.

(4) 10 000 treated timber sleepers have recently been acquired. Orders have been placed for a further 50 000 and it is proposed to invite tenders later this financial year for the supply next financial year of 150 000 treated timber sleepers. The Railway Department has difficulty in acquiring sufficient timber sleepers to meet its needs for expansion to cope with the development of the resources of this bounteous State under the energetic and progressive policies of the present Government.

22. Injuries Inflicted by Discharge of Antique or Unlicensed Firearms

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

(1) How many instances have been recorded in Queensland over the past 10 years of persons having been injured, either deliberately or accidentally, by the discharge of antique firearms such as collectors' pieces which are required to be licensed?

(2) How many instances are recorded of similar injuries inflicted accidentally or deliberately by unlicensed firearms, rifles and shotguns during the same period?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) No record is kept by the Police Department of the number of persons injured as a result of the discharge of licensed antique firearms. The information sought regarding the number of persons who received injuries inflicted by unlicensed firearms, rifles and shotguns over the past 10 years would, of course, involve extensive research.

23. Fires in Motor Vehicles

Mr Lester asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware that many new motor vehicles being marketed today are potential mobile incendiary bombs?

(2) Is he aware that many more car accidents are ending with at least one of the vehicles catching fire?

(3) Is he aware that the upholstery and padding material in car seats in many cases is inflammable, causing automobile fires such as that which recently occurred in Moranbah?

(4) Will Australian road safety authorities take the matter up with car manufacturers to ensure cars are safer in this regard?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) No, I am not specifically aware that the packing material used in car seats is inflammable. However, I will certainly ask officers of my Road Safety Council to immediately inquire of car manufacturers if they do in fact carry out flammability tests on all materials used in the building of motor vehicles. I am aware that concern was raised some years ago in America that a particular make of vehicle contained defective petrol tanks which regularly caught on fire in road accidents. In that case a class action was taken against the manufacturer, which resulted in the company paying out millions of dollars in compensation.

On the general question of car safety—recently I spent some time with the crash research unit of Volvo in Sweden and I must say I was impressed at the lengths they go to to make their cars as safe as possible. I would like to see similar concern exercised by Australian manufacturers. The fragility and "crashworthiness" of some cars on our roads does concern me and I would like to see the Australian Government take a closer look at the standards which are applied to vehicle manufacturers.

I thank the honourable member for raising this very important question in the House today.

24. New Road Alignment, Clermont Triangle

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

When will the new road alignment at the Clermont triangle be completed, as the present situation is dangerous and inadequate?

Answer:—

Because of the splendid representation made by the honourable member in regard to the Clermont triangle, work will be commenced in the next financial year.

25. ALP Mineral Royalty Policy

Mr Lester asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

Will the new mineral royalty policy of the ALP reduce jobs in the mining industry and possibly curtail new development?

Answer:—

I am aware that the ALP has expressed an intent to penalise the mining industry by a new royalty policy in the unlikely event that it should ever come to power in this State.

The mining industry and the voting public still have fresh memories of the way the Whitlam-Connor regime brought mining developments in Australia to a virtual standstill in the three years they were in power. The Wran government in NSW has a similarly disastrous record in the mining and energy fields. The mining industry has enough problems without the ALP pursuing its course towards eventual nationalisation of the industry.

26. Cost of Winding up Estates of Deceased Pensioners

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

Will he outline the nature and extent of the outlays involved in the winding up of an estate where a deceased pensioner has bequeathed his or her total interest in a jointly owned house and a joint bank account to the surviving spouse?

Answer:—

Normally speaking, no costs should be involved in regard to the bank account as the survivor could, and usually would, make his or her own arrangements with the bank.

In regard to a jointly owned house property, legal charges would normally be about $125, stamp duty $4 and Titles Office registration fees $38.

If the land was Crown leasehold, the registration fees would be less. Other circumstances might increase the costs. For instance, if there was a mortgage, the mortgagee may require a production fee, which could be as much as $30.

Incidental out-of-pocket expenses, such as for certificate of death and search fees, would be additional but of a minor nature.

27. Additional Main Roads Funds for North Queensland

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

Will he allocate a larger share of the State's Main Roads budget to the North Queensland region since in this area more than half of the main roads are in fact still unsealed and those sections which are surfaced are deteriorating faster than they can be repaired or rebuilt?

Answer:—

I have taken the steps requested by the honourable member to secure more funds for roads to North Queensland. I travelled with the Federal Minister for Transport (Mr Hunt) between Rockhampton and Townsville via Mackay. After that trip, we agreed that we would request our officers to investigate the possibility of providing a scheme that will give us within 10 years the type of roads to North Queensland that are required. On the present rate of funding, it has been assessed that the estimated cost is in the vicinity of $60m. That sum would be available only over a period of 33 years. Although I admit that the funds available for roads in this vast State are insufficient, it is true that the North is getting its share of funds that are allocated. On the other hand, I agree with the honourable member that more funds are required. Yesterday I spoke to the Prime Minister about that matter. He is prepared to place road funding for Queensland at the top of the agenda at the next Premiers Conference.

28. Applications for Casino Licences

Mr Warburton asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

With reference to the original short list of casino applicants recommended by the Government's assessment committee, is it correct that the numbers were expanded by Cabinet decision and what is the name or names of casino applicants added to the original short list put forward by the committee?

Answer:—

An examination of all the valid submissions that were received as a result of the advertisement calling for casino applications was made, in the first instance, by a panel of four officers drawn from the Treasury Department and the Works Department, assisted by some private consultants. The results of their work was forwarded to the ministerial committee in report form on 30 September 1981.

The purpose of that report was to assist the ministerial committee in its function to undertake an assessment of these first-stage submissions. The report eliminated certain applicants who provided inadequate information in written documentation and at interview stage; it rated the balance of the submissions in order of merit and recommended a limited short list of four.

On the information provided in the report and the submissions proper, the ministerial committee decided that it would be advantageous to solicit a second-stage submission and had directed that a comprehensive specification of more detailed requirements be prepared. It was further determined that because of the plenitude of this further information to be sought from applicants, the document, termed "Brief to Finalists", should be issued, not only to the four recommended in the report, but to all suitable applicants.

It was passed on to the Opposition for its consideration. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition tabled it as one of his leaked documents, but indeed it had been passed on to him on a previous occasion.

For this reason it was decided that a short list of nine applicants, being six applicants for a southern casino licence and three applicants for a northern casino licence, should be given the opportunity to present a second-stage submision. That decision was subsequently confirmed by Cabinet. The nine short-listed applicants were in accordance with the order of merit rating indicated in the officers' report. There was no departure from that order of merit.

In coming to the conclusion of the extent of the short list, the ministerial committee and Cabinet were conscious of the need to ensure that every opportunity was given to obtain for Queensland the best hotel/casino complexes that could be developed. In exercising its judgment on the matter, the ministerial committee carried out its responsibilities in a manner that was proper and beyond reproach.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Applications for Casino Licences

Mr CASEY: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: During his visit to Melbourne on Thursday, 25 February, was information made available to him from the files of the Victorian Police regarding an applicant or applicants for Queensland's Gold Coast casino licence? Did some of the information contained in that report refer also to a Queensland Cabinet Minister? Has he acquainted the Premier and the Cabinet Minister concerned with the contents of that report?

Dr EDWARDS: The Opposition is not bringing forward any new information. As I have said on numerous occasions, I made a number of visits interstate and to other places relative to investigations into this most important matter. I have spoken to police officers of all States concerning it. I have no intention of detailing publicly at any time the information, either good or bad, that I received on any of the applicants.

