

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST 1982

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

Assent reported by Mr Speaker.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

- Director-General, Department of Mines, for the year 1981
- Rural Reconstruction Board for the year ended 30 June 1981
- Queensland Meat Industry Organization and Marketing Authority for the year ended 30 June 1981

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

- Essential Services Act 1979
- Consumer Affairs Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1982
- Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979-1982
- Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Act 1982
- Queensland Marine Act 1958-1979
- City of Brisbane Market Act Amendment Act 1982
- Diseases in Plants Act 1929-1972
- Margarine Act Amendment Act 1982
- Sugar Acquisition Act of 1915

Orders in Council under—

- State Development and Public Works Organization Act 1971-1981
- State Development and Public Works Organization Act 1971-1981 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
- Supreme Court Act 1921-1979
- Factories and Shops Act 1960-1982
- Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979-1982
- Workers' Compensation Act 1916-1982
- Harbours Act 1955-1982
- Explosives Act 1952-1981
- Mines Regulation Act 1964-1979
- Gas Act 1965-1981
- Electricity Act 1976-1980
- Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981
- Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
- City of Brisbane Market Act 1960-1978 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
- Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act 1958-1979
- Fish Supply Management Act 1972-1976 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
- Fruit Marketing Organisation Act 1923-1980
- Milk Supply Act 1977-1981
- Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923-1981
- Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1981

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1981 and the Local
 Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
 Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Act 1962-1981
 Soil Conservation Act 1965-1980
 Stock Act 1915-1981
 Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1981
 Wheat Marketing Act 1979-1980
 Wheat Pool Act 1920-1979 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979
 Noise Abatement Act 1978-1982
 Clean Air Act 1963-1981
 City of Brisbane Act 1924-1980
 Metropolitan Transit Authority Act 1976-1979 and the Local Bodies' Loans
 Guarantee Act 1923-1979

Regulations under—

Public Service Act 1922-1978
 Public Accountants Registration Act 1946-1975
 Racing and Betting Act 1980-1982
 Racing Venues Development Act 1982
 Co-operative and Other Societies Act 1967-1978
 Building Societies Act 1886-1976
 Construction Safety Act 1971-1975
 Consumer Affairs Act 1970-1982
 Factories and Shops Act 1960-1982
 Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1982
 Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979-1982
 Inspection of Machinery Act 1951-1979
 Motor Vehicles Safety Act 1980
 Weights and Measures Act 1951-1978
 Workers' Compensation Act 1916-1982
 Explosives Act 1952-1981
 Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Act 1941-1981
 Mining Act 1968-1982
 Electricity Act 1976-1980
 Co-ordination of Rural Advances and Agricultural Bank Act 1938-1980 and the
 Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981
 Brands Act 1915-1979
 City of Brisbane Market Act 1960-1982
 Dairy Produce Act 1978-1979
 Diseases in Plants Act 1929-1972
 Fruit Marketing Organisation Act 1923-1980
 Meat Industry Act 1965-1981
 Poultry Industry Act 1946-1979
 Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1981
 Stock Act 1915-1981
 Fire Brigades Act 1964-1982
 Fire Safety Act 1974-1982
 Clean Air Act 1963-1981
 Building Act 1975-1981
 Local Government (Queen Street Mall) Act 1981

By-laws under the Railways Act 1914-1978

Rules of Court under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1982

Uniform Practice Manual—Fixed Assets and Depreciation Accounting Procedures—
 1982 under the Electricity Act 1976-1980

Resolutions of the 113th Meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council held in Adelaide, South Australia, on 8 February 1982

Resolutions of the 11th Meeting of the Australian Fisheries Council held in Adelaide, South Australia, on 25 September 1981

Report of the Grain Research Foundation for the year ended 30 June 1981

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Keith Clarke Insurances

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (11.12 a.m.): There has been considerable media exposure recently of the activities of the insurance multi-agency operated by Gurhiri Pty Ltd, trading as Keith Clarke Insurances.

On 10 August 1982, the Supreme Court appointed Messrs E. Harris and W. Wild of Messrs Coopers and Lybrand, chartered accountants, as provisional liquidators of the company. The provisional liquidators have had discussions with representatives of the major insurance companies involved where the overall situation was reviewed. In addition, the provisional liquidators have conducted a preliminary investigation into the company's affairs. This examination revealed:—

the company has extremely limited assets,

the records are in a confused state, and

the Fraud Squad has demanded and is now in possession of the books and records of the company.

I am informed that the provisional liquidators do not anticipate being in a position to offer assistance to individual policy-holders. I can therefore only urge policy-holders and persons who have had dealings with Keith Clarke Insurances to obtain their own legal advice and contact the relevant insurance companies direct.

In order to avoid any confusion that is apparent from Press reports, I point out that Keith Clarke Insurances was not an insurance broker. Insurance brokers are subject to State legislation and are required to maintain professional liability insurance. Keith Clarke Insurances is a multi-agent and as such is appointed by insurance companies who in turn are subject to Commonwealth legislation. Thus, agents such as Keith Clarke Insurances are the responsibility of insurers authorised by the Commonwealth Insurance Act of 1973, under the control of the Commonwealth Treasurer.

Bayside Bus Services

Hon. D. F. LANE (Merthyr—Minister for Transport) (11.14 a.m.): Bus services operated by Bayside Bus Services in the Wynnum/Manly area have suffered from declining patronage, which can be attributed in the main to the completion of the cross-river rail link and general improvements in rail services to the area. As a consequence the financial position of the service has deteriorated seriously, particularly in recent months, to the point where expenditure is considerably in excess of revenue, despite Government subsidy payments of \$450,068.40 in the 1981-82 financial year.

In view of this position the Commissioner for Transport and chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, at my request, have arranged for the appointment of a suitable small team of their officers to work with the company in an endeavour to restore viability to the overall operations. Initial action has been taken to delete or modify some very lowly patronised services and a fare increase of 10 per cent has been applied to services in the Redlands area.

The overall operations of the company are the subject of ongoing detailed review and further service charges will be necessary in the short term. Areas likely to be affected are off-peak, late night and week-end services in both the Wynnum and Redlands areas.

The position is being closely monitored and every effort is being made to maintain a financially viable bus service for the benefit of residents in the Wynnum and Redlands areas.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Mr JENNINGS (Southport) (11.16 a.m.), by leave: I regret that it is necessary for me to make this statement to the Queensland Parliament regarding conditions and the feeding of patients at the Gold Coast Nursing Home, 40 William Street, or 78 Stevens Street, Southport.

On Monday, 19 July, I received verbal and written complaints from a number of people that there were alarming and major deficiencies in regard to the management and quality and quantity of food being served to the 90 old patients at the Gold Coast Nursing Home.

I checked with the senior official of the Health Department in charge of nursing homes and he confirmed that there were a number of serious problems and requested that I submit my complaints in writing to the Minister. He said, "There is no way we are going to put up with what is happening there."

Mr Moore: Why don't you say this in the Address-in-Reply debate? This isn't a personal explanation.

Mr JENNINGS: There happen to be a number of elderly people down there who are half starved, if the honourable member cares to listen.

He also said that since the new management took over under an arrangement there has been an approval for an extension of approximately another 50 beds.

The official informed me that the Health Department had sent two dietitians, two nurses, one medico and one Health Department official to inspect and report on the premises. They visited the home in pairs and issued a set of instructions to the management.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's comments do not comply with the requirements of a personal statement. If the honourable member can convince members that he has been personally maligned I will permit him to continue, otherwise I cannot do so.

Mr JENNINGS: It has nothing to do with my being maligned; it is about elderly people not being properly fed.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Funding for State Schools; Class Sizes

From Mr Kruger (346 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will restore the education share of the Budget, employ sufficient teachers so that the class sizes do not exceed the select committee recommendations and provide sufficient funds for necessary school building and maintenance.

[Similar petitions were received from Mr Ahern (174 signatories) and Mr Elliott (59 signatories).]

Rebate on Electricity Tariffs to Pensioners

From Mr Kruger (135 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will give urgent consideration to the granting of a rebate on electricity tariffs to pensioners.

State Service Superannuation Scheme

From Mr Borbidge (44 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will remove all discrimination from the State Service Superannuation Scheme.

[Similar petitions were received from Mr Kruger (15 signatories) and Mr Hartwig (29 signatories).]

Autonomy of Statutory Education Boards

From Mr Muntz (193 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will not erode the limited autonomy of boards such as the Board of Secondary School Studies and allow teacher unions to nominate their representatives to such boards.

Free Hospital Scheme

From Mr Vaughan (71 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will continue the free hospital and medical services in Queensland.

Withdrawal of Education Bill

From Mr Powell (16 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will withdraw the present Education Bill.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

1. **Maintenance of Main Roads, Callide Electorate**

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

(1) How much has been expended on maintenance on the following main roads within the Callide Electorate: (a) Thangool to Dululu, (b) Rockhampton to Bouldercombe and (c) that section of the Rockhampton to Gracemere Road within the Fitzroy Shire?

(2) As many kilometres of these roads have deteriorated to the extent that they are hazardous, will he or his Commissioner for Main Roads accompany me on a conducted tour to inspect the dangerous condition of these roads?

Answer:—

(1) The sections mentioned in the question do not coincide with the lengths of the respective highways against which costs are dissected. However, it has been deduced that maintenance expenditures in 1981-82 were of the following order:—\$192,000, \$45,000, \$10,000.

(2) Detailed inspections were carried out within the last three weeks by the Deputy Commissioner of Main Roads, the assistant commissioner for Central Queensland and the district engineer. Maintenance procedures were critically reviewed and instructions were issued for the correction of particular deficiencies. The inspections have also provided current information for the assessment of priorities for the limited permanent works funds available for the many deficient sections of arterial road in the region.

2 & 3. **Jojoba International Pty Ltd**

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

With reference to a brochure recently distributed in the name of Jojoba International Pty Ltd in which it is claimed that (a) jojoba oil has been found to be the only replacement for sperm whale oil, (b) a huge world demand for jojoba oil is absolutely assured, (c) Queensland conditions are perfect for jojoba cultivation, (d) jojoba trees can go on producing for 100 to 200 years, (e) jojoba is by far the most attractive investment in the world today and (f) a participant in a jojoba plantation benefits not only himself for life, but also his descendants, and as such claims appear to be without adequate foundation—is he prepared to take action causing Jojoba International Pty Ltd to prove its claims or else to desist from making such claims?

Answer:—

The honourable member's question in relation to the alleged qualities of the jojoba bean and the use and demand for its oil was answered at length by my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries in this House on 5 August 1982.

As far as investment in a jojoba plantation is concerned—such investment is likely to be a prescribed interest under the Companies (Queensland) Code and no issue, offer or invitation may be made to the public unless the provisions of that code have been complied with.

At this stage Jojoba International Pty Ltd has not been able to comply fully with the provisions of the Companies (Queensland) Code.

Any breach of the relevant legislation will result in prosecution action. In fact, Jojoba International has already been prosecuted, under the previous legislation in Queensland, in relation to advertisements offering interests in its jojoba plantation.

The matter was heard on 15 and 16 June 1982 in the Brisbane Magistrates Court. The magistrate, on 5 August 1982, held that the scheme being promoted was an interest under the Companies Act but that the advertisements and brochures sent in response to the coupons forwarded to the company by the prospective investor did not amount to an invitation to the public to subscribe for an interest. The decision will be examined by the Solicitor-General and the appropriate action will be taken in terms of his advice.

I join with my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries in suggesting that intending investors in this project carefully consider the risks involved before making any financial commitment.

Mr Harper asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

With reference to a brochure recently distributed in the name of Jojoba International Pty Ltd in which it is claimed that (a) jojoba oil has been found to be the only replacement for sperm whale oil, (b) a huge world demand for jojoba oil is absolutely assured, (c) Queensland conditions are perfect for jojoba cultivation, (d) jojoba trees can go on producing for 100 to 200 years, (e) jojoba is by far the most attractive investment in the world today and (f) a participant in a jojoba plantation benefits not only himself for life, but also his descendants, and as such claims appear to be without adequate foundation—is he prepared to take action causing Jojoba International Pty Ltd to prove its claims or else to desist from making such claims?

Answer:—

The reply provided by my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries on 5 August 1982 adequately answers the honourable member's question in regard to the technical specifications of the jojoba plant and the production returns and marketing claims of Jojoba International Pty Ltd. However, I strongly suggest anybody considering investing in this project should seek sound professional advice before making any legal commitment.

4. Subsidy on Transportation of Children to Non-State Schools

Mr Prest asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

As he stated in the 1981-82 Budget that talks had taken place between the Education Department and representatives of non-State schools, what progress has been made and what changes have been effected regarding subsidy for transportation of children to non-State schools?

Answer:—

Special funds were provided to the Education Department to enable the relative position and needs of non-Government school children to be fully researched. This research has progressed during 1981-82 in collaboration with representative non-Government school organisations and has included the circulation of a questionnaire for completion by parents of non-Government school children.

The quite detailed report that has emerged from this review is under consideration by a committee comprising representatives of the Education Department, non-Government schools and the Treasury, and I expect that the committee's recommendations will be available shortly for consideration by the Government.

5. Central Queensland Promotional Film

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

With reference to an answer to a question I asked of one of his predecessors on 2 December 1976 and to the progress made in the Central Queensland area over the years since the 1970 production—has a subsequent promotional film been made of Central Queensland and the Central Queensland coast since that date?

Answer:—

As the honourable member is aware, the Department of Tourism was abolished in 1979 and the matters he raises are now within the statutory control of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation.

I am aware that the corporation, in conjunction with the Queensland Film Corporation, is currently investigating the possibility of producing a new promotional film of Queensland that will become the base on which various additional regional films will be made for use by many authorities.

The Queensland Film Corporation and the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation have initiated these moves as the production of such a major Queensland film will be of the highest professional quality and much more effective than a number of smaller individual productions by various other bodies.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Tax Avoidance

Mr CASEY: In directing a question to the Premier, I refer to the Prime Minister's recent announcement of a summit meeting of all State Governments and the Federal Government for the purpose of exchanging information to help stamp out the tax avoidance industry in Australia, including bottom-of-the-harbour measures, following the suggestion by Mr Cain, the Victorian Premier, of the need for such a meeting. Will he join such a conference or will he, because of his deep hatred of the Labor Party, as reported in "The Courier-Mail" of 28 July, decline to co-operate with Labor States to stamp out such tax avoidance measures?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am sure that the Commonwealth is very much aware of the problem and that it is taking certain actions to counter and to overcome it. That has been demonstrated a number of times. I do not think it is a matter in which the States should become involved. Mr Cain suggested to me that information of a confidential nature relating to business activity should be exchanged. I refused to do that. I do not think that Queensland should become involved in spying on private business. What the honourable member referred to is a Commonwealth matter. The Commonwealth deals with taxation, and the matter is being dealt with.

If the honourable member is so concerned about tax avoidance, I am sure that he could assist the Federal Government and the State Government if he reimbursed the amounts that he still owes. The Leader of the Opposition is a tax avoider by avoiding the payment of the amounts that he owes to the Government.

Mr CASEY: Because the Premier thinks that the Commonwealth is so competent in this area, I refer to an amazing quotation from him in the "Daily Sun" of 5 August 1982. In his opposition to the Commonwealth proposal to introduce retrospective taxation legislation he is reported as saying, "It is morally unacceptable to legislate retrospectively for any reason."

In view of the fact that his Government over the years has constantly introduced and bashed retrospective legislation through this Parliament, including the Crown Appointments Declaratory Act 1976 (to protect Mr Eric Deeral, the then National Party member for Cook), the Percy Raymond Smith Declaratory Act of 1964 (to allow a then member of the House to be Judge Advocate General of the Air Force) and the Legislative Assembly Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1978 (to protect Dr Edwards, Mr Booth and Mr Greenwood), will he explain to the House why he does not find those actions of the Government to be morally unacceptable, yet now he is ever so keen to protect the most immoral people in Australia, the tax avoiders?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am sorry to hear the Leader of the Opposition say that tax avoiders are the most immoral people in Australia. I remind him about the amount he owes the Government. I hope that he does not include himself among those immoral people.

Section 5 of the Commonwealth Constitution makes retrospectivity of tax avoidance legislation incorrect and improper. Under the Constitution, a law is not void until a new law is introduced. It is not possible to make a law that goes back over a law under which people are paying tax or arranging their affairs in a legitimate way. I am opposed

to retrospectivity in that sense. Because of Section 5 of the Constitution, it is quite wrong that the Commonwealth should introduce retrospective taxation legislation. I am completely opposed to it in those circumstances.

Mr CASEY: In view of the Premier's answers to my previous questions about tax avoidance, is his real motive for supporting Australia's tax avoiders, as indicated by the article in "The Sunday Mail" of 15 August 1982 which stated, "The Premier indicated that he favoured taxation shelters for companies.", and "We have got a company and the tax rate is another rort that Canberra is up to.", the fact that he is one of them and that he is really protecting his own? I can assure the Premier that I have paid all my taxes.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Every one of us in this House pays the taxes that he is compelled to pay under the law. Many members employ tax accountants, as I do. I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition does the same. If he does not have somebody preparing his tax returns or checking them, that is obviously why he has forgotten to pay what he already owes and has owed the Government for many years.

38-hour Working Week

Mr INNES: If I may descend to a matter that concerns all Queenslanders, I direct a question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on labour relations. I ask: Is he aware of statements made by trade union leaders to the effect that the Government promised a 38-hour week to blue-collar workers and has not honoured that promise? Will he clarify the position, stating where the Government stands and what is the Opposition's position on this matter?

Dr EDWARDS: I thank the honourable member for giving me an opportunity to clarify many of the statements that have appeared in the newspapers and others that have been made by trade union leaders and, indeed, by members of the Opposition.

The campaign for a 38-hour week commenced approximately 18 months ago when the ACTU, in association with its union members, embarked upon a determined campaign throughout Australia for the implementation of a shorter working week. Of course, it had the right to do that. Its campaign was successful in other States. Next the campaign was conducted in Queensland.

In February this year the trade union movement started negotiations, at the unions' request, with the Government. It asked whether negotiations could commence on the possibility of giving blue-collar workers in Government employment a 38-hour week. At no stage did the Government indicate that it would give a 38-hour week.

Mr Underwood: That's a lie.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will withdraw that statement and apologise.

Mr UNDERWOOD: I withdraw it, Mr Speaker. It was an untruth.

Dr EDWARDS: If the honourable member, who, like all Opposition members, is very sensitive over this issue, waits to hear the full story, I will not be surprised if he does apologise.

In February the Government opened the door to discussions with the unions, on the condition that there would be no commitment by the Government relative to a shorter working week. That commitment was endorsed by the three leaders of the trade union movement who met with the Premier, Mr Lane, Mr Austin and me on Thursday of last week. They indicated to us publicly that at no stage had the Government given a commitment towards granting a 38-hour week.

Mr Underwood: That is a deliberate misrepresentation.

Dr EDWARDS: I want to place on the record that those three trade union leaders, Mr Hugh Hamilton, Mr Whitby and Mr Dunne, made that statement very clearly—

Mr Underwood interjected.

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

Dr EDWARDS: Those three trade union leaders indicated to the Government that it could go outside and say it publicly. That is what I am doing today. At no time has the Government committed itself to a 38-hour week.

Mr Underwood: That is an untruth.

Dr EDWARDS: What the Government has said is that it is prepared to receive submissions, to have discussions and to conduct negotiations. Those negotiations took place from February until August this year. The Government considered, and rightly so, that the offers made by the trade union movement were inadequate for the time in which we live. On that aspect the Government has the support of every Cabinet Minister, and its stance has been acknowledged by the trade union leaders themselves.

Mr Underwood: You name them.

Dr EDWARDS: I will name them right now. The three union leaders were Mr Hamilton, Mr Dunne and Mr Whitby. They indicated to us at 5 p.m. on Thursday in the Premier's office that they had missed the boat and that the time was not opportune. My Cabinet colleagues will confirm that the three union leaders said that deliberately in the Premier's office. They also said that they understood perfectly, and they told us that we could go outside and say that publicly.

Mr Underwood: Go outside and say it.

Dr EDWARDS: I will be very happy to say it outside. I have said it repeatedly outside, and I will continue to say it as often as the honourable member wants me to.

Mr Underwood: Get out there and tell it to the people.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have warned the honourable member for Ipswich West. He has not taken heed of my warning. I now ask him to withdraw from the Chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for Ipswich West withdrew from the Chamber.

Dr EDWARDS: The facts hurt members of the Opposition, and I know that they are in turmoil over this matter because they know full well that they have not been advised by Mr Dunne and the other gentlemen that as far as they were concerned the Government's commitment was to negotiations.

Mr CASEY: I rise to a point of order. I challenge the Deputy Premier to lay on the table of the House Cabinet's decision of 9 February in relation to this matter, which will prove conclusively that what the member for Ipswich West has said is correct.

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

Dr EDWARDS: That is the first time that the Leader of the Opposition has opened his mouth on the 38-hour week issue.

Let me return to the decision of 9 February. If Opposition members give me a chance, I shall tell them what that decision was. The decision of 9 February was very clear.

Mr Casey: Table it.

Dr EDWARDS: The Premier has tabled it already and the Leader of the Opposition has not the sense to read it.

Opposition Members interjected.

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

Dr EDWARDS: It is no wonder that Opposition members are very sensitive about this matter.

Mr D'Arcy interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition interjects, too. He has gone round in circles—

Mr D'Arcy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Woodridge under the provisions of Standing Order 123A. I will have order in the House.

Dr EDWARDS: One can understand the sensitivity of Opposition members. Before long, there will not be any of them in this Parliament anyway.

The Premier made a statement. In his speech to the Queensland people some three weeks ago, he read out the contents of the Cabinet decision of 9 February. That made it very clear that the Government's position was one of negotiation. The Government has not received from the trade union movement adequate compensation or trade-offs to allow the Government to change its mind on the issue. The Government is committed to a 40-hour week.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

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

Dr EDWARDS: They are all making a late run now that the heat is on them and they know where the people of Queensland stand on this matter. They know that the people of Queensland are backing the Government on the 38-hour week issue. It is interesting to note that Opposition members have suddenly come to life. Rather than Mr Beattie or Dr Murphy making statements, we find the member for Ipswich West being tossed out of the House for the sake of political expediency. Opposition members are doing this to save their endorsements and their positions within the Labor Party and the trade union movement.

Let me return to the real facts of the situation. At no stage has the Government made a commitment; at no stage have I made a commitment. I refer to the meeting that was held with Mr Lane, Mr Wharton, Mr Sullivan and Sir William Knox on 27 April, when the Premier was in New Zealand on Government business. I indicate what the facts are. Mr Burns and Mr Casey have conveniently quoted from a Press statement that I made on that date on behalf of the trade union movement and the Ministers, with their concurrence.

It should be remembered that there was a strike at that time and 256 people had been suspended by the Government for failing to report for duty. At that time, immediately after the suspension notices were issued, the union movement made an approach to the Government, and the Government said, "We are prepared to listen at any time." As a result of the meeting that was held, certain facts became clear, and they were: first, that the Government's position was one of a 40-hour week, and it indicated that it would not depart from that position unless at some time the trade union movement could give the Government—in the words of the decision—a quid pro quo relative to the trade-offs that the Government would get with the implementation of a 38-hour week.

The second thing that we said at that meeting, which has been taken out of context, was that the Government's position was one of a 38-hour week being negotiated. I remind the Opposition that the position of the trade union movement was one of a 35-hour week, and that was why it was made clear in that statement that we would negotiate on a 38-hour week. Mr Hamilton and Mr Whitby have both confirmed the contents of that statement. It is very interesting to note that, as they did on the previous Tuesday, at the meeting on Thursday afternoon they confirmed my statement to the trade union movement at that meeting in April, when I said that the Government would be prepared to agree to a 38-hour week if it could be implemented without additional salary costs. Mr Salisbury, who responded very acidly on that occasion, has since confirmed that the Government made its position very clear.

I hope that once and for all the media will report that the Government has never made a commitment on the 38-hour week. The Government's position is on record; the union movement has confirmed it and the people of Queensland are endorsing it.

38-hour Working Week

Mr INNES: Because of the silence of the Opposition on this matter, I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer a second question. Has any estimate been made of the actual cost to Queensland taxpayers of a 38-hour week for railway blue-collar workers?

Mr Wilson: Is there a vacancy coming up in the Ministry?

Mr INNES: If the jackal of the Labor Party would keep quiet, I could continue my question. If an estimation has been made, what is the cost of the 38-hour week, and what would be the effect on the Queensland economy of a continuation of the present series of stoppages in the railways?

Dr EDWARDS: It is important that the cost of a 38-hour week be made clear to the Parliament. If a 38-hour week were implemented now, taking into account the flow-on to hospitals, police and every other officer within the Government who would be affected, the cost would be in the vicinity of \$135m. The additional cost to every Queensland family would be \$234 a year. That is an additional cost that would be thrust upon every Queenslander. Neither I as the Treasurer nor the Government as a whole is prepared to impose upon the people of Queensland in this era of economic difficulty an additional taxation burden of \$234—

Mr Wilson interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: The member for Townsville South is well identified with the 38-hour-week campaign and would be credited with imposing upon the people of Queensland the additional cost of \$234 per family. We are a low-taxed—

Mr Wilson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Townsville South under Standing Order 123A.

Dr EDWARDS: The member for Townsville South is strongly identified with this issue. In common with all other Labor politicians, he has no concern for the economy of the State or the nation. The effect that a 38-hour week would have upon the economy of Queensland is well documented and well known. The Government of Queensland is responsible to the people of Queensland for an economic package. That is what the Budget will be about on 23 September. It will be a balanced Budget, not a hidden Budget, with debts everywhere, as were those of the Labor Governments of New South Wales and Victoria.

Every day that trains are not running the cost to the people of Queensland is \$1.5m in lost income alone. In addition, there is the massive inconvenience to the people of Queensland—the farmers, people wanting to get to work, schoolchildren and the handicapped.

It is a totally unnecessary and unendorsed strike. The leaders of the trade union movement brought it on without referral at any time to the trade union rank and file. It is interesting to note that over 60 per cent of the trade-unionists who attended the meeting yesterday voted to reduce the strike by 24 hours. That indicates the support the union leaders have.

I repeat that to implement the 38-hour week at present would cost at least \$135m, or an imposition of \$234 a year on every Queensland family. Many other costs would flow on to private industry, but at this stage I am not aware of their extent.

Immunisation of Pre-school Children

Mrs NELSON: I ask the Minister for Health: Is he aware of a recent study undertaken by the Creche and Kindergarten Association in Queensland which shows an alarming decrease in the completion of immunisation programs in pre-school children attending its centres? Will he advise the House what steps are being taken by his department to correct this alarming matter?

Mr AUSTIN: The figures that have been brought to my attention concern me and officers of my department. The figures contained in the survey supplied to me by the honourable member were so startling that the department has an obligation to check them. If they indicate that a substantial number of children have not been made available for immunisation with, in particular, the triple antigen vaccine, which is available through most local authorities in Queensland, the department will consider what action can be taken.

Because of her concern about this matter, the honourable member has organised a seminar in her electorate, which she and I will attend in the near future, in an endeavour to encourage people in the community to become more aware of the dangers of non-vaccination.

I take the opportunity to advise the House that certain people within the chiropractic profession—they are not registered chiropractors but are naturopaths, homeopaths and those types of people—have openly advised parents against the immunisation of their children. In fact, a naturopath who lives in the electorate of my colleague the Minister for Primary Industries (Mr Ahern) placed a full-page advertisement in a Sunshine Coast newspaper that advised that children should not be immunised. Officers of my department are currently examining ways and means of taking some action against such grossly irresponsible conduct.

Only two or three days ago I received a telephone call from a Brisbane radio announcer who had been advised by a naturopath not to have his children immunised. It had been suggested to him that they could get enough vitamins and minerals and build up sufficient antibodies by taking vitamin tablets and eating fresh fruit and vegetables to protect them against polio, diphtheria and whooping cough. That these so-called paramedical groups have set themselves up in the community and advised parents on totally irresponsible and irrational grounds is a disgrace and a scandal.

As I said, my departmental officers are examining ways and means of taking action against these people. In no way do their actions assist young Queenslanders; in fact, they have done everything in their power to work against their best interests.

It is true that 1 in 150 000 children is adversely affected by the whooping cough vaccine. Neither the departmental officers nor medical officers anywhere, either in local authorities or in private practice, have ever denied that. Families must make up their own minds as to whether their children are to be immunised with the whooping cough part of the triple antigen vaccine. There is no evidence to suggest that the other parts of the vaccination will have any affect whatsoever on children other than to protect them against those dreaded diseases.

The honourable member has organised a seminar and, quite rightly, she is attempting to bring this problem to the notice of many groups in her community. It is significant to note that the survey results she provided to me—I point out once again that the department is checking the figures—show a significant decline in immunisation of children from what might be termed the lower socio-economic part of the community. Recently the department waged a fairly extensive immunisation campaign in the media, which had some effect, but a follow-up study has shown that perhaps the commercials could have been shown on television at times when they were more likely to be watched by lower socio-economic families. When funds become available this year the department intends to pursue that course and launch a campaign directed at areas where it will do the most good.

38-hour Working Week

Mrs NELSON: I ask the Minister for Transport: In view of the amount of revenue lost to the people of Queensland every time the State rail system stops, as has been outlined this morning by the Treasurer, what assistance has the Australian Labor Party offered the Minister to help overcome these recurring outbreaks of irresponsible union militancy?

Mr LANE: The revenue of the Railway Department is about \$500m a year, \$10m a week or \$1.5m a day, and that is the amount of money lost to the taxpayers of Queensland on each day on which there is a general rail strike throughout Queensland and, of course, that is the amount that has to be recouped through higher taxation. It does not take into account the business lost by the department to other modes of transport, business that may never be recovered.

Labor's railway policy is an insult to the commuters, exporters and consignors and a betrayal of the State's economy. During the February stoppage, the then Labor transport spokesman, the honourable member for Brisbane Central, called on me to stop posturing and to recommend that all State employees under my jurisdiction be granted a shorter working week because it was Labor's policy that there should be a progressive reduction in working hours to 35 a week. Of course, on the one occasion on which the Leader of the Opposition has spoken on this matter—on the one occasion on which he and not Peter Beattie has been the Labor Party spokesman—he has agreed with that statement.

Mr Casey: Absolute rubbish!

Mr LANE: In the last week, how often has the Leader of the Opposition been quoted on the front page of a newspaper about the railway strike? He has not been heard; it has been Peter Beattie, the new Leader of the Opposition in this State, who has been heard. The Leader of the Opposition has given away his job to a paid party functionary. He is the one who speaks on behalf of all those gentlemen opposite, not the duly elected Leader of the Opposition, who should be absolutely ashamed of himself.

At no time has the Leader of the Opposition suggested that Labor would investigate the effects of a blanket proposal for reduced working hours on the jobs or the economy of this State. At no time has he been in touch with me with any positive suggestion to resolve the dispute, nor have we heard him on the public record recommending responsibility on the part of the railway unions towards the trade union movement and industry generally—not one peep out of the man since this whole campaign started months ago. It happens to be a fact that Labor would reduce working hours without investigation, without argument and without regard to the public purse. Any statements that have been made on behalf of Labor have been made by Mr Beattie, the new spokesman on behalf of the Labor Party in Queensland on all issues.

An interesting fact came to my notice this morning about which I might inform the silent Leader of the Opposition. The four sugar mills in the Mackay area have only a 48-hour capacity to store sugar, and they will have to close at midnight tonight. Still we do not hear one peep from the Leader of the Opposition, even about his own parish. He does not even masquerade as a decent Queenslander. The fact is that the three questions the honourable gentleman asked this morning related to Federal matters that had nothing to do with the great crisis in this State, nothing to do with the fact that 100 000 people were standing at suburban railway stations for trains that would never arrive or that 5 000 people in country areas were similarly affected.

He said nothing about the 900 000 tonnes of export coal that will not be carted to ports because of the railway strike, or about the 12 300 tonnes of raw sugar, including the 4 000 tonnes from the Mackay district alone, that will not be carried each day—the Mackay district; that place half way between Brisbane and Cape York that the Leader of the Opposition used to represent a little while ago. What about the 2 000 tonnes of sugar a day from the Sarina area that will not be moved? Not a peep about that from the Leader of the Opposition!