Mr Prest interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member for Port Curtis is the biggest whinger in the House. His fellow Opposition members are becoming tired of him. If he wants me to answer the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, he should have a little more respect.

Mr Wright: Who are you covering up?

Dr EDWARDS: I take exception to the words used by the honourable member for Rockhampton. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Rockhampton to withdraw the words.

Mr WRIGHT: What am I to withdraw, Mr Speaker? The Treasurer has said he refuses to divulge information. To my mind, that is covering up.

Dr EDWARDS: I rise to a point of order. I take exception to the remark made by the honourable member for Rockhampton. He said that I was covering up. I ask that that comment be withdrawn before I continue with my answer to the question.

Mr WRIGHT: So that the business of the House can proceed, I will withdraw, and I ask him why he refuses to divulge the information.

Dr EDWARDS: As I have said on a number of occasions, I have no intention of tabling police information and other information——

Mr Casey interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: For goodness sake, will the Leader of the Opposition kindly let me answer the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CASEY: I will repeat the question, Mr Speaker, by way of a supplementary question. Again I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Last week, on 25 February, did he visit Melbourne and obtain information from the Victorian Police concerning an applicant or applicants for the Gold Coast casino licence? Did that information contain something relating to a Queensland Cabinet Minister and, if so, did he acquaint the Premier and the Cabinet Minister concerned with the details of that information?

Dr EDWARDS: I give warning that I will not continue to answer questions if I am continually interjected upon while I am trying to answer. I make no apology for refusing to continue when members interject. Mr Speaker,——

Mr Casey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Casey: The Treasurer has taken his bat and ball home.

Aboriginal Land Rights

Mr CASEY: In directing a question to the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs, I refer him to the sections of Part XI of the Land Act that give the Governor in Council the right to rescind at any time or vary a deed of grant in trust and also give the Minister absolute discretion to grant or refuse leases within reserves. As he was formerly Minister for Lands, he would be aware of that. I refer him also to his statements in the media that under proposed legislation Aboriginal reserves will have the same status as Crown land. In view of the report last year, of which the Minister is aware, to the effect that 95 per cent of Torres Strait Islanders voted for freehold title as opposed to perpetual lease, which is what the Government is now proposing, I ask: How can he claim to be giving anything to the Aboriginal and Islander people of this State, when all power and control over the reserves and activities thereon rest not with the people but with the Government?

Mr TOMKINS: The Leader of the Opposition can say what he likes about the Aborigines Act. I inform him that everything we have done has been done with the concurrence of the chairman of the Islander Council and the Aboriginal Council.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr R. J. Gibbs: That was denied on television last night.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Wolston under Standing Order 123A.

Mr TOMKINS: In reply to that interjection—we did have those people with us and they are happy with it. We will confer again when a Bill is introduced. I am not prepared to say when that will be. The Bill covers the position accurately. It has been well supported and, in the future, the Aboriginal people will look upon it as virtually the start of a new era.

Casinos

Mr WARBURTON: As the Deputy Premier and Treasurer is well aware, I was one of the Parliamentary Labor Party members briefed by the Casino Assessment Committee on Monday, 22 February this year. Is the Deputy Premier prepared to deny in this place that the committee headed by the Under Treasurer, Mr Hielscher, very definitely regarded the committee's final report as providing sufficient information to allow for a decision on the Gold Coast casino at the Cabinet meeting to be held on the following day, 23 February?

Dr EDWARDS: I have checked with the departmental officers involved. They assure me that on no occasion did they indicate that a decision would be made. In fact, they believed that enough information was available for the Cabinet to consider the matter, and that was made very clear.

On no occasion did any of the officers involved indicate that the Cabinet would have enough information to make the decision. I must also say that it is not departmental officers who make the decisions in this Government. It is the Ministers of the Crown who are accountable in this Parliament. Ministers of the Crown considered the applications and decided that some matters raised by the officers should be clarified. No new information or new evidence is to be provided but clarification will be sought and a decision made by Cabinet in the light of the information provided. It is Cabinet that makes the decisions, not the officers, and it is Cabinet which is responsible and accountable.

Mr Warburton: A political decision——

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member made the comment that it was a political decision. It was not a political decision in true——

Mr Casey: Is this a point of order?

Dr EDWARDS: I am finishing my answer.

Mr Casey: You sat down.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. Is the Deputy Premier taking a point of order?

Dr EDWARDS: I just want to clarify a matter that the honourable member——

Mr Casey: Is this a point of order?

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member for Sandgate made the comment that it was a political decision. In the true sense any decision made by a government is a political decision. I do not think the honourable member would deny that. There will be no political influence in the true party sense on any decision made by this Government on the issue of a casino licence. I know that the honourable member for Sandgate appreciates the way in which the Government has approached this matter. The decision will be based on merit and nothing else. No other matters will be considered by the Government.

Junior Tennis Coaching Scheme

Mr WARBURTON: In the absence of the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, I direct another question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. I refer to a decision by Cabinet arising out of what I believe was a submission made by the Deputy Premier that the Queensland Government should finance a junior coaching scheme conducted by tennis professional, Mr Ashley Cooper. Bearing in mind that the Government recently slashed junior sport funding, why is it that the Deputy Premier and his Government support a $25,000 grant to a professional and completely ignore the relevant amateur sporting association, which is in complete contradiction of the Deputy Premier's and the Government's guide-lines on funding?

Dr EDWARDS: It is evident that the honourable member does not know the facts about this matter, because this program is recognised throughout Australia, even by Labor Governments. Indeed, Mr Wran's Government made a contribution towards this program in New South Wales. The money was provided from a $250,000 allocation in the Budget for the specialised training of prominent people in sport. If any other association wants to make an application, $225,000 remains for distribution on application to the Minister.

Again, it is the Government that makes decisions in this State, not the Public Service or outside organisations. This program has been well received. It is supported by the Commonwealth and other State Governments, and Queensland has followed suit. I was recently informed that it is now supported fully by the tennis associations as well.

Appointment of Convicted Illegal Bookmaker to Queensland Trotting Board

Mr WARBURTON: In directing a question to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police, I suggest that he should be aware that no person convicted of illegal bookmaking can hold a licence under the provisions of the Racing and Betting Act. In view of the Minister's public condemnation of SP bookmakers during the debate on recent amendments to the Racing and Betting Act, how is it that he saw fit to allow the appointment of a convicted illegal bookmaker to the Queensland Trotting Board? What action does the Minister intend to take concerning this very serious matter?

Mr HINZE: The matter referred to by the honourable member for Sandgate concerns Mr Eric Dopson. Apparently about eight or nine years ago he was charged with a minor offence at Stanthorpe. When I took all the factors into consideration I considered that it was not in the worst interests of the industry that he remain on the Queensland Trotting Board. When I appointed him to the Board I had no knowledge of any offence committed eight or nine years ago. I know that the Government supports the action that I have taken.

The honourable member should understand that there are now many opportunities for legal betting. There is no need for SP operators in this State, and that is why the Government adopted stringent rules and decided upon the imposition of heavy fines. However, the Racing and Betting Act is to be amended in a week or two, and the honourable member will have ample opportunity then to air his views on the subject.

Mr Dopson is a very well-known and respected man in industry in the Stanthorpe area. He is probably one of the biggest industrialists in the town of Stanthorpe. He owns horses, and he frequents trotting establishments throughout the State. I believe that he would be an asset on the board, and that is why he was invited to become a member of the board. I had no hesitation in confirming his appointment. I believe that, under the circumstances, every fair-minded person will agree with the decision that has been taken.

Transferability of Producer Market Milk Entitlements

Mr BOOTH: In directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, I refer to his Press statement dated 23 February 1982 concerning the transferability of producer market milk entitlements. I ask: Is it intended that the Minister will allow retrospectivity in such transfers, particularly in regard to guide-lines? If so, is there any precedent for such action?

Mr AHERN: The honourable member would know that I received representations on this matter from the State Council of the Queensland Dairymen's Organisation and the Milk Entitlements Committee. After discussions with my parliamentary colleagues, I then made recommendations to Cabinet.

The judgment on the guide-lines that were laid down was made on the basis of the facts before the Milk Entitlements Committee and as a result of situations that had arisen on the Darling Downs and in the Albert and Logan areas, which were the subject of holding correspondence until a policy had been determined. I have to discuss the matter further with Cabinet, but I do not consider that the question of retrospectivity is relevant for consideration.

I have had further discussions with the QDO and the Milk Entitlements Committee, and they believe that the two matters ought to be resolved in accordance with policy and the guide-lines that Cabinet accepted. I am giving further consideration to the matter. Cabinet will be apprised further prior to any further discussion.

Land Tenure

Mr SIMPSON: I ask the Minister for Lands and Forestry: Is it true that when the Labor Party was in power in Queensland it would not grant freehold title over leasehold land and that it would continue that policy if returned to government? In view of the Labor Party's suggestion that freehold title to land should be given to Queensland's Aborigines, can it be trusted to treat people equally in Queensland?

Mr GLASSON: Everybody is aware that Labor Party policy is opposed to freehold title. That was indicated to the House yesterday.

Mr CASEY: I rise to a point of order. Again the Minister has completely misrepresented Labor Party policy on land matters in Queensland. His statement is erroneous and a deliberate attempt to mislead the House. I ask for a withdrawal.

Mr GLASSON: Quite clearly the Leader of the Opposition has now changed the policy of the Labor Party. Its policy is against the private ownership of land, if he wants it put that way.

Mr CASEY: I rise to a further point of order. The Minister has stated that the Labor Party opposes the private ownership of land and has done so in the past. That is completely incorrect. The Labor Party had a different type of policy in relation to grazing lands in Queensland. Had that policy been maintained, the Minister would not have been able to give it all away to his mates.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I suggest to the Minister that he withdraw that comment.

Mr GLASSON: Mr Speaker, I bow to your wishes. I withdraw that comment.

Everybody is well aware of the Labor Party's policies. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer correctly stated that when the Country-Liberal Government came to power 97 per cent of the land in Queensland was under leasehold tenure. The freeholding policy adopted by the Government has allowed people to gain security of tenure.

The Government proposes to grant Aborigines a title called a deed of grant in trust, which enjoys all the privileges of a freehold title apart from alienation by sale. Media comments last night indicate that many people do not understand what a deed of grant in trust means. I repeat: the only privilege that that form of title does not provide is that land cannot be disposed of by a corporation by sale. Approximately 90 per cent of land held by groups or on behalf of groups in Queensland is held in deed of grant in trust. In other words, the Government has endeavoured to put all Queenslanders on the same plane. I am saddened to think that some people have commented that the Government's initiative in this matter is an attempt to whitewash the issue of Aboriginal land rights.

I repeat that a deed of grant in trust provides the privileges of freehold tenure other than alienation by sale. The Government has made a sincere effort to give the Aboriginal population of this State security of tenure. Indeed, the deed of grant in trust will provide security of tenure for the Aboriginal population. No fair-minded person would like to

see the opportunity available for irresponsible councils or management committees to alienate by the sale the land belonging to the Aboriginal population. The deed of grant in trust will prevent that.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Caboolture Shire Council Election

Mr FRAWLEY (Caboolture) (12.1 p.m.): I never rise in this debate unless I have a matter of great public interest in my electorate to refer to. I would not be doing my duty on behalf of my constituents in Caboolture if I did not make some comment about the coming local authority elections. Normally I do not get involved in local authority elections, but at the last State election in 1980 eight out of the 11 Caboolture Shire councillors worked against me, six for the Labor Party and two for the Liberal Party; so with the local authority elections approaching it is my turn to work against them.

Mr Prest: There's no politics in local government, you say.

Mr FRAWLEY: Of course there is. It's riddled with politics. When the member was mayor of Gladstone it was riddled with politics, too, because he espoused the Labor movement at every opportunity.

Mr Prest: I agree that it is.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn to honourable member for Port Curtis under the provisions of Standing Order 123A.

Mr FRAWLEY: Normally I am prepared to co-operate with local authorities. I have done so since my parliamentary career began in 1972. I have always co-operated with the Caboolture Shire Council. When I am on the receiving end of criticism by any of the Caboolture Shire councillors, it is jolly good sport; but as soon as I give them a kick in the guts, it is bad. They don't like it. I get an average of five people a week complaining to me about Caboolture Shire Council matters. I rarely get one from the Pine Shire Council, part of which is in my electorate. I rarely get a complaint from people about the Landsborough Shire Council. It is always the Caboolture Shire Council that I receive complaints about.

Mr Kruger: I was a Pine Shire councillor. That's why you don't have any trouble from there.

Mr FRAWLEY: I will come to the member for Murrumba later.

Normally when people come to me about council complaints I advise them to see the relevant councillor for whatever division they live in. I do not mind doing that. However, since 1977 I have had an increasing number of complaints from people in Caboolture about the state of the roads. When they go to the shire council to complain about the roads, the answer they invariably receive is that they should see their local member; that it is a State Government responsibility. In fact, one councillor—he is the deputy chairman of the council—says that almost every laneway and pathway in Caboolture is the responsibility of the State Government. I am getting fed up with this. When the people of Woodford went to the Caboolture council about a by-law to control dogs, they were informed by the deputy chairman that the council had no power to make a law controlling dogs. I had to ask the Minister for Local Government a question so that I could convince the people that the council had the power to make such a by-law. To convince them that they had been misled, I sent them a copy of the Dalby Town Council's by-law on dogs. Approximately 25 per cent of my time is taken researching material to refute incorrect statements made by some Caboolture Shire councillors. It is about time the people of Caboolture realised that and made a few changes at the coming election.

The Caboolture Shire Council had a public meeting at Bribie on 29 February 1980, when an attempt was made to convince people that a toll should be reimposed on the Bribie Bridge to pay for cleaning up the mess created by people coming to Bribie for the week-end. The public was told at that meeting about the great expense the council

incurred cleaning the beaches, about the toilets the council had built and everything else the council had done. No mention was made about what the Government has done on Bribie Island.

Since 1975 the State Government has contributed $1.8m towards various council facilities on Bribie Island. Even the hall where the public meeting was held had benefited by a subsidy. Not long before that, a subsidy of $17,000 was paid towards an extension to the hall.

I was elected to this Parliament on 29 May 1972. From 1 July 1972 to 31 December 1981 the Caboolture Shire Council had already received $12,356,987 in subsidies and grants, with a further $2,811,415 approved. That makes a total of $15,168,402. Those grants have brought the Caboolture Shire Council into the top bracket. It is the envy of other councils. When I told my brother, the mayor of Redcliffe, how much money Caboolture had received, he was shocked. I also told the chairman of the Landsborough Shire Council. He was horrified.

Mr Hooper: Is Vince Frawley your relative?