What about the 48 000 tonnes of grain that the railways carry every week? The Leader of the Opposition is not worried about the grain growers. What about the 5 000 tonnes of grain usually carried each day by the Railway Department? That represents a loss of revenue of \$300,000 a day to the department. Again, not a peep out of the Leader of the Opposition!

What about the 2 000 tonnes or 40 containers of export meat carried to Brisbane each day? Not a peep about that from the Leader of the Opposition! What about the 170 containers of fresh fruit and vegetables carried from Central and North Queensland to the Sydney and Brisbane markets each week earning money for Queenslanders? Not a peep out of him on that subject either!

In relation to the 500 tonnes of wool a week carried to Brisbane, the products weighing 25 000 tonnes carried to and from Mount Isa by rail and the 1 700 tonnes per day of traffic on contract from Brisbane that have been lost, there has not been a peep from the Leader of the Opposition. He stands condemned in the House today for his silence.

Criminal Code Penalties

Mr GYGAR: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Does he agree that some penalties provided under the Criminal Code are no longer relevant in terms of the 1980's? Has a recent review been undertaken of the penalties and, if so, are plans in hand to amend the Criminal Code to provide more relevant penalties, particularly in the area of violent crimes?

Mr DOUMANY: I agree that there are many inconsistencies and inadequacies in some of the penalties provided in the Criminal Code, particularly in relation to crimes of violence and other serious crimes. A review, which is almost complete, has been undertaken

by officers of the Solicitor-General's Department. That review has thrown up an array of probable amendments that will be brought forward for consideration in the very near future in this place.

I hope that there will be an upgrading of penalties. However, in some instances it may be necessary to reduce penalties. Because of changes in our society and circumstances of life that exist today, a stage has been reached at which it is necessary to review the suitability and adequacies of penalties across the board in the Criminal Code.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Resumption of Debate—First and Second Allotted Days

Debate resumed from 4 August (see p. 43) on Mr Randell's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (12.1 p.m.): I would like the Minister for Transport and the Treasurer, who were most vociferous during question time and who used the forum of the House to their advantage, to stay around for a little while so that they may learn a little more about themselves and their activities during the past few weeks relative to the 38-hour-week dispute. This morning, the Premier was completely silent on that subject.

Mr Lane: Have we flushed you out?

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Lane: Don't you know the forms of the House?

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CASEY: Mr Speaker, what about a warning under Standing Order 123A for the Minister for Transport? You are very quick to warn members on this side of the House.

It is obvious to all members that the Minister for Transport quoted reams and reams of figures that had been prepared for him. He said that people in his department had to work 40 hours a week and that other people working next to them were required to work 36½ hours and had been doing that for approximately 40 years. The Government stands condemned for that. It fails to recognise the crux of the current dispute with the unions.

The Opposition has only the Address-in-Reply debate in which to put before the House matters that are of great public interest. The Governor's Opening Speech to this Parliament spoke highly about Queensland, but it gave only a selective view. It did not refer to overcrowded class-rooms, the housing crisis or the critical situation facing local government. They are the issues that are important to the people of Queensland. The Government is deliberately trying to create a side fight with the unions under its control so that it can direct the attention of the people of this State away from the real issues.

The Governor's Opening Speech did not refer to the way in which the State is run, the way in which one man rules the Cabinet and subjects the people of Queensland to a form of Government that is more and more removed from democratic principles every hour that he remains in office. It did not state how many times the Premier has changed his mind on important issues. It did not tell us why he, as a dictator, continues to defy the wishes of his party and the people of Queensland for a foreign land register. It did not tell us why he broke the Government's undertaking to the union movement for a 38-hour week for Public Service blue-collar workers.

I will refer to the commitment that the Government made on that issue, despite the deliberate untruths that the Treasurer brought forward this morning. The member for Ipswich West was the person who was right. The Deputy Premier should have been sent from the House for misleading the people of Queensland.

The Governor's Opening Speech did not tell us how, when the Premier's stocks are down and he and his Government are under attack, he starts a bushfire somewhere else to draw attention away from his own problems. That is what is happening at the moment. It does not matter if somebody gets hurt in the process. As long as the Premier achieves his goal of dividing the community by invoking greed, hatred and fear, he is happy, because it is only by way of greed, hatred and fear that the National Party, in conjunction with its rump offshoots in the Liberal Party, is able to stay in office. The Premier uses fear, uncertainty and greed as political weapons of his Government. He puts one citizen against another, and promotes confrontation. That is his style of government; that is his trade mark; and that is what has characterised this Government since it took power. Its only interest is to divide and conquer.

These tenets owe more to corrupt Roman emperors and Machiavelli than to the principles of democracy, of Government of the people, by the people and for the people. I suppose that the Premier's hatreds and those of the Liberals and Nationals who stand behind him and vote with him every inch of the way on these issues have never been greater than in the past two weeks over the Public Service 38-hour week dispute.

Let us look at the history of this industrial dispute; let us look at the facts, not at the propaganda put out by the Premier, not at the efforts of the Deputy Premier this morning in trying to mislead the public on the issue and not at the emotional outcries in the Chamber this morning by the Minister for Transport.

The facts are that in December last year the representatives of the railway unions met the Commissioner for Railways to discuss their claim, which at that stage was for a 35-hour working week. The commissioner rejected their claim out of hand.

On 9 February, following further discussions that had taken place, Cabinet decided that it was willing to negotiate in regard to a specific reduction in working hours to 38 hours per week for some Government employees. The understanding was that the Government was prepared to give the employees a 38-hour week if certain conditions were met. Those conditions were open to negotiation.

The Queensland Cabinet formally decided that it was willing to negotiate on a specific reduction in working hours to 38 hours a week conditional on (a) a reasonable distribution of benefits, (b) a reduction in hours with increased leisure-time, (c) no diminution in public services in terms of standard or spread of hours, (d) no scope for negotiating in respect of reduction in working hours of classes of employees already working 38 hours or less—or, in other words, the majority of Government employees, some of whom have enjoyed a shorter working week for more than 40 years—(e) negotiations involving consideration of work functions of specific groups with an endeavour to provide benefits overall, and (f) negotiations to require final approval being obtained by the Public Service Board, and final ratification of agreements reached in the Industrial Commission to be subject to a prospective date of operation.

Those comments are taken directly from Cabinet's decision of 9 February. It clearly sets out that the Government's intention was to negotiate with blue-collar workers on a 38-hour week in Queensland.

On 16 February, soon after that decision, the unions affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council met with the Public Service Board. At that meeting the acting chairman of the board, Mr Leo Pitt, told the unions that the board had the power to negotiate on a 38-hour week. Some of the unions wanted a 35-hour week, and industrial action was threatened. The Premier, as usual, went off the deep end, much to the embarrassment of his Cabinet colleagues, who wanted to negotiate on the issue. His bash and barge, Genghis Khan statements and actions inflamed and exacerbated the situation.

But there was some good news on the horizon; the Premier was due to leave Australia on the afternoon of 28 April. With one parting flurry of union-bashing, he left Queensland for talks with Mr Robert Muldoon. Hardly had the Premier taken off from the airport when sanity began to return to the situation. The Railway Department had agreed to a request from the Industrial Commission that suspension notices that were due to be handed to workers involved in the dispute be withheld for 24 hours so that further negotiations could take place.

That is what this issue is all about: negotiation and conciliation, not confrontation such as that which the Queensland Government is deliberately wanting to create for the purpose of dividing the community and of creating hatred among citizens.

The following day, 29 April, with the Premier safely out of the way, and contrary to his statements this morning in an effort to cast a smoke-screen over the issue and to side-step it, the Deputy Premier led other Ministers in talks with a number of unions. Afterwards the Deputy Premier made a statement. I have copies of it and in the past other Opposition members and I have quoted from it. We will continue to quote from it because it clearly sets out the commitment that was made by the Government to the trade unions.

Dr Edwards said—

“It was made clear to the unions that the Government’s position was a 38-hour week, with discussions regarding the implementation, which could include offsets.”

Quite clearly Dr Edwards stated that on 29 April. If that is not a commitment by the Government to give its blue-collar workers a 38-hour week, I do not know what it is.

The whole issue today is over the fact that the Government has wshed on its promise, has gone back on its word. It is endeavouring deliberately to twist the facts and to blame the unions of Queensland.

There is only one group of people to blame—the weak and lily-livered Cabinet Ministers who are prepared to sit in Cabinet and accept the dictates of one man. Irrespective of the decisions they take in Cabinet, when he cracks the whip they jump. Regardless of whether they are Liberal or National Party Ministers, they do exactly what he wants. As a result, instead of the wishes of more than 2 million people in Queensland being acceded to, the wishes of one man in Cabinet prevails.

It is clear that the statement by the Deputy Premier was a clear expression of the Government’s offer of a 38-hour week for its blue-collar workers. The unions accepted that statement in good faith and agreed to negotiate. Those talks went on until July. The method of introducing the shorter working hours was worked out by the unions and the Public Service Board. On 2 July the Public Service Board presented the unions with a proposal on the type of trade-offs that could be implemented in return for the introduction of a 38-hour week. On 8 July the unions replied with their own 11-point plan.

What would have followed in any other industrial relations situation in Australia is that the two parties would have negotiated until they settled any slight differences between them. In actual fact, the Public Service Board and the Railways Commissioner indicated that the unions’ 11-point plan was acceptable to them. In other words, they believed that they had achieved, by negotiation, all that had been laid down in the Cabinet decision of 9 February in relation to standards of service, productivity within the Railways Department and the way in which the 38-hour week could be implemented for all State Government blue-collar workers.

What happened? There were no further talks between the board, the commissioner and the unions because they believed that they had reached agreement. All that was needed was the approval of Cabinet and they could go ahead with the rostering and the 38-hour week would be under way.

But there the good intentions of the unions, the Public Service Board and everyone else fell in a heap. Why did that happen? Let us look at what was happening at that time. The whole turn-about by the Queensland Government, which was brought about by the Premier, was related to the fact that the National Party’s State conference was being held in Caloundra.

On the floor of that conference the Premier (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) suffered a series of defeats, the major rebuff being the reinforcement of his party’s policy on a foreign land-ownership register. Recently we have seen indications of why the Premier wants to dodge the introduction of such a register. He and the members of his family are involved with foreigners in the purchase and sale of land in Queensland.

That was a public defeat for the Premier, who is acting more and more like a dictator than a member of a political party. To divert attention from his humiliation at the conference, to try to boost his flagging image and save his bacon the Premier, in desperation, seized on this industrial situation. He thought to himself, “Here is a good opportunity for me to get stuck into the unions.”

The unions, which had been frustrated in waiting for a reply on the report by the Public Service Board, organised a 48-hour strike from midnight on 25 July. That suited the Premier right down to the ground. He declared a totally useless state of emergency. At present there is another totally useless state of emergency in Queensland.

The Premier declared a state of emergency before the time for the commencement of the industrial dispute had been set. To their shame, the other members of the Liberal and National Parties in Queensland supported the declaration of a state of emergency.

The provision for the declaration of a state of emergency is written into the laws of this State to meet emergent situations that may endanger the lives of the people. A state of emergency is not designed to be used as a weapon for union-bashing. It is not designed to be used by the Premier as a means of getting before the television cameras. He will be like the little boy who cried wolf once too often. He will do it just once too often and no-one will take any notice of him and, as a result, a catastrophe could occur in Queensland. There is no need for that.

There is only one real problem in Queensland today—the bad industrial relations of the Queensland Government. The Premier makes statements such as, “We will sack all the railway workshop people in Cairns. We will sack all the train drivers in Mackay, Townsville, Toowoomba and Ipswich. We will put them all out to grass. We will get somebody else to take their jobs.” I have news for him. The State is already short of skilled tradesmen in many of those areas because of the failure of this Government. There is no way in the world that the skilled persons to fulfil those tasks will be found anywhere in Queensland. The result would be utter chaos. He made the threat that all the work would be given to private enterprise. The irony, of course, is that most companies in private enterprise are already paying their employees for a working week of fewer than 40 hours. I have lists and lists of awards going as far back as 1969 where a shorter week than 40 hours has been granted to employees right throughout the country.

Mr Hansen: And they are contracting to the Government.

Mr CASEY: Yes, they are doing work for the Government under contract. If the Premier wants to put railway and other Government employees out to grass and give contracts to private industry, he will be giving them to industrial concerns already employing their staff on the basis of a 38-hour week. The Premier, because of his lack of knowledge of industrial relations, does not know the first thing about such matters.

This Government's anti-union attitude is not new; nor are its efforts in continually bashing the unions. I will quote from an article in “The Townsville Daily Bulletin” It reports on a planned four-hour stoppage by unions protesting against—

“ . . . the use of state of emergency powers against workers fighting for higher wages, the general use by employers and the Government penal clauses against unions and workers, the refusal of proper conciliation on claims . . . ”

The unionists also wanted to discuss the campaign for increased wages, reduced prices, full employment and a 35-hour week. The date of the article? 13 September 1960—22 years ago! Nothing has changed in that 22 years. For 22 years the campaign for a shorter working week has continued. However, it is obvious to all that the Premier of this State is as rabidly anti-union as ever.

Mr Vaughan: He is anti-Australian.

Mr CASEY: Yes, I believe he is. I asked questions of him this morning on tax avoidance for a specific reason. Believe me, it will come out sooner or later that not only is he a tax avoider but also he is against Australia as an employer in the way in which he distributes his taxation in other areas.

Nothing has changed since the Premier has been in Parliament. He still uses the same heavy-handed tactics to cause confrontation and strife in the community. Even in his first speech in this Parliament on 21 August 1947 he was speaking against the introduction of shorter working hours. Honourable members can look up his speech, but I will quote that passage for them. He said—

“We believe that it is not in the interests of the people to shorten the hours of production . . . ”

His irrational hatred of unions and their fight to achieve better working standards for their members was described by him then, as the newly elected member for Nanango, as—

“ . . . a form of treachery to the great masses of the people and can only lead to an economic upheaval of a severity not yet experienced.”

That is the attitude he had in 1947, and he is still trying to purvey the same old philosophies today, almost 40 years later. He is a tired old man who is out of touch with the community. Unfortunately, the class of people with him in Government is completely prepared to go along with him and with his hatred of the unions.

The fight for shorter working hours is nothing new to the trade union movement. The fight for better conditions and for a share of the productivity of this State and nation, again, is nothing new. The Government says, "We will crush strikes." I have news for it. All round the world the strike has been accepted as the only right the worker has. I have quoted it before in this Parliament and I will quote it again today: the right to strike—the right to withdraw a person's labour—is the only thing that separates a free man from a slave.

Indeed, the Bjelke-Petersens of the world want every blue-collar worker and every person who has less than a million dollars in his pocket to be slaves to them, to create additional finance for them and to help them build their financial empires so that they can live in the lap of luxury and pass on their great wealth and the wealth of the nation to their own descendents and to nobody else. As I mentioned before, hatred, greed and fear are what they purvey.

At a time when the ordinary workers of this great nation worked seven days a week from daylight to dark for a mere pittance from the Bjelke-Petersens of the nation, the trade union movement fought successfully for an eight-hour day and obtained firstly a 48-hour week, then a 44-hour week and finally a 40-hour week.

The people are constantly told by both the Premier and the Deputy Premier how great things are in Queensland. Only in the last few days on his return from overseas the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations (Sir William Knox) said how good things are in Queensland. However, the ordinary workers do not share in that increased productivity. A reduction in their working hours would give them a share in it.

Although I do not have a copy with me today, I ask honourable members to look at a copy of the 1980-81 annual report of the Mackay Regional Electricity Board in the Parliamentary Library. That was the year in which, after industrial action by the trade union movement, the working week in the electricity industry in Queensland was reduced to, I think, 36½ hours. During that time of great confrontation the Premier said the same things as he is saying now: "They can strike until they are blue in the face. They can all go out on the grass and stay out on the grass. I will invoke the Essential Services Act and obtain other people to do the jobs." But he did none of that. The workers did not have to strike until they were blue in the face. Sanity prevailed. The annual report of that board clearly shows in black and white praise for the new industrial relations that resulted from that alteration of working hours. It states that they were responsible for increased productivity, improved morale in the work-force, better working conditions for all employees and that the authority was able to provide the public with a better service. All of those advantages were gained from the introduction of a shorter working week for that group of State Government employees. All the Premier is doing now is preventing a few State Government blue-collar workers from obtaining a shorter working week, which has been obtained by almost everybody else.

What is happening in Queensland today is a great cover-up. The Government is attempting to take the heat away from its own faults and problems. It is blaming trade unionists for all of its misfortunes and creating in the community hatred against the trade union movement.

The Government is also busting for a fight over the Commonwealth Games. In recent times it has taken deliberate and provocative measures to ensure that Aboriginal and Islander communities, and those principled people who support their causes, are stirred up immediately prior to the Games. Unquestionably it takes two to have an argument, a row or a fight, and I believe that those who are responding in certain ways are only playing into the hands of the Government.

Several months ago the House passed, with the Opposition objecting to many clauses, the Commonwealth Games Bill. That legislation gives the police special powers to take certain actions during the currency of the Games and for a period both before and after. The general public is unaware that the police have already commenced to use their special

powers. This is already a deliberate, provocative act by the Special Branch of the Queensland Police Force, and it clearly indicates that they are setting up their marks, or their targets, for any group activity which may occur prior to the Commonwealth Games.

Let me make one thing quite clear: the Labor Party is 100 per cent behind the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Queensland. It was in fact a Labor administration in the Brisbane City Council that won the Games for Brisbane, and they are the Brisbane Games, not the Queensland Games. It was a Labor administration that planned and built the Games complexes and venues and created history by having them ready 12 months ahead of time.

Mr Vaughan: It did a fantastic job, too.

Mr CASEY: It certainly did a fantastic job.

Mr Davis: And against Government knockers, too.

Mr CASEY: The Government continues to knock. At one stage it even fought the idea of giving financial help. Now, of course, it wants to rush in, take the praise and cause problems. I would also point out that it will be a Labor mayor who will receive the Games visitors for and on behalf of the people of Brisbane and pass on the Games flag to the city of Edinburgh, Scotland. I hope to proudly witness many of the Games events as leader of the Labor Party in Queensland, and if possible to witness Queenslanders winning gold medals.

However, this Government has been deliberately deceitful in its treatment of the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders of this State, so it is no wonder that they want to show the people of the rest of the world the sort of oppression that prevails in Queensland.

Let me tell members of one of the most disgraceful cover-ups ever perpetrated by this Government, and there have been some amazing ones since I entered this Parliament. I refer to the suppression of a true account of the proceedings of the meetings of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Advisory Councils at Bamaga from 5 to 9 July this year.

At those meetings the Bjelke-Petersen Government was dealt a severe blow in its bid to further grind the Aboriginal and Islander people of Queensland into the dust. I have spoken to some of those who attended those meetings, and they have confirmed that both gatherings did pass resolutions on the question of land rights.

On Friday, 9 July, the Aboriginal Advisory Council passed a resolution that—

Mr Moore: Are you talking about apartheid?

Mr CASEY: I have sighted the minutes of the meeting. The situation in the islands is to the eternal shame of the honourable member's party. He ought to have a really good look at what is going on in that area.

Mr Scott: Bob Moore is always patronising them.

Mr CASEY: Of course, he is one of the most travelled men in Queensland so far as the Torres Strait Islander people are concerned. I think he has been up to the area 10 times, including the last visit on the "Melbidir", and he has still not been able to achieve anything on their behalf. I have never heard him really make a contribution in this Chamber on behalf of the people of the Torres Strait islands. He should tell them when he is up there—

Mr Moore: I am opposed to land rights.

Mr CASEY: Of course the honourable member will not tell them that the islands belong to them, even though that is what they have always believed, just as he will not tell them that his Government has taken the land away from them and will not give it back. But that is typical of the Government's attitude on this issue.

At a meeting on 9 July, the Aboriginal Advisory Council passed a resolution that—

"The Aboriginal Advisory Council does not accept the deed of grant in trust at this stage, until further investigation is carried out by the Queensland Government and the Lands Department of alternative land tenure as outlined by Mr Wally Baker."

Mr Baker is one of the Land Commissioners. That motion was put by Rachel Cummins, deputy chairperson of Palm Island. It was seconded by Roy Gray from Yarrabah. I must stress that when this vote was taken, the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs, Mr Tomkins, his department head, Mr Killoran, and the Lands Commissioner, Mr Baker, were also present. The chairman of the meeting, Mr Les Stewart from Cherbourg, said that there was no need to record a vote reserve by reserve, and the vote was taken on a show of hands. All but the representatives of one reserve, Cherbourg, voted in favour of that motion. The representatives from Cherbourg, the council chairman, Mr Stewart, and the council secretary, Mr Cobbo, abstained from voting.

Now this, as members can imagine, was a big set-back to the plans of Mr Tomkins and Mr Killoran, who thought they had conned the Aboriginal people into accepting the so-called "deeds of grant in trust", and they became extremely worried about the future attitude that might be adopted by these people. But Mr Tomkins and Mr Killoran underestimated these people. They have had enough of the Minister's incompetence and the departmental head's smooth-talking sales pitch.

The man who triggered the situation was the Land Commissioner, Mr Baker. Perhaps he committed the cardinal sin of telling the truth. He told the council meeting that it was possible to create a form of freehold title that would be held in trust and could not be sold. It was this form of title that the Aboriginal people had been seeking for so long, and which the Government had said was impossible to arrange.

Mr Baker said that the deed of grant in trust was a satisfactory form of land tenure, but that freehold title was better. On hearing that, the Aboriginal advisory councillors dug their heels in and passed the resolution. It simply means that the Premier and Mr Tomkins have been involved in a major cover-up since that time. The Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs knows that it happened, because he was there and witnessed it all. But he then took off on his seven-day fishing trip around the Torres Strait islands, for which he has not yet properly accounted to Parliament.

The whole deal is so embarrassing that all details of the meeting have been suppressed. I challenge both the Premier and the Minister to table in this Parliament the uncensored minutes of the meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Council held at Bamaga. I also challenge the Minister to table the minutes of the meeting of the Torres Strait Advisory Council, held at the same time at Bamaga.

On the Tuesday morning of the Torres Strait Advisory Council meeting, following similar advice from Mr Baker, the Torres Strait Council passed a resolution in support of inalienable freehold title as the type of tenure the people wished for their traditional island homes. Only one representative from the 17 island communities voted against the resolution, and the final vote was 36 to one. In other words, they voted overwhelmingly against the deeds of grant in trust and overwhelmingly against the policies forced on the island people by Mr Bjelke-Petersen, Mr Tomkins and Mr Killoran, and overwhelmingly in favour of inalienable freehold title.

Mr Scott: As they become more informed on this issue, they have come out more vocally against it.

Mr CASEY: That is true. The honourable member for Cook knows the true situation, because those meetings were held in his electorate. Most of the members of the councils come from his electorate. He knows them personally and intimately; he works very hard for them and understands their problems better than any other person in this House.

The claims by the Government of complete support of the Aboriginal and Islander people are just so much hogwash. They are just so many fairy stories. I was absolutely amazed that the Government could be so foolish as to include in the Governor's Opening Speech the words, "Queensland has led the nation in its assistance to its Aboriginal and Islander people." That was a complete fabrication. In fact, the opposite is the case, especially in land rights legislation.

It is even worse that, since the results of those important meetings, the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement has embarked on a campaign of fear and blackmail to enforce the silence of the Aboriginal and Islander representatives. Last Thursday a meeting was planned in Brisbane of representatives of the National Aboriginal Council and the Torres Strait and Aboriginal Advisory Councils. The meeting was

called off because many of the members of the two State-appointed councils were afraid to attend. They had been warned off by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement.

Several council members were threatened with the loss of their jobs—a well known Bjelke-Petersen tactic. I know the names of those people, but I will not reveal them for fear that they will be the victims of Government reprisals, that the threats of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement standover merchants will be carried out. These are the lengths to which the Government is prepared to go to suppress the views of the Aboriginal and Islander people.

The Government thought the two councils were just a rubber stamp, a convenient, well-staged forum where the Government's actions and wishes would be automatically endorsed. When the council representatives found out that they had been deliberately misled by the Government, they spoke their minds, and Mr Killoran, Mr Tomkins and the Premier started their "operation cover-up".

The power of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement over the lives of Aboriginal and Islander people of this State should not be underestimated. A Cabinet decision, which is still in effect, states that if any decision in any department refers to an Aboriginal or Islander, it must be referred to the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement for "consideration" For "consideration" one can read "consent", because that is what it amounts to. In this way the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement maintains its Big Brother control over Queensland's Aboriginal and Islander people.

Because it has such all-encompassing power, it would be a brave person who would try to buck the system. But some have spoken out because they are prepared to expose the National-Liberal Government for what it is—corrupt, deceitful and incompetent.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! The Leader of the Opposition has used an unparliamentary word. I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr CASEY: Which one?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: "Corrupt"

Mr CASEY: I withdraw the word. The Government is certainly incompetent and deceitful. I will use the other word outside the House. *ds*

One of the most ill-considered and irresponsible decisions made by the Government in its 25 years existence was the slashing of subsidies to local authorities throughout the State. It was a decision that has put local government in Queensland on the brink of collapse, is depriving tens of thousands of citizens of basic services, has placed many others on the unemployment queues, and has cast a pall of depression over many small Queensland towns. These claims are not made lightly, or without proof.

Recently, I wrote to all the local authorities in Queensland asking them how the cut in subsidies had affected them. They replied with a torrent of stories of financial hardship and expressions of hope that the situation could be alleviated in some way.

I shall refer to just a few of these letters. The Maryborough City Council has been forced to defer major water and sewerage projects because of the cut-backs imposed by the Premier and the Treasurer. The Goondiwindi Shire Council has been forced to raise its rates considerably and major sewerage works have had to be deferred. Other important works have been scrapped. I am referring to a cross-section of the State.

The letter I received from the Aramac Shire Council stated that urgent works will have to be carried out regardless, leading to an increase in water charges by as much as 75 per cent. The Barcaldine Shire Council has had problems financing sewerage extensions and town drainage.

The Burdekin Shire Council has had to increase its rates because of the subsidy cuts. Cardwell Shire has had to defer an important rural water scheme. Construction and roadwork programs have also been deferred. Many of the councils to which I have referred can be found in electorates represented by National Party members.

The Flinders Shire Council has been forced to cut back all programs, and the Hughenden water augmentation scheme has been deferred indefinitely. That is but a cross-section. Townsville, the North's major city, will lose \$605,000 this financial year. That simply means a loss of hundreds of jobs for workers. Those letters from local authorities all over Queensland express a desperate cry for help.

The decision by the Government to slash the subsidies for such essential works was made without consultation with the local authorities or the local government representative associations. It took no account of the hardship it would cause to tens of thousands of people who have to scrape extra money together to pay higher rates. It did not consider the people who would be put out of work because the councils could not afford to continue with essential works. It did not show any sympathy for the people who will have to put up with substandard facilities and services for that much longer because the councils have deferred these projects. For a Government that has, supposedly, a close understanding of country people and country problems, it showed little intelligence when it slashed the subsidies and threatened the existence of those councils.

Gympie City Council has had to curtail a sewerage project and a water supply project. What does the member for Gympie think about that?

The Kolan Shire Council has not proceeded with the extension of water supply to Tirroan. The Logan City Council is having funding problems with its sewerage program. The subsidy cuts mean that it is too expensive for the Sarina Shire Council to proceed with a water-supply scheme. The Thuringowa Shire Council has had to proceed with approved schemes, but rates will have to be increased.

Many local authorities are finding that they are unable to provide basic services for many people. It is essential that the Treasurer restore the subsidies to their previous level, pending a full inquiry into the question of local government funding in Queensland, and let us have an all-party parliamentary committee to do it. That is the only satisfactory way to conduct an inquiry.

The provision of proper water and sewerage services is an important part of the development of this State and the right of all members of a modern, civilised society. The responsibility for the provision of funds for these services is three-tiered: Local, State and Federal. Government at each level has an important role to play. The Queensland Government is trying to wriggle out of paying its fair share.

In summary, let me attempt to analyse the essence of this Government in Queensland. What typifies its approach to managing the affairs of this State?

I put it to the House that the examples I gave earlier prove that this Government is concerned solely with promoting the interests of the few—in creating situations where its rich friends can become even richer. The ordinary citizen has no priority in this Government's thinking.

Take, for example, the Premier's attitude this morning to tax avoiders. The Premier wants Queensland to be used as a tax haven for those people trying to wriggle out of paying their fair share of the taxation burden in this country. He has indicated that he himself is one of them and that he will do all he can to help his wealthy friends "lighten their commitments" here in Queensland. Yet, when ordinary people, wage-earners, who bear the full brunt of the taxation load in this country, attempt to better their lot by asking for a small reduction in working hours, the Premier says "Oh goodness, no! It's not on."

The man who occupies the highest office in this State believes in one law for the rich and another for the rest. He is trying to beat the workers down, to create a low-wage State in Queensland, so that his wealthy associates can come here and make more profits, but pay less tax.

This Government is also one that can change direction or do a complete turn-around at the whim of big business, all for the sake of political expediency. A good example is its performance on the Aboriginal land rights issue. Another is its back flip over the establishment of a sugar industry on the Ord River in Western Australia. Initially it fully supported Sir Charles Court every inch of the way. However, now that the sugar industry's "big three"—CSR, Bundaberg Sugar and Pioneer Sugar—have expressed concern, the Government has turned around.

This is what the Governor's Opening Speech failed to describe. It failed to say that Queensland is ruled by a Government of self-interest and headed by a dictator who continues to preach confrontation, greed and fear so that his own personal interests and those of his friends can continue to thrive while the living standards and personal freedoms of the majority of Queenslanders are further eroded.

The Premier claims to have principles, but the only principle he lives by is that some people are more equal than others. The only "good Book" that he abides by is his bank deposit book.

Mr MUNTZ (Whitsunday) (12.42 p.m.): It is with pleasure that I enter the Address-in-Reply debate. In the first instance, I pay a tribute to His Excellency the Governor, Sir James Ramsay, for his dedication to his duty to Queen and country. I pay a similar tribute to the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers for the tremendous work that they do in putting Queensland first.

Queensland is one of the most decentralised States. It supports 40 per cent of the nation's major projects. Retail sales in the State have increased by 70 per cent and building approvals have risen by 24 per cent. Queensland is the lowest taxed State, with no death duties, and it attracts 40 per cent of all foreign investment in Australia. That is a positive record of progress for the National-Liberal coalition of Queensland.

Today I wish to raise a number of matters concerning small business and also the sugar, beef and small-crop industries. If time permits I hope to refer also to water resources, tourism and road funding.

There would be few members, if any, who have not received deputations of concerned people in the small business industry who highlighted the problems that they are experiencing in relation to leases, particularly those in shopping complexes.

Although the problem of shopping complex leases is by no means new, it did not receive an airing until two years ago. Over the past two years it has been given a considerable airing. Honourable members are aware that the Small Business Development Corporation made extensive submissions to the Minister for Commerce and Industry and expressed many and varied areas of concern.

Late last year the document that is now known as the Cooper report was debated in the House. It was evident from the debate that there were clearly two lines of thought. One was that self-regulation within the industry could find the answer; the other was that there was a clear need for the introduction of legislation in certain areas to overcome this critical problem. I supported the second contention if self-regulation did not work after a fair trial.

Industry self-regulation—that means landlord self-regulation—obviously will not work to satisfy both the lessee and the lessor. There is no way that investors in either a shopping centre or, for that matter, the Railway Institute Credit Union are going to impose restrictions voluntarily on their own earning power. There is no structure, association or legislation now in Queensland to force such a restriction. There is no way that I will support any action by the Government to prejudice fair-dealing private enterprise, whether it be lessee or lessor. Within a private enterprise system, certainly we should be careful not to overregulate to the detriment of either the lessee or the lessor.

I have been a strong advocate of less bureaucratic control. The original proposal submitted to the Government was obviously too restrictive and attempted to suggest that private enterprise be harnessed and dictated to—a socialist policy. However, I am disappointed that, to date, a counter-proposal has not been forthcoming. The door, I believe, is open for further discussion.

In retail leasing agreements there must be fair dealing. There must be some rules to any game. At present, in the area of retail shop leases, some practices have become commonplace—practices that I and many honourable members on the Government benches cannot support. I refer to practices such as—

(1) Landlords laying claims to any proportion of goodwill in relation to the sale of any business or charging premiums or fines of any description on such transactions.

(2) Landlords laying claim to a percentage of goodwill on top of a basic rent based on floor area—to me, a lien on initiative.

(3) Lease agreements, for example, on a three-year lease without options—there should be an option to both the lessee and lessor in this area.

(4) Lease agreements which do not include an arbitration clause.

(5) Calculation of landlords' gross outgoing on rented floor area only.

(6) Practice of a landlord being permitted to charge a fine or key money for permission to negotiate the sale of a business.

They offend our spirit of private enterprise because they are not fair-dealing.

I have formulated a proposal for Government action. It is not action against enterprise, but action for fair-dealing. It has been reported to me that, in fact, existing lessees in certain shopping complexes are being asked to sign a renewal of lease agreement containing a clause stipulating the payment of such key money to negotiate a sale—a non-refundable fee based on the equivalent of three months' rent (for example, it could be 3 x \$3,000, that is, \$9,000)—lost to the lessee, whether he is successful in his negotiations or not.

To give another example, let us look at the question of outgoings and who must pay. An unrealistic situation applies in many complexes in this particular area of charge. It is not unusual for a tenant to enter into a lease agreement which relates to a particular weekly or annual rental based on so much per square metre. The tenant, having done his sums on his projected growth expenditure, would not, in his wildest dreams, be prepared for the astronomical cost that he is called on to meet under the heading of operating expenses.

He is called on to make his contribution towards costs incurred by the centre, over which he has no control. I have seen copies of operating expense budgets, which comprise some dozen entries on an otherwise blank sheet, on which the bottom line figure is in excess of \$350,000, and includes such entries as management fees, \$50,000; other services, \$26,000; gardening and landscaping, \$30,000; maintenance and repairs, \$25,000; and so on.

The tenant now finds under the leasing arrangement that he is clearly committed to meet his share of this expenditure with little or no proof that the expenditure in fact is true and real, other than the dozen or so lines supplied to him on a sheet of paper. He does know, however, that his rent has increased by between \$2 and \$3 per square foot per annum to meet these outgoings.

On the matter of goodwill, I propose to refer specifically to the demand by landlords—very few landlords; the majority are doing the right thing—for the payment of a percentage of the goodwill. That has been talked about at length, both on the floor of this Chamber and in other places. It is important that we should stop and assess who contributes to, and in fact creates, goodwill. There was a saying in the real estate world long before the advent of shopping complexes which told us, "Successful tenants make prosperous landlords." That saying must surely be true today.

Well-managed centres, correctly promoted, are very clearly contributors to the matter of goodwill of site. However, the trader (tenant), by his contribution of service and monetary input into the centre in the way of advertising and outgoings, is the major contributor to this somewhat nebulous asset known as goodwill.

If we accept these facts as being true as to who creates goodwill, then we must look at the creation of goodwill as being a partnership between both the tenant and the landlord. The landlord's major reward should be derived from a successful, viable shopping complex, brought about by secure successful tenants, and he should have no right or need to reach out and to grasp a part of the goodwill that is truly a part of the accrued assets of the tenant.

It is not unusual, and I expect we could say not unreasonable, for certain sections of commerce and others to make utterances about self-regulation within the industry or the market-place being the best means to determine and govern the future of commerce. I expect it would be equally as reasonable to believe that, if both, or either, of these theories can work, then there is no need for government.

Of course, these theories do not, and cannot, successfully replace the need for the responsibilities of government. We have a responsibility to keep ourselves adequately informed about where problems occur and exist and to take the necessary steps to create intelligent rules of play to enable the industry of commerce to run smoothly from the great and high levels of commerce to the corner store.

The proposal that I submit is the very simple one of amending the Queensland Property Law Act. It would require a simple amendment—not new or demanding legislation—to an existing enactment, allowing both the lessee and the lessor to play the game in a fair way.

Another matter affecting small business that concerns me is pay-roll tax. I recognise that the levying of pay-roll tax is a significant source of revenue and that this Government has not sought to increase the rate, as has happened elsewhere, but several factors in the levying work very unfairly against small business.

Pay-rolls to a total of \$150,000 per annum are exempt from pay-roll tax. However, when the pay-roll exceeds \$180,000 per annum the phasing out of the exemption works unfairly against the small businessman. For example, when an employer with a pay-roll of \$180,000 per annum employs another employee for \$10,000, pay-roll tax rises from zero to \$1,750. In other words, the extra employee's wage of \$10,000 costs \$1,750 in pay-roll tax, or 17.5 per cent. This heavy impost arises because the general exemption level of \$180,000 is reduced by \$5 for every \$2 that the pay-roll exceeds \$180,000. In my example, the pay-roll totals \$190,000 less an exemption of \$155,000 (being the general exemption of \$180,000 less \$25,000 because of the \$5 for \$2 rule). The application of this part of the Pay-roll Tax Act militates heavily against the relatively small businesses from taking on more employees and adds heavily to their costs. It does not encourage the small businessman to employ young people in the community.

In the coming Budget I urge the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to grant some relief in pay-roll tax. The general exemption level of \$180,000, although the highest among the States, should be increased to take into account rising pay-rolls. I would also urge some relief in the phasing out of the exemption. I would propose that for pay-rolls in excess of the exemption level the exemption be reduced by one dollar for every dollar that the pay-roll exceeds the maximum exemption, which is now \$180,000. The effect of my proposal is that the pay-roll tax for extra wages of \$10,000 would be \$1,000—10 per cent, or twice the normal rate of 5 per cent, rather than the exorbitant 17.5 per cent.

Another feature of the Pay-roll Tax Act is the grouping, or adding together, of the pay-roll totals of one or more businesses where there is 50 per cent common ownership of the businesses, or other conditions to do with control. The effect is that only one exemption is available. These provisions were introduced to stop some employers from splitting their business into many separate entities to avoid pay-roll tax altogether. The Commissioner of Stamp Duties has a discretion to exempt business where it can be demonstrated that they are separate and unconnected and should be given the benefit of exemption for each business.

A number of instances have been brought to my attention where it would appear reasonable that the Commissioner of Stamp Duties should exercise his discretion. It has been reported to me that pay-roll tax inspectors attempt to discourage employers from applying to the commissioner to exercise his discretion by saying that these days the provisions are very rarely exercised in the employer's favour. I contend that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer should examine this provision of the Act to ascertain if guide-lines should be promulgated so that the exercising of this discretion given to the Commissioner of Stamp Duties can be within certain perimeters.

I turn now to the sugar industry. The Mackay region, including Proserpine, produces one-third of the Australian sugar crop and, in the 1980 season, this share was worth \$353m and, in 1981, \$278m—a very significant contribution to the State and nation. The value of the sugar crop to Queensland in the 1980 season was \$1,182m and in 1982, \$894.5m.

It is my duty to provide representation for my electorate and I am determined to play my part in framing Queensland's future. A matter of most serious concern to the people of Whitsunday and Queensland is the present state of that sugar industry and its current outlook. In fact, the forecast for the 1982 season is that, because of a shortfall in price and crop, returns will be down by 30 per cent.

The industry is a price-taker with some 75 to 80 per cent of production needing to compete on world markets. Over the long history of the sugar industry, it has a remarkable record of self-help and efficient regulation. The industry funds its own research and, through this, has become a leader in efficiency and technology—earned by hard work and determination—and it will not stand by and see this go down the drain or

sold to overseas interests by any other State. The industry contributes an enormous strength to the economy of this State, being labour intensive in its production and utilising service industries which have kept pace with its development.

When we have such an important industry it is all the more disturbing to see its economic viability being subjected to a multitude of threats. The most disturbing aspect is the state of the world market which is being swamped with an oversupply of sugar and sluggish consumption. It would be well noted that the EEC, which places a high emphasis on agriculture and heavily subsidises sugar production, is probably the most destabilising influence on the world market.

On the domestic market, the sugar industry relies on the operation of a formula in the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement to update the price against escalating production costs. Queensland cane growers are feeling the effects of the inadequacy of the price review formula, which discounts the CPI movement by a constant factor of 70 per cent and further restrains the domestic price increase in times when the world market price exceeds the domestic price. My constituents in the sugar industry further want to know what the Government's intentions are as regards correcting the anomalies in both the present domestic market price and the price review formula.

As I stated earlier, the industry has traditionally helped itself. However, the unprecedented poor market outlook and ever increasing costs are placing a grave strain on the viability of canegrowers and sugar millers. I believe it is incumbent on the Government to set up a system for providing carry-on finance for individual growers and co-operative mill owners in need to prevent extreme hardship developing in the sugar areas. I believe the Rural Reconstruction Board and the Agricultural Bank are well placed to take on this role for growers, and the SGIO for millers, provided funds are made available at sensible interest rates.

Members may recall that in the 1965-67 era the industry went through a lean period, and Government institutions were called upon to provide financial assistance when the banking institutions failed to carry out their responsibility to provide funds to mills that were hard pressed after carrying out substantial capital improvements following upon the 1963 Government-directed expansion. To place the current position in proper perspective, the average wage rate of a sugar-mill worker is now six times that paid in 1966. As well as that, overheads have increased with improvements in annual leave, pay-roll tax, superannuation, etc. In 1966 the price of sugar was \$86 per ton and, if the current London daily price remains as it is, in 1982 the industry will be lucky if the price reaches \$220 per tonne.

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

Mr MUNTZ: Prior to the recess for lunch I was comparing the increase in wage rates with the increase in the price of sugar from 1966 to 1982. In 1966 sugar was priced at \$86 a tonne; in 1982 it is anticipated to be worth something like \$220 a tonne. If we combine that with a production increase of approximately 50 per cent over that period, the industry's gross income has increased approximately four-fold over the period 1966 to 1982. So here we are facing a situation of costs having risen by over 600 per cent and income by only 400 per cent, so, if times were tough in 1966, they are going to be a lot tougher in 1982. Let us not wait until June 1983 when the final price is paid before we talk about what action should be taken. Further, unless price prospects dramatically improve this situation may carry on for several more seasons.

Members might have noted that the industry is under pressure from unions for shorter working hours. With many other industries having granted shorter hours such an approach by the sugar industry unions was to be expected. Obviously, from what I have already said about the economy of the sugar industry, it cannot afford—for that matter, no industry can afford—shorter hours unless they are accompanied by productivity gains or other substantial offsets. The competitive position of the industry on overseas markets must remain viable and not be eroded by ill-timed claims for shorter working hours.

In recent times we have noted, with a degree of satisfaction, that the Minister for Primary Industries has taken his Western Australian counterpart, Mr Old, to task regarding the setting up of a crystal sugar industry on the Ord River. On the current economic outlook, and for the foreseeable future, a crystal sugar investment on the Ord would be economic madness and do great damage to the existing Queensland and New South Wales industries. Should Western Australia proceed, it can only be at the expense of part of a

hard-won ISA quota, and should it be in a sweetheart deal with South Korea, once again it can only be at the expense of a valued market, and one protected by a long-term contract.

The Queensland Government must continue to take whatever actions are open to it at both the State and Federal levels to prevent the setting up of a crystal sugar industry on the Ord now or in the future. I do not believe that those responsible fully appreciate the damage that would be done to the economy of this State and the existing Australian sugar industry. Job opportunities and the viability of many small coastal towns right from Rocky Point to Mossman would be jeopardised if the Western Australian Government persisted with its present irresponsible attitude. The Western Australian Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Old, has said that the Ord River scheme was established as a national asset. Someone should inform him of the difference between a national asset and a national liability. The Ord River scheme could, in my opinion, be better described as a national disaster, and if any industry other than sugar cannot be proved viable then my advice to the Western Australian Government is to close the gates on the project and walk away from it. The Ord River Dam scheme has cost a total of \$98,393,000 of Commonwealth funds since its initial construction phase in 1958-59. It was financed by grants, some of which were non-repayable and others which are and which attract interest at the applicable rate when the loan was made. In 1977-78 the total cost had risen to \$97,357,000 against which a grand total of \$12,047,000 had been received. A further amount of \$436,000 was provided in 1980-81, bringing the total Commonwealth commitment to \$98,393,000. That cost to date has not been astronomical in terms of water resources, and it would be better to write the cost off than to spend millions on another futile program at the expense of an established and viable Australian sugar industry. I understand that a consortium of Queensland sugar mills has put an ethanol proposal to the Western Australian Government, and this is something about which the Queensland Government should fully inform itself and support to the hilt. A properly established ethanol industry would be a national asset and justify desires to open up the Ord on a sound footing. If that were done by way of a subsidised ethanol industry in Western Australia, it would save a very viable industry in Queensland.

Queensland and New South Wales can meet Australia's expanding sugar-production requirements well into the 20th century. Certainly the Proserpine and Mackay districts have an abundance of proven dry land available.

I now wish to draw honourable members' attention to fertiliser pricing. For many years Queensland has had a monopoly situation in relation to fertiliser production and distribution. Prices to growers have risen at an alarming rate. Recently, a competitor, formed by several Australian companies, entered the market and prices of many popular lines have been reduced, by Consolidated Fertilisers within the region of 15 per cent. Naturally such a price reduction is welcomed by all growers. However, it is a matter of grave concern that prices were allowed to reach such levels and remain there without challenge by the authorities involved, such as the Prices Justification Tribunal and the Trade Practices Commission.

I draw the attention of the Minister for Primary Industries to the existing situation. I am pleased that he is in the House to hear. I suggest that his department keep a close watch on developments and take the necessary action to prevent price increases for this commodity in the future such as those that have occurred and been approved in the past.

I will deal now with the important cattle industry. For quite some time much has been said about the marketing of cattle and the general stability and profitability of the meat industry. Certainly, today, with the downturn in the world economy, the fortunes of the industry are low. Whenever that happens, proposals for change are forthcoming.

I cannot see that there can be any wholesale change in the present cattle-marketing system in the short term. The proposal to put a floor in the market indicates the concern of, in particular the producers, who seem to have every cost or levy taken out of the proceeds due to them. The practical implementation of a floor price has not yet been found. It is complicated by the different class and condition of the stock offered for sale, and the fact that meat is a perishable product. The cost of storing it is very high. It is important to stress that those who propose certain ideas do not seem to realise or take into account that meat is a perishable product and that it is quite different from other primary products.

I support the principle of keeping open all market options such as auctions, carcass selling, paddock sales and sales by sight unseen description. I do that because more market opportunities provide an avenue for better prices through competition.

Meat sold on the export market defines the price offered to producers in Queensland, particularly in the North. As that is so, I support the proposal that the Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation should act as a sole seller to any country that calls tenders through a sole-purchasing agency, such as Japan or Korea. The AMLC would then call tenders from exporters to supply that market. That would prevent under-selling by exporters to that sole-purchasing agency. I would not support the AMLC acting as sole-selling agency to the United States market. That market has as many buyers as we have sellers and is therefore self-generating. In my opinion, a free-trader nation such as the United States would react against such an approach.

At present, the industry is basically completely free. Any change would only be to the industry regulation, such as the AMLC acting as a sole export-selling agent to selected markets, rather than the adoption of a bureaucratically regulated system of all meat-marketing, which, in the end, would cost producers dearly but could not guarantee or be presently calculated to give producers a better return than at present.

The third primary industry that I wish to speak about is the Bowen small-crop industry, and when dealing with it I will deal with small crops in general. The Bowen farming area based on the Don River and its delta is the largest single producing area of tomatoes in Australia. With other crops such as rock-melons, capsicums, cucumbers and sweet corn in heavy production, and general expansion, it is inevitable that growing pains should be occurring. The growth has not been incidental. It has been generated by industry organisation. I pay tribute to the Bowen Farmers Co-operative Association and former growers organisations which, by orderly marketing and the ability to adapt to new ideas, have guided this important industry that has a huge bearing on the economy of the Bowen district.

At the present time Bowen tomato farmers are experiencing depressed prices. It would be correct to say that prices are at their lowest in 10 years and not even at a break-even level. Prices are not covering cost of production. The tomato crop represents about two-thirds of the 30 million kilograms of vegetables expected from Bowen this year. If the prices do not improve, I foresee the need for reconstruction and carry-on financial assistance within this industry through the Rural Reconstruction Board and the Agricultural Bank.

Following massive shortfalls in refrigerated rail and road transport in 1981, a construction program for SRC refrigerated containers was announced by the Minister for Transport. This program was the construction of 50 SRC containers commencing in June 1982, to be completed in September 1982, and a further 50 SRC containers to be constructed immediately following this.

To date, we have not seen the first of these. This program is not going to cater for the refrigerated rail transport needs of Queensland growers in 1982 and thus serious shortages are going to recur until this program is promoted with greater urgency and in larger numbers.

To give some idea of the need, forwarding figures for 1981 and 1982 produce by road and rail through COD/Co-operative organised transport are—

Fruit forwarded by 5 July 1981—302 355 packages from Bowen;

Fruit forwarded by 5 July 1982—488 544 packages from Bowen;

Fruit forwarded by 8 August 1982—1 007 591 packages from Bowen;

Fruit forwarded for same period 1981—708 542.

A substantial increase has to be catered for, and I again appeal to the Minister for Transport to take a close look at the project and endeavour to expedite it in the interests of the overall economy.

I refer to a publication by the Mackay Regional Development Bureau concerning the revenue derived by the Mackay district. For the year ended June 1981, Mackay exports totalled \$978.2m, representing a value per capita of region of \$10,826. The urban population of Mackay, North Mackay, Slade Point and Bucasia will grow three times as quickly as the State at 2.10 per cent. The Mackay Regional Development Bureau consists of a competent board of directors and management. The present manager is Mr Lester

Hansen. Perhaps the endeavours of the bureau and the Mackay Regional Development Bureau 1981 report could be examined closely by the Government, or for that matter, all development bureaus in Queensland, for consideration of a more equitable method of funding.

Bowen growers signify their interest to trade with New Zealand on a fair and equitable basis. Produce can be produced in the Bowen area during the winter months in sufficient quantity for export.

The gross value of rural production in Queensland should never be under-estimated or forgotten. It always has provided, and always will provide, the backbone of our economy. In 1980-81 it provided \$2,416m and in 1981-82 it provided \$2,555m. Although the figure has increased, in real terms it represents a decline of about 6 per cent. This decline is unfortunately due to a significant decline in the value of sugar, with revenue down in this industry from \$772m to \$561m from 1980-81 to 1981-82 financial years respectively. Estimated returns from the sugar industry could be down by a further 30 per cent during the 1982-83 financial year.

Revenue from our rural industry is still well ahead of the State's mining industry, which earned an estimated \$1,800m during 1981-82. The value of tourism to Queensland is estimated at between \$1,400m and \$2,000m per annum.

All three industries deserve special mention. There is no doubt in my mind that the rural industry will retain first place for a long time, and that the tourist industry and the mining industry will keep pace with that development, providing employment and stability—a combination of industry that has played a significant part in Queensland's progress.

I recall stating in this House last session that I foresaw the time when much smaller water-harvesting and water storage facilities would be installed on many smaller coastal streams. The position, as I see it, has not changed. In fact, after the driest and coldest year for some time, water storage and harvesting facilities are very much in the minds of the community, particularly the farming community.

The attractive income tax concessions offered by the Federal Government for all water supply storage and distribution systems, together with State Government funding by way of loans, would provide the least-cost system for the provision of irrigation, as opposed to the larger-scale developments, which are long-term solutions. I would urge the Government to look seriously at increasing sources of funding such projects under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act.

A total water management plan, involving storage and drainage as I have proposed, is the best practical short-term solution. Local water boards to serve smaller areas of need should be established right throughout the State.

I pay tribute to the Premier for his visionary investigatory program to divert some coastal waters of North Queensland to serve inland areas of that region.

Of special need within the Whitsunday electorate is the completion and availability of a feasibility study on the Proserpine River and underground water supplies in that area.

Again I stress that a much higher degree of priority should be considered for the construction of the Proserpine Dam to serve both the Proserpine and Bowen areas. Such a dam would be of enormous benefit to the water supply needed for existing boom expansion in urban and tourist areas and proposed industrial development. A Proserpine Dam would also ensure a flood mitigation program and provide valuable irrigation supplies to an area with the greatest potential of any in Queensland. I refer to the ability of the sugar industry to expand in Proserpine with an abundance of available viable land that would enable the Proserpine mill to triple production.

I have already invited the Minister to again visit Proserpine Shire and have discussions on these proposals, and tentative arrangements have already been made in that regard. I will be asking the Minister to carefully examine these proposals and requests at that time.

I turn now to tourism, which has witnessed a remarkable growth in the past few years. Tourism now employs an estimated 87 000 people and is worth in excess of \$1.4 billion a year to the Queensland economy. It is big business and it will get bigger, despite recent set-backs, which are caused in the main by forces outside of its control, such as increasing interest rates, Federal charges and fees that make our domestic air fares amongst the highest in the world and, of course, generally speaking, a tough economic situation nation-wide.

Nevertheless, Queensland continues to outpace and outperform the nation in tourist traffic and tourist investment. It has not got to the top by luck; it has got to the top by sheer hard work, initiative and aggressive promotion.

Mr Borbidge: Do you know that the New South Wales Labor Government wants to abolish the Department of Tourism in that State?

Mr MUNTZ: That is quite likely. It is not interested in tourism. Of course, the Labor Party in Queensland is not interested in tourism, either.

Much of the credit must go to the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, which was set up by this Government. It is presided over by a part-time board of directors that is drawn largely from private enterprise and has demonstrated its ability to upgrade and streamline the State Government involvement in tourism and in competitively promoting Queensland as a major holiday destination.

In just over two years the corporation has established two clear-cut facts that underline the importance of tourism to this State. Firstly, tourism is much more important from an economic standpoint than has ever been appreciated in the past. Secondly, tourism has been shown to have the potential to develop as the State's most significant income earner and job provider. Few people realise the potential of tourism to create jobs where people live.

The growth rate of the industry approaches that of mining. Therefore, in the long term, it is not unreasonable that the industry will continue to be a major economy in Queensland. To ensure this, the industry needs stable and predictable economic conditions in which to flourish.

The Bureau of Industry Economics estimated that tourism is worth 2.6 per cent of the Australian domestic product. The corporation's research indicates that tourism will be worth 4.5 per cent of the Queensland gross State product by 1985-86.

Queensland is growing faster than any other State and in all directions. It is the private sector that has the capability to maintain and accelerate the growth rate of the industry.

A comprehensive study by the US aircraft giant Boeing into Queensland's tourism potential has produced some interesting facts. The Boeing report presents two scenarios for the State's tourism development up to 1985.

It forecasts that, through natural growth alone, tourism should create 30 000 new jobs in the service and hospitality sectors in Queensland by 1985, and require 12 000 new hotel rooms to cater for the influx. However, the Boeing company believes that, should Queensland adopt aggressive marketing tactics, the new job figure could be as high as 57 000, and 20 000 new hotel rooms would be needed.

I am fortunate to represent an electorate that relies on both primary industries and tourism. Airlie Beach and the Whitsunday Islands are amongst the most popular destinations in Queensland, if not Australia. Their value to the local economy is priceless.

Because of the increasing growth in tourism in Queensland, tourist operators in the Whitsunday group, Mackay and Bowen areas, have had to continually promote their product. Their efforts have not been in vain. The need to obtain their share of the tourist market has seen an improvement in the standard of facilities and attractions on offer, and has had a snowballing effect with the creation of many new job opportunities both inside and outside of the tourist industry. It can be seen in my electorate that primary industries and tourism can work alongside each other to the benefit of the total area.

State Tourism Minister, Mr Tony Elliott, has announced plans to develop an area in excess of 200 acres, known as The Beak at Shute Harbour, into a multimillion dollar international holiday resort. I have no doubt that this resort, the first in Queensland, will be one of Australia's leading holiday resorts. It will accommodate 2 000 people in a "below tree-top" tropical setting, which I have described as one of the most beautiful in the world.

Mr Wright: Are you after his job?

Mr MUNTZ: He is doing a tremendous job.

The concept is one of an integrated resort, fully mindful of the environment. Landscaping estimated to cost up to \$10m will be of indigenous trees and shrubs. The idea will be based on an Hawaiian concept and is totally sound environmentally. It will be just one green area and include total recreation facilities, a golf course, and a desperately needed marina boating facility for this area.

I am informed that the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation will control the land, and the corporation will be an equity partner with the private enterprise resort developers. Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation profits will be channelled back into Queensland tourism promotion. It is a first in many ways for Queensland, and the benefits to the Whitsunday and Mackay region will be tremendous.

I am also informed that the concept includes an electric buggy system of transport within the resort and vehicles will be confined to an outside car-park. I must stress to the Government and the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation that the public must have access through the resort, and particularly to the beaches and esplanades on the total beach area. There should be no question on this point.

The development will not infringe on adjoining national park and, in fact, I am confident that it will complement both the national park and the existing residential area on The Beak.

It is a fabulous scheme which will bring tens of millions of dollars into the district and be a landmark for Whitsunday. Top marks to the Minister for Tourism.

(Time expired.)

Mr MOORE (Windsor) (2.37 p.m.): Firstly, I pledge to the Crown my loyalty and that of the constituents of Windsor who wish to do so, and I do not make that pledge lightly. I think of the great benefits and the stability that have been achieved under Her Majesty the Queen. She brings dignity to the office and adopts an apolitical stance. We could not have a better system. I am appalled that the ALP should be moving for the creation of a republic in Australia and a new Australian flag.

I congratulate the member for Mirani (Mr Randell), who moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. With his expertise in local government, he has a great contribution to make to this Parliament.

Mr Wright: When is he going to start?

Mr MOORE: He has been doing very well. He has a great future. I see him as a future Minister. He has had experience not only in local government but also in primary industry.

I also congratulate the seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Toowong (Mr Prentice). He is a barrister-at-law who plays a very significant role on the Minister's justice committee. He will make his mark in this Parliament.

Mr Wright: When?

Mr MOORE: The honourable member for Rockhampton has been in this Parliament as long as I have and he has not made his mark yet, and I doubt that he will. We should not expect a new member to come into the Parliament and make a big splash immediately. It is my experience that those members of Parliament who look like world-beaters at the start seldom are.

Mr Wright: Yes, you were a bit of a let down, actually.

Mr MOORE: I am not talking about myself.

Parliament is a very great leveller. All sorts of people enter Parliament. Whether their job before coming here was taking away the garbage or being an eminent barrister or a painter—

Mr Frawley: Or a housewife.

Mr MOORE: Or a housewife. If the painter, the garbage collector and the housewife show up better in this House, they will be judged on what they are here and not on what they were elsewhere. That is something about Parliament. One does not realise it when one enters Parliament. One thinks that there is some sort of a pecking order—but there is not. It is based on ability. True, there is a certain amount of hocus-pocus, boloney and showmanship in some members, sad to say.

I congratulate His Excellency the Governor, Sir James Ramsay, and Lady Ramsay for the part that they have played since attaining their high office. Some of our Governors have won their way into the hearts of Queenslanders. Sir Leslie Wilson, who was the Governor when I was a child, was one of them. Later Sir Henry Abel Smith won a special place in the hearts of Queenslanders. Sir James Ramsay has done the same. He has a happy easy knack of friendship. He is able to converse in any company. He puts people at ease and is well liked. He visits extensively, because if he did not he would not know what was going on. One cannot just read books to learn about what is happening. They only give someone else's version. If three people see the same thing, each will have his own version of it. People do not see things the same. Basically, they are seeing the same thing, but their recounting of it is different to some extent. I have nothing but praise for our Governor.

Mr Davis: You have spent five minutes grovelling. Why don't you get on with your speech?

Mr MOORE: I am trying to become a Cabinet Minister.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, on his appointment to that high office. It is a little regrettable and unfortunate that he did not see fit to open our Royal National Show—the Exhibition. I do not know whether there is any truth in the alleged statement that he would not open it because the show had been going for some days. I hope that it is not the reason. All of his predecessors were glad to carry out that function. They present the cup at the Melbourne Cup meeting, for example.

Mr Lee: After it's run!

Mr MOORE: Yes, after it's run. They open art galleries and open hospitals after they are functioning. If Sir Ninian said, in effect, that he would not open the show because it had been running for some time, I hope he will be consistent and not open any hospitals or art galleries or carry out any other official function after the establishment has been functioning. If he does, he will owe Queensland an apology. I am not imputing any improper motives.

Mr Wright: But you are chiding him.

Mr MOORE: I am not doing that. I am merely stating that Her Majesty the Queen, who is represented in Australia by the Governor-General, is glad to open such things as horse shows. If Her Majesty the Queen was asked to perform the opening ceremony at the Brisbane Royal National Show, I am certain she would be delighted to do so.

On the question of opening a show after it has been going for some time, I ask honourable members whether they would have somebody perform the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. on the first Thursday, when virtually nobody is there, or whether they would wait until People's Day, when there has been a build-up over the previous six days of the show and the judging of the exhibits and the livestock has been completed, to have the opening ceremony? Why open a show when the final awards have not been made? Why should not the show be opened on People's Day, when the grand parade, which is the pinnacle of the show, is held? Despite that, Sir Ninian is alleged to have said—he might not have—that he would not open the show.

Mr Wright: You are disgusted, are you?

Mr MOORE: The honourable member for Rockhampton is disgusted. I do not get disgusted.

Australia has had many good Governor-Generals. When Sir William McKell, a former member of Parliament, was appointed Governor-General, I suspected that he might show political bias; but he behaved with dignity, was absolutely apolitical and showed not the slightest bias. When Sir Robert Menzies was confronted with a hostile Senate and required a double dissolution, Sir William McKell behaved admirably and granted that request.

I also had some doubts about the appointment of a later Governor-General, Sir John Kerr. I hold no other Governor-General in as high regard as I do Sir John Kerr. He found himself in a very difficult position, but he did nothing wrong; in fact, he did everything right. By throwing the Labor Party so far out that it will never return to office, the public vindicated his action. The people knew that the Governor-General could not allow the nation to be held to ransom. Sir John Kerr told the Government of the day that if it

could not govern he would replace it with a caretaker Government, and that is what he did. The sad thing about it is that to some extent the people of Australia have deserted him; he has been made an outcast. He should be absolutely welcomed in the country and, if it was up to me, I would grant him the highest honour possible.

When I entered Parliament in 1969, I spoke about the trade union movement and the road toll. Today I intended to give the House a repetition of that.

On the subject of the road toll, I said that I would harp about the fitting of speed governors to all vehicles until finally some thick-headed Minister got it into his head that that is the solution to the problem. Nobody has ever been killed by a stationary vehicle—unless, perhaps, a jack slipped when he was underneath it. It is true that in the crowded inner-city streets the odd mudguard gets dented; but in the main, despite the volume of traffic, there are no road deaths in the inner city because no-one can drive fast enough to get into trouble. That shows that there is another factor besides alcohol in road deaths and, of course, it is speed that is the common denominator.

I have said that vehicles should be governed. I have never spoken about governing engine revolutions; I have urged the governing of speed through the back wheels or the speedometer. When the speedometer reached a certain point the governor would cut in. During my speeches on this subject in the past interjectors have said that a driver needs sufficient speed to pass another vehicle or to exceed the speed limit while doing so. However, there is a speed limit of 100 km/h, and no-one has the right to exceed that limit to pass another vehicle, anyway, so there is no reason in the wide world why the speed of vehicles could not be governed.

The technology to do it is certainly available. These days manufacturers even go through the humbug of placing small computers in motor vehicles so that a driver can press a button to find out the distance travelled, the distance to go, fuel economy and all sorts of other information; but when driving in a 60 km/h zone a driver cannot press a button and ensure that he does not exceed that speed. A radio signal could be sent to such a computer to ensure that a vehicle did not exceed 60 km/h in a restricted zone or 100 km/h on the open road. There would be no problem in an emergency, because a fail-safe device could be built in.

It is rubbish for people to say that governing vehicles would cause more road deaths because drivers need to be able to increase speed to get out of trouble. A driver can brake and stop at a faster rate than he can accelerate to get out of trouble. If another vehicle is approaching, a driver can slip into his own line of traffic, even if the vehicles are travelling nose to tail, far more quickly than he can accelerate and overtake. Because there would be relatively little difference in speed there would be no problem even if there was an impact.

Look at what has been done in the cause of road safety. Seat belts have been introduced. P-plates were introduced and abandoned. A number of other restrictive laws were introduced. A system of breathalyser analysis was introduced and it was decided that a driver recording less than .08 would not be charged. But statistics show that over half of those involved in road deaths have consumed alcohol. I suggest that if everybody on the road was tested, over half would show a positive reaction to alcohol, whether they were dead or alive.