Mr FRAWLEY: Yes. Vince Frawley, who was arraigned before the Redcliffe Court yesterday on a charge of selling driving licences to people, is my second cousin. Unfortunately, he was asked to provide a couple of licences to some Labor blokes who had lost theirs for drunken-driving, and he refused, so they dobbed him in. Someone told me that he was also a second cousin of the member for Murrumba. If that makes me related to him, I will have to resign.

After listening to some Caboolture Shire councillors, one would gain the impression that nothing had ever been done by the State Government. Standing for chairmanship of the shire council is the present chairman, Councillor Barr, and another gentleman from Bribie Island, Mr Aldo de Lione, an Independent. Councillor Barr stood against me in 1972. Councillor Broomhall blamed me for his resignation from the Caboolture Shire Council last year.

Mr Kruger: You said all this last year, didn't you?

Mr FRAWLEY: The member for Murrumba is all bone between the ears. I will tell him again. Councillor Broomhall blamed me. I am happy to take the blame because I got rid of him. I got rid of a couple of other councillors. They resigned because they knew what they were going to get in the local authority election.

The member for Murrumba writes a column in "The Redcliffe Herald" He does not write it himself; he provides some rough ideas and somebody else writes it for him.

Mr Katter: Is the present member for Murrumba the famous athlete?

Mr FRAWLEY: He could not run across the road.

Mr Katter: Is it true that he went for a game of tennis and the players thought he was the tennis roller?

Mr FRAWLEY: I do not know, but I know that when he was in the Kallangur boxing club they called him "canvas back"—he spent more time on his back than he did on his feet.

A couple of weeks ago I had nothing to do, so I read the column that the member for Murrumba purports to write for "The Redcliffe Herald" He stated that there were many country councils where there were National Party members masquerading as Independents. I thought, "What better example could I give than some of his mates from the Caboolture Shire Council who are masquerading as Independents?" I will enumerate them. The chairman, Councillor Alex Barr, stood for the ALP in 1972. Deputy chairman, Tom McLoughlin, stood for the Labor Party in 1977 and 1980. Councillor Broomhall, who has since resigned, was a campaign director for the old guard candidate in the 1980 election. Councillor Hill from Bribie Island stood for the new guard of the Labor Party. Councillor Gassner worked at a polling booth at Wamuran for him. Councillor Barr also worked at the polling booth for the deputy chairman and distributed his how-to-vote cards. There are six members of the Labor Party on the Caboolture Shire Council. They have the cheek to say that the Caboolture Shire Council was non-political.

Mr Burns: Was that bloke Frawley on the charge about the licences any relative of yours?

Mr FRAWLEY: He certainly is.

I did not want to say this, but in 1965 the member for Lytton was convicted of having over 100 SP bets in his possession. I had not intended saying that, but as the honourable member has referred to the fellow at Redcliffe, who is my second cousin, I state that the member was convicted of SP betting and had over 100 bets. It is a case of the pot calling the kettle black. The member was running an SP book when he was working as a dry cleaner. He cannot deny it.

Mr BURNS: I rise to a point of order. I do deny it. The poor fool is getting himself into trouble. I was convicted of having instruments of gaming in my possession. I have never been a dry cleaner; nor have I been a spiv.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! I ask the honourable member for Caboolture to accept the word of the honourable member for Lytton.

Mr FRAWLEY: The record of conviction states that he was a dry cleaner. It is in black and white, so I cannot do much about that.

(Time expired.)

Business Activities of Mr B. G. Lobb

Mr MACKENROTH (Chatsworth) (12.11 p.m.): On a number of occasions Opposition members have tried to obtain from the Treasurer information regarding the State Government Insurance Office. On all such occasions the Treasurer has refused to allow members to know what the SGIO does and how it operates. In fact, he will not allow them to find out anything about the SGIO.

I have been able to find out something that is going on within the SGIO, something on which the Treasurer should give an explanation as to how and why it is allowed to continue. It is something that should be looked at very closely. It concerns one of the senior administration officers of the SGIO.

The 65th annual report of the SGIO shows that within its administration is a Mr B. G. Lobb, who is the manager of the Projects and Property Department. My understanding is that Mr Lobb is in charge of letting out contracts for certain projects and also leasing buildings that the SGIO has constructed. Brian Lobb is in charge of the letting of contracts for all SGIO car-parks.

A number of persons who are involved in car-parking have tried to tender for SGIO car-parks. However, this particular person, Lobb, allows all of the contracts for SGIO car-parks to go to one Kevin Seymour.

Mr Milliner: He's a crook.

Mr MACKENROTH: I will not comment on that.

Kevin Seymour is trying to gain control of all of the car-parking in the Brisbane area. I understand that he has obtained almost total control of car-parking in Surfers Paradise.

An article in a newspaper last year said that owner/breeder Mr Kevin Seymour had confirmed that he had extended the lease on a four-year-old horse named "Avondale Special" That horse is raced by a syndicate of four Brisbane businessmen of whom Brian Lobb is one. The article names the other three persons. Brian Lobb is leasing a horse from Kevin Seymour, to whom he is giving the contracts for car-parks instead of allowing them to go out on tender.

But the plot thickens. Kevin Seymour has friends in high places. On 30 July 1981 he was appointed to the Trotting Control Board by Russell James Hinze. So Kevin Seymour does have friends in high places. Any member who talks to people in the Brisbane business community will find that Kevin Seymour openly boasts that he has friends in high places and is able to get special treatment.

What are the links that have been established? Mr Hinze has put this person on the Trotting Control Board; Lobb, who is in the SGIO, is giving that same person preferential treatment by giving him contracts for car-parks; and Lobb is leasing that same person's horse. That is not right. The Treasurer should look very closely at this whole matter.

I turn to the corporate structure that Kevin Seymour has set up. He has companies called WBK Pty Ltd and Parkpet Pty Ltd, which own the car-park freeholds and leaseholds. He also has a company called Banjup Pty Ltd, which owns Pegasus Parking Pty Ltd. The latter is really a trade name. Banjup really operates the business and distributes its profits back to WBK and Parkpet by means of base rentals and management fees. The Seymour family predominantly owns Banjup.

The company records of all of those companies reveal that they are making a profit of approximately a million dollars a year. On that, because of the way the companies are able to change around the money they are earning, they are paying only approximately $2,000 tax.

A company called Parkpet Pty Ltd paid WBK Pty Ltd, which is owned by Kevin Seymour, $296,439 for four $1 shares. Kevin Seymour paid Kevin Seymour nearly $300,000 for four $1 shares. That happened in 1979. By 1980, Kevin Seymour had written that investment down to $4,657, so almost all of the $300,000 has been written off and used as a tax deduction. The small person in our community is paying so much tax because Kevin Seymour is able to rip off the Taxation Department.

Mr Wright: Supported by this Government.

Mr MACKENROTH: Yes, supported by this Government; that is right.

Kevin Seymour is attempting to gain control of car-parking in Brisbane. At Surfers Paradise, he controls parking at The Mark, at the Paradise centre, which is owned by Eddie Kornhauser, Russ Hinze's friend, and at the Chevron Hotel. As soon as he obtained control of all of those car-parks he increased the daily rental from $3 to $6. That will happen in Brisbane if he is allowed to continue obtaining SGIO contracts. He already has the Valley Centre Plaza and the Astor Terrace car-parking projects through the SGIO. No tenders were called for them. I understand that he controls the car-park on the bank of the Brisbane River opposite the National Hotel. He claims that he obtained that car-park because he has friends in high places who are able to exert pressure. That indicates the sort of practices that are going on.