It is said that alcohol causes 50 or 60 per cent of road accidents. But what causes the other 40 per cent? Of course, the honourable member for Aspley will say that that percentage of accidents is also caused by alcoholics. She has said it before; I am just assisting her. But it is reasonable to assume that there must be some other reason for the accidents that involve the 40 per cent of drivers who are not affected by alcohol.

Mrs Nelson: The last time I spoke I said that the other 40 per cent are hit by the drunks.

Mr MOORE: All right; now everybody knows that the honourable member is present.

Mr Prest: It doesn't happen very often.

Mr MOORE: The honourable member for Aspley is a good attender in the Chamber, and I acknowledge that.

I am known as all sorts of things, including a male chauvinist pig. I do not know what a chauvinist is, but I would probably own up to it if I could only find out what it means. The two lady members ask no quarter, give no quarter and are given no quarter. There is nothing wrong with that.

Mr FitzGerald: They say that you are a gentleman.

Mr MOORE: And a scholar.

An Honourable Member: There are more of us than them.

Mr MOORE: We will never let them be in the majority.

As I said in relation to the road toll, there is no reason why something positive and effective that will work should not be done.

I shall deal now with the so-called recession. When I drive up my street and see three or four cars parked in front of houses, and two cars in every garage, I wonder who is going without. Statistics can be produced showing that people are on the breadline and that the economy is bad, and we are told that children are going to school without lunches. At one of the schools in my electorate—I will not name it, because to do so might cause political repercussions if people should get their noses out of joint—the principal used to buy about a dozen lunches for the children who did not bring a lunch. The school now has a fund that is used to buy lunches for them. Some mothers who cannot afford to give their children lunches wear shoes costing a hundred dollars, carry nice handbags, are well dressed and have wonderful hairstyles. They certainly look the part—like Betty Grable, for example. They smoke Benson and Hedges cigarettes and seem to lack nothing, yet their children arrive at school without lunch.

On occasions one might find a family in desperate circumstances, but I cannot understand why any child should be sent to school without a lunch. Parents can do something to see that a child has lunch. For a start a responsible parent would not eat breakfast. A mother could use the rolled oats to make oat cakes so that the child could take lunch to school. The last thing that a responsible parent would do would be to send a child to school without lunch. If I am wrong in saying that, I am prepared to accept any criticism that is levelled at me.

It is irresponsible to cry and bleat that the Government should be doing something for these people when, no matter how much money they had, they could not look after their children. People have told me that they have only \$3,000 between them and starvation and have then used that \$3,000 as a deposit on a \$5,000 car. Thereafter they get into all the strife in the world because they cannot meet repayments. Even Blind Freddy knows that if he has only \$3,000 he should keep it for a rainy day.

When the depression was on in 1930—and I remember it well——

Mr Prest: You are not as old as that.

Mr MOORE: I am more than old enough to remember.

In those days, men on the dole received a dollars' worth of rations a week, and those on relief work were paid 13 shillings a day. The number of children in a family determined whether a man got work for a day or a day and a half a week. Even in those days some people had the get-up-and-go to make real money.

Although many people talk about our being in a recession, I have yet to see people who look poor or cannot make ends meet. Social service pensions should not be paid without some work being done for them. The aged and infirm are in a different category. They must be looked after. Any able-bodied man receiving unemployment benefits should do some work for the community that pays him. Work such as the revetting of river banks, tending to parks and general clean-up work could be done. An employer could be subsidised to allow him to employ a man for a couple of days. That would help make his industry viable.

In these days when Australian industry is trying to compete with imports from South East Asia, we have seen our cotton industry, our woollen mills and our shoe manufacturers go down the drain. We have been importing those goods from other countries. Very high prices are paid for coal which is purchased in large quantities. Australia is told to buy something from those countries that purchase our coal. Australia is asked, "What have you got to sell?" Although we produce shoes and textiles,

we buy shoes and textiles, and our own industries go out of business. In my view, charity begins at home. Our own people must be kept employed. That may mean the imposition of tariff barriers or protection for our own industries. There is no reason why we should not produce our own goods, including motor vehicles. We should be producing our own ships, including those required in times of war. There is no reason why we should not be producing our own electronic equipment, such as weapons used in defence against missiles. Australians have the brains and the expertise to produce them. We should not rely on anybody else. We have our own raw materials. It should not be necessary to cart them to other countries in times of emergency. One never knows when an emergency might arise.

Indonesia has a very large population. It is a friendly country. If that country got under the heel of Communism or some other aggressive type of Government, which it does not have at the present time, we would have to look to our own defences.

Israel is a small nation. It has shown that if a country is prepared to fight, it can do a reasonably good job. I will not enter into her problems now. Our economy should be stimulated by the production of all our needs in this country. We should not have to import certain goods. If that means an unfavourable balance of payments and an effect on overseas travel, that is just too bad. If that happens, nothing can be done about it.

Recently, I heard an Aboriginal lady being interviewed on the radio. She lived in Darwin. When she was asked, "What would you tell the Federal Treasurer?" her reply was, "There should be no cuts in the amount of grants to Aborigines." Aborigines are saying, "We need more money to spend." Few Aborigines are working, and the only money they spend is the money given to them by the taxpayers. It is time that we said to them, "Fair is fair. It is time that you started to earn your own money. When you earn it, you can spend it. You are not spending the money that I earn."

The child endowment system, too, is wrong. Nowadays I think it is referred to as family allowance. It should be given only to people who are in receipt of invalid pensions or similar benefits. A parent with one child should be prepared to feed that child. If the parent has eight children, the parent should be prepared to work a little bit harder to feed them.

Mr Davis: Did you give your child endowment back?

Mr MOORE: Of course I didn't. What is the good of giving it back?

I claim that I should not receive child endowment. What I should be given is a tax concession that allows me to retain some of my own money if I work harder. If a parent has eight children and needs more money, he should be able to work hard, earn more money and keep it. He should not have money handed out to him through the Public Service, which costs a lot of money to run. A large slice of the nation's revenue goes out in overhead costs and in the wages of the public servants who hand out the money. The community is suffering from the Robin Hood syndrome; it is robbing the so-called rich to give to the poor. The system is wrong.

The Queensland Government has now jumped onto the wage-restraint bandwagon. Members of Parliament have been asked not to accept pay rises, just as workers in outside industry have been asked not to accept them. The Government can plead as much as it likes, but it will not change anything. The trade union movement will be demanding all it can get.

If the Government were fair-dinkum in its calls for wage restraint, it would legislate to bring about wage restraint. People claim that a wage freeze will not work but that there should be wage restraint. If one is right, the other is right. The Government should legislate to put a wage freeze on the lot. Whereas workers in the trade union movement are given a wage rise once a quarter or once every six months, members of Parliament receive a wage increase once a year. It has been claimed that members of Parliament should set an example.

After I entered Parliament in 1969 members of Parliament did set an example. They were given a pay increase just before an election. The next year the idea was that they get no pay rise, thereby setting an example to the outside community. Members were not given any pay rise at all in that year or in the following year. So for two years members

of Parliament set an example. What is more, for nine months in the following year they were not given a pay rise. In other words, for two years and nine months members did not receive an increase in their pay. Eventually they were given a catch-up to bring their salaries into line with those of people outside.

Did the example set by the members of Parliament have any effect? No. Even though members of Parliament had set an example for two years and nine months, the trade unions went for their pay rises. When members of Parliament were given a pay rise at the same rate as that given to the trade-unionists, who had received fairly substantial rises, there was a hell of a shine. It was claimed that members of Parliament were paid too much.

Queensland has approximately 1 800 school principals. Some of them are paid more than members of Parliament; the majority receive approximately the same as members. A large number of workers in Government departments receive more than members of Parliament, as do general managers and district superintendents in the Railway Department.

I realise that we could live on less money than we are being paid. But has anyone run around and tried to find candidates for Parliament? I have tried to find them in industry. I went to Mr Smith and said, "You are manager of this firm. How about throwing your hat into the political arena?" He asked, "What is your pay and what are your conditions?" I told him and he laughed at me. He was being paid twice as much as we were.

Mr Wright: Especially when you mention the Liberal Party.

Mr MOORE: I do not wish to talk about the honourable member's lot.

When these people are asked to stand for Parliament they say "Why? We are getting twice as much as you are. We also get a car and a house." One fellow told me that his tax is paid by the company.

Mr Mackenroth: That is illegal.

Mr MOORE: It is done through the back door.

Mr Mackenroth: It would have to be a Liberal.

Mr MOORE: This fellow does not belong to any political party. I approached John Citizen. A person does not have to be a member of our party for a long time before he can stand as a candidate. He only has to join the party before he is endorsed as a candidate. However, most businessmen are of our political persuasion. They will not enter politics because, in their view, the money is bad. It is not bad for me because I can live on it quite well. People criticise the quality of members of Parliament and say that there should be businessmen in the Parliament. Businessmen will not enter politics because they say the pay is bad.

I now turn to the railway strike. It has been stated that the introduction of a 38-hour week for blue-collar workers would cost the Government \$135m a year. The union members have gone on strike. The Government has said, "You should not go on strike. You should go to work." I know a little about the trade union movement. Trade-unionists will obey union law. They are dead scared of the trade union movement. They are scared of the standover tactics, the blackmail, the intimidation and the punch in the solar plexus around the corner.

Mr Davis: That does not happen in my show.

Mr MOORE: It happens all right. Trade-unionists do not obey the Government law, which is the real law, because it is soft. It does not do them any harm. They can thumb their noses at the Government because it is soft and easy, but they dare not thumb their noses at the unions because they are dead scared of them.

We say to the unionists, "Come back to work and we will protect you." There is no way in the world that we can protect them because they will be intimidated and get a hiding around the corner. Not everybody will stand up for what he believes in. I have not got a great amount of guts, but in days gone by I have been the only one to stand up at mass meetings and vote against a union proposal. On a couple of occasions I received a smack in the mouth and had a few tomatoes thrown at me for my efforts. Generally, I found that if I was prepared to fight the others would not fight me. I would say, "OK, you fellows, I will not have all of you on at once, but I will have you on one

at a time." I found that they would not fight me. However, I must say that I did not press the point greatly because I might have got a hiding. If the occasion arose, I was prepared to fight.

I do not think that the Government has handled the present strike situation quite as well as it should have. The day has to come when the Government will say, "This is the law and it has to be obeyed." The only thing that worries me is whether we will see it through if the workers in the power-stations strike. The Government will then start to get pressure from people who cannot warm a baby's bottle or do their washing. They will say, "Give in to their demands because we need power." I think that the pressure from the public would be such that the Government would cave in. As members of Parliament, we are supposed to obey the wishes of the people, and if their wishes are that the Government should cave in, then it caves in; but it should not be criticised afterwards for caving in.

As an old railway man, let me say this: if the railway blokes want anything, it is more pay, not fewer hours. A 38-hour week is equivalent to a 5 per cent pay rise. It is equivalent to 5 per cent less production. The result would be a pay rise of 5 per cent; a productivity rate lessened by 5 per cent. That is quite a consideration when we are trying to balance the Budget. It is very simple to say, "Give it to them." I say that, with the economy the way it is today, if it is good enough for some workers to work 40 hours a week, it is good enough for a short time, until the economy gets on its feet, for everybody to work a 40-hour week—schoolteachers, public servants, railwaymen—the lot. Once the economy gets on its feet, we could be generous and give them all a 35-hour week. Let everybody work the same hours. Nobody can tell me that the clerk in the office has any more brain-fag than the technician trying to work out difficult electronic problems, which are a darned sight harder.

Mr Frawley: They are battling to get teachers to work a 25-hour week now.

Mr MOORE: Every time the member for Caboolture interjects like that, he gets me into trouble. One time I said that they beat the kids out the gate and "Hansard" reported that I said they beat the kids. Every damned schoolteacher was kicking me to death because they thought I had said that they beat the kids, when in fact I said that they beat the kids out the gate.

I have only a moment remaining and I had said that I would reply to the Leader of the Opposition on the matter of Aborigines. I cannot cover that ground in a minute, but let me say this: I have been far and wide looking at the matter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. I have found no discontent and no-one wanting land rights. If anyone deserves land rights, it is only the full-bloods. Aborigines have land rights. They can buy land the same as anybody else. There is not the slightest discrimination against them. The world at large thinks that there is discrimination because Aborigines cannot own land. They can own land and that should be brought home to the public at large.

(Time expired.)

Mr PREST (Port Curtis) (3.18 p.m.): I have great pleasure in speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency Sir James Ramsay at the opening of the second session of the Forty-third Parliament. We are fortunate to have Sir James and Lady Ramsay in this State as the Queen's representatives. They are very interested in the affairs of Queensland and show great concern about the problems that confront our people today. I pledge my support and that of my electorate to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This year, when we host the Commonwealth Games, we are again to be honoured by a visit from Her Majesty.

Let it be placed on record that I support a better deal for Aboriginal people, but I do not and will not support any protest action that will disrupt the Commonwealth Games; nor will I support any protest that could and would cause violence endangering the lives of people—people who want no part of violence. However, because of a politically racist attitude we could have people being injured. In this State we have a Premier who hates the lower-class people in the community. He will go to any lengths to see that they remain as the lower class in our society, even if it means using his baton brigade, the Queensland Police Force, to injure and to maim. And the Premier calls himself a Christian!

An article in the "Sunday Sun" on 11 July 1982 headed "Doctors plan for baton casualties" reported—

"A group of doctors plans to set up a medical emergency squad to treat demonstration casualties at the Commonwealth Games."

How wonderful it is to read about responsible citizens of this State—doctors—being so frightened about affairs in this State that they feel it necessary to set up a first-aid station to care for the victims of bashings by the Premier's baton brigade!

One of the things that I am concerned about is that some of the huge number of police the Premier needs to provide protection at the Commonwealth Games will come from the country areas of the State. In particular, I am concerned that 50 police will come from the region I represent, including eight from Gladstone. That city cannot afford to do without that number of police, because, even at the present time, so many breaking and entering offences are being committed that very little can be done about them. If police are taken from country areas it is an invitation to criminals to go to Queensland country towns during the Commonwealth Games to reap a harvest.

Mr Lee: You are telling them to go there.

Mr PREST: It is the Government that has done that. The Government has said that as many police as possible will be required to handle any protests that may occur during the Commonwealth Games.

It must have been a great embarrassment to the Governor to have to read his Opening Speech, just as it was for us to listen to the untrue propaganda that this is a great State, remembering that Queenslanders are unable to purchase a block of land at a reasonable price, and Aborigines are unable to obtain land rights, yet the Japanese are able to purchase as much of Queensland as they like under any conditions. We are told that the State is wealthy, but unfortunately it is the select few, a very small percentage, who have that wealth. Most Queenslanders live in poverty, many people in their early teens have never been able to secure employment and a record number of people of all ages are unemployed.

A Press release issued by the Minister for Welfare Services states that young people have suffered the heaviest casualties in the drop in Australian employment in the year ended 30 June 1982, with 54 000 jobs lost. The Minister has poked his neck out and prejudiced his ministerial position by stating that 54 000 fewer jobs are now available and that it is the young people who are copping the rough end of the pineapple.

A few minutes ago the member for Windsor (Mr Moore) spoke about kids being on the breadline. Because of their poor family circumstances, some children are unable to be supplied with a lunch to take to school. What a terrible problem to be allowed to exist in this wealthy State that the Governor spoke about when opening this session of the Forty-third Parliament.

Recently "The Courier-Mail" carried articles stating that on one pay day at Bundaberg 104 workers were sacked; in Sydney 313 workers were given three months' notice; the salaries of 3 000 Myers' staff were frozen until further notice; two mining companies had frozen the salaries of all senior staff; BHP called for tax concessions to save the jobs of steel workers; and that more jobs had been lost as companies foundered. Yet a Federal Minister (Senator Chaney) states that he doubts that there is poverty in the nation. If that is what the people of Australia believe, then it is only because Senator Chaney and his cronies have swept the poverty and unemployment problems under the carpet and tried to hide the actions of an incompetent Federal Government that is supported by the National-Liberal Government of this State. They are the ones who have something to answer for.

Recently a member of the National Party, who was a candidate for a State seat in 1976, was reported in "The Gladstone Observer" as asking: "Where is the recession?" What a galah he is! Of course, seeing that he is a member of the National Party, that is all that could be expected of him.

People are unable to find accommodation. In fact, a record number of people are seeking welfare housing. Can anyone deny that? The waiting list of persons seeking housing accommodation must continue to rise because of the high cost of land, the high cost of construction and, above all, record interest rates in this country today. Ever-increasing charges are being imposed on property owners by local authorities. This has been brought about by the Government's cutting subsidies to local authorities a couple of years ago.

All these increases in costs have become unbearable for the lower-paid person in our society, and that is causing us all grave concern. The Liberal-National Country Party Federal Government should stand condemned, as should this National-Liberal Government, for supporting policies that have led to the present situation.

I have here a copy of an application to Custom Credit Corporation for finance. I will not name the applicant, but he borrowed \$36,125 to buy a house. The interest on that loan was \$63,947.80, making a total of \$100,072.80. Interest was charged at the rate of 17 percent. Because of a drop in the amount of overtime he was receiving, that person got a month behind in his payments. Custom Credit Corporation has given notice that it intends to repossess the house and cancel the agreement. It has informed him that his house will be put up for auction on 4 September. He now owes the corporation some \$36,800, which is approximately \$700 more than he borrowed. It should be remembered that that person has paid back approximately \$8,000; but, even so, he still owes Custom Credit \$700 more than he borrowed in the first place.

That is the type of problem that the Federal Government's economic policies have brought about. It has allowed interest rates to get out of hand. Custom Credit said to the man concerned, "Seeing that you broke the agreement by failing to pay for one month, if you like we will cancel that contract at 17 per cent and write another contract for you at 22½ per cent." If that fellow could not afford the repayments on a loan at 17 per cent, what chance would he have of making repayments on a contract with a rate of 22½ per cent? He would simply be waiting for the fateful day when the corporation would repossess the house, and, instead of owing \$36,800, he would then owe something like \$48,000. He would only be making a rod for his own back. His house will be repossessed and auctioned early next month. We are told that we are living in a wealthy State. What a laugh! It must have been just as embarrassing for the Governor to read those words in his Speech as it was for us to listen to them.

The Governor referred also to the development taking place in the electorate that I represent; in fact, it was referred to more than once. Queensland Alumina Limited, with its \$200m expansion, will continue to play an important part in the lives of the people it employs. My thanks go to QAL for the continued support it has given to sport by making money available to the Gladstone Sports and Parks Development Committee for the development of sporting fields and facilities in the green-belt area of the city. These facilities are in addition to the QAL Recreation Clubhouse and the sporting facilities in the Barney Point area. I ask the Government, and especially the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sports and The Arts, to make certain that in this year's Budget sufficient funds are made available to enable sporting organisations to receive the subsidies for which they have applied. In particular, I am looking for some financial assistance for the green-belt recreation area that is funded by QAL and subsidised by the Government.

The sporting clubs have been active in developing fields and facilities of a standard required for Australian or international competitions. They have worked hard and long in the interests of their various sports. They deserve all the praise that we can give them. It is a pity that so often vandals destroy, in one night, the work that so few have taken so long to accomplish. Unfortunately the vandals usually get off virtually scot-free.

The smelter on Boyne Island is now producing aluminium. The company will continue to play its part in the development of the Tannum Sands/Boyne Island area. The smelter will be opened officially on Friday next, 20 August. We waited some years for the project to come to fruition. I remember visiting New Zealand in January 1974 to look at the operations at Bluff. Each year after that we eagerly awaited an announcement of the date when construction would commence. It was not until about 1979 that the announcement was made, and finally the plant is to be opened. We are now waiting for an announcement from the company as to whether it will proceed with the second stage of construction. I hope that an improvement in the economy results in an increased demand for aluminium, which would mean a greater smelter capacity to maintain progress in that part of Queensland.

In Gladstone, which is a major Queensland port, the dredging program is still under way. Ships have already loaded more than 100 000 tonnes of coal. After further dredging, ships of 120 000 tonne dead weight will be loaded.

Today we heard that the BHP colliery at Blackwater may be closed because of a lack of contracts. It seems that if the price of coal is reduced the Queensland Government may be able to take about 500 000 tonnes a year.

We often hear about the need to keep costs down to compete on world markets. A survey is being undertaken at Port Clinton relative to the development of a deep-water port. Another port is unnecessary at the present time because some of our ports are not fully utilised. The Governor told us that substantial development work at Hay Point and Abbot Point will more than double the State's coal-export capacity. The ports of Gladstone, Hay Point and Abbot Point will have a capacity to export 80 to 90 million tonnes of coal, yet we are exporting less than 30 million tonnes a year. In those circumstances, why should we incur further expense that can only result in increased charges for coal on the world markets, thus giving other countries an opportunity to compete with Queensland coal producers who, to gain contracts, have to cut prices? At the same time Queensland coal producers will be crying poor and trying to reduce staff and conditions of employment for Australian workers. That would mean better profits for companies and better conditions for workers in other countries, gained at the expense of Queensland and Queenslanders.

The Federal Government has already eliminated the dollar-a-tonne levy on coal. That shortfall has to be met by someone and, without doubt, it will ultimately be met by the Australian taxpayer.

On 17 June 1982 it was reported the Premier had told Japanese businessmen and Government officials that a deep-water port would be operating in Queensland within three or four years. Of course, Mr Lang Hancock will be allowed to develop that port because he is the Premier's friend. Mr Hancock has been very silent about the plan that has been circulated.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen: I heard you say that you do not believe in the construction of another deep-water port.

Mr PREST: I believe that we have enough ports. I am pleased that the Premier is in the Chamber. Hay Point, Abbot Point and Gladstone ports have the capacity to handle 80 million to 90 million tonnes. At the present time we are exporting only 30 million tonnes of coal.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member does not comprehend that small-tonnage ships cannot be sent to Europe to take advantage of the European trade. It is time that the honourable member woke up.

Mr PREST: I am sure that if somebody prepares a ministerial statement for the Premier, he will be able to read it out at a later date.

The people of Agnes Water and Round Hill are concerned that the Government is seriously considering the development of Bustard Heads/Clew Point peninsula as a deep-water port. How many deep-water ports are there in Australia? What is being done is not for the benefit of Australia but for the benefit of Lang Hancock and overseas countries. We have heard about the wonderful things that the Government intends to do in this session. The Governor, in his Opening Speech, mentioned not one word about that most distressing subject, road fatalities. What does the Government intend to do to combat that growing problem?

As at 6 August 1982, 355 people had died on our roads, 20 more than at the same date last year. The number of deaths in 1982 will be substantially greater than the 595 recorded in 1981. What will the Government do about that horrific problem? If the Governor's Opening Speech is any indication, the answer is, "Nothing at all."

No mention was made of the action that the most responsible body in this State could take to reduce the road toll. The Government is more concerned with easing the burden of its Japanese friends and making their life easier. It is not a simple matter to reduce the road toll, but nothing will be achieved if we do not try. Many Acts need to be amended and the Ministers responsible should do some research and homework on this problem.

In any move to reduce the number of accidents, law enforcement is very important. The law must be applied to all. Matters to be carefully considered include road users, licences and the consumption of alcohol, to whom it is sold, whether it is overpublicised,

whether there is enough control over it and the emphasis given to fund-raising connected with the sale of liquor. In addition, the Minister for Main Roads should examine the condition of our roads.

The three major areas of concern are alcohol, condition of roads and speed. Because of a lack of funds, very little work is being done on main roads in Queensland. It is not because the motorist is not being fleeced or being ripped off—

Mr Borbidge: Do you propose a fuel tax?

Mr PREST: No. The Federal Government intends to introduce a petrol tax and increase it until 1988. We are always told that such taxes will be directed towards the construction of new roads. However, nothing is ever done. Because of a lack of funds, the roads in Queensland are in a deplorable condition.

The Minister for Transport should carefully examine speeding, the obtaining of licences, vehicle inspections, the roadworthiness of all vehicles, and so on. More road patrols should be introduced by the police. The public should be made aware of the presence of police. The police should accept advice and complaints from responsible people in relation to road safety. However, they do not do that. If anybody goes to a senior police officer and makes a complaint, he is told, "You can go to hell. You're not controlling the traffic in this city; I am doing that." Recently, a complaint was made to an officer in Gladstone, the area that I represent.

Back in June I made a complaint to the tribunal, but so far nothing has been heard of it. However, I assure the Minister that my complaint is one that will not be swept under the carpet.

The Treasurer speaks about the availability of more finance, and the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police refers to by-laws. He speaks about parking at hotels and taverns. On the Gold Coast the council is saying to motorists, "If you are tired, don't drive. Pull up." If a motorist pulls up at, say, 3 o'clock in the morning, as a group of people whom I know did at Christmas-time, he is booked by a police officer for camping illegally. Each person in the group to which I referred was fined \$30.

Mr Borbidge: It was the Gold Coast City Council, a Labor Party council.

Mr PREST: The member behind me, who represents one portion of the Gold Coast, is trying to make political gain from the road toll issue.

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order. I find that comment totally offensive and uncalled for. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr PREST: I withdraw it. I should think that the honourable member would want it withdrawn. The road toll is a very serious problem and it should not become a political issue. It should be of the greatest concern to all of us, but from the comment that was made behind me I gather that it is not of concern to the Government.

Many Ministers should be concerned about road fatalities. In particular, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Welfare Services should be concerned. Road accidents impose a tremendous strain on the services, staff and facilities at hospitals and units under their control. Each year approximately 600 people die on Queensland roads and thousands more are injured. Those who are injured require medical treatment and specialist treatment before they are able once again to lead a normal life. Some of them spend the remainder of their life in a wheelchair.

I remember that when the Minister for Health (Mr Austin) was elected to Parliament he spoke often about steel-belted radial tyres. Now, however, he does not mention them. Not a word does he utter concerning road safety. The tyres to which the Minister used to refer are indeed lethal weapons. On one occasion a steel-belted radial tyre on my car blew out.

The road toll is a cause of grave concern to me. I condemn the Government for its attitude. The road toll did not even rate a mention in the Opening Speech that the Government prepared for His Excellency. There was no mention in it of a Bill that will come to grips with the carnage on the roads.

I want to place on record the work being done by a railway worker in my electorate, a guard named Jim Brodie. This year Jim had a class of 30 persons of all ages and from all walks of life studying for their St John Ambulance certificates. Jim gave his time to help those people become proficient in administering first aid. They deeply appreciate what he has done for them. If an occasion should arise they will be able to help others. Jim has conducted such classes for many years. His work is appreciated not only by me but also by other persons who become involved in such a magnificent service as the ambulance service.

Talking of railway workers—I support the claim for a 38-hour working week. It was disappointing to hear the Premier blow his own trumpet and talk about subjects about which he knows very little. He claimed that the workers should increase productivity. Good heavens! Can he deny that the productivity of railway workers has increased by more than 1000 per cent since the introduction of the 40-hour week? Whereas at that time trains manned by a crew of three consisted of 60 units and carried loads of 600 tonnes, these days trains with a similar complement consist of 3000 units and carry 7000 tonnes. All workers in the railways traffic section—the shunters, the examiners, those who make up trains, those who examine, repair and dispatch trains—have increased their productivity. The changes that have occurred impose great stress and strain on them, and that stress is far greater than it was when the 40-hour week was introduced. I took those figures from the supplement to the working timetables that came into force on and after June 1982; so they are up-to-date figures.

Trains pulled by 1300 and 1500-class diesels are carrying many hundreds of tonnes of goods from Roma Street right through to Cairns. The productivity of railway workers has certainly increased. Any losses incurred by the Queensland Railways cannot be attributed to the workers or to the department. I had a long period in the railways and I still have a very close association with railway workers today. I have no hesitation in supporting them in their moves for better working conditions, including a shorter working week.

The Government must accept full responsibility for any losses incurred by the Queensland Railways, because the Government has entered into secret freight agreements. I do not deny the Government the right to enter into an agreement with any major company, but I believe that the agreement should not be secret. If the agreement is for the betterment of Queensland, the Government should be proud of it and let us all know about it. But above all, the Government should not deny the worker his rights simply because the Queensland Railways are showing a loss. It does not matter whether the agreement is good or bad. However, up to the present, some of the agreements have been a total disaster. They are causing the losses in the railways. There is no doubt that that is why the agreements are swept under the carpet and not made public.

I am concerned that in our society there are people who are unable to be supplied with water by a local authority because, in most cases, of the prohibitive cost involved in supplying the water. The principal reasons for that is that developers and/or subdividers have not been asked to do so, or have not had conditions placed upon them when approval was given to their applications, or have not contributed funds to the local authorities towards the cost of the construction of the headworks for water, sewerage or electricity. Later it is found that people who purchase blocks of land for houses from a subdivider are deprived of these services because they are too costly to provide.

Mt Morgan is a prime example. The town is 100 years old and does not have a water scheme. Large sums of money have been made by the companies and the Government from that town. What have they given to the people of Mt Morgan in return? Just the continuing worry of how they will survive without water.

Yarwun is another example. Under the QCL agreement, the township was to receive water; but the local authority cannot afford to connect it and, if it did, the cost of water to the consumer would be too high. In April, a deputation of Yarwun residents met the Minister for Local Government. His answer was, "Do you have a couple of beers each day? Think of the cost of four beers a day. What would you rather have? Four beers a day or water at the same cost per day for the whole of your family?" The attitude of the Minister is, "Don't drink beer; save the money and use it to pay for water for your family." I was under the impression

that beer was a luxury and that people could do without it, but I cannot see how water, which is the most essential commodity sent to us from heaven, can be placed in the same luxury category as beer.

If we cannot get water, which is an item that drops from the sky, and make it available to all people in developed areas after local authority approval has been given, then we are in a very sorry state of affairs. Is that due to a lack of foresight? Or is it that these developers, subdividers and real estate people donate sums of money to the election campaigns of certain local authority candidates? Or maybe they give a straight-out sling to certain persons for approval of their application, with no financial obligations attached to the approval.

The National-Liberal Government has played a big part in imposing financial hardships on local authorities by cutting Government subsidies and grants. Those decisions have resulted in big increases in rates, cut-backs in council work-forces and urgent services, such as water, not being made available to the public.

Today the Leader of the Opposition said that in a survey he found that councils are now employing fewer people, road-works have been cancelled and improvements to water supply and sewerage schemes have been deferred, often indefinitely. In the face of the mounting deficits, councils have been forced to increase rates.

Let us look at some of the deficits of councils. As at 30 June 1980, the Brisbane City Council and other city, town and shire councils owed, by way of loans, \$1,083,810,229. What chance do local councils have of borrowing more money and providing more facilities at the present rate of interest of 17.6 per cent, when already throughout Queensland local authorities owe such a massive amount of money?

Another area I am concerned about relates to the provision of water in the Burua area in the Calliope Shire. The area was rezoned rural residential and subdivided. No provision was made for services. Now the people are asking for water, but the Calliope Shire says, "We cannot provide it." Although the Gladstone Water Board pipeline is on the shire boundary—right past their front door—the Calliope Shire says, "We are sorry. We can't supply it. If we were able to, the cost per dwelling per year would be \$1,115." How ridiculous. Although water passes their door, they are unable to get it because the shires do not have the money for reticulation. If they were able to obtain the money, the cost to be borne by those people based on interest and redemption would be \$1,115 per year. I ask the Treasurer and the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police to do something about providing such an essential commodity as water to people in all local authorities.

Another matter that concerns me is the Government's rate remission to local councils. The city of Gladstone finds it very difficult to explain this Government's guide-lines. I refer to the case of an aged gentleman who had been in business for many years in Gladstone—not in the boom times but in the old times when there was seasonal work—who is now a pensioner. When his wife passed away she left the home in which he is living to their two daughters. Although they have signed a declaration that he does not pay rent and is solely responsible for rates and the maintenance of the house, the city council has refused his application for a remission of rates. The council has done the same to a lady whose husband was a businessman. They were not fly-by-nighters. They are people who have lived in Gladstone all their lives. They have been in business. They are known to everyone, especially to those in the council, for whom they have done work. They have been wonderful citizens. Now they are living in a house left by their spouse to children in the family and they are not able to obtain a rate remission. Those people would have been better off paying rent, or saying that they were paying rent, because they then would have been able to receive the \$16 per fortnight allowance that is made available through the pension to those people who have to pay rent. That would give them approximately \$400, whereas the remission given by the State Government is only \$120. I would like the Treasurer to look at the guide-lines. They have to be made very plain to some local authorities, which just do not seem to understand. Either that or they just do not want to understand.

I refer to the case of a former council worker who, because of ill health, had to retire and is now on an invalid pension. When I spoke to the Appropriation Bill I mentioned that his application had been refused, even though he had had a health benefit

card for over 12 months. The council would not accept that. His pension payment commenced after 30 June last, which is the council's closing date, so he cannot receive assistance from the Government. That will cause him great hardship.

Another gentleman was in Melbourne on holidays when applications for remissions closed. He is now back and his rates are due to be paid on the 23rd of this month, but he has been told that he cannot receive a remission because he did not make an application. The rates are not due to be paid until next week, yet he cannot obtain a remission. I ask the Treasurer to look at that. At a later date I will speak further on that matter.

I give my thanks to those people who work for voluntary organisations that in various ways help people in need. I am sure that honourable members realise that I am speaking of such organisations as Meals on Wheels, the Blue Nursing Service, St Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army and the many other service organisations that do so much to help the needy in the community. The Pensioners League also does a terrific amount of work not only for its own members but also to assist the aged in the community. I thank those people for their work, especially Meals on Wheels, which is celebrating its 20th year of operation in the city of Gladstone, and the Blue Nursing Service. Meals on Wheels provides a wonderful service and I would like to see the Government subsidy increased in the coming Budget, because that service cannot be done without by those in need.

Gladstone has a very small but efficient tourist organisation. Of course, it has very little money, but it does its job. Although the organisation is part of the Capricorn Tourist Association, it receives no financial assistance. The Capricorn Tourist Association receives the money and my area gets the brush-off. I ask the Minister to set Port Curtis aside as a separate area so that it can be provided with finance directly. In the past, in the eyes of the southern media, Gladstone has had a very dirty name.

I was pleased to see the recent publication "Queenslander" issued by Mr Syd Williams of Air Queensland. It is of interest not only to air travellers but also to school students. The articles in that publication are well researched and contain much of great historical interest. The second last issue included an article on the Albion Park sand track. I ask people to try to obtain a copy of "Queenslander" so that they can see what a wonderful publication it is. So to Syd Williams I extend congratulations for that excellent publication and also for the direct service to my city.

(Time expired.)

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise) (3.58 p.m.): In taking part in the Address-in-Reply debate, I take the opportunity to affirm my allegiance and that of my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen. We look forward to her visit to Queensland later this year. I am especially pleased that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will be visiting my electorate.

I also pay tribute to the Queen's most worthy representative, His Excellency the Governor. Sir James and Lady Ramsay are frequent visitors to the Gold Coast, as they are to many areas of this vast State. They have a natural and wonderful rapport with the people of Queensland.

In a difficult economic climate, Queensland continues to consolidate its position as the low-tax, high-growth State of the Commonwealth. Despite the prophet of doom who has preceded me this afternoon, I wish to touch on a few figures that will confirm my argument. The facts are there for everyone to see and the achievements are significant. Indeed, they are the envy of the nation. They are a great tribute to this National-Liberal coalition Government and to its strength and leadership.

It is just over 25 years since Queenslanders replaced the old socialist order with a Government committed to free enterprise, and a new era in the history and development of Queensland commenced. Queensland's economic growth rate is over 50 per cent higher than that of the nation and, significantly, it is higher than that projected for the major industrialised nations of the world, including Japan. Almost half of Australia's committed development projects are in Queensland.

Last year this State's increase in the net value of manufacturing was the nation's highest, and it is continuing to experience the greatest internal migration in Australia's history. One thousand people a week are moving to make their future in Queensland.

In the 12-month period to the end of February the total increase in the number of persons employed in Queensland was greater than all the other States combined, an increase of 35 000, almost three times the national average. For the sixth year in succession we remained the State with the lowest taxes. We remained the only State with a free hospital scheme. Last year 19 000 new businesses opened, 15 000 new companies came into being, retail sales increased by 17 per cent and building approvals by 24 per cent, and we attracted 40 per cent of Australia's foreign investment. Government research indicates that we will be the nation's second most populous State by the year 2000. These are analysed statistical facts. The resource development policies of the Government have meant that at least \$400m a year goes to the Treasury that would otherwise have to be met by Queenslanders in high State taxation.

It was interesting to read in the "Telegraph" this afternoon a statement by the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations concerning Queensland's continued growth. He referred to later figures than those I have just cited. The article stated—

"Sir William said the good news for Queensland had been buried under a pile of federal statistics which spelt economic gloom, with rising unemployment.

In Queensland, the reverse situation applied—the employed labor force was growing, unemployment was dropping, apprenticeships had reached a record level and youth unemployment was the lowest in Australia.

Sir William called it the 'California Syndrome'—increasing retail sales, across-the-board job growth in a number of different sectors brought on by a fundamental pattern of growth, and not just an interstate drift.

'This is highlighted by the situation on the Gold Coast where, as well as the boom in high rise buildings, the coast has Australia's largest growth of three bedroom brick veneer houses,' he said.

Statistics showed Queensland's employed labor force had grown by 23,000 in the 12 months to June this year.

This compared with a drop of 9,200 jobs in NSW, 11,700 in Victoria and an Australia-wide decline of 300 jobs.

In July this year, Queensland recorded the lowest unemployment rate in Australia—5.8 percent, compared with the national average of 6.6 percent.

Bureau of Statistics figures showed Queensland's unemployment rate had dropped steadily since 1978 when it was 7.2 percent, to 6.8 percent in 1980, and 5.8 percent this year.

Youth unemployment among those aged 15 to 19 was the lowest in Australia . . .

They are statistics and they are facts which cannot be disputed by any fair-minded person, substantial achievements made possible by strong leadership and efficient, effective free enterprise Government. The prophets of doom opposite, in the media and elsewhere can say what they like; the points are on the scoreboard in distinct comparison to the policies being forced upon our fellow Australians interstate by the socialist Governments down south.

Queensland has continued to fire entrepreneurial imagination and to consolidate its position as the free enterprise capital of the nation. I particularly welcome the Premier's initiative in foreshadowing possible substantial stamp duty reform in relation to mortgage concessions and incentives to attract additional business to base its activities in Queensland. We have seen, and we are continuing to witness, that this State's economy has a strength and a resilience which cannot be matched. Despite the levelling off in economic activity generally, I believe it is significant that there are still 50 high-rise cranes in operation in the skies above the Gold Coast. I believe that there is one in Adelaide, but in Melbourne and Sydney, the land of black-outs, the BLF and socialism, the political and industrial

climate is one of stagnation. Indeed, in the socialist South, a new Dark Age has descended on business, commerce, job creation and confidence. Small business is carrying a substantial part of the burden.

From time to time it is claimed that the ALP is the friend of small business.

Mr FitzGerald interjected.

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Lockyer is taken with mirth. To those people who can be deceived into believing that that is the case, I can only say that they should talk to their interstate colleagues, to small business in Victoria and New South Wales, and to the truckies in New South Wales to find out what the socialist Governments in those States are doing to small business.

Through its warped policies and economic mismanagement, the New South Wales Government is teetering on the brink of a frightening economic abyss. The Wran deficit presently stands at \$120m. If the State of New South Wales was a business, it would be bankrupt.

The sensitivity of honourable members opposite on this issue is shown by there being only one of them in the House at the present time.

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

(Quorum formed.)

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Port Curtis thinks it is perfectly all right for him to waffle on for his full time, but when Government members decide to tell a few home truths he obviously becomes a little upset.

The recent mini-Budget in New South Wales is costing every New South Wales family an additional \$10 in State taxation. The massive and savage increases in oil, petrol, diesel, transport and electricity costs, together with new State taxes, power shortages, port congestion and industrial unrest, are eroding Australia's competitive position in world trade and tarnishing our reputation as a stable, reliable nation.

Further south, the description of socialism as a philosophy of failure is being further fueled. In Victoria, hospital charges have increased by 37 per cent, company cars have been taxed, and the pending threat of probate and death duties was recently withdrawn after massive public opposition and a hostile Upper House. The State Government in Victoria, by its tacit support for its Left-wing power base, even managed to place in doubt the basic principles of the ANZUS alliance. The Government in Victoria, which backdated a pay rise to employees who were members of the Municipal Officers Association, held it over for those who were not members so that they could join the union and have the pay rise backdated. That is typical of the type of Government that Mr Cain is giving the State of Victoria.

Mr McKechnie: What about the \$100,000 bribe from the Teachers Union down there?

Mr BORBIDGE: I am certainly not in a position to pass judgment on that statement by the member for Carnarvon.

The vast majority of Queenslanders endorse the strong stand taken by the Government and the Premier on the 38-hour week issue. It is of fundamental importance in the community. By and large, the community endorses it very strongly. We have heard about some of the people who have been involved in the strike. Mr Hugh Hamilton was closely associated with the Communist Party for approximately 10 years. Today the Opposition defended and supported him. If that is the stage that has been reached, it is a very sorry day for the Opposition.

Mr Muntz: They always have supported Communist Party members, haven't they?

Mr BORBIDGE: That would probably be true in the vast majority of cases.

The record in Queensland and the performance or non-performance interstate speak for themselves. There can be little doubt that the Enterprise Queensland campaign conducted by the Queensland Government has been a substantial success. Recently I had the opportunity to speak to some business people who followed the Premier to Tokyo and London. They were most enthusiastic about the success of the campaign. Such a

concept highlights the importance and the relevance of the Government offices in the United Kingdom and Japan.

The Agent-General's Office in London and the Representative Office in Tokyo are vital components in Queensland's investment harvest. They are taxpayers' money well spent, each year returning many times their cost of operation in job creation and investment. The Government should give consideration to establishing such an office on the west coast of the United States. We would then have the Pacific basin covered and allow further penetration into the lucrative North American market, particularly in relation to tourism. The need and the potential exist, and a west coast office would consolidate the considerable interest that has been generated in that part of the world towards the State of Queensland.

Despite a levelling off in building activity, to which I have already referred, the Gold Coast continues to grow. However, it is important that this levelling off is kept in perspective and that account is taken of the marked lack of activity in other major population areas interstate. The development is still impressive and is continuing, albeit at a slower rate. Tourism remains our life-blood. However, it is pleasing to see a sizeable clean manufacturing base becoming more evident. This is a positive step, as clean industry is compatible with tourism and, in many cases, complementary to it.

I welcome the purchase by the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development of 130 hectares of land at Burleigh for manufacturing industry. The \$3.2m purchase will go some way towards easing the shortage of available industrial land in the area. The latest available figures indicate that tourism is worth in excess of \$1.4 billion per year to the State's economy, with employment in that industry approaching 90 000 jobs.

Mr Lester: Plenty of emphasis will need to be given to providing more industrial land to accommodate the people who are coming here from the other States.

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Peak Downs made a very valid point.

As I mentioned earlier, the rush to Queensland is continuing. The most substantial internal migration in the history of Australia is taking place. In the Gold Coast City Council area, the value of tourism is approaching \$140m and tourism provides 7 500 jobs yet, historically, Governments have been slow to realise the enormous potential of this great industry. In Queensland alone tourism employs more people than the automobile manufacturing industry employs nationally. However, every year the Commonwealth Government subsidises motor manufacturers by an amount equivalent to \$14,285 for each of the industry's 70 000 workers. However, the Queensland Government, through the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, is promoting the State intensively. And full marks to the Minister who, I believe, is the best Minister for Tourism that this State has ever had.

Construction of the casino will commence in November. It will be the catalyst for further development on the Gold Coast and a symbol of what is to come. Significantly for local accommodation houses, its convention capacity will substantially exceed its accommodation capacity. It will bring associated benefits. For example, work has already started on a major new motel complex opposite the Broadbeach Island casino site.

I predict that both Ansett and TAA will have to examine seriously the prospect of linking Queensland's two casino cities by direct air services. A Townsville link would connect the Gold Coast with the Great Barrier Reef and vice versa and would also allow the Gold Coast to tap in on the international visitors who will be arriving in Australia through the new international gateway in Townsville.

Mr Randell: Let us not overlook the tremendous advantages associated with tourism in the Mackay area.

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Mirani made a valid point. He is a great champion for his area and I would be the last to overlook the point that he made.

An air service linking the two casino cities would be of immense benefit to both cities. The Boeing aircraft company estimates that for every \$1 spent on tourism \$1.50 is generated to other industries and that tourism is closely interrelated with property values, real estate and development.

Mr Lester: The "Gooney Bird" flights to the Central Highlands have been very successful, too.

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Peak Downs is not one to miss an opportunity to advertise his area. I am well aware of the importance of the "Gooney Bird" flights to his area.

Tourism is of utmost importance to the whole of the State of Queensland and to the nation. For every 400 visitors who go to a particular region, one full-time job is created. For every 1000 people who are employed directly in the industry, another 940 are employed indirectly. Such claims and achievements are unique to the tourist industry. It has the capacity to create jobs for young people where they happen to live.

This year will see Japan Air Lines, Thai Air Lines, Singapore Air Lines and Cathay Pacific operating to and from Queensland. There remains, however, an urgent need for increased promotion in specially targeted areas. I believe that great emphasis should be placed on Singapore and Hong Kong.

Although the establishment of the new Singapore office of the Australian Tourist Commission is a step in the right direction, Australia needs to be promoting heavily in the growing markets of South East Asia. I understand that some major promotions are planned. The House should note that, according to figures released recently by the ATC, 88 232 Asian visitors came to Australia last year and of that number 16 686 were from Hong Kong. The Federal Government needs to do more by way of providing the right climate for tourism in Australia. I refer not to a need for subsidies but specifically to the restrictions and disincentives that presently apply.

I am informed that Australia has the highest departure tax in the world. It must be a great insult to overseas visitors that, in effect, the Federal Government fines them for coming here, for spending money and for creating jobs. The departure tax is a stupid, insipid tax and one that should be reviewed urgently.

An Honourable Member: What about New Zealand?

Mr BORBIDGE: New Zealand has a slightly different system. When I was there, the departure tax was incorporated in the price of the air ticket at the time of purchase. The unsatisfactory situation that arises in Australia does not arise in New Zealand.

Internal tourism is affected by high domestic air fares brought about by massive Commonwealth charges. Last year as many as 1.3 million Australians holidayed abroad. They spent \$1.6 billion while away after spending \$1m on air tickets. Last year 8 per cent of Australians went overseas, compared with 3.2 per cent of people in both Japan and the United States of America. Those figures clearly demonstrate that Australia has no captive home market. Much of Australia's promotional activity needs to be in its own backyard.

The Queensland Government, the Minister for Tourism and the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation have done well. Queensland constitutes an aggressive and noticeable force in the market-place. Queensland is a pace-setter in the promotion of tourism.

Mr Davis: Who would want to go to Surfers Paradise?

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Brisbane Central interjects, and I feel obliged to refer him to the Travel Industry Bulletin of March of this year. It refers to the great concern in the industry about a proposal before the New South Wales Government at that time to abolish the Department of Tourism in New South Wales.

Mr Muntz: What would you say would happen to tourism if we ever fell into the hands of a Federal Labor Government?

Mr BORBIDGE: It would be an absolute disaster. It would put tourism back to the Dark Ages.

Mr Muntz: What about the Gold Coast?

Mr BORBIDGE: It would suffer immensely. In fact, it would suffer more than any other area.

The confidence in the tourist industry is shown in investment figures. In 1980, tourism investment totalled \$556m in New South Wales, \$360m in Victoria and \$626m in Queensland. In 1981, it totalled \$1.827 billion in New South Wales, \$1 billion in Victoria and \$2.034 billion in Queensland. Last year, Queensland's tourism growth was 11.6 per cent, compared with the national average of 2.4 per cent. Tourism's great capacity for job creation is a major national asset, and evidence suggests that the 1985 targets of the Boeing report, to which the honourable member for Whitsunday referred earlier in this debate, are well within reach, and that could mean as many as 56 700 new jobs by 1985.

Mr Davis: Ha, ha!

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Brisbane Central may laugh, but we are achieving those figures. They are statistical facts. If the honourable member wants to snub his nose at the tourist industry and the jobs that it is creating in this State, he can do so.

Mrs Nelson: Has not the tourist industry created over 60 per cent of all new jobs in Queensland over the last couple of years?

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Aspley raises a point which, to the best of my knowledge, is correct. I predict that the tourist industry will create many more jobs before this decade is out. In fact, it will probably be the major, or the second major income earner in Queensland.

I congratulate the Gold Coast Visitors and Convention Bureau on a successful year's operation and welcome the increased financial support from the local authorities in the region. I am pleased that Qantas has indicated its intention to pioneer a trans-Tasman air link to the Gold Coast, using the Boeing 747SP next year. I am confident that the Gold Coast has the immediate capacity to be a regional international airport serving trans-Tasman flights. I am pleased about the Qantas decision. It is most welcome.

The college of hospitality and tourism at South Brisbane will play a vital role in preparing young Queenslanders for the demands and challenges of the industry. Proper training is an essential ingredient in a viable industry.

Over recent weeks, the Gold Coast has been subjected to some strong and grossly inaccurate and unfair criticism. Some of it has been generated from the socialist South and some of it has been local. The academics, the experts, the whingers and the knockers have been out in force, and they have been receiving substantial media coverage for their efforts. In recent weeks the Gold Coast has been the victim of a most deceitful and dishonest campaign of sinister proportions.

I have already referred to the great growth of the State and how this has been mirrored on the Gold Coast. Preliminary information from the recent census indicates that between 1976 and 1981, the population of the city of Gold Coast increased by 34.5 per cent and of the Albert Shire by 130.5 per cent, whilst the average for the State of Queensland was 12.6 per cent. Yet, despite this and the economic situation down south, the Gold Coast appears to have been singled out for particular attention from the southern media.

One has to ask: Why? It is difficult not to be cynical. It is a fact that many powerful people and institutions, and even Governments elsewhere, would like to see the Gold Coast and Queensland slip. We have taken their money, their job opportunities and their investment. But, as has happened before, those who employ these tactics will eat their words. Obviously there are problems in this State and in the nation. The economic situation, the high interest rates and the unjustifiable level of personal income tax are just some. However, as I have tried to indicate by quoting figures from the Queensland Government and also from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Queensland is doing very well indeed. Anybody wanting to see how well it is doing needs only to compare Queensland's performance with that in other States.

The corner-stone of free enterprise is small business and I have two areas of concern about that. First, I refer to the proliferation of regulations, red tape and bureaucracy. I submit to the House that there is a need for a small-business task force to assess the cost of excessive Government regulation on small business. In more difficult economic times, we must do all we can to give employers the necessary incentive to expand and to create more jobs. We need to examine whether the processes of Government can be minimised and streamlined and look hard at the performance of those Government departments and semi-government bodies that, by necessity and law, have the capacity to

make life a little easier for business and for the community in general. That is particularly so where red tape and bureaucracy can affect the viability of business, commerce and employment.

A special small-business task force should examine the performance of Government departments and agencies and make appropriate recommendations to the Government. On previous occasions I have referred in the House to the inconvenience and imposition made by bodies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics. That is an area that should be closely monitored. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has an innate ability to get carried away with its own importance by conducting random surveys, the results of which are close to useless, that are a considerable imposition on small business. Indeed, over the years the ABS has pioneered a whole new totally unproductive industry in which useless information is collected for useless purposes and dispersed to a host of questionable causes.

Commercial lease transactions continue to give concern and are a major problem in my electorate. Although the prospect of legislation is abhorrent to members on this side of the House, the fact remains that many landlords are not playing fair and are abusing the existing provisions of the law. I am particularly concerned that some landlords have incorporated in their lease documents disclaimers exempting them from any future action of Government. Such landlords are placing themselves above the law. That is a totally unacceptable practice and I serve notice that if any landlord in my electorate seeks to use such a tactic I will expose him in the House.

The bigger shopping centres in my electorate, to their credit, have not been the cause of complaint to any noticeable degree and I commend them for that. My main source of complaint is with the arcades, the smaller shopping centres and the like. Almost without exception, the landlords at fault are not members of the Building Owners and Managers Association and will not subscribe to any form of industry-led code of ethics. Many are interstate absentee landlords and some have used blatant intimidation and mafia-type tactics. Many tenants to fall victim have been prominent business people in their own right of long standing and experience in the community and not people who could be defined as first-timers or inexperienced.

There is a need for some form of grievance-settling procedure in the industry to which both landlords and tenants have access. There is a need for normal business principles and ethics to be maintained in the industry. I welcome very much the Premier's announcement on the matter this afternoon. In my opinion, it is a problem that can be solved—not necessarily by any form of socialist legislation such as honourable members opposite might suggest—and there is an awareness within Government ranks of the importance of the problem and how many people are being affected by commercial lease practices. I express confidence that the Government will proceed with the matter.

Indeed, in the past, many lease contracts have included a grievance-settling clause whereby a matter could be referred to an independent arbiter, so the principle I advocate this afternoon is not new and definitely does not involve industry regulation. The Minister for Commerce and Industry has closely involved his committee in discussions on the problem, and it should be acknowledged that although the matter must be further pursued as a matter of urgency, progress has been reported. It is important that this momentum be maintained so that a satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at. I was very pleased to hear earlier in the debate the comments, suggestions and proposals put forward by the honourable member for Whitsunday. I was also pleased to read the recent statement of the Premier about his concern over goodwill provisions and key-money clauses, the need to include some sort of arbitration clause in lease documents, the need for fair dealing, for protecting the role of small business where necessary without restricting private enterprise and so on. I believe we will see further Government initiatives in regard to this matter.

In the Adjournment debate of 23 March last I referred to incidents alleged to have taken place over a considerable period at the Terrace Club in Surfers Paradise. I drew attention to the fact that the existing provisions of the Liquor Act mean that unlicensed premises continue to operate blatantly and openly in Queensland. The problem rests with the maximum penalty provided, which I understand is a maximum fine of \$60. By a system of front men and managers the fine is paid and, in the case of the Terrace Club, the establishment re-opens. Despite the fact that police have been most active in attending to the breach involved and other alleged incidents at that club, the law is being treated with contempt. In that Adjournment debate I detailed a number of incidents that

have occurred at the Terrace Club, including muggings, bashings and an apparent problem some patrons have experienced negotiating the stairs. Drugs have been seized on the premises. On 19 July 1982 a Mr Dover Shayne Samuels, reported owner of the club, appeared in the Southport court charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The law is quite clearly inadequate. I have asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General to take this problem into account in respect to the pending review of the Liquor Act. The penalty for offences, consecutive offences in particular, must be at a satisfactory level to force the closure of such premises, with the option of a gaol sentence for the offenders involved.

I express the strongest possible concern that some Gold Coast City Council aldermen are continuing to blame the Queensland Government for their own decision to discontinue the free home sewerage connection scheme. These are the facts. There has never been a State Government subsidy for free home sewerage connections. If Government funds have been used for this purpose, the question of where the funds were diverted from must be asked. If there has never been a Government subsidy for this particular scheme then clearly the Government should not be blamed for its being discontinued.

I acknowledge the financial problems that councils have had to face. The effect of the subsidy cuts has been severe on the Gold Coast, but to blame the Government for a council decision made by a majority vote of aldermen is poor politics and will not be worn by any of the local members.

It should also be pointed out that at no time during representations to the Treasurer last year did the Gold Coast City Council indicate that the free home sewerage connection scheme was at risk. I seek leave of the House to have incorporated in "Hansard" two brief documents, a telex sent to the council by the four local members last year and the reply telex sent by the city council, which detailed the list of priority works involved.

(Leave granted.)

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following documents—

Alderman Keith Hunt,
Mayor,
Gold Coast City Council.

Reference your telex. We are not available for meetings or inspections on Tuesday due to parliamentary session in Brisbane.

We repeat our previous request which you agreed to last Thursday or provide specific and individual detailed financial priorities separate from Cultural Centre requirements for the Treasurer.

Ivan Gibbs, M.L.A.
Russ Hinze, M.L.A.
Rob Borbidge, M.L.A.
Doug Jennings, M.L.A.

Attention

Mr R Hinze MLA
Mr D Jennings MLA
Mr R Borbidge MLA
Mr I Gibbs MLA

Note these are the major jobs to be undertaken during 1981/82 and which cannot be deferred showing short fall of funds required after taking into account carry over funds at 30/6/81. Part only of the five year programme—

complete Biggera Waters sewerage construction \$480,000
complete Tugun/Currumbin sewerage construction \$720,000
continue Palm Beach sewerage construction \$400,000
continue South Southport sewerage construction \$640,000
continue sewerage planning \$160,000
commence water trunk main from Hinze Dam to Nerang \$233,250
giving a total of \$2,633,250

Ald Keith Hunt, Mayor of Gold Coast
A. V. Angove, Town Clerk

Mr BORBIDGE: As honourable members will see, there was no mention of the free home sewerage connection scheme in the list of priorities supplied to the local members by the Gold Coast City Council. In effect, the subsidy cuts have supplied the excuse and are not the reason for discontinuing the scheme.

In conclusion, I should like to make a few comments on the standing of the Parliament in the eyes of the media. I refer only to certain sections of the Brisbane media because I believe that the Gold Coast coverage is objective. No member of Parliament is immune from criticism, and all except it as part of the job. However, I am concerned about the degree of criticism of this House and the institution of Parliament itself. Of course, there are faults, but far more attention is paid to the so-called perks of office than to the work and the dedication of the members collectively. Those eager to condemn should think a little more about the consequences and the fact that, with all its faults—and there are many—parliamentary democracy is still the best system of government that mankind has been able to devise. If the public begin to regard this place with contempt, the basis of our way of life and freedoms is at risk. Perhaps the time has come for members to more actively promote what Parliament is all about and what being a member of Parliament involves.

I express confidence in the continued prosperity of Queensland and in the performance of this Government, particularly in contrast to the abysmal socialist efforts in the South. I express pride in the achievements of this State and coalition Government and I resolve to continue to tackle, on behalf of my constituents, the many challenges that confront us.

Mrs KYBURZ (Salisbury) (4.36 p.m.): Fortunately the Address-in-Reply debate allows us to canvass a wide range of issues. It is often a good time for members to verbally move round their electorates and give a discourse on what is going on all over the State. Obviously, it is an interesting exercise in that city members hear what is going on in the West, the North and elsewhere. I find it quite fascinating to read through "Hansard" and find out what is going on.

Much has been said today about the economic situation, including what has been written in the newspapers because the Federal Budget is to be delivered tonight. I am upset that the newspapers are talking down the economy. In fact, everyone seems to be doing just that; not just the newspapers, but all sections of the media. Talking down the economy does more harm than anyone can imagine in that it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

For instance, youth unemployment is said to be the gravest problem we face, and some young people have simply given up trying to get a job because, as I said, the newspaper prophecy has become self-fulfilling. Many parents say that they are tired of their teenage children sitting around the house till 12 o'clock and perhaps trotting off in the afternoon to look for a job but, more often than not, just not trying at all.

If the CES cannot come up with a job for them they are just not willing to walk the streets looking for one, as used to be the case some years ago. As I said, they are being talked out of making brave attempts to find work by what they read and hear. We all know that peer-group pressure is extremely strong, and in that respect I suppose that what is said at the local milk bar, on the local street corner or, sadly, in the local hotel lounge is probably worth far more than anything a parent can say.

Obviously job generation is of concern to everybody and the idea of locally organised job generation is growing in vogue all round Australia. I will give instances of what I mean. They might not seem to be terribly important jobs but, let us face it, if someone does not have a job he should be willing to do almost anything that is a worth while service to the community. I am talking about paid employment.

In Melbourne and the western suburbs of Sydney locally organised job generation teams have taken on unemployed youth in servicing the houses of the elderly, that is, refencing, repainting, cleaning up yards and so on. While such jobs may not be highly paid, they at least give unemployed youth the feeling that they are doing something worth while, and I think that is very important to their future.

Much comment has also been made about economic indicators. Quite frankly, I question the usual economic indicators used by the Bureau of Statistics. Together with employment and raw income figures, the economic indicators of real growth seem to be somewhat shaken, because they are the consumer price index, building commencements and motor vehicle registrations.

The consumer price index is often quoted as an indicator of real growth in the respect that Queensland has a lower consumer price index than most other States. In fact, it is only 1 per cent lower than the Australian average. The consumer price index for Brisbane increased by 9.3 per cent in 1980-81 compared with the Australian average of 9.4 per cent. That is so close to par it is not worth mentioning.

Building commencements have been much quoted as extremely important to Queensland, but the use of motor vehicle registrations as an economic indicator of real growth is like drawing a red herring across what should be correct and refined statistics. I hope that the Bureau of Statistics will consider dropping motor vehicle registrations from the economic indicators of real growth. I say that only because the economic situation is a much discussed matter, one about which many people are very concerned.

The honourable member who preceded me in the debate referred to the comments attributed to Sir William Knox in today's "Telegraph". Everyone knows that the industrious Minister for Employment and Labour Relations is constantly speaking-up this State. Probably he sees that as his role, and I can only applaud it. Sir William Knox is reported as saying—

"We are not just getting elderly rich Victorians but young families who perceive Queensland as having a more promising future as well as a better way of life."

I express concern about some of the comments being made. Later, I intend to speak about the new housing package put forward by the Government. At the time, I made comments that I know are pertinent to my electorate. Some irresponsible people are still coming from other States and New Zealand without first arranging employment and housing. They are lobbying here and draining our welfare housing system, and the whole of our welfare system. It annoys me that some Ministers, whilst speaking-up the State, are sweeping under the carpet many of the problems that are showing.

That reminds me of my position. Occasionally in the morning, depending on how I feel, I put on copious layers of make-up; but the cracks appear in the make-up at about 2 p.m.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mrs KYBURZ: Unfortunately it is true.

In relation to running the Government, I can draw an analogy between a woman's happy, freshly made-up face and the cracks that appear in the make-up in late afternoon.

The cracks in the make-up of this State start to appear in relation to two important economic indicators, that is, welfare housing and the use of welfare services. I will return to that matter later.

Earlier in the debate an honourable member referred to the lack of welfare housing in Queensland. Although I know that excellent attempts are made to maintain a growth in welfare housing, more people should be encouraged to move into their own house-purchasing schemes. Fortunately, that is precisely what the new housing package tries to do.

There will always be a dichotomy between fully paid housing and welfare housing. Media attention is often given to welfare housing. The statistics relating to people who wish to obtain welfare housing mean absolutely nothing. I estimate that at least 2 000 of the 11 500 people who are currently on the waiting list for accommodation should not be there. I have constantly stipulated to people who make application to go on the Housing Commission welfare housing lists: (a) that the lists are long; and (b) that if they have the opportunity to obtain alternative accommodation, that is precisely what they should be doing. The fact remains that dispersed family groups apply to be accommodated in two and three-bedroom houses. I have approached the Minister for Housing and told him that a new approach should be adopted. Really, it is not a new approach, it is an old approach that has been regurgitated.

I am seriously worried about the number of 15, 16 and 17-year-old girls who are applying for Housing Commission houses. They are being treated by the Housing Commission as family units. Some of them have one or two young children. They are being accommodated in Housing Commission houses in outer suburbs and they are not associating with responsible families in their ordinary situation. They are far removed from public transport and job opportunities. The opportunity to move into the mainstream of life away from the total welfare situation is extremely small.

Hostels for teenage mothers are needed within the city-centre area. There they could see other people coping responsibly with bringing up their children and with learning life skills and job skills. I have always said that no longer is it any good for a woman to sit back and say, "I am a woman. I will always be looked after either by a man, by the State or by the social security system." I do not encourage that. It is too easy to bludge on the system in this country. They must take responsibility for their own lives. If they have taken responsibility for becoming pregnant, let them take responsibility for looking after their own lives. The growth of the hostel movement, which is happening in other countries, has brought with it a peer group pressure to conform with job skills and a new way of life. That is something that is needed in Queensland.

Fortunately, the Minister is prepared to listen. I doubt very much whether the Housing Commission is malleable and pliable enough to adopt new ideas. It is tortoise-like, as all bureaucracies are, in its attitude to change. Although it is tortoise-like in its movements, it also is weighed down by its shell, which is composed of its hundreds of employees. I would like to see an innovative approach on the part of the Housing Commission.

Mr Wharton: We have made a lot of changes recently.

Mrs KYBURZ: I am always happy to see more change.

As I have mentioned quite often, many three-bedroom houses are still being occupied by one or two persons. That situation simply should not occur, unless more realistic rentals are introduced. There must be a weighting for bedroom capacity. Such a weighting is provided for in other places and I cannot see why it is not provided for in Queensland. Single persons or couples must be encouraged to move out of three-bedroom houses. Everything possible should be done to give them encouragement.