The Treasurer is obliged to tell this Parliament why Brian Lobb is allowed to give preferential treatment to a person who is a business partner of his in terms of leasing a horse. There is documentary proof of what I am saying. It has been published in the newspapers. If the Treasurer refers to the SGIO records he will find that Brian Lobb has been letting these contracts. He is obliged to let us know what has happened.

Mr Prest: I think he is getting a bit on the side, too.

Mr MACKENROTH: He probably is. The Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police (Mr Hinze) seems to have a lot of control over this Government.

The Brisbane City Council refused the SGIO application to develop the Myer shopping centre at Carindale on the ground that there are already sufficient shopping centres in that area. Russell Hinze then put up signs at Christmas-time calling for objections, and he will rezone the land for shopping centre purposes on behalf of the SGIO. That action is contrary to the provisions of the City of Brisbane Act. The Government does not care what the Brisbane City Council says. That is something else that Russell Hinze has jumped into on behalf of the SGIO. I have drafted certain questions that I will be putting to Mr Hinze on that matter.

Mr Milliner: What is the connection between Mr Hinze and Seymour again?

Mr MACKENROTH: Seymour was put on the Trotting Control Board by Russell Hinze.

I am quite surprised that the honourable member for Aspley asked ridiculous questions this morning about the "Shine on Brisbane" campaign by the Brisbane City Council, especially when I look at the book "Queensland Australia."

Mrs Nelson interjected.

Mr MACKENROTH: If what is on page 1 is not party political, I do not what it is. And fancy asking the Minister for Transport that question! He has taken it upon himself to send a birthday card to everyone in Queensland.

Mr LANE: I rise to a point of order. Is that to indicate that the honourable member does not want a birthday card, or that he does, like all other Queenslanders?

Mr MACKENROTH: If the Minister could take my name off the list of those who receive a birthday card, I would very much appreciate it.

Mr LANE: I rise to a further point of order. Is that to indicate that the honourable member does not have birthdays?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order!

Mr MACKENROTH: The honourable member for Aspley referred to the Brisbane City Council's advertisement last week promoting the new bus service; but when the Brisbane electrified rail system was opened, the Government paid for almost 1 000 people to be carted out to Ferny Grove. We all went out there, and the beer was free——

Mr LANE: I rise to a further point of order. Does the honourable member wish to indicate that he does not want free beer in future as he has had in the past?

Mr MACKENROTH: I went to the public bar and paid for my own.

(Time expired.)

Proposed Queensland Forensic Science Institute

Mr INNES (Sherwood) (12.21 p.m.): Some three years before the dingoes of Ayers Rock became international celebrities, this Queensland Government set up a committee to look into the possibilities of modern forensic science. In 1978 Cabinet resolved to pursue this matter and a committee was set up consisting of representatives from the Departments of Health and Primary Industries, the Government Medical Officer, the Government Chemical Laboratory, the State Health Laboratory, the Solicitor-General and the Queensland Bar Association. Some three years later we find that there is an almost unanimous call by affected people that the proposal that was investigated at that time be implemented.

The program "Nationwide" began this year with an interview with a Queensland lady who heads the chemical section of the Metropolitan Police Laboratories in London. Of its 220 scientists, 60 are chemists, and all are available to assist the police. This lady said that the state of the art in Queensland and Australia should be improved so that it is on a par with that available to the police in the United Kingdom. One must remember that forensic science has lately come into prominence, particularly because of its value in helping to solve serious crimes.

I suppose it is a rather staggering reflection on our society—perhaps on decentralisation, perhaps on the social life of certain groups—that our murder rate is 70 per cent higher than that of England and Wales, with all their problems of strikes and social discord. That, unfortunately, is the reality, which would suggest that in this country there is a grave need for all the scientific benefits and aids required by modern investigators.

It is a rare public event when people of the prominence of the Chief Crown Prosecutor for Queensland, the senior defence lawyer in the State—who happened to be a representative of the Northern Territory Government in the Azaria Chamberlain inquest—and senior officers of the Police Department join together in a single call, and I will refer to what they said.

At a forensic science conference last week the Chief Crown Prosecutor, Mr Vasta, QC, said—

> "In my view there ought to be a better and more efficient method of examination of materials and objects. This can be achieved if an Institute of Forensic Science were set up."

At the same conference, Mr Sturgess, who is the senior defence counsel practising in this State, and achieved international prominence in the Azaria Chamberlain inquest, said—

> "Queensland, unfortunately, is in a backwater in the practice of forensic science. A small part of its stream of knowledge has collected about us, but it is shallow in many places and in danger of becoming stagnant. What we need is a forensic science institute."

In an article in yesterday's "Courier-Mail", Mr Terry Lewis, putting the police attitude in perspective because of some misunderstanding or misinformation about his department's attitude, made these statements—

> "This department supports the establishment of a Queensland forensic science institute independent of any police direction or control."

He went on to say that the police participated in that 1979 inquiry. They obviously participated in reaching the unanimous decision of that inquiry that a forensic science institute should be established and that it should be independent of the Police Department. The committee agreed that the institute should be most appropriately established within the Queensland Health Department. Agreement was also reached that the institute's facilities should be available to both the police and the defence and, very importantly, that if either the police or the defence went to the institute the results of the inquiry should be available to both sides. It is not something to be loaded just in favour of the prosecution.

Commissioner Lewis also pointed out that Inspector Ron Redmond, who is, as Commissioner Lewis describes him, "one of our most gifted criminal investigators", and I can certainly say a highly respected police officer, was the recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 1979 to study scenes-of-crime investigation overseas. In his report he said—

> "It is clear that there is an urgent need in Queensland for a forensic laboratory staffed by forensic scientists of quality.
>
> It is clear that a forensic institute or laboratory must be operated as an independent entity under the control of a director who is himself a forensic scientist of high reputation. For obvious reasons it should not be under the control of the Police Department. The forensic institute or laboratory should be geared to police investigators' needs and the defence should have access to its scientific reports.
>
> My inquiries show that research is a major role undertaken by forensic laboratories, but they must be available to provide expert assistance to investigating police when required at the scene of a crime. This should be on a 24-hour basis and they should be called, in any case, to all arsons or suspicious fires."

The full possibilities of modern forensic science have been seen in trials and inquiries, such as the coroner's inquiry into the Azaria Chamberlain affair. The possibilities are seen weekly by hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders in the American television serial "Quincy" which, although fiction, has a background of reality. It shows the scientific laboratories and the equipment and techniques available to modern scientific criminal investigation. The public and the Government have begun to realise the full possibilities in modern forensic science. These possibilities can function efficiently only if all the expertise that is presently used is brought together under one roof.

At the moment the forensic section of the Health Department operates up to two to three months behind the mere demand of case work. Because of the demands on the section, there is no time for research or to fully carry out all the tests that the section is capable of doing. Results are coming out up to two to three months behind the first receipt of materials for investigation.

Mr Jones: Are those figures that you quoted for the British Isles, or just for England and Wales?

Mr INNES: For England and Wales.

Mr Jones: Why only England and Wales? Why not the British Isles?

Mr INNES: I did not have the other figures. No doubt we could obtain them later.

The reality is that at the same conference two weeks ago the call for the development of more expertise in the forensic science section was given further base by both Mr Vasta and Mr Sturgess—obviously both from very different perspectives. Both of them pointed to cases in their recollections. The Chief Crown Prosecutor recalled cases

that had occurred within the last two months where better or fuller scientific investigation would have assisted in achieving a determination of the truth. It is perfectly clear from Mr Sturgess's paper and Mr Vasta's paper to that conference that the absence of full expertise in modern forensic science has led to people getting off or being convicted of charges lesser than those which the two barristers thought were available. Mr Vasta pointed to instances where police scientific personnel, doing the best they could under the present limitations of training and equipment, failed to examine on material splashes of blood and, in one case, acid. That material could have been examined, and examined with more purpose, to disprove the defences and theories raised by the defence.