The construction of pensioner units is one form of encouragement. However, I do not favour the use of welfare housing from cradle to grave. It is not good enough for someone to sit back and say, "When I was 25 years of age I had a house for \$15 a week, or whatever it was, and now I expect to be housed for the rest of my life in welfare housing." I see no reason why many persons currently taking advantage of welfare housing should not have to struggle to pay off a house, just as most ordinary people do. If the weighting of rentals encourages such people to move out of rental houses, rentals should be weighted.

I turn now to tourism. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise made the interesting comment that last financial year 8 per cent of Australians went abroad. I am somewhat staggered by that figure. It means firstly that an enormous number of people have what could be considered a luxurious amount of money to spend on holidays and also that enormous costs are associated with travelling in Australia.

Often I have remarked that it is no wonder that people do leave Australia to travel abroad; overseas travel seems to be so much cheaper than travel in Australia. Take as an example a 10-day cruise on the "Oriana" to New Caledonia and Noumea. Say the average fare is \$1,100. That means that the amount of money spent on that cruise is \$2.5m. It certainly seems that Australian destinations lack excitement. Having spent many weeks on ships sailing backwards and forwards between here and Europe, I do not find living on a ship for 10 days very exciting. That is not my idea of a holiday. However, for some people it is. If Australian destinations are lacking in excitement, some way must be found of putting it back into them.

The quality of service in Australian tourist destinations leaves a lot to be desired. Recently I was a guest at a breakfast at the school of hospitality at Coorparoo. It is interesting to see people being trained as waitresses, waiters, chefs and so on. They are being taught the correct methods of service and the caring quality that people expect when they are paying big money.

As well, the provision of small food items in many Australian tourist destinations leaves a lot to be desired. I am staggered to find that some restaurants, after charging as much as \$25 a head for a meal, have the hide to serve instant coffee after the meal. That is a rip-off. Besides serving instant coffee, they serve dairy whitener, which is anathema to anyone who really likes the taste of tea and coffee. On top of that they serve dead bread. It might be two weeks old and it is dragged out of the freezer and heated in a microwave oven, so badly that it is dried out completely. For dessert, they have the hide to serve tinned fruit. That is all right in the cafeterias of Coles or Woolworths. What else can one expect for \$1.50? Some restaurants should wake up to themselves.

Mrs Nelson: What about the wrapped butter and wrapped sugar?

Mrs KYBURZ: I must say that I absolutely loathe that, too. If I am in a restaurant and need more butter, I certainly ask for more.

Australia and Australians have a friendliness quite unlike the offhanded attitude that one finds in many of the traditional tourist destinations in Europe. I refer, in particular, to Italy and France. I really cannot tell honourable members what I think about touring in Italy or France. Those countries are so well trodden by tourists that they do not have to make a great effort to assist tourists, and indeed they do not. It is as simple as that. Those countries have never had it so good. As members of the Common Market, they are relatively well priced as European tourist destinations. Of course, Australia will always have to face the disadvantage of distance, and it cannot overcome it except by the adoption of a friendly and welcoming attitude.

Not much has been said today about the current strike. I have been contacted by a constituent who is very concerned about some of the things that are going on in the railway workshops at Ipswich. I raise this matter because I should like a full investigation to be made of "foreign" orders being placed in the railway workshops. If furniture and other small metal items are being manufactured in railway workshops, it is an extremely worrying situation because the employees are being paid by the Government to repair railway fittings.

Dr Scott-Young: A very ancient custom and procedure in railway workshops.

Mrs KYBURZ: It should not be encouraged.

I was upset to learn that this is happening, particularly at the railway workshops at Ipswich. A sort of rosewood cocktail cabinet can be made at the railway workshops at Ipswich for \$200. I have been looking at furniture prices in Brisbane and have found that they are quite high, so \$200 is a reasonable price. I should like the Minister for Transport to investigate the placing of "foreign" orders in railway workshops.

Mr Davis: As long as they are Queensland made, what is wrong with that?

Mrs KYBURZ: The employees are being paid with taxpayers' money. They are whingeing about a 38-hour week. In fact, that is a lie. All they want is 2 hours' overtime. They want to work a 38-hour week and be paid 2 hours' overtime.

My other concern about the current strike relates to hospital employees. I know that there have been many complaints about the use of frozen foods in public hospitals. Many of these complaints result from the recalcitrance of some of the hospital staff to properly use the microwave oven system. Let us face it: a person has to be pretty dumb not to be able to work out that 3 minutes is all that is needed to heat up a frozen meal in a microwave oven. If people cannot do that, they should not work in a hospital.

Mr FitzGerald: It is sabotage by the staff.

Mrs KYBURZ: That is an excellent word. It is deliberate sabotage. Many employees simply do not want frozen foods to be used in hospitals because they feel that they should be mashing potatoes, making pies and doing all the other things that they used to do. Their attitude is quite wrong. The frozen foods are excellent when heated properly. I said "heated"; I did not say "cooked". They are already cooked. They do not need to be cooked. I have been to the frozen food facility and I am upset to hear people complaining about the frozen foods in hospitals. They are excellent.

My other worry in the health system is the number of interstate free-loaders coming to Queensland simply to obtain free health care. I have been informed that on occasions women come here to have their babies. However, it is not just at that level that we witness this free-loading in our health system. I do not know how we go about preventing that, except that a system of some sort must be instituted so that people must prove that they pay taxes within this State before they are permitted to take advantage of our free hospital system. The production of a rate notice would be one way. A Queensland vehicle registration paper would be another way. It seems to me to be only fair to Queensland taxpayers that that should happen. Such a system should be introduced instantly if it is at all possible.

I turn now to road safety. At a seminar last week I was very interested to hear many provisions about road safety which specialists in the field feel that the State Government ought to introduce. Some of the suggestions by neurologists and doctors who specialise in orthopaedics could be introduced very quickly. For example, one related to seat-belts in buses. It seems to me to be rather silly to comment about irresponsible parents who do not put seat-belts on children in their cars when there are no seat-belts in any school buses in this State. It would be very easy to introduce such a measure. Responsible bus owners should install seat-belts now.

Mr FitzGerald: They do not all have seats. One-third of them stand.

Mrs KYBURZ: That is appalling. Films were shown of an accident involving a school bus. The scenes were horrific. I certainly would not like to see that sort of thing happening again.

The other call from the seminar was for far tougher penalties for infringement of our road laws. I have an old Press cutting detailing an accident in which two people were killed after colliding with oncoming traffic. They had been forced off the road by a semi-trailer driver. I know that in the last session I detailed to the House how a similar thing had happened to me. The two people, whose names I will not mention, obviously went through a harrowing time. It is sad to think that their lives were taken by an irresponsible semi-trailer driver. What was he charged with? Dangerous driving! How pitiful! He should have been charged with murder. Witnesses stipulated that he had forced those people off the road and that they then swerved into oncoming traffic. He was sentenced to a three-month suspension of licence and a \$400 fine. "Miserly" is the only way I can describe it. He should at least have been gaoled at week-ends and forced to do voluntary work in neurological or orthopaedic wards of a public hospital. He would then have seen the results of his driving. That is exactly the way I feel about drunk drivers as well. The penalties in this State are so light as to be farcical. Until we have a highway patrol as an arm of the Police Force but totally separate and able to be autonomous, conditions will not improve.

The specialists and doctors at the seminar—officers from the Road Safety Council were present—concluded that there are four main causes of deaths on our roads. They are speed, overtaking, and the abuse of alcohol, and they certainly have nothing to do with the condition of the road, as has been stipulated by some members who have already spoken.

One road safety officer detailed the driving conditions in Europe. Anybody who has ever been to the northern hemisphere in winter knows that negotiating ice, snow, sleet, and so on, in America and Europe is extremely difficult. Queensland does not have those hazardous weather conditions; nor, indeed, do most parts of Australia. So the repeated whingeing about the condition of the roads is purely incidental to the fact that people speed on roads that might not be altogether perfect and overtake when in fact the roads are meant for only one lane of traffic. In addition to that, some drivers compound with drink the problems of speed and overtaking.

The issues raised at the seminar were extremely important. I was very interested to listen to the specialists on the various items. One of the main issues raised was the lack of application of the current seat-belt regulations, because that is the other main contributing factor to death on the roads. In 54 per cent of fatal accidents people have not been strapped into seat-belts. Quite frankly, I find that unbelievable. I would not consider driving without having my seat-belt fastened, although I admit that it is rather difficult now.

Any parent who allows his children to roam around in the back of a station-wagon, or, indeed, to ride in the rear of a utility, is totally irresponsible. Quite frightening pictures were shown of what happens when accidents occur in cases such as those. A specialist from the spinal unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital showed an alarming photograph of what occurs when a vehicle with a baby in a bassinet on the back seat without adequate seat-belt restraint is involved in an accident. That we are losing people on the roads because of their own irresponsibility is very sad. I speak of such irresponsibility as not wearing seat-belts and motor-cyclists wearing thongs instead of strong shoes. I know that the Minister for Health is aware of the need for the upgrading of the spinal unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, but the Government must treat that as a matter of urgency.

I was sorry that the Governor did not mention the amendments to the Education Act, as they are extremely important. The Act has been much discussed by the Queensland media. Many of the criticisms of the amendments to the Act have been purely political. I will save my comments on that to a later date, but I indicate now that I support the introduction of the amendments to that Act. In the majority of instances they are extremely necessary.

Criticism of the Act as providing far too much ministerial prerogative is necessary because on many occasions the Government has been swayed by an extremist minority. I would not like to see that happen again.

Mr Scott: Are you taking your accouchement leave on the "Melbidir"?

Mrs KYBURZ: No. I am sorry to say that I have never been on the "Melbidir". I do not even know what it looks like.

Many teachers within the State school system are concerned about education standards in the State and are furious at being rail roaded by extremist fanatics who stipulate that their schools should not have to meet certain standards or have to follow a set curriculum, which all State schools have to follow. I can only quote from a "Courier-Mail" article which stated—

"A Uniting Church minister . . . yesterday asked: 'Why all the fuss about the education Bill now before the House?'

'Why the opposition of the registration of teachers in private schools?'

He said that, as a minister of religion, he was required to register with the state if he were to be permitted to officiate at weddings.

'I see nothing in the Bill any more restrictive than that normally accepted in a democratic society,' he said.

'The aim of the Bill is clearly to guard against bogy teachers and quack schools which do not measure up to the required standard of education demanded by the state,' he said.

He said this was to be commended because it prevented children from receiving a sub-standard education."

That is what I am concerned about. He also said, and I can only reiterate it, that many people are reading many things into the Bill which are simply not there. That is exactly what extremist minorities in this State seem to be so capable of doing.

I must say that any school which provides satisfactory facilities and regular instruction in a broad range of subjects has absolutely nothing to fear from these amendments. Indeed, they should welcome them. If they do have bogus teachers and if they are not coming up to the standards required by our curriculums, they do not deserve to be open and they do not deserve one cent of public funds. Of course, parents have the right to send children to the school of their choice, but I also believe that it is a right of any government, indeed it is the responsibility of a government, to say, "No standards, no money." If parents wish to send their children to a school where they will be ear-bashed with religion for 10 hours a day, that is their right. If the children end up illiterate, that is the children's loss. But it is equally the right of government to stipulate that a minimal standard of education must be delivered by every school, and that is very important.

I agree that a register of foreign land ownership in this State is very necessary. When one reads a copy of "The Straits Times" in Singapore to see copious advertisements for all sorts of real estate all over Australia, and particularly when one sees an advertisement relating to one's own electorate, one realises that such a register is necessary. I refer to the Kooralbyn development near Beaudesert, Its prices are not very hefty when one considers the Australian situation overall, but when one also considers that that property is being paid for with money borrowed at 8 per cent interest within the Singapore and Hong Kong financial belt it becomes even cheaper relative to the price of other developments throughout Australia. The standard of advertising in newspapers throughout Asia leaves a lot to be desired. In fact, some advertisements cause great concern because there are many Asians who do not understand that the purchase of property in Australia does not automatically give them citizenship, yet this opinion was expressed to me quite often, "Well, we own a unit on the Gold Coast, a farm here and a block of flats there. That means that we have security. We can always go to Australia to live." But it does not

guarantee them Australian citizenship, nor should it, and that is why there is a grave need for a register of foreign land ownership in Queensland. I see nothing sinister about it whatsoever.

Another point which is often mentioned about the register of foreign land ownership is the Iwasaki tourist development at Yeppoon. I think there is now filtering into the public consciousness a grave uncertainty about the future of that development. As far as Japanese tourist developments are concerned, it is sad to say that the Japanese are notorious for their insularity in the use of outside services. One has only to go to Hawaii to see that the Japanese tourists all fly Japan Air Lines, use Japanese tour operators, even travel in Japanese buses and frequent only Japanese restaurants. Does that mean that the development at Yeppoon will be propitious economically for the surrounding neighbourhood? I do not believe that it does. Probably the majority of tourists will be Japanese. They will fly JAL, eat only there and use only Japanese tourist operators. It is very debatable whether that development will be a big help to Queensland. I simply say that if the development does not go ahead on time, as stipulated in the Act, we must take a long look at it. If Mr Iwasaki is sincere he should try to fulfill all the stipulations within the agreement.

I have much pleasure in speaking in this debate. As I said, I think the future of Queensland is rather rosy, but I hope that the economic indicators will not be swept under the carpet so far as the future of the whole of Australia is concerned, although some Ministers in this Government do not understand that Queensland is still part of Australia no matter how they care to look at it.

Mr KRUGER (Murrumba) (5.16 p.m.): I listened with great interest to the Governor's Opening Speech. Unfortunately I cannot agree fully with the sentiments expressed by many speakers today. The Government believes that everything in Queensland is rosy. On the statistics that come before us it seems that the State is progressing with big developments in coal and other resources. However, on moving amongst the ordinary people I note that many of them do not share that opinion because they are finding it harder to make ends meet and the things that they used to enjoy are no longer within their reach. If they want to go for a week-end drive they know that it costs them so much more to fill up their petrol tank than it did only a short while ago. Pensioners are suffering because their income has not risen proportionately. Because of the increases that have taken place, their week-end drives have gone by the board. It is fair to say that all of the problems have not been inflicted by the Queensland State Government. At the same time it is also fair to say that some of the problems that could have been overcome by the State Government have not been dealt with. We should be doing more to alleviate the problems confronting people.

Compared with a couple of years ago, the State, generally, has run into a number of problems. We must look closely at which way we are going and how we will overcome the problems. One problem, affects local authorities. They have been seriously affected by the cut-back in subsidies for water and sewerage. In many instances local authorities believe that they are not gaining the benefits that the Grants Commission was originally set up to confer. Local authorities are facing the toughest period for some time because they are not sure whether they will have to police only their ordinances, or whether they will have to police laws passed by the State Parliament. On looking at the legislation passed by this Parliament, it is obvious that the local authorities are being forced to administer it. That does not make the job easier for them and they are not sure which way they are heading.

While talking in this way I will deal with a problem confronting the Pine Rivers Shire Council. Before doing so I will point out the composition of the council. The chairman of the shire is an ALP man by the name of Allan Hughes. He has three ALP councillors with him, namely, Messrs Lavarch, McGrath and Abbott. Other than an independent councillor, the remaining councillors are paid up members of the National and Liberal Parties. If that is not so, they certainly display leanings that way.

With an additional 38 votes at the last council election we would have rid ourselves of Councillor Chapman and finished up with a council under ALP control, at least a very honest council, because the independent would possibly have supported the ALP on some matters in the best interests of the community.

Mr Akers: You handed out her how-to-vote cards; of course she would support you.

Mr KRUGER: We did not hand out her how-to-vote cards. The member for Pine Rivers would not know. I had nothing to do with that person.

I have a great deal of concern for the ratepayers in regard to the Pine Rivers Shire Council's defamation cover proposal. Council minutes and legal opinion indicates that the council could be acting outside the jurisdiction of the Local Government Act. The attempt to indemnify councillors and council staff is not catered for under the Act. The shire solicitor has indicated that some doubt existed about the council's power to introduce such a scheme. The legal opinion obtained yesterday states that if this is so, councillors will be liable for their actions. I believe that that is also the opinion of the Department of Local Government. The Department of Local Government ought to be made aware of the matters contained in the opinion because of the problems that will face other shires in Queensland if it is to continue.

The council has not only introduced such a scheme through its insurers, but is introducing retrospective policies to allow the council to pick up the tab for Councillor Brian Joseph Burke, who has had a writ issued against him. The writ was issued by Kinsey, Bennett and Gill, solicitors on behalf of Thomas Joseph Gleeson and Thomas Stanislaus Jilek, both of Camp Mountain Road, Samford, and Billowie Pty Ltd against Councillor B. J. Burke and Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd and Kevin Joseph Kavanagh claiming damages for defamation, damages for slander to titles and/or damages for injurious falsehood, costs and further or other relief.

Mr Blake: Is that the same Burke who was a Liberal candidate at the last election?

Mr KRUGER: Yes.

To make a comparison, the council is looking for cover which is entitlement greater than anything we have in Parliament. As we are all aware, Parliament has a Privileges Committee. If anybody goes outside the privilege of Parliament, he is dealt with by the Privileges Committee in the interests of the people generally and in the interests of the State of Queensland. The ALP councillors voted against this move, and last night at the council meeting Councillor Lavarch put on notice a motion to have those previous actions rescinded. It was defeated. I believe that the ombudsman's office is investigating certain actions of the Pine Rivers Shire Council, which shows that everything in the Pine Rivers Shire Council is not going the way it should.

It is unfortunate that many people are led to believe that the ALP has control of the Pine Rivers Shire Council. However, that is not the case. Out of a total of 11 councillors, only four are Labor councillors.

I wish to traverse the events that transpired in the period leading up to the establishment of the policy of the Pine Rivers Shire Council. There was a previous professional indemnity insurance policy which indemnified the council against any claims for breach of professional duty which may be made against the council by reason of any neglect, act, error or omission whenever or wherever the same was or may have been committed or alleged to have been committed on the part of any person employed by the council or any councillor of the council in the conduct of any business conducted on behalf of the council in a professional capacity.

The shire solicitor came forward with a suggestion that there ought to be an extension to the previous cover in the following terms—

“Subject to the Terms, Conditions, Exceptions and any Memoranda endorsed hereon the Office will indemnify the insured against all sums which the insured shall become liable to pay as damages and/or costs and/or legal expenses, consequent upon any libel or libels or alleged libel or libels or slander infringement of copyright infringement of trademark or design infringement of patent slander or title slander of goods actions for malicious falsehood action based on or analogous to infringement of copyright and actions for passing off made against the insured during the Period of Insurance within the limits specified on the Certificate of Insurance.”

I purposefully read that in full because it refers to the extended cover. It does not refer to the new policy about which the new council is concerned, nor does it refer to the policy of council which is distinctly different from the insurance cover that it may be considering.

The solicitor said in his report—

“Council may also wish to give consideration to adopting a policy to indemnify Councillors or Staff who may be issued with legal proceedings arising from or in connection with the discharge of their duties.”

He goes on to explain that the staff is covered. That is only a policy of the council; it has nothing to do with an insurance policy at all.

The solicitor also indicated—

“It seems that the Local Government Act could permit Council to indemnify Councillors or Staff in these situations although the matter is not free from doubt. Perhaps before Council gives further consideration to the matter Counsel’s opinion should be obtained to ensure that Council does have the legal power to indemnify a Councillor or Staff member.”

I have a legal opinion which indicates that it does not. When I was talking on the telephone yesterday to the Under Secretary of the Local Government Department he shared that view.

The shire solicitor’s recommendation went on to say—

“The extension covering libel and slander is to be obtained.”

The minutes concerning professional indemnity insurance read—

“The Shire’s solicitor be instructed to seek counsel’s opinion as to whether Council has the power to indemnify councillors and/or staff members in respect of legal proceedings brought against a councillor or staff member arising from or in connection with the discharge of their duties. The policy suggested below has been prepared on the assumption that Council has the necessary power ”

Then they deal with the council’s policy, not the insurance policy. It shows quite clearly that the reason for this is that Councillor Burke has a writ against him and retrospective legislation will be coming forward. I shall cover that section before I get back to the main topic of my speech which, possibly because it affects State issues, is more important. However, this aspect is important to my area.

Mr FitzGerald: It’s boring.

Mr KRUGER: Perhaps it is. It is like listening to some of the honourable member’s speeches. He is bored only because he is not taking the interest that he should be taking.

The report goes on further to say—

“With a view to ensuring that Councillors/staff of the Council are not disadvantaged by reason of a negligent act, error or omission committed by or alleged to have been committed by any Councillor/staff in the conduct of any business conducted by or on behalf of the Council which occurred prior to Council’s Professional Indemnity Insurance Agreement being amended to include an indemnity in favour of Councillors/staff, the Council is prepared to indemnify and keep indemnified Councillors/staff who may be issued with legal proceedings by reason of the aforesaid matters.”

It indicates that any councillor who had any problems before will have his costs and charges met by the Pine Rivers Council. That means that the ratepayers, not the council, will pay the bill. If it is found that a councillor has made libellous or defamatory statements, the local authority could be up for a great deal of money by way of damages.

The minutes state that the council or the council’s solicitors will defend those councillors who have been found to have made defamatory statements. Any costs incurred by the council pursuant to the policy shall be met from the council’s general fund. That is spelt out quite clearly. The councillor mentioned attacked a land company and the damages claimed were written up in a local newspaper. I have a copy if any honourable member cares to read it.

It seems to me that Councillor Burke has pressured the shire solicitor to make his statements. They are written in a way that is most misleading to the council. Recently I talked to the shire solicitor about the matter and he was unable to give me a reasonable explanation as to why it was written as it was.

Mr Davis: Is Councillor Burke a friend of the member for Pine Rivers?

Mr KRUGER: He used to be at one time, but I do not think that they are too friendly these days.

Double standards seem to be adopted with storm-water discharge and matters of that sort. One of the local developers has continually slated the Pine Rivers Shire Council over this matter, and he may have good reasons for doing so. However, the standards vary. It depends on the developer and which member of the staff deals with the case. To me, that is wrong.

Recently, I had occasion to write to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police about a development at Kallangur. I pointed out that in previous court cases concerning land in the shire, downstream owners' consent had to be obtained for the discharge of storm-water. The Minister wrote to me and said that that was not correct. He said that it was not necessary to get downstream owners' consent. That is quite contrary to the decisions that the Local Government Court has given in cases involving the Pine Rivers Shire Council and developers in the Pine Rivers Shire. The Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police either has set out to mislead or has not written with the best of intentions. Such a misleading statement should never have been made. The Pine Rivers Shire Council is presently looking at the matter to see whether it has been taken for a ride in the past in relation to storm-water discharge. Although I have used the Pine Rivers Shire Council as an example, all councils throughout the State have to ensure that these problems are overcome in the best interests of the people who pay rates in their areas.

I turn now to a subject that was raised by the previous speaker which has concerned me for some time. I have raised it in many places but it has not received the coverage that it should have. I refer to the need for a land register in Queensland. Recently, I looked at the sale of a property in the old Leslie homestead area in the Warwick district. I understand that the property was sold to Japanese interests. When a person tries to ascertain from a local authority the name of the purchaser of a particular property, the local authority does not want to disclose it because it is not sure whether the person making the inquiries should or should not be told. It asks the person, "Why do you want to know?" Queensland people should know that I inquire about these matters because I want to know who is taking over our land. I have looked into the sale of several properties. If there had been a land register, or if the change-of-ownership application to the local authority had been made in the way it should have been, the information that I was seeking would have been readily available.

I went to Oakey to inquire about the sale of a property there. The local authority welcomed me. I was told that Germans were taking over properties in that area. I found that Germans were taking over the properties all right. I also found that the people who had been there for 100 years or more had German and Dutch names. So, without knowing the addresses of the people purchasing the properties, I could not ascertain whether foreigners were purchasing the properties. If their addresses had been shown on the forms, it would have been easy to ascertain the names of the purchasers of the properties. That information could be obtained quite quickly from a land register.

Also, local authorities have in their rates department the addresses to which they send rate notices. Unless overseas owners arrange for a solicitor to pay their rates, the names of the owners of properties should be available from the rate notices.

Almost all honourable members have indicated that they want a land register. Only one man has really shown any opposition to the compilation of such a register, and that is the Premier. When he went on an overseas jaunt not so long ago, the Cabinet, in its wisdom, decided that a land register should be compiled, and steps were taken to prepare the necessary legislation. However, as has happened on other occasions, when the Premier returned he was able to convince the Ministers that the proposal for a land register should not proceed. So we still do not have a land register. The leader of the organisational wing of the National Party also believes that a land register should be prepared. The Liberal Party policy generally is for a register.

When I sought leave to debate the matter in Parliament, and a division was called, there may have been only one Liberal who crossed the floor. That shows quite clearly that members of the Government are sticking together on something although they are not really at one on it.

The previous member to speak raised the Iwasaki affair. It seems to be quite clear that in no way will Iwasaki meet the timetables laid down under the agreement. He had no intention of doing so at the time. The more we tried to tell the Premier about that, the more he wanted to dig his toes in and say that everything he was doing for the State was correct. If he adopts that attitude and does not realise that sometimes other people are correct, it is no wonder that this State is slipping back.

Mr Sullivan: You would have to be joking. You admitted a while ago that development is taking place. Now you are contradicting it.

Mr KRUGER: I did not say that development was taking place in the way that it ought to. Of course there has been development. There always will be. Nobody will really stop it. What I am saying is that control has to be exercised in the best interests of the State. It is no use the Minister for Commerce and Industry burying his head in the sand, thinking that everything is rosy. He should be aware that, in the area that he represents, many foreign people are taking over the land and that a number of farmers who genuinely want to farm the area are not happy about it.

What I am saying is that a register will not do any harm at all. If the Government's policy is that it does not want to alter the laws relating to land ownership, but just wants to know who owns the land, that is all very well. Change will only come about when the Government decides to introduce legislation controlling ownership of the land. What I am talking about first and foremost is a register. Any Government that does not believe that the introduction of a register is a reasonable step is certainly not acting in the best interests of the people of this State.

I say, briefly, that the Labor Party would introduce controls that other parties would not introduce. However, that involves a deep and heavy debate and is a subject that I do not wish to canvass tonight. At the appropriate time, if and when a register is introduced, I certainly will canvass the details. That would be the proper time to discuss those matters. At that time the Labor Party would naturally wish to bring its policies forward. I was surprised at the Premier's statement, "It is just another stick for the Opposition to belt me across the head with." We will belt him across the head over his refusal to introduce a register just as much as we would be able to if he introduced it. He has to learn that the introduction of a register is in the best interests of the State. We will certainly belt him across the head if he does not control foreign ownership of land in our State.

While I am dealing with land matters, I wish to raise something that I have mentioned before. The other night I spoke about it on TV. In passing, I make it known again on the Hamilton Island affair that Mr Keith Williams did not have the necessary permit from the local authority, neither did he have his lease fully secured. Nobody seemed to worry about it. I have photographs in my office, taken in February this year, showing big blocks of condominiums almost completed; yet the lease for that island was registered only three weeks ago. The amount of money Mr Williams is paying for the lease is of very small consequence. It never ceases to amaze me that some people are able to do such things when others are not.

A member who spoke previously mentioned what a great money-spinner the tourist industry is. However, more and more the Government is divorcing itself from tourism. It promotes private enterprise in a way that shows that it is not really interested in tourism. All that it does is claim that the industry creates job opportunities in Queensland.

Mr Borbidge: That is not what the industry says.

Mr KRUGER: It seems to me that there is something wrong somewhere.

Mr Borbidge: I haven't seen you at any industry functions. How would you know what the industry thinks?

Mr KRUGER: Some people have very important things to do, while others look at other spheres. As he is from the Gold Coast, I suppose that the member who interjected would receive a lot of invitations to tourist meetings there—possibly in an attempt to get something into his skull. Obviously he knows nothing about it and the people involved think that if they work on those who do not know anything about it they may get some results. Those who know a little about it do not have to have it explained to them continually.

As to the Premier's interest in not having a foreign ownership land register—I have another document that might explain his position.

Mr Prentice: How many tourist industry associations or operators have you consulted with? How many functions have you attended?

Mr KRUGER: How I run my affairs and the people with whom I deal are my business. I do not wish to divulge the extensive contact I have had with various people, because Government members could be quite embarrassed if I told the House of the great extent of my involvement and of the small involvement of Government members.

I wish to speak of a sale, registered on 19 May 1982, that involves a Japanese named Watanabe, which is also the name of the Japanese Finance Minister who recently was pictured eating steak at the Premier's home. If it is the same gentleman, he has just bought a piece of land in Queensland from Joh Bjelke-Petersen and Albert Aoki. That clearly shows the Premier's involvement in the Japanese take-over of Queensland land.

I turn now to the need for additional funds to provide for forestry expansion. Recently quite a large piece of good forestry land was excised to become a national park. I am sure that the Government is not proceeding as fast as it should with the development of pine forests. I make it quite clear that I do not advocate the felling of useful scrub or good timber to enable the planting of pine trees, which are known to grow in areas that will not grow other timbers. The Government should be moving faster than it is, because the State must ensure that it is self-supporting and that in future it will be able to support Australia's needs. Because the State suffered a small lapse in production, New Zealand producers obtained a foothold in the local market that has allowed a continuation of imports.

Recently I have taken a great interest in milling in the State. In smaller areas, one mill after another has been closed. Some small towns that previously had three or four mills now have none. A few very large mills handle the production of the State. Recently I inspected a mill at Mungallala, which has a capacity of approximately 3 million cubic metres a year but it is presently producing at only half that rate and may have to change from a five-day week to a four-day week. Some of the smaller mills have gone to three or four days a week.

Honourable members would be aware that many small towns rely on mills and their service industries to keep them going. Those small towns do not have large supermarkets such as Woolworths and K-mart; they rely on corner stores. In fact, small industries of many types have been the mainstay of rural towns for many years. If large amounts of timber are imported from New Zealand, the local mills will have to close and the State will recede even further. It is rather contradictory to speak of planting more trees, importing timber from New Zealand and mills that cannot operate.

The present problem has been caused by the mismanagement and poor handling of the State by the Government. In the very near future, if an attempt is to be made to conserve some of the State's rain forests and other timbered areas, the direction in which the Forestry Department is proceeding needs to be considered. Last year the Vote for the Forestry Department was reduced considerably. That meant that fewer pine trees were planted last season than were planted in each of the previous five or six years, when plantings remained basically constant. If the Vote is not increased in the forthcoming Budget, plantings will be further reduced. At least we will never catch up on the lack of planting of a few years ago. But it does not stop there. If the mills are not working because of a lack of timber, alternative materials for housing have to be looked at. It also means that people working in furniture factories and other businesses connected with the housing industry face decreased job opportunities. Businesses supplying the housing industry which suffer from unfair competition from interstate imports will also face difficulties.

I refer to an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 22 June relating to the amount of timber being imported into the State and headed, "Edwards chips tree protectors" The Deputy Premier complained bitterly about the fact that a few people wanted to use forests only as conservation precincts. He referred to the multiple use of forests and the general policy of the Forestry Department and said that the department tried to get maximum use from each State forest by including grazing, water catchment protection, honey production, wildlife habilitation conservation, forest recreation and other uses. I

must agree that the Forestry Department is doing a lot in this field. I have recently inspected the Conondale Range area and forests in North Queensland, and certainly those usages are a great asset to the State. The article continued—

“ ‘The overall supply of native timber has declined in recent years and this trend is expected to continue,’ he said.

‘However, early planning by State forest authorities will ensure that Australia’s timber needs can and will be supplemented from soft wood plantations, established over the last half century.’ ”

The intention was there. The forestry program was introduced 52 years ago by a Government which saw the need to plant timber in the wallum country just north of Brisbane which is of very little use except for the raising of bandicoots. The article continued—

“ ‘While the supply of sawlogs from native forests was expected to drop from 4 500 000 cu m a year in 1985 to 3 500 000 by the year 2000, sawlogs from coniferous plantations would increase from 3 million cu m a year in 1985 to 7 500 000 cu m by 2020,’ he said.

‘The increasing value of imports of forest products into Australia is a matter of concern for our government,’ Dr Edwards said.