At the moment the realities are that some articles such as garments might have to go to the Institute of Forensic Pathology or, in the case of vegetable matter, to the Department of Primary Industries. If there are any traces of soil, it may go to the Government Analyst, or perhaps to the Police Department itself, which might then take the material to an electron-scanning microscope situated at the James Cook University in Townsville.

As honourable members should know, the ability to prove a chain of constant control over an item such as a garment is often necessary in court. When these facilities are dispersed through four Government departments and a university situated 1 000 km away it is inefficient and time consuming, and does not lead to the development of related and complementary expertise.

Interest Concessions for First-home Buyers; Stamp Duty on Property Transfer; Staffing of Coolum State School

Mr SIMPSON (Cooroora) (12.31 p.m.): I have three important matters to bring to the attention of the House. The first is not within the jurisdiction of the State because it is a Federal matter. I suggest to the Federal Treasurer (Mr Howard) that if the Government wishes to help first-home buyers it should make interest payments tax free, to a maximum benefit of $2,000. A person with a home loan of $30,000 at 15 per cent interest pays approximately $4,500 a year in interest. The concession I have proposed would reduce the interest payment to $2,500 a year, bringing the interest rate down to 8 per cent. That would be tangible assistance to first-home buyers. They would still have some to meet some capital payments but they would be more manageable. The proposed concession would help the buiding industry, but more importantly, it would help the first-home buyer, while not upsetting the trade in the money market.

The next matter concerns a recent decision of the High Court of Australia that the Federal Family Court could not order a State not to levy stamp duty on the transfer of property ordered by that court. Because the family unit is so important, we should amend the Stamp Act so that stamp duty is not payable in those circumstances.

When people pass through the traumatic, stressful and difficult period of a break-up of their family life they should receive special consideration. In many instances the property is jointly owned or is owned by the husband alone. In most cases the wife is given the responsibility of looking after the children, so she should not be burdened with the added cost of stamp duty on the transfer of property that the court has ordered be transferred to her. I recommend that the Minister look at that matter.

I wish to correct some information that was perhaps inadvertently presented to the House about a school in my electorate by the member for South Brisbane (Mr Fouras), who said that the Coolum State School had 68 children in Year 1 and 75 children in Year 2. The member for South Brisbane said that each of those groups should have three teachers. I now wish to provide the House with the correct information.

Mr Hooper: It will be the first time you have ever done so.

Mr SIMPSON: No, it is not. The honourable member for Archerfield is never here. He is always blown up with his own importance and never listens to anybody else.

In Year 1 that school has 72 students. The honourable member for South Brisbane claimed that only two teachers taught that group; in fact, there are three.

That is very misleading. Whether he has done that himself or whether he has taken it from the journal of the Queensland Teachers Union—and that would have been unprofessional—I do not know.

Mr Underwood: Has that been so for the whole year?

Mr SIMPSON: Yes. I am referring to this year.

Mr Burns: This year has only been going for a month.

Mr SIMPSON: That is what he is referring to.

In Year 2 there are 67 students and two teachers. I am not happy about that and have brought it to the Minister's attention. In Year 3 there are 71 students and two teachers; in Year 4, 65 students and two teachers; Year 5, 59 students and two teachers; Year 6, 54 students and two teachers; and Year 7, 58 students and two teachers. The total enrolment is 446 and the staff totals 15, plus a relieving teacher, one teacher-librarian and, of course, a full-time principal. Following submissions from me, the Minister for Education has provided a special remedial teacher to be shared with Bli Bli school—and I must thank him for that—because of the number of disturbed family relationships and one-parent families in the district and other children requiring remedial help in their earlier years. As honourable members would recall, the provision of such assistance in those circumstances was suggested in item 4.13 of the Ahern report. In addition, the Coolum school shares physical education teachers and speech therapists. The member for South Brisbane claimed that children in Years 1 and 2 who were "left over" were in a composite class and said that that was unsatisfactory. Coolum school has no composite class. Therefore, the information he supplied was quite misleading.

This Government yesterday committed itself to the on-going implementation of the recommendations in the Ahern report. The only people who do not accept that are the members opposite who cry out in favour of strike action and the few members of the Queensland Teachers Union executive who also cry out for such action. However, it is accepted by the rank-and-file teachers who are professional and consider their students first. They are concerned about the students under their care, and they are aware that this Government has provided more than $100m in additional funds in the last year and has committed itself to provide even further funds to implement the Ahern committee's recommendation on class sizes over a certain period—something that a few members of the Teachers Union executive misquote.

Quite clearly, the committee's report is being implemented. Quite clearly the Government is concerned to do just that. Look at the Government's achievement since 1972, when 22 per cent of classes had more than 35 students. The number now is under 2 per cent. Obviously, there is a continual improvement in class sizes. That needs to be emphasised to parents in this State. It is a little disappointing that the media do not appear to have been mindful of discussion yesterday that clearly indicated the achievements that have been made and the importance that should be given to not having just an arbitrary figure per class.

It is more important to consider the problem areas in class-rooms. For instance, what is to be done when the number in a class rises from 30 to 31? Is the department suddenly to say, "Now there have to be two teachers."?

That is not the best way to overcome the problem. The best way to overcome it is already in operation. The principal, in consultation with the staff, investigates the most efficient use of resources for the benefit of the students in that school. That may involve a composite class; it may not. Some children require special and remedial attention, which may be given in a class containing more than 30 students.

The Government's track record indicates that it will honour its commitment to reduce class sizes. The Government supports the good, honest teachers in Queensland who have demonstrated their stability by not following the radical few who would strike and deprive our children of education. It is up to the parents of the children in this State to support those professional teachers who consider that the best interests of the children are served by their not being on strike and depriving the children of education. That is the main point that should be brought home to the people of this State. Responsible parents will support responsible teachers. The Ahern report reveals that that is why Queensland has the best education level in Australia.

Bombing of Iwasaki Tourist Resort; Public Relations Expenditure by Brisbane City Council and State Government

Mr BURNS (Lytton) (12.42 p.m.): On 16 September 1981, I tabled in this Parliament during the Matters of Public Interest debate a number of statutory declarations from fishermen and other persons in the Yeppoon area detailing the activities of a man named Wust. Honourable members would know that Mr Wust was the "dog", the dobber, or police pimp who set up tape-recorders on a boat so that a man named Geissmann would be charged with bombing the Iwasaki tourist resort. It is now a matter of history that Wust's evidence was rejected by the court and that the Geissmanns were found not guilty of the charges that were laid against them. At that time I produced statutory declarations from Alwyn Edward Inslay, Trevor Tucker and David Anthony Hutton which stated in effect that Wust was a drug-runner and a marijuana grower; that he had grown it on his property; and that their boat had been hired by the police to apprehend Wust in his illegal drug activities. At that time I suggested that police pressure was Mr Wust's reason for being an informer and acting in that way against one of his own cobbers in the town.