‘During 1978-79 these imports cost \$770 million including insurance and freight, compared with \$554 million in 1974-75. These imports are still increasing and I understand the value is now approaching \$900 million.’ ”

We are importing \$900m worth of timber although we have pine forests at Beerwah and Beerburum ready for cutting. There has been a bit of a hassle over tenders and the organisation of the start of the harvest, but I understand that it will begin in the near future. If that harvest had been correctly organised and more trees planted there would be no need to import the amount of timber we now do. It seems ridiculous that we can import large amounts of timber yet no consideration whatever has been given to the local industry. The same sort of thing has been said recently about our strawberries and other smallcrops, particularly in relation to the importation of canned mangoes and other fruits. There has been no attempt to establish in North Queensland a canning industry to cater for our excess mango production, particularly with the short, sharp season up there.

I now turn to one of the greatest bungles ever perpetrated by this Government. It relates to the construction of the Houghton Highway, which links Sandgate and Redcliffe. The old viaduct across Hayes Inlet was considered to be either unsafe or have an insufficient carrying capacity, and so it was intended to build a four-lane bridge.

Unfortunately the old bridge was not renovated because the job was estimated to cost about \$1m. The Government spent \$8m on the new two-lane bridge, on which a stop lane was also provided. When it was found that renovating the old bridge would cost \$1m, it was decided to remove the stop lane and put a tidal-flow system on the Houghton Highway. The concrete buffer strip and the walkway were removed. The bridge is now almost complete for the tidal flow of traffic. That means two lanes of traffic towards Brisbane in the morning and two lanes towards Redcliffe in the afternoon.

At a cost of \$500,000, the two-lane bridge was converted into a three-lane bridge. Originally, for an additional \$500,000, we could have had a four-lane bridge incorporating a breakdown lane. Any motorist beset by car problems on the viaduct would be very pleased to use a breakdown lane. Presently, if a car stops in the kerbside lane of the two lanes going the one way, only one lane is available. That is very inconvenient and causes very bad traffic build-ups at peak hours. In Brisbane and elsewhere, drivers can usually avoid traffic hold-ups thanks to radio broadcasts, but that is impossible on the Houghton Highway. Either the Government did not give due consideration to the condition of the old bridge or the cost of repairing it. Something must have gone badly wrong. A four-lane highway known as the Deagon by-pass was constructed, and preparations were made in Elizabeth Street and Snook Street to provide a four-lane link to Sandgate, but we are now stuck with a three-lane bridge.

For years the Government has been trying to overcome the problem created on fairly wide country roads where at a little dip only a small one-way bridge is provided. This is a major problem. It is a skimpy, miserable approach by the Government not to spend

the amount of money required to make the Houghton Highway work properly. The people of Redcliffe cannot understand the Government's attitude. I should like the Government's approach to be explained once more because the problem has not been handled correctly.

In this debate most honourable members should refer to the school class-size problem. Every electorate does not suffer severely from this problem; some are only mildly affected. The present policy must be reviewed. I understand that the Budget will provide some relief. Close attention must be paid to the problem confronting two or three schools in my electorate.

The method of assessing the pupil/teacher ratio to determine the average number of pupils does not work in the best interests of many schools. The Government must consider the actual output and the results of the children. Until that is done many problems will be caused by the methods used to calculate whether the pupil/teacher ratio works out at one to 24, 25 or 29. Today I received a letter indicating that slight relief will be provided at Petrie. A constant watch must be maintained to ensue that adequate school accomodation is provided in growth areas. At Petrie no growth occurred for several years. Development at the back of Petrie has created a problem which is also becoming evident out towards Kallangur. A school that was virtually dormant for about 20 years now requires many additional class-rooms.

I repeat that the department must maintain a close watch on what is happening. It took some time for the p. and c. association and me to indicate to the education people in the Brisbane North region that there was a need. The former principal did not realise that growth was likely to take place. It was not until the Pine Rivers Shire Council indicated to me its expected growth pattern that I was able to say that by 1982 or 1983 X number of class-rooms would be needed. Fortunately, the demand for class-rooms at that school is being met. By 1984 an additional two or more class-rooms will be required.

The growth pattern of various areas must be watched carefully. The Department of Education must liaise very closely with the local authorities, which are continually updating their projected growth patterns. I tried to obtain information from the Redcliffe City Council about the growth pattern in the Hercules Road area. However, the council was not able to give me that information. The department will encounter some difficulties if that information is not forthcoming. Where possible, the Department of Education and the Works Department ought to liaise closely with local authorities to monitor growth patterns and expected development so that educational facilities may be provided. Proper class sizes can then be determined and children will receive the education to which they are entitled.

Mr POWELL (Isis) (5.56 p.m.): On behalf of the electors of Isis, it is my pleasure and privilege to affirm my allegiance to the throne and also to thank the Governor for opening this session of the Parliament. Later this year the Queen will visit Brisbane to open the Commonwealth Games, which I am sure will be a success.

Mr Scott: You want a little more fire than this if you are going to be a Minister.

Mr POWELL: The Member for Cook has no chance of ever becoming a Minister whilst he acts in that manner. We are all fully aware that he and his Opposition colleagues act in an irresponsible manner. I expected the honourable member for Murrumba to continue until the recess for dinner.

The Governor of Queensland, Sir James Ramsay, and Lady Ramsay are well known to the people of Queensland. They have endeared themselves to the people. Recently, the Governor opened the Childers Show, which is a highlight of the social calender in my electorate. Although the weather is rarely inclement, the Governor officially opened that show in the heaviest downpour that had occurred for some months. I might add that it has not rained since. Perhaps we need him to return to the district to break the drought. On behalf of the people in the Childers area, I thank the Governor and his wife for the manner in which they conducted themselves at the show. They demonstrated that they were worthy viceregal representatives.

In his Opening Speech to the Legislative Assembly, the Governor said that Queenslanders have an enviable life-style. I do not think that anybody would challenge that statement. Queensland has an enviable life-style partly because of the climate and partly because of its geographic location. Because of the way in which this State has been governed for the past 25 years, we have an enviable life-style. The stewardship that the Government has

been able to display is second to none. Queensland holds its head high. It is no wonder that the Governor was able to say in his Opening Speech that people have an enviable life-style in Queensland.

He also noted that the Queensland Government balanced its books at the end of the financial year. In this day and age, when so many Governments have deficit budgets, which, of course, increase inflation and impose hardships on ordinary people, the Queensland Treasurer and other Cabinet Ministers ought to be congratulated for being able to present to this State a balanced Budget as at 30 June 1982. The Governor quoted figures indicating that that had been achieved in spite of an additional wages bill of \$201m.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr POWELL: Before the dinner recess I was congratulating the Government—

Mr Davis: As usual.

Mr POWELL: One has to give credit where credit is due. Opposition members have difficulty in finding credit within their own ranks, so they feel it is not fair to give the Government any credit.

The Government has, of course, controlled the State most astutely and as the result of its sound stewardship was able on 30 June this year to present a balanced Budget and balance sheet. That was in spite of the fact that, as the Treasurer told us, an additional \$201m was directed to the capital works program and that, because of wage increases over the past 12 months, additional money had to be found to pay the wages bill.

It is interesting to note that, in the current campaign for a 38-hour week the unions claim on the one hand that a 38-hour week will not cost any more, we might as well have a 38-hour week as it will add to the enjoyment of those people working 38 hours and, on the other hand, that a 38-hour week will allow more people to be employed. Somewhere along the line that argument is illogical.

Mr Moore: A 5 per cent increase in pay and 5 per cent less production.

Mr POWELL: I thank the honourable member for Windsor for that information. I was not aware of that.

The Treasurer told us this morning that over a period of 12 months a 38-hour week will add \$135m to the cost of running the railways. If that is not an additional burden on the Queensland taxpayer I am not sure what it is. However, it has been ignored carefully by the unions that are conducting a campaign for a 38-hour week.

Let me dwell on the whole matter of hours of work and wage restraint in the current economic climate. It is fairly clear to reasonably astute people and to those who watch carefully what is happening in the world that if a group of persons in a particular industry work fewer hours the cost of the article produced by them must increase. Surely that follows naturally.

If the cost of that article increases, one of two things will occur. Either people will not purchase that article, for the simple reason that they cannot afford it, or, and more likely, there will be a greater push for higher wages so that people can afford the increased cost of that article. The dog will be chasing its tail, and the situation will be brought about by those who want to work fewer hours. They will force up the cost of the article and the result will be that other people will claim wage increases so that they can maintain their standard of living. That is the argument in a nutshell.

The unions are claiming that shorter working hours will allow more people to be employed to produce the article. If their argument is that that does not increase the cost of the article, I cannot understand it.

The further argument that must be put forward is that Australia depends very much on overseas markets for the sale of its raw materials, natural resources and manufactured goods. Australia simply will not sell its manufactured goods in overseas countries if it is not competitive. If workers who are engaged 40 hours a week to produce X amount of goods decide that they will work only 38 hours a week, the quantity of goods produced will be X minus 5 per cent and the cost of those goods will be X plus 5 per cent. Therefore, it is quite clear to people overseas that the Australian article will cost more.

Mr Jennings: Even our coal is getting expensive because of that same problem.

Mr POWELL: That is correct. All of our materials are becoming more expensive on overseas markets.

Maybe I am being cynical and am looking for things that are not there, but I find it no strange coincidence that the spokesman on the 38-hour week issue lately has been one Hughie Hamilton. For the last 10 years, he has been president of the local branch of the Communist Party. I think that most honourable members would agree that the Communist Party is determined to destroy the capitalist system of economics, and the best way to do that is to make the articles produced under that system unprofitable so that they are not bought by other countries.

Therefore, I fully support the Government in its attitude on the 38-hour issue. I do not believe that, in the present situation of economic stress, the Government can possibly support unilaterally an increase of 5 per cent in wages and costs and receive nothing for it. I draw the attention of honourable members to a cartoon that appeared on page 2 of the Maryborough "Chronicle" a couple of weeks ago. The cartoonist drew a delightful cartoon depicting the Premier holding up a document and asking a railway worker, "How can you do in 38 hours what you are currently doing in 40?"

Mr Moore: Easy.

Mr POWELL: The answer was exactly what the honourable member for Windsor has just said. It was, "Easy, mate", and the worker had a grin on his face from ear to ear.

Over many years we have noted the unprofitability of the Queensland railways. Many members have stood up in this Chamber and pleaded with the Minister to allow the railways to carry more goods and so take more semi-trailers off the highways of Queensland. Members have castigated truck drivers and semi-trailer drivers and at the same time have asked that the railways be used to a greater extent. How can business use the railways when it cannot be sure that goods will reach their destination within a reasonable time and at a reasonable cost? Business cannot do it.

Recently, the railway officers in Bundaberg held a dinner for the businessmen of the city. I do not think that that type of dinner is held anywhere else in Queensland. I congratulate them for their initiative, particularly the railway goods staff in Bundaberg. I also congratulate them for the rapport they have with the business community in Bundaberg. Those men are trying to get business for the railways and should be congratulated most heartily by the Government and by the users of the railways in Bundaberg for the initiative that they have shown. Those men throw up their hands in horror when the unions call out their members over the issue of the 38-hour week. An article in today's "Telegraph" refers to a pledge by the Trades and Labor Council to widen the hours fight and reports the following statement by Mr Fred Whitby—

"It's time for some free trade unionism in the State."

That is what this Government has been trying to introduce in Queensland ever since it has been in office. If there was some free trade unionism in this State, union officials would have to work to obtain members. They would not be asking the employer to make it a condition of employment that a worker should be a member of a union. If there was free trade unionism in Queensland, the trade union officials would ensure that their unions were so attractive that workers would want to join them. That is not the case in this State today. At present, the unions are dead scared that the Government will carry out its threat not to require persons to become members of trade unions before they are employed.

Mr Moore: Preference for unions, you are talking about.

Mr POWELL: Yes, preference for unions. Then the unions will have great difficulty in obtaining membership. What I would like to see in this State is some free trade-unionism instead of the bullying that is carried on by those people who are currently leaders in the Queensland union movement.

In his Opening Speech the Governor spoke about transport. We have already mentioned the Railway Department and how important to the development of the State an efficient Railway Department is. I do not know how we can have an efficient Railway Department if we are to have wildcat, stupid strikes such as are being held at the moment. Incidentally, honourable members opposite are often very quick to report on the type of unionism that occurs in other countries. Recently in England there was a major strike by ASLEF, which is the major trade union movement for the railway unions. In fact, there are two—ASLEF and NUR. Although ASLEF called its members out on strike, not all of them went on

strike. Some trains still ran. They were able to run because of an automatic signalling system. Perhaps the first thing the Minister for Transport ought to be trying to implement is automatic signalling in Queensland so that train drivers who want to work can operate trains for the department's customers.

The Main Roads Department has an onerous task in Queensland. We have the pressure of additional vehicles on the road; we have the pressure of less funds; we have the pressure of increased costs. As a result, the amount of developmental work done on roads is insufficient. A very telling submission has been put to the Federal Government. We can only hope that the Federal Budget, to be presented in about 33 minutes' time in Canberra, will to a large extent satisfy the needs of Queensland's role in the nation-wide road system.

Mr Yewdale: How do you know? You are au fait with the Budget, are you?

Mr Wright: You can't leak this one. You leaked the last one.

Mr POWELL: We have the noisy minority from the opposite side very concerned that Government members just might happen to know something about the Budget. Because as empty vessels they make no sense, they do not think that Government members can make sense. However, I am confident that in the Federal Budget to be presented tonight there will be assistance for Queensland roads. Anybody who travels in Australia, particularly in Queensland, knows that with a small population and a vast area this Government has used its funds for main roads to great effect. Certainly, we need much more money, but at least the money we have had has been spent wisely and well.

Mr Smith: In the Ministers' electorates.

Mr POWELL: Not just in the Minister's electorate. If the member drives around the Isis electorate he will find that, with a couple of exceptions which are currently being fixed up, the roads are in a pretty good condition.

The Governor in his speech mentioned that, "Substantial expenditure will be concentrated on the Bundaberg Irrigation Project." I am delighted to read that. As honourable members will know, over a large number of years—I think it dates back to 1971—that project has been under way. It is of vital importance to the agricultural industry in the Bundaberg district. The Bundaberg/Isis irrigation scheme is important. The Federal Government has at long last not merely committed funds but given a guarantee of further commitment. While that commitment does not include an escalation clause to cover increased costs, at least it is worth while. In the last 12 months major developmental work has been carried out. Again in the next 12 months we will see that work continue. I hope that the coming State Budget will contain increased funds for irrigation schemes. There is no doubt that in a dry nation any irrigation scheme is worth while. Of course, some are white elephants, and I have in mind particularly the Ord River project.

Mr Vaughan: How would you know? How would you really know?

Mr POWELL: The member for Nudgee probably knows a great deal about irrigation projects and farming from his experience within his own electorate. I presume it has a few lettuce patches.

Mr Vaughan: Have you ever been to Kununurra?

Mr POWELL: Yes, I have been there and I have inspected the Ord River project. In fact, I have looked at the pilot sugar-cane projects that have been conducted by the Western Australian Government. Incidentally, that sugar-cane has been grown by growers from the Bundaberg area. It was not a matter of my going over there for a holiday, as the honourable member did.

Mr Vaughan: That is not true and you know it.

Mr POWELL: If the honourable member has not been there, I suggest he gets himself into gear and goes to have a look.

Quite logically, the Western Australian Government wants to find an economic crop to grow in that area. This afternoon I listened with interest to the speech of the honourable member for Whitsunday, and I agree whole-heartedly with the proposition that he and

other members who represent sugar areas have put forward, that is, that if a crop of sugar is to be grown in the Ord River area of Western Australia, it ought to be for ethanol and not for crystal sugar.

The International Sugar Agreement is a very delicate one. The European Economic Community is derelict in its attitude towards that agreement; the American Government has finally become a party to it. But if there is any major change in Australia in the growing of sugar-cane for crystals, then those countries on which Australia has put a great deal of pressure to join the International Sugar Agreement and which are involved in the export market will take a very poor view indeed of this country. Quite clearly, if any sugar is to be grown in the Ord River, it must be grown within Australia's quota under the International Sugar Agreement. No Queensland grower should be disadvantaged by any breach of that agreement.

In the last couple of weeks, the city of Bundaberg has been rather shaken, firstly, by the sacking of 104 men from Versatile Toft and, secondly, by the threat of further sackings from Massey Ferguson, both of which are involved in the sugar industry and both of which are of vital importance to Bundaberg. Those actions clearly resulted from the international pricing of sugar and international movements within markets as well as, as I said earlier, the cost of the Australian product being placed out of the reach of other countries.

During the week-end Senator MacGibbon made the very telling point—a point which has long been National Party policy—that any foreign aid from Australia ought to be given in kind rather than in dollars. The problems faced by Versatile Toft, Massey-Ferguson and others within the sugar industry are evidence of that, because the Australian Government gives Papua New Guinea something like \$280m or \$300m a year to balance its Budget. Over the last few years, the Government of Papua New Guinea has used Australian dollars to buy English technology to build a sugar mill in the northern part of New Guinea to produce sugar to take away some of the quota for which Australian sugar growers have fought very hard over many, many years. If that is not plain stupidity, I am sure I do not know what is. If Australia is bent on giving foreign aid, that is what ought to be given—not dollars and cents, but aid. If the people in these countries are hungry, let us send them some food so that Australian farmers can be given a fair go. If they want cane harvesters, bulldozers, or trucks, let us send Australian cane harvesters, Australian bulldozers and Australian trucks.

Mr Vaughan: What about Australian sugar mills?

Mr POWELL: Yes, and sugar mills. I thank the honourable member for Nudgee for reminding me of that, because, in Bundaberg, Goodworth Engineering has been involved in a development project to make small sugar mills for areas such as New Guinea. If the Australian Government was half awake, it would be using that as aid instead of giving those countries money that they then use to undermine Australian industry.

In his Opening Speech the Governor mentioned hospital projects costing \$51m that were completed in 1981–82. Honourable members would have heard me speak about hospitals in my electorate that need some attention, particularly the Bundaberg Base Hospital. Approval was given for a \$6.1m extension, with a maternity hospital, for that hospital. Of course, the cost has escalated, and one of the problems that the hospital board faces is not only in raising the funds but in raising sufficient funds in time to get the building under way. The attitude of the Health Department in approving funding and building needs overhauling, because country hospitals that are limited to borrowing \$1.2m a year—it will probably increase after the Budget—are not capable of raising the money required quickly enough to beat inflation and thus get building under way for a reasonable cost.

In the southern part of my electorate, the Maryborough Hospitals Board is being faced with exactly that problem in the construction of the Hervey Bay Hospital, which has been approved by the State Government, at an estimated cost of something over \$3m. The Maryborough Hospitals Board has the problem of upgrading the Maryborough Base Hospital at a cost of at least \$1.5m, which, as members would perceive, is a year's loan raising program for them. On top of that the board has to begin a \$3m project at Hervey Bay.

There must be a revision of the Health Department's attitude towards funding and the way in which funds are raised. I know that the whole State has problems, but I believe that the problems are being exacerbated by a policy that demands that hospital

boards obtain the money before building starts. Something ought to be done about changing that policy. On a number of occasions I have suggested that the quickest way out of the problem at Hervey Bay is for the Health Department or the Government to accept that there needs to be a separate hospital board for Hervey Bay. That board would then be able to raise the necessary funds in a reasonable time and have the hospital built. Once again I put that proposal to the Government, and I hope that this time it will not fall on deaf ears.

The Governor also mentioned the School Dental Service. One of the pluses for this Government has been its expansion of the School Dental Service so that dental units are now attached to most Class I primary schools.

Mr Scott: In the city.

Mr POWELL: I referred to Class I primary schools. The honourable member for Cook does not understand what that means.

The Government has also provided concrete pads to enable School Dental Service caravans to park at smaller country schools where three-phase power is available and thereby do work similar to that being done at school dental units. I know that there have been a few problems, but I am pleased to note that, in his Opening Speech, the Governor has forecast that the School Dental Service will be expanded.

The Governor also mentioned the new fish marketing and management authority that is to be established, and this is awaited with interest by people in fishing areas. I sincerely hope that representatives of the tourist fishing industry become members of the fish marketing and management authority. Tourist fishing is a very valuable industry right up the coast of Queensland, and any member who represents a coastal electorate will know the importance of the tourist fishing industry to his area. In fact, I venture to say that the value of the tourist fishing industry is greater than that of the commercial fishing industry. The two must be married, because if the commercial fishing industry or, alternatively, the tourist fishing industry gains ascendancy, I am sure that there will be problems.

The Governor also said that the major work for the Department of Works in 1982-83 will be the construction of educational buildings. The Government has a proud record in both education and the provision of buildings for education. Some of the members of the Queensland Teachers Union and some Opposition members still criticise the Government unfairly about the type and number of schools built, but they obviously speak without researching the facts properly.

Recently, a new double-teaching area was completed at the Pialba State School. It is a credit to the Works Department and the architects who designed it. Speaking as a former teacher, I say that the building is the best class-room block that I have seen, and I include blocks I have seen in other parts of the world. I invite any honourable member who travels to Hervey Bay to come to Pialba to look at that school block. It is an experimental prototype. It is the sort of school building that should be built. It is on high blocks and is covered underneath for the children on wet days. It has a very wide, shaded veranda. It is ideal for Queensland conditions, and the teaching conditions are superb. It is the type of building that we should be providing throughout the State. Admittedly it was costly to build but its construction will pay in the long run. It will be officially opened on 18 September by the Honourable Vic Sullivan, Minister for Commerce and Industry. I will be delighted to have him in my electorate and to take him fishing if I get the opportunity.

The Governor also referred to planning being in hand for new police stations. In the fast-growing areas of the State, particularly in the south-east corner, the provision of extra Government services is essential. I know that the Government has these matters in mind. Sometimes I question the planning sections of both the Education Department and the Police Department, because sufficient notice is not taken of development that is taking place.

The Monday before last honourable members may have seen a "Nationwide" TV program that was based on Maryborough and the visit to Maryborough of a man named Charles Connelly who has achieved some fame. Hervey Bay was described as having a very prominent elderly population. As I have tried to explain to the Education Department, the elderly population of Hervey Bay, if it is prominent, must be very active, because almost 2 500 children attend school out of a total population of under 16 000.

We are trying constantly to get extra schools. The Education Department should be trying to purchase at least 25 acres of land for a new primary school and a special education school at Hervey Bay.

In the Governor's Opening Speech he said—

“Education services for isolated primary students will be improved through the Loan Video Scheme and an additional frequency for the Mount Isa School of the Air.”

In May this year I was privileged to travel with the honourable member for Flinders through the northern part of his electorate, as far afield as Normanton. During our travels we visited the Gregory Downs cattle station. It had just received one of the loan video recorders and was putting it to good use. The difference that it made to the children's attitude to learning was absolutely amazing. The Federal Government should be congratulated on including the loan video scheme in its program. It should be encouraged and expanded. The extra frequency for the Mount Isa School of the Air was also needed. Isolated children need the loan video scheme in conjunction with visits from itinerant teachers to improve their motivation in their school programs.

Mr Scott: Are you going to the Bourke get-together on 1 September?

Mr POWELL: No. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the Bourke get-together on 1 September. My budget does not allow me to travel that far.

The importance of motivating children in education is something that should never be overlooked. With the downturn that has occurred in primary industry, more and more people in isolated areas are required to teach their children at home. As a result, the Government needs to consider very carefully supporting those people, because the majority of parents are not trained teachers. The children need to be given all possible encouragement.

In his Opening Speech, the Governor said that 7 138 apprentices were allotted to employers during the year ended 30 June 1982. One of the fears that the Government has had over the years is that insufficient apprenticeships will be entered into and that the State will lose its reputation for producing skilled tradesmen. However, there is another problem that I will briefly mention at this stage.

Last Friday, in the Scarness Magistrates Court, a builder was fined \$20 and ordered to pay \$22 costs of court because he employed someone. I should imagine that members in this Chamber would find that incredible. However, it is a fact that somebody was convicted and fined for employing a person.

By mutual consent, the builder had employed his next-door neighbour as a trainee builder or assistant builder. After two years, the builder convinced the lad that it would be a good idea if he undertook an apprenticeship. The builder wrote to the apprenticeship authorities in Maryborough to ask them about apprenticeships. The apprenticeship field officer visited the builder and said, “How are you employing this fellow?” The builder said, “He is 17 years of age, and I am employing him as a labourer and paying him the award rate for a 17-year-old lad.” The builder was told, “You cannot do that. If you are going to employ him as a labourer, you must pay him an adult wage.” The builder said, “Firstly, I cannot afford to pay him an adult wage; secondly, he is not an adult and he is not doing an adult's job.” The officer said, “I do not care. If you don't do it that way, you will be summonsed.” Ultimately, the builder was issued with a summons. The matter was heard by the court and the builder was fined. Surely that is part of the law that ought to be changed—and it ought to be done jolly quickly!

Mr Wilson: You mean that you should put a boy on a man's job?

Mr POWELL: The honourable member for Townsville South—

Mr Wright: The old National Party's handful of threepences' approach!

Mr POWELL: I was waiting for honourable members opposite to become sucked in. The Opposition would rather see young people remain out of work just so that the unions can be satisfied. A change to the legislation is absolutely necessary.

The other matter that will undoubtedly stir a few Opposition members concerns electoral redistribution. For some obscure reason, in this country the Labor Party and the academics in the community have been able to convince the newspapers that every electorate

in Australia ought to have the same number of electors. Mr Deputy Speaker, you and I recently visited Canada and we examined the situation there. We spoke to members of the House of Commons in Canada, and they threw their arms up in horror at such a suggestion. Their question was the one that I would ask Opposition members, some of whom represent very large electorates: how can they service the people?

I will take two examples from the Opposition side, one being the member for Brisbane Central, the other being the member for Cook. The honourable member for Cook represents a very large area and has a tremendous number of problems and long distances to travel to service his electors, which he does to the best of his ability. The honourable member for Brisbane Central can sit on his backside in one spot and oversee almost every elector whom he represents. Where is the fairness in that?

Let me refer to some Canadian figures. In the province of Newfoundland the smallest constituency contains 37 307 voters, whereas the largest contains 57 215. In Prince Edward Island the comparable numbers range from 19 459 to 20 694. In Nova Scotia they range from 42 836 to 66 953. In Quebec, which is one of the most populous provinces, the smallest constituency contains 39 346 electors, whereas the largest contains 81 790. In Ontario, which is another very populous province, the figures range from 28 805 to 98 132.

I would ask honourable members to refer to the Canada Year Book 1980-81, in which they will find these figures. The members of the Canadian Parliament and the academics at the universities all threw their hands up in horror and said, "Surely you would not be so stupid as to introduce a system under which you have the same number of electors in every electorate. How on earth could the people be satisfied by the member or the member service the electorate?"

(Time expired.)

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (7.52 p.m.): I pledge my personal loyalty and that of my family to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I express my total disagreement with the suggestion put forward by the academic ALP and the socialist Left, together with the non-thinkers and misinformed of this country, that Australia should become a republic. Next I congratulate the mover of the motion (the honourable member for Mirani) and the seconder (the honourable member for Toowong).

Mr Hooper: You would make a good republican.

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG: I do not think so.

Australia operates under the Westminster system. Australians must remember the words of Winston Churchill, who, when asked about various political systems, said that the Westminster system was not the perfect system but it was the best yet evolved. Our Parliament works under the Westminster system and it works very well. A Parliament needs a strong leader. England had one with Winston Churchill; Queensland has one with the Premier.

I express my thanks to the Governor, Sir James Ramsay, for the manner in which he discharges his duties. He carries them out in a manly and dignified manner and in a way that brings great credit on the Crown and the Westminster system.

In my speech in the Address-in-Reply debate in the first session of the Forty-first Parliament, I referred to a problem that became the subject of considerable discussion subsequently. I referred to probate and succession duties and suggested that the iniquitous legislation providing for them should be deleted from our statute-book. Luckily, the Queensland Government and Parliament decided to do exactly that. The result is that Queensland is presently enjoying a boom period, whereas all other States in Australia are plagued by depression and problems. Those States rushed to introduce similar legislation in the hope that they would jump on the bandwagon, but the golden goose had flown to Queensland. This State saw a great explosion of real estate development, particularly on the Gold Coast, property values in Brisbane spiralled to the top and cities such as Townsville experienced a population explosion.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row): Order! The honourable member for Wolston is interjecting from other than his usual seat.

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG: Owners of grazing properties gained security of tenure and gave security to their family. A lad working on a grazing property could inherit the property. Previously, because of the iniquitous probate and succession duties, he would end up a jackaroo on somebody else's property. Because of the good sense shown by the Premier and the Government, probate and succession duties were abolished, and the prosperity of this State improved remarkably.

I have looked at the Governor's Opening Speech and cannot find in it anything about the subject that I wish to raise tonight, so I hope that the House will excuse me if I do not refer to what is contained in the Governor's speech. I wish to discuss briefly the electorate of Townsville, which is one of three electorates in the Townsville area. The others are Townsville West and Townsville South. I am lucky in that I have no personal problems with my fellow members of Parliament in the Townsville area. We get on well together, and I think that we act as all parliamentarians should act, that is, we do the best we can for all the people of the area. We look after the people whom we admire and care for, and we do not indulge in party politics.

The electorate of Townsville has a population of 32 314 and in the 1979 census had an enrolment of 18 600. Recently, I have counted 2 000 new names on the roll for the electorate, and maybe more will come to hand. The electorate consists of city, urban and rural areas. The rural area is rather interesting. It extends 40 miles south of Townsville, 40 miles north of Townsville and probably 50 or 60 miles west of Townsville to Reid River. It contains a large agricultural and grazing area. The result is that there is a coastal belt containing fishermen, an industrial belt containing heavy and light industry, and a rural belt containing grazing and close agricultural farming. That all leads to a variety of needs, and there is no set pattern of desires, wishes and needs in that area.

I have noticed that the houses and other buildings have improved since the 1971 cyclone. That has happened because of better legislation and better control by the two local authorities, the Townsville City Council and the Thuringowa Shire Council. The supervision of buildings under Queensland's building legislation and housing administration has become much more secure for a cyclone-prone area. In 1971, Townsville was nearly lost. Some of the jerry-built houses disappeared. Thank heavens, in some places parts of them could not be found. There was a good cleaning-up of the area, and since then the legislation has resulted in a considerable improvement in the quality of the housing.

The only problem that I have noticed is that land and buildings are still very expensive. A home cannot be purchased for under \$30,000. The recent announcement by the Housing Commission about the release of \$100m to enable low-income families to purchase homes looks to be a ray of sunshine. It will help many people.

Recently in Townsville, 250 homes were erected for the Army. That threw a terrific strain on the work-force. Very few skilled and unskilled people are looking for employment in Townsville. As a matter of fact, all skilled tradesmen, including carpenters, are fully employed.

One matter that I have difficulty in understanding is the dead-set stand by the Townsville City Council against high-rise buildings. High-rise buildings are essential in any city that has a limited water frontage.

Inner suburbs of Sydney such as Lane Cove, North Sydney and Waverley, which once were lovely residential areas, are now concrete jungles of the three-storey, home-unit type. They are not pleasing to the eye; they have no beauty. There is nothing to look at apart from the next person's wall or the next person's small verandah with a few flowers or ferns on it.

In correctly organised and laid out high-rise development, everybody has the advantage of the views, everybody has a comfortable existence and everybody enjoys the best way of living. On the Continent, it can be seen in France, it can be seen in Germany and it can be seen in the Mediterranean. High-rise is here to stay. The architects who are advising the Townsville City Council should take a trip now and again and see what is going on in the rest of the world, or even in the rest of Australia. The Gold Coast is a good example. They should go down there to see what is happening.

In Townsville, unfortunately, except for a small area on the Strand, high-rise has been banned. If a casino is built, legislation for which should be considered in this session of the Parliament, high-rise must come. There will be a sudden influx of visitors—some staying overnight, some staying for two or three days or even for two or three weeks. The

council should reconsider its policy and designate further areas for high-rise development. The Works Department and other sections of Government could aid the council and advise it.

One aspect of Townsville about which I am very disturbed is the road system. I hope that the Federal Budget this year allocates more money for roads. At the moment, the Townsville City Council is financially embarrassed to such an extent that it is virtually only filling potholes. Regardless of the political persuasion of the council, such stopgap measures bring it no credit. People drive past and say, "They are filling the potholes."

Considerable research is required into road maintenance and road construction in tropical areas such as Townsville where there is excessive heat for a number of months and excessive rain for a short period. The result is that the substructure of the road is damaged and then the road surface breaks up very quickly under the pressure of heavy interstate transports. Sometimes we are unfair in our criticism of local authorities when we say that they are only filling potholes. They need more money and more scientific techniques to repair the roads.