I asked for an investigation into that matter. Mr Hinze was not very interested because he told the Press that he was waiting for details of the material that I had placed on the table of the Parliament. I wrote to him on 18 September 1981 and enclosed three copies of the statutory declarations that I had tabled in the House. In that letter I stated that I had seen two police officers reading the material in the lobby. I was in possession of two further statutory declarations, which I forwarded to Mr Hinze. The statutory declaration from James Archibald Small of Pandanus Street, Cooee Bay, stated—

> "I know Neville Victor Dickson Wust and I live next door to his home in Cooee Bay, Yeppoon.
>
> That; Neville Wust told me (when police requested him to assist them in their investigations into the Iwasaki bombing) he (Wust) said 'give me one good reason why I should help you?' They replied '110,000 good reasons.' "

That is the reward. The statement continues—

> "That; He was met by three demons (detectives) when he returned from the Port late at night as he tied up at his jetty. They then questioned him and played tapes back to him that were recorded on his boat, and also tapes that were recorded from bugging his utility, he then said 'they have me this time and I can look forward to a lot of years in the pen, if I don't play ball with them.'
>
> That; Neville Wust said to me 'If I could say what I wanted to say in court I could get John Geissmann off the hook.'
>
> That; Neville Wust said to me, 'I am gone which ever way it goes, the heavies will get me from one side or the other.' He implied the police on one side or the under world on the other, though he never said under world.
>
> That; Neville Wust said to me i.e. 'The police told him there is a price on his his head of $1,000 and that the heavies from down south are after him' he later said 'the price on my head is $5,000.'
>
> That; Neville Wust would never move without his .303 rifle by his side in his utility with a fully loaded magazine and one in the barrel."

I sent that declaration to Mr Hinze. I also forwarded a statutory declaration of Boyd Battersby. It was couched in a similar vein. I was surprised to find that when the policemen turned up to interview me about the case they were the ones who had charged Geissmann. I was suggesting that the prosecution had set someone up as a stooge. I had complained and the Minister sent along the policemen who were involved. The policemen then left and carried out an investigation. I received a letter from Mr Hinze on 1 December 1981.

I will read that letter, Mr Deputy Speaker, but before doing so I mention that I had sought Mr Speaker's permission to table seven short statutory declarations for inclusion in "Hansard". I now seek leave to have them included in "Hansard"

(Leave granted.)

I, JAMES ARCHIBALD SMALL of PANDANUS STREET, COOEE BAY, in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that, Since signing a previous statutory declaration regarding Neville Victor Dickson Wust and his alledged involvment in marihuana growing, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to this matter.

(Sgd.) James A. Small.

I, BOYD BATTERSBY of HUTTON STREET, YEPPOON, in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that, Since signing a previous statutory declaration regarding Neville Victor Dickson Wust and his alledged involvment in marihuana growing, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to this matter.

(Sgd.) Boyd Battersby.

I, ALVYN EDWARD INSLAY of 65 ROCKHAMPTON ROAD, YEPPOON, in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that, Since signing a previous statutory declaration regarding Neville Victor Dickson Wust and his alledged involvment in marihuana growing, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to this matter.

(Sgd.) A. E. Inslay.

I, TREVOR TUCKER of ROCKHAMPTON ROAD, YEPPOON, in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that, Since signing a previous statutory declaration regarding Neville Victor Dickson Wust and his alledged involvment in marihuana growing, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to this matter.

(Sgd.) T. J. Tucker.

I, DAVID ANTHONY HUTTON of COOBERRIE, VIA YEPPOON, in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that, Since signing a previous statutory declaration regarding Neville Victor Dickson Wust and his alledged involvment in marihuana growing, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to this matter.

That, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to the matter of instruction given to me by the Crown prosecutor in the Iwasaki Bombing trial regarding the growing of Marihuana at Farnborough by Neville Victor Dickson Wust.

(Sgd.) D. A. Hutton.

I, RAYMOND NATHERIA JOHNSON of CORIO BAY, in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to allegations against Neville Victor Dickson Wust since the Iwasaki Bombing trial 15/6/81 at which trial I was a Crown witness.

(Sgd.) R. Johnson.

I, DARCY ERIC WHITE of PACIFIC HEIGHTS, YEPPOON, in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I was Neville Victor Dickson Wusts nearest neighbour from 1974 until he sold out and moved to Cooee Bay.

That: I shared a common boundary with Neville Wust of approx. five hundred metres.

That: I have not been interviewed by any police, in relation to the allegations that Neville Wust was involved in the growing and selling of marihuana during the years he was my neighbour.

(Sgd.) Darcy White.

Mr BURNS: The letter from Mr Hinze to me reads as follows—

"I refer to your letter of 9 October 1978 wherein you attach two Statutory Declarations in relation to the alleged activities of Neville Victor Dickson Wust.

My Acting Commissioner of Police informs me that investigations into the activities of Wust were carried out by a Commissioned Officer of Police.

No additional information was obtained which would in any way connect Wust with the allegations contained in the Statutory Declarations as supplied by you."

That sounds great, but for the fact that I have had included in "Hansard" statutory declarations from every one of the persons involved stating that the police had never interviewed him. How could the police officer have carried out an investigation into the statutory declarations that I have included in "Hansard" if he never went to one of the persons who made the statutory declarations?

Mr Prest: That's their policy.

Mr BURNS: I do not know what their policies are. The statutory declarations are included in "Hansard", but at this stage members are not aware of their contents. I will read the statutory declaration signed by James A. Small. It says—

> "Since signing a previous statutory declaration regarding Neville Victor Dickson Wust and his alledged involvment in marihuana growing, I have not been interviewed by any police in relation to this matter."

Similar statutory declarations were signed by Boyd Battersby, Inslay, Tucker, Hutton, and so on. What is going on here? What type of police investigation is that?

In Yeppoon the dogs are barking that Wust is a marijuana grower. To show how fair dinkum the policeman who interviewed me was, I point out that I made a passing reference to the local publican, a local policeman and Wust having gone fishing together. Within 24 hours the publican rang some of my colleagues and asked, "What is Burns doing naming me?" The police officer went and told the publican, but he did not do anything about investigating the statutory declarations. Within 24 hours the publican and the people in the town knew about it.

I am not satisfied that a proper investigation has been carried out into Wust's activities. I am far from satisfied that Wust was not a stooge and that he did not set out deliberately to get someone for the bombing.

I remember quite plainly that when a letter bomb exploded in the Premier's office and injured two young men no reward was offered by the Queensland Government. It was only Australia Post that put up the reward. I remember, too, that the Queensland Government was flat out matching the reward for the Balaclava killer. In contrast, the Premier and others were rushing in with $50,000 rewards on the day after Iwasaki's building was bombed. Nobody was hurt, no woman was raped, no employees were injured by flying fragments, as happened when the letter bomb sent by some madman exploded—only a building was damaged. Something seems to be wrong with the Queensland Government's priorities.

Is it any wonder that I write to the Minister for Police expressing my concern over the problems confronting young people who want to complain against police and who want investigations conducted into statements that they make? What chance do the young people have?

In the very case to which I have been referring, Crown witnesses said that they raised with the Crown Prosecutor the matter of marijuana-growing, and he told them not to bring it up in court. What sort of justice system do we have?

I will leave it at that, because I know that the honourable member for Stafford will speak for a few moments about an alleged misuse of funds by the Brisbane City Council. I want to show him certain things. I have here a book that was produced by Lord Mayor Groom on the eve of the council election that he lost.

Mr Gygar: What year?

Mr BURNS: It was 1961. It was produced for the council of the city of Brisbane, and it is a costly publication. It was circulated to a great many people. Mr Groom was the Tory Lord Mayor. He used to drive round in a Rolls Royce. As far as the Tories were concerned, he was the last of the big spenders.

The Premier himself had to slam Mr Doumany and other Liberal Ministers over their advertisements in the newspapers. At the time the Queensland Government had 63 public relations officers working for it. Yet it has the hide to talk about spending money!

I have here an advertisement displaying a photograph of Mr Doumany, who was then Minister for Welfare Services. I have another with a photograph of Max Hooper, of the National Party. The Premier said that he did not think the photographs of Ministers added anything to the advertisements. In fact, he said quite plainly that the photographs were a waste of public money.

Here is an advertisement with a photograph of Llew Edwards over it. Here is another with a photograph of Mr Doumany. Another one has a photo of Sir William Knox. Another has a photograph of Bill Lickiss over the advertisement.

Mr Prest: They're all Liberals.

Mr BURNS: Yes, all Liberals, and they complain about the Brisbane City Council.

What about Norm Lee? He appeared in a television commercial wearing a coat and advertising "Let's make it great in the Sunshine State". What about Don Lane? I could go on and on. The pattern was set by the Liberal and National Parties. If the speech about to be made by the member for Stafford is as I believe it to be, the member is hypocritical.

The Premier used to insert in the Press a "Personally speaking" column, paid for by the Government. When he was attacking the Whitlam Government he had his public relations officers compile full-page advertisements, and they were paid for by the people of Queensland. And what about "Beryl I" and "Beryl II", the aeroplane and helicopter in which the Premier flies all over the State? What about those little expensive baubles and toys?

Mr Gygar: Do you say that what was purchased for the State Emergency Service is a PR machine for the Government?

Mr BURNS: Of course it is. Yesterday, the Premier said, "You can't fly a helicopter but I can." Until he learnt to fly a helicopter there was no thought of buying one.

Mr Prest: We paid $10,000 to have him taught.

Mr BURNS: Yes. Who paid the fees for his tuition? I could go on and on. The Government parties have made ripping off the public purse part of the scene in this State. Last week I went to New Guinea. Up there, they are only amateurs. The plain fact of the matter is that the Liberal Party is starting to run scared. It cannot sell that lack-lustre fellow from Camp Hill. No-one believes that he will ever be the Lord Mayor of Brisbane.

Mr Gygar: Who will be the next Labor Lord Mayor?

Mr BURNS: I would say that Roy Harvey will be the Labor Lord Mayor. He will win very clearly. In addition, Labor will win a couple more seats. The Liberals are in real trouble. Joh will beat them at their own game. He will take the Conservative vote and the business vote from the Liberal Party.

Brisbane City Council Public Relations Expenditure

Mr GYGAR (Stafford) (12.52 p.m.): In rising to speak in the Matters of Public Interest debate, I must say that I was appalled to hear the former Leader of the Opposition try to justify the actions of the Brisbane City Council in its massive public relations campaign by saying that ripping off the public purse is part of the scene in Queensland. That must be one of the strangest but most honest admissions from any person in this Chamber. He acknowledges that his party is ripping off the public purse.

Mr BURNS: I rise to a point of order to put on record that I said that the Liberal and National parties, which have been in government since 1957, have made an art of robbing the public purse.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: (Mr Miller) Order! I ask the honourable member for Stafford to accept the words of the honourable member for Lytton.

Mr GYGAR: I accept that he said that quite clearly as part of his rather paltry and threadbare defence of his mates in the council. But how did he do it? He went back to 1961—22 years ago. On the honourable member's own admission, this city has not seen such corruption for 22 years. What an interesting admission from the former Leader of the Opposition!

He raised the matter of the State Public Relations Bureau, which is in the Premier's Department. I am quite happy to have that matter raised by him because Mr Burns, if he were honest, would have said that the present PR machine in City Hall is twice the size of the State Public Relations Bureau. I do not mind the council having a public relations machine. In these days of sophisticated communications, every form of

government has to have some method of disseminating messages through the complexities of the media. But for Brisbane—one city in all of Queensland—to have a public relations machine twice the size of the Government bureau speaks for itself.

What are they up to? Why do we have this violent reaction from the members of the Australian Labor Party about people who want to draw attention to the till-tickling by their cohorts in City Hall, this desperation of the present Labor administration to try to stave off defeat in the coming council election? That is staring it in the face. It is a tired, old, lack-lustre administration that is looking down the barrel of defeat. It will use anything—most of all the ratepayers' money—to try to hold onto the reigns of power.

Let us not indulge in cat-calling and name-calling. Let us look at the plain, simple facts—not speculation, not criticism, but facts. Fact one is "City Report", a television program that has been running for years, paid for by the ratepayers of Brisbane. What is it for?

Mr HANSEN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I draw your attention to the state of the House.

(Quorum formed.)

Mr GYGAR: It is interesting to note that the Opposition just embarked on a deliberate tactic to collapse the quorum in the House in order to avoid having placed on record the facts about the scandal of the present administration of the Brisbane City Council in its ripping off of the public purse for its own PR machine.

As I was mentioning before Opposition members deliberately left the Chamber at the behest of the honourable member for Lytton, "City Report" is a program that has appeared regularly over recent years on Brisbane television. There was one short break; but the council's PR machine fell apart, so the program went back on air. Anyone who has watched that program cannot deny that it is nothing more than a self-serving party political broadcast to say what wonderful people they are at City Hall. The cost? $5,000 a week!

Mr Vaughan: That wouldn't be right.

Mr GYGAR: I should be delighted to find out that that is wrong if the honourable member would tell us exactly how much money is being spent. If the honourable member alleges that my figure is wrong, I challenge him to present the correct figure. Far be it from me to malign the city council; I am only seeking the truth of the matter.

Mr Wright: You're lying again. You're telling a lie.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! The honourable member for Rockhampton will withdraw that word.

Mr WRIGHT: I do not believe I can, because the honourable member is lying to this House. He is telling total untruths.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Rockhampton is using an unparliamentary word, and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr WRIGHT: What am I supposed to withdraw? If untruths are told in this House, what are we supposed to do about it?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The word "liar" is an unparliamentary word, and I ask the honourable member to withdraw that word.

Mr WRIGHT: I withdraw the word "liar". He is telling total untruths.

Mr GYGAR: I am fascinated by the honourable member's reaction. All I said was that I estimated that the program would cost $5,000 a week. It would cost any commercial undertaking $5,000.

Mr WRIGHT: I move—

"That the honourable member for Stafford table the document from which he is reading."

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! It has been moved that the honourable member table the document from which he is quoting.

Mr GYGAR: I will table the piece of notepaper on which is my handwriting.

Mr Wright: That is right, in your own handwriting, so it proves you are telling untruths.

Mr GYGAR: Such is the honourable member's sophistication that he has never before seen speech notes in this House. That is remarkable!

I must move along, because anyone can see that Opposition members are trying to run me out of time so that I cannot place the rest of my story on record. Let us just concentrate on the last six days. In the "Telegraph" of last Friday there appeared a full-colour, full-page advertisement saying what a wonderful bunch of people the city council were for introducing a bus service. My estimate of the cost, based on reasonable commercial——

Mr Vaughan: Your estimation!

Mr GYGAR: I challenge the honourable member to give me the proper figure. My estimate was $3,500. If the honourable member can place a full-colour page in the "Telegraph" for less I will engage him as an advertising agent.

Another full-page advertisement appeared in Saturday's "Courier-Mail". The standard rates in the "Courier-Mail"? Approximately $5,000! In "The Sunday Mail" the following day this magnum opus I have here titled "Shine on Brisbane" appeared. Not party political—oh, no!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 10 March 1981, the time for the debate on matters of public interest has now expired.

Whereupon the honourable member for Stafford laid on the table the document referred to.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.