Mr Hooper: Why don't you be more complimentary about the Townsville City Council?

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG: If the honourable member for Archerfield had only been listening, he would know that I was not being derogatory of the Townsville City Council. I was giving an excuse for the course it was following—lack of finance and lack of scientific knowledge.

Mr Hooper: Thank you, doctor. You are a very charitable man.

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG: I happen to live in the area, so I can see the faults.

One thing I must emphasise very strongly to the Government is the state of the bridges. I once complained to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police about a bridge. He very promptly dealt with the matter and had a multi-lane bridge built. However, there are still three bridges in my electorate that I consider to be death traps. Some horrible, fatal accidents have occurred recently on roads approaching Townsville; but within my electorate of Townsville I still have three single-lane bridges. The Minister could look at them and allocate money for their improvement.

Personally, I have no complaint about the Minister. He has been very approachable and very co-operative. He has helped me considerably. The Reid River bridge, which is at the extreme edge of my electorate, has recently been replaced by a multi-lane bridge. The worst death-trap was at Rocky Creek, where 18 deaths had occurred. That has recently been fixed. The ones I am worried about now are at Rollingsstone, Stoney Creek and Toonpan. I would like the Minister to send his engineers up to have a good look at them. I am sure that they will find fault with them and that he will help me.

The police in my electorate are a very hard-working and industrious group of men who have a very good rapport with the public at large and especially with the young people in the area. When one sees that youth have respect for the police one knows that the police are doing their job. A new police station is being built in the main part of the city but I ask the Minister for Police to consider the area of Kirwan, a rapidly growing area in the Thuringowa Shire which has many young people full of the joie de vivre. When I was their age, I had it myself so I can understand how they feel. But they play up. They are not vicious, they are not violent; they simply play up, with the result that older citizens in the area complain about them and in a very short time the Press blows it up into something criminal or abnormal, when all it is is children who are bored and have nothing to do. If a police station was constructed in that area and staffed by a nice old sergeant with a damn big boot, then the boot need not necessarily remain on the ground, it could be elevated to the correct position on the posterior of a youth, which would create a great deal of discipline. I ask the Minister to consider the construction of a police station in that area in an effort to help the parents who are worried about their children going off the straight and narrow.

The Upper Ross Family Centre also needs help. Recently I was able to provide it with a bus but more than that is needed both for the elderly and young folk so that they can go to the beach and enjoy themselves. I ask the Government to consider organising playing fields, sporting sessions and financial help for the Upper Ross Family Centre.

I feel very strongly about one subject that could create considerable problems not only in my electorate but also to people who live in the north of the State, namely, the present dangerous state of the Ross River Dam which was constructed in a faulty manner. Any defence of its construction can be defeated by the text of the Queensland Water Resources Commission "Report on Seepage Investigation Ross River Dam 1981-1982". The dam is dangerous. I wish to particularly draw attention to the following sections of volume 1 of that report:—

Page 4, clause 2.10;
Page 5, clause 2.15;
Page 15, clause 5.01 (c);
Page 17, second paragraph and clause 5.11;
Page 24, clause 7.06 (b);
Page 30, clause 9.03 (d);
Page 31, clause 9.07;
Page 32;
Page 33, clause 10.07; and
Page 34, clause 10.09.

The council absolutely objects to the construction of the second stage of the dam. A proposal has been put forward to raise the water level of the dam by 15 feet. According to experts, that is possible if certain things are done, some of which are very doubtful, and the doubt as to their effectiveness is emphasised very strongly in the report I have referred to. Yet \$4.5m is to be spent on raising the spillway by 15 feet, although that is to be done in two metre stages.

Mr Smith: You would agree that the council has said it will give everyone the opportunity to put forward their objections?

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG: Yes, it has. The shire is extremely disturbed about it. If anything happens it is the Thuringowa Shire Council that will be confronted with the problems. Much more thought and deliberation should go into increasing the capacity of the dam.

There are a lot of unanswered questions in the report, and I believe that before anything further is done that consultations should take place with other engineers rather than depend on the Water Resources Commission engineers. Having read this report, I consider that the original design of the dam was faulty. I have also been approached by a man named Shradoloff who maintains that he could have tendered for the construction of the dam and built it for \$1m less than its original cost, which raises the question of the expertise displayed in those days by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. I consider that the people of Townsville and particularly the people in the surrounding shires, for whom I have the highest regard, should have their fears laid to rest.

I now turn to the subject of schools. On the whole, the schools in my area are extremely well looked after. The headmistress and deputy headmistress of the Heatley High School are amazing people who have the ability to get children behind them. It is a happy school, but when one asks them how happy they are, they say, "We haven't got an assembly hall." I investigated the matter and found that the main problem seemed to be a disagreement between the architects of the Department of Works and various other people who really have nothing to do with teaching children. I ask the Minister for Works and Housing and the Minister for Education to look into this matter and complete the Heatley High School by giving it an assembly hall. It is an extremely happy school and deserves an assembly hall.

The other high school in my area is the Kirwan High School which, unfortunately, has never been completed.

Mr Scott: You said you had nothing to complain about.

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG: I am not complaining yet; I am stating a fact. It is also a lucky school in that it has an extremely good headmaster, an excellent, friendly chap who gets on well with everyone. But his patience is running out and I am getting tired of writing letters to various departments to see whether I can get something done about the playing fields. I wanted to employ a bulldozer and soil-moving contractor at my own expense but I was informed that I could not do so because it is all part of a Department of Works

building program. If the Department of Works foregoes its program I can fix the school up with its playing fields. I put that to the Minister: I will carry the cost if he does the job.

Mr Smith: Isn't it a fact that there are insufficient places for the manual training people at Kirwan High School.

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG: That program has been organised and will be constructed, but it is the playing fields which are most important to the students and teachers at the moment. In the wet it is a boggy old place. One sinks up to one's hocks in the clay surface and so a little bit of consideration from the various departments concerned would be appreciated.

Although Townsville is a rather happy place, there are a few problems, but I feel sure that with the administrative ability displayed by this Government in the 11 years I have been a member of Parliament things will come good in the future.

Mr SCOTT (Cook) (8.15 p.m.): Tonight we are debating a motion that a certain address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to a speech that that good man made in these premises—not in this room—a speech that was written by the Government. I have heard scarcely a word from Government members in support of the speech that the Government wrote for the Governor of this State. What a pleasant gesture it is for Government members to sit with smiles on their faces thinking to themselves how well everything is going. Things are not going very well at all in Queensland. If Government members had listened to the "AM" program this morning they would have heard that Queensland has the lowest rating of all the States.

An Opposition Member: They were not out of bed then.

Mr SCOTT: They probably were not out of bed. That is typical of how complacent they are. They will be out of bed before the next election and they will be out of office after it.

Things in general in Queensland are on the downgrade as a result of the total, utter mismanagement of the Government. His Excellency told us how wonderfully everything is going. In the short time available to me I will show that that is not so.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You will have to agree that that is but another example of how archaic the system is.

Mr SCOTT: It is absolutely archaic. If he had anything to say he should have come into the House and said it.

There are many would-be politicians on the Government side of politics who would love to be here telling politicians how to do their job, but they cannot get in here because they have not got the numbers to win the day. In the flowery words of this motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply we are virtually saying, "We want to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session."

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It's sickening, isn't it?

Mr SCOTT: It is.

If any loyalty is to be expressed I express it on behalf of the people of the Cook electorate to the Government of the day. As I have said previously, Government members are certainly loyal, but I wonder why.

Tonight I want to talk about the inverse square law, which is that the further anyone is away from the seat of government the less he gets. It is the equivalent of 1 over X squared. I will say a little more about the inverse square law because it certainly applies to Far North Queensland. The people living there have been let down by the Government. I will use my 40 minutes to show why and how.

My first point is that this Parliament is led by a man who is totally divisive, a man who hates people, a man in whom the milk of kindness does not flow strongly. I refer to the Premier of Queensland. At present he is on his hobby-horse, dividing the State in the process. He is attacking every honest working man in the State. He just loves doing that. Unfortunately, it seems that we will have to wait until he passes from the political scene before anything constructive is done.

If Government members had listened to the speeches made by our leader, the honourable member for Port Curtis and other Opposition members they would know what the Government is not doing. I invite them to recall the speech made by the honourable member for Lytton one night last week pointing out how the Premier is manipulating Government members. He sits there and manipulates the strings like a royal puppet-master while Government members sit there and cop it.

In spite of the mismanagement of the last 25 years Queensland is a wonderful State. It will be even better for people to live in when it is governed properly. The time will come when the Premier departs from the Government. It is interesting to speculate on who will replace him.

I wonder where the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police (Mr Hinze) is. Is he out somewhere getting some polish on his exterior so that he may be more appealing? It is very obvious that Government members do not want Mike Ahern, although he is trying hard to gain the leadership. It is interesting to sit on this side of the House and watch all the clumsy footwork of Government members.

Mr Frawley: Who says we don't want him?

Mr SCOTT: One Government member told me Mr Hinze would not get four votes in caucus. I was quite shocked. I thought that was writing the big man down. I think he is out acquiring a patina, a polish with which to charm the people of Queensland to their bootstraps.

The people of Queensland will not be given good government. Unfortunately, the people of Queensland are frightened of the Minister for Police and they do not want him. One of the members of the National Party in the North said that he would lose his seat if "big Russ", as he called him, led the Government into the next election. That is right from the horse's mouth.

Government members are leaking information to the Opposition at every opportunity. It is a divisive approach on the part of the Premier. As I have said, he is full of hatreds. He uses the Aborigines in this State to his own ends. Was he in Tokyo with his friends or in New Zealand with his relations when he said that the Aboriginal people have a taste of blood in their teeth?

Mr Prest: He has no relations.

Mr SCOTT: He is certainly not related to the Labor people over there; there is no doubt about that.

That is what the Premier said when he was overseas. He is a great one for denigrating this country. He bites the hand that feeds him so well, and provides him with all the perks that he receives as part of the Government of this State. He divides the people, and he is doing it now with the industrial dispute concerning the 38-hour week. The dismissal notices that were issued today have been the cause of further industrial action. A bad scene will develop in Queensland tomorrow. It has been brought about by the behaviour of the Government. It has broken promises that were made to the union people to deal fairly and sensibly the 38-hour-week question. The Premier of the State is the architect of that destructive program. It will certainly be in full flight tomorrow.

Those are two issues on which he is dividing the State. I add them to all other things that have been said from this side of the House in fair criticism of the Government. I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that hatred, bitterness, greed and fear of losing power are things that motivate the Premier.

Unfortunately, the Press supports this incredible man. We have a supine Press in this State. They just love Joh because they think that he helps to sell their papers. I was quite entranced by the concern in the voices of the Minister for Commerce and Industry (Mr Sullivan) and the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs (Mr Tomkins) when they were cringing in this House and trying to justify their trip to the Torres Strait. They looked up with a hatred in their eyes at the dreadful Press people. They had forgotten for a minute that occasionally the Press turns a critical eye, but it does not do it thoroughly. It has let the Government off the hook many times. There is not one person in the Press who has ever said, "It is time to change the Government because the Government of Queensland is no good." I can think of a word that

I should use. However, I am not going to be thrown out and I am not going to use it. It begins with "c". Everybody knows what it means, and it applies to the Government. The Press will not turn a critical eye to the performance of the Government in this State.

The role of the Press was highlighted in the Tomkins affair. The Press was out for blood. Unfortunately, the media in Australia deserve to be totally castigated for the way in which they look at public affairs. All they are concerned with is the fierce grab at the jugular or what they think is the fierce grab at the jugular. The Press is not interested in looking at issues in the State; all it is interested in is an attempt to denigrate people.

Mr Booth: Are you talking about yourself now?

Mr SCOTT: No. The Press can say what it likes about me. I am merely small fry, and it does not worry me. I have a duty to be critical of the Government; I am paid to do that. I have a constructive Opposition point of view at present, and I will continue to express that point of view.

The Press plays a shocking part in this State. In attacking Mr Tomkins and Mr Sullivan, it was not concerned with the issues in the Torres Strait that need close examination, details of which I will be setting out in my speech. The Press should have been reporting on the way things are, the way they are not and the way they should be. It should be critical of those men who wasted Government money sitting in their little tin boat fishing on a trip that was scheduled for seven or eight days and included a stay of five days at uninhabited islands and reefs that are well known for good fishing. When I was up in the Torres Strait some time ago, the question was asked, "Where is Nagheer Island? Why wouldn't the Government boat be stopping at Nagheer Island?" To use a common expression, the dogs are barking it up there.

Mr Prest: And with all their friends and cronies.

Mr SCOTT: Their friends and cronies were there, too, and they were not paying; they were free-loaders who were burdening the taxpayers of this State.

If the Press played its proper role it would take a thorough look at the conditions that exist in Torres Strait and would try to bring about some redress for the people of the area. The Cabinet Ministers and Government members are remiss in not trying to do that.

I turn my attention to the honourable member for Windsor in particular. He skites about the number of times he has been up to Torres Strait. It is a great little holiday lurk. He can get on the Government vessel and he does not have to pay any of his own money. He does not visit other parts of Australia where he might have to pay some of his money; he free-loads on the "Melbidir".

I do not mind the honourable member for Windsor; he is quite good company. He keeps a fatherly eye on all of us here, and he frequently interjects. But he is not saying very much now; he is feeling terribly guilty.

The member for Windsor gets up to Torres Strait and he tries to make himself known to the Islander and Aboriginal people. But he cannot even come close to speaking their language. He gave the game away earlier today. He is an elitist. He thinks he is up there with the top brass. He is an old working man, an electrician. He is a member of the Tory party, and one who has reneged on his own kind. There is no way in the world that he can talk to Aborigines or Torres Strait Islanders. He has visited Torres Strait 10 times, yet he has never come back to Brisbane and said exactly what is wrong up there. Goodness only knows there is enough wrong with the place.

Mr Moore: Nothing wrong.

Mr SCOTT: The honourable member is way out. The people of Torres Strait will not want anything more to do with him.

Mr Prest: He said something about a lighting plant, didn't he?

Mr SCOTT: Yes, he made some comment about it, but he was out by several kilovolts. I will come to that in due course.

It is noticeable that in the present industrial situation Dr Edwards has had to bear the brunt. The Premier is standing a little to one side in case the situation backfires. The Deputy Premier, Dr Edwards, is fighting the unions, but he is not really very effectual. Even though Dr Edwards is a front for the Premier so that the Premier can play it low key,

the people will not accept Dr Edwards. So the Government turns to the Minister for Transport, Mr Lane. He is the real heavy in industrial relations. He is the man who would really like to lead this State. If ever jackboots were worn, they would be worn by the Minister for Transport.

One aspect on which the Government has misled the people of Queensland is referred to in His Excellency's Opening Speech. He referred to an increase in population and to the "associated inflow of capital" There simply has not been an associated inflow of capital. There is no sign of it. That is why the unemployment figures in Queensland are increasing at such an alarming rate.

The only people who are coming to Queensland are rich Victorians and the few rich New South Welshmen who want to retire to the Gold Coast. They do not bring their money with them; they would not put it at risk in tropical Queensland. Instead they leave it in the South safely stacked away in debentures, loans and other things.

The other people who are coming to Queensland are the unemployed. They are taken in by the propaganda published by this Government. They come here in the belief that jobs will be thrown at them. Officers of the Commonwealth Employment Service in Cairns have told me that they get streams of people from the South who come to Cairns thinking that it is the best part of the State. In that regard they are right; Cairns is in the best part of the State, and it is the border of the Cook electorate. But they are wrong in their belief that jobs are available. They simply are not available. Those people have been misled by the Government. There may be some population growth in Queensland, but it is the wrong sort of population growth.

Later in his Opening Speech the Governor referred to road construction. Without any doubt that is where the inverse square law applies. The farther away one goes, the less the money that is spent on roads. The Government talks about the need to spend millions of dollars on the Bruce Highway. Such a sum is needed; it is long overdue. But when will Queensland get that money? Is it now being handed out in the Federal Budget? I doubt it.

If that money is allocated to this State, I am quite certain that the Minister for Main Roads will ensure that it is spent not in North Queensland or on the parts of the Bruce Highway that require such expenditure but in the south-east quarter. One only has to stand on any of the balconies of this building and look at the road construction along the river to realise the amount of money that has been spent on the overpasses and underpasses. Many people from my electorate are astounded to see the money that has been spent on the roads in the south-east quarter. They have driven over the roads in Far North Queensland and they know that very little money has been spent on them. In fact, the road map produced by the Main Roads Department does not even recognise the road to Bamaga. It shows the Peninsula Developmental Road going only as far as Weipa. There is a gap on the map which indicates that there is no road to Bamaga, yet there is a track to Bamaga. Of course, it should be a much better one.

So we have this inverse square law. In fact, I could nearly name it the Mr Hinze inverse square law because it certainly applies to roads. As a matter of fact, if one plots this particular mathematical function one finds that the end of the curve does not actually touch the vertical ordinate. I refer again to that missing piece of road between the Weipa turn-off and Bamaga. That is the missing path of the curve where nothing at all has been done. I am concerned about the Peninsula Developmental Road because a lot of cattle are taken out of that area. People constantly tell me that some money should be spent on that road. In fact, a number of them are National Party supporters. They are totally critical of the National Party. They accept and acknowledge that the National Party no longer represents country people. Because of their disgust at the National Party, some of the people around Koah are voting Liberal. They will soon find that that is a sort of hollow victory. Woe betide them if they turn to the Liberals. They will get nothing.

I see the Minister for Works and Housing (Mr Wharton) looking at me. I must say in all fairness to the Government that in the time that I have represented the Cook electorate the amount of money spent in the area by the Government has not diminished. The rate of Government expenditure has probably increased. I will not say that that hasn't happened as a result of fairly active representation. I would like an undertaking from the Minister for Works and Housing that that trend will continue. There are some large projects to be completed up there. I refer to the Normanton Hospital and the Thursday Island High School.

Mr Wharton: The Government always looks after the people, and you know that.

Mr SCOTT: That is probably true in the Cook electorate because the Government knows that a noise will be made if expenditure decreases. There has not been a downturn in the activity of the Works Department or the amount of money that the Main Roads Department is spending in that area. But the point is that it is a growing area and the Government is not matching that growth, and that is what I have tried to tell the Minister in my most good-natured way.

The bitumen road now extends to the top of the Desailley Range. Work is also being done on the Burke Developmental Road. In fact, \$100,000 has been provided for extra maintenance on that road past Chillagoe. At present, I am trying to coax money out of the Minister for Main Roads so that the Mareeba Shire Council can continue with the construction of the next stage of the road between Dimbulah and Chillagoe. The workers up there have been working so hard that the cost is \$100,000 below estimate, and I think that that is a very good state of affairs. The Mareeba Shire Council has a particularly good team of workers, as have all the other shires in the area. All they ask is that they be given the money to do the work. It does not matter whether it is the Mareeba Shire, the Cook Shire or any of the Gulf shires—just give a little bit more money up there and the work will be done and people will have something to be proud of.

I have said that the bitumen sealing now extends to the top of the Desailley Range, and that is an extremely good state of affairs. There is a problem with high freight costs in my electorate. I was rather taken by a statement in the Press reported to have been made by the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services (Mr Bird). He referred to a proposed scheme. There is a bit of a conflict in terms, and I shall take a little time to read a paragraph from the article. It reads—

“Under the proposed scheme—”

and he was referring to a sort of freight equalisation scheme. However, it is not really a freight equalisation scheme; it is a price equalisation scheme.

Mr Bertoni: It is a good idea, though.

Mr SCOTT: Yes, it is a good idea, but I would like the honourable member to explain this little conflict in terms—

“Under the proposed scheme, manufacturers would be required to pay transport costs to remote areas of the state.”

Is the Government to use goodwill? I do not think it will get very far. I can understand why the member for Mt Isa lives in Brisbane—to avail himself of prices lower than those in his electorate.

Mr BERTONI: I rise to a point of order. Once again, I ask the member for Cook to withdraw that remark. Although he consistently tries to make the point, I do not live in Brisbane.

Mr SCOTT: I withdraw that remark.

I return to the statement by the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services that he expected to recommend the scheme to Cabinet. What has it to do with Cabinet? Is there a big stick that can be waved to get these companies to introduce a freight equalisation scheme? It has not been mentioned in the Chamber. I would like to hear it mentioned in the Chamber and I would certainly like to know the details of the scheme so that I can acquaint the people in my electorate with them.

Mr Eaton: You can buy Melbourne Bitter beer in Cairns at the same price as Cairns beer.

Mr SCOTT: Yes. It is quite amazing, with that company in particular.

Mr Eaton: There is no freight problem there.

Mr SCOTT: That might relate to the fairly large thirst in Far North Queensland, which that company is determined to satisfy. It should apply to other goods as well. It should certainly apply on Thursday Island. Last year the Government removed a small subsidy which was used to reduce prices paid by the people of Thursday Island, particularly

for green vegetables. Why was that subsidy removed? Can it be replaced in the coming Budget? I have certainly made representations to the Minister. I want to reinforce my representations while I am on my feet in the Chamber.

I ask another question: why is a sales tax still imposed on a price which includes freight? Government members will tell me that that is a Federal matter. I ask them, for goodness' sake, to exert some influence on their Federal colleagues. They were constantly telling us till a couple of years ago what a wonderful Government there was in Canberra. They do not say that quite so often now. I ask them to exert some influence and have that policy changed so that the freight content is excluded when sales tax is calculated. It is not just for the people who live up in that area.

It will be noted that during the brief time that is allowed in this debate I have to cast a wide net. I have to take whatever opportunity I can to refer to the needs of the Cook electorate. I have often spoken of the need for additional wharfage in the Peninsular area. That applies particularly to Cook, and it certainly applies to Karumba. I have taken this matter up with the Cook Shire Council, which has told me that it does not have the funds either to enlarge the wharf at Cooktown or to pay the full-time wages of a man to supervise the berthing of boats at that wharf. Often seven or eight fishing boats are berthed there side by side.

Tourist operators want to use the wharf facilities. The passengers on their boats have to scramble over the fishing boats to get to the wharf. It is a very small wharf. The facilities provided there are really quite mean. It is time that the Government did something about the Cooktown wharf. It is a matter that I have stressed in the House time and time again. I urge the Government to take some action.

Where is the Minister for Northern Development (Mr Bird)? Why isn't he here taking notice of the points members make in this debate? He should certainly take notice of the need for improvements to the Cooktown wharf. It is quite dangerous when people have to scramble over fishing boats to get ashore.

Karumba needs improved wharfage. It has no public wharf. When I put that to the Government, it says that the fishing companies should build the wharf. Who is building the wharves in the southern part of the State? Who is building the wharves in Cairns? I notice that the Governor's Speech refers to increased wharf construction in certain coastal cities, including Cairns. That does not get away from the inverse square law, because quite a number of people reside in Cairns. They need the facility, but those who live further away have similar needs.

His Excellency the Governor said—

“My Government will continue to cater for increasing domestic and industrial demands for water ”

Why is the Government not doing it in Karumba? The need certainly exists there. It is something that has been raised with the Government time and time again.

Mr Burns: They've only got a turkey nest dam, haven't they?

Mr SCOTT: That is all. It is controlled by the Water Resources Commission. That gives an indication of the quantity of water available there for domestic and industrial use, fire-fighting and development. It is no wonder that Mr Raptis is considering removing his prawn treatment plant to Cairns because, with the inadequate services provided in that town, he can no longer operate there.

I charge the Government with the responsibility of doing something for the Karumba people. If the Government will not implement a scheme to improve the Karumba water supply—it is totally inadequate as it is—will it consider providing a subsidy for those who carry water? That is the only alternative available to the people of Karumba because the water that comes through the pipes is not potable. Therefore the domestic user of water has to cart his own. In addition, that water supply, which is from a very small dam and also from bores, does not reach some parts of the town.

I now refer to national parks, which were given some small mention in the Governor's Opening Speech. The Government tries to take some pride in its provision of national parks. It has nothing to be proud of at all, certainly not in Far North Queensland where all it has done is acquire substantial areas of land which cannot be looked after properly as the staff at those national parks can do no more than carry

out basic maintenance. In fact, for a long time the Lakefield National Park did not have an adequate tractor or slasher. A new four-wheel-drive tractor has now been bought for the park but, because of a budget ceiling on purchases, the slasher will have to be bought at another time. That is an absolutely essential item of equipment.

A boat has been bought for use in that area. It carries the name of "Noddy", a rather interesting title for a craft that is to be used on the waters of Princess Charlotte Bay. The boat is inadequate; the tractor is inadequate; the staffing is inadequate and, to cap everything off, Lakefield National Park has only one vehicle. Two families make up the staff for that national park. One lives at the old Laura Station and the park supervisor lives at the old Lakefield Station, which is a separation of approximately 20 miles. Yet they have only one vehicle. They probably have to use a radio to facilitate the change-over of the vehicle. One person would have to call the other on the radio and tell him to hold the fort while he brought the vehicle down. I haven't quite worked out how he gets back to his area of responsibility.

When I was up there I called at one of the houses and the wife of one of the officers was good enough to tell me that her husband was on the dump run. I was a little puzzled as to what that was but I soon discovered that that entailed the officer's going to the tourist camping areas and manhandling 44-gallon drums full of rubbish onto the back of a four-wheel-drive vehicle and taking them to the dump. That certainly does not comply with work safety procedures. I am surprised that a Government that allegedly holds safety in high regard allows that sort of activity to take place. It is dangerous to the health of the person involved.

The Government has recently acquired Rokeby Station. I wonder what the Minister for Primary Industries (Mr Ahern) thinks of the take-over of viable cattle properties for the establishment of national parks in the Peninsula area. I am told that the Government has its eye on many more of them to establish a belt of national parks right across the Peninsula. That is good cattle country, and I do not think that so much of it should be alienated. I doubt that the Minister would be able to grasp the ramifications of the matter because he has been primed for the leadership in the contest between himself and the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police. I can recall when the Minister for Primary Industries was to speak at a dinner at Mareeba which was arranged by the Tobacco Growers Co-operative. At the table at which I was sitting there were some fairly strong National Party supporters with whom I had a good chat. The thrust of the conversation was the anticipation of the speech to be made by the next Premier of the State.

I was rather taken by that, because I have heard the Minister in this Chamber. Although he is a fairly competent speaker, he tends to be best when he has a sheaf of notes in front of him. One National Party man expected a fiery speech, so that he would be able to turn to me and say, "There is the man who will lead this State." As the Minister continued to read his speech in a low-key fashion—it was a very nice speech; I am not denigrating his style—the poor old National Party bloke slumped lower and lower in his seat, and when it was over he had very little to say about the Minister's prospects for leadership. There is a message there; but I am talking to the Minister now about cattle.

There must be some value in cattle in that area, because when the Government bought Lakefield Station as a national park it paid something of the order of \$350,000 or \$400,000 for it. Government members are supposed to be wonderful business managers. I am quite taken with the style of people opposite who think that the only people who can govern this State properly and adequately are those with vast business experience. If their administration of national parks in this State is any indication, it is no wonder that the Government is slumping. It simply cannot do the job.

The Government bought that park for a remarkable price, and the partners who had it are still laughing. They had an occupational licence and were able to continue to breed cattle on a national park for about 10 years. The licence still has not expired. They were being dog-in-the-mangerish and holding onto that occupational licence until they got sick of it. I think they became a little concerned that somehow or other the Government might stiffen its resolve and take the licence away from them, so they sold it for \$100,000. They are the businessmen, not the people on the Government side. They might be con men, and I do not admire their tactics, but they certainly made hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the Government of this State.

The sad part about it is that honourable members opposite do not care. That is a shame, because, as I said at the beginning of my speech, this is a wonderful State, and when Labor takes over the reins of Government, it will quickly begin developing the State along the correct lines.

Mr Eaton: I don't think they were lousy; they gave it to a fund.

Mr SCOTT: Is that what it is? Does the honourable member think they might have kicked in for the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation?

I now turn to Aboriginal affairs. I notice that the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs and the Minister for Commerce and Industry have now left the Chamber.

Mr Lee: They're sick of you, that's why. They told me outside that they were sick of you.

Mr SCOTT: I notice that the honourable member for Windsor has also left the Chamber. Well, if they do not like what I am saying they can rebut it in their own good time. The Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs made a wishy-washy speech in an attempt to justify that trip and all his other trips to the Torres Strait area. But, as I said earlier, he and the others who went on the trip have not told us what they are going to do to improve the lot of the people there.

I want to take members back to the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition. In the years that I have represented the area, I have hammered the situation of the people. The Torres Strait area is the one area of the Cook electorate about which the Government has taken absolutely no notice of what I have said. I would like to know why the Government is not prepared to do something for the people of the Torres Strait islands.

If one travels around Australia, one meets Torres Strait Islanders everywhere. They are working on roads, railway lines or in council jobs. They are never given the best jobs, because, like the rest of the black people in Australia, they are still held down. It is not their fault that that is the case. They should be living in the Torres Strait area and building it up for Australia. It is the only area of Australia that has a common boundary with another nation; yet the Government is letting it run down. It has never improved the services up there, and it has allowed those that it does provide to deteriorate. So the people, being the sensible people that they are, have moved away. I do not want them to move away, and any sensible Government would want those who have moved away to return. Those who are there also want them to return, and I will enumerate some of the things that the member for Windsor and the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs should be saying in this Chamber.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr Casey) certainly knows what the situation is because he has been up there. The Leader of the Federal Labor Party (Mr Hayden) certainly knows about it because he has been up there and seen things for himself. When the Leader of the Opposition opened the little Tuckerbox freezer on Yam Island and saw that it was empty, he was seeing that the mothers, the women and the working men on that island had no fresh food. It is a terrible state of affairs that they had no fresh or frozen vegetables and no fresh meat other than what they could take from the sea. That is one reason why there was such an outcry about the use of the "Melbidir" So that Government members and their free-loading supporters could use that boat it was taken from its regular run to provide goods and services.

On dozens of occasions I have spoken about the lack of an electricity supply on the Torres Strait islands. The DAIA lost the generator belonging to the island that the honourable member for Windsor spoke about. When the Stevens family asked me to try to recover it, I approached the departmental people who said, "We have no record of receiving it." The generator was received on Thursday Island, but it has not been replaced. No island has a reticulated electricity supply.

The schools on the islands are like little butter boxes. They are run by the Department of Education but they are staffed by people who are not fully trained. Again, that is not the fault of the people. I have spoken about these matters frequently. The school facilities are totally inadequate. The few tiles that are provided are lifting from the floors. The paintwork is peeling. It is not a place where I would like to see any Australian children receiving early education. I had to complain about the kindergarten

on Darnley Island. The building was almost rusted to pieces. It was a danger to life and limb. When I sent photographs of the building to the Premier he finally took some action. I had to do that because the Government does not care.

The food situation on the Torres Strait islands and the Peninsula is shocking. I charge the medical profession with some degree of responsibility. On one occasion when a medical specialist visited certain Peninsula communities, I was told that he was talking about the very sorry state of affairs in one of the community stores. I know what the stores are like. They carry a limited range of goods, and a minimum of fresh goods. The DAIA is responsible for providing these things. The Government is remiss in carrying out its duties. The medical profession knows that that is part of the reason for the poor health of the people in the communities. Healthy babies cannot be raised on a poor diet. Proper food is not available for feeding them on the Torres Strait islands and on the Peninsula.

Last week, on my visit to Kowanyama, I was told that the DAIA had 1000 tins of bad flour for sale in the community store. There was a great outcry about that. We tried to get something done about it. Fortunately the manager at Kowanyama is doing his best in difficult circumstances. The problem can be traced to the Brisbane office, the way the stores are bought and how they are shipped up there. Something is terribly wrong when people are expected to eat flour that will not cook properly. It has a brownish look and is suspect. When people pay \$11.50 a tin for flour, does the Government expect them to throw it away and get another tin of flour elsewhere? The only way they can do that is by flying it in. It is not the fault of the manager of Kowanyama, but that of the purchasing system in Brisbane.

The water supply on the Torres Strait islands is totally inadequate. Have Government members who have visited the islands got water from the taps? I have tried to do so on many occasions, but the water is just not there. Water has to be ladled from 44-gallon drums. That is scandalous. The water does not flow through the pipes because they were poorly laid and maintained. That is the responsibility of the department. When a pump breaks down a white mechanic has to come from Thursday Island because the Government has not implemented a training scheme for local tradesmen or mechanics to fix these things.

The people want to learn. Schools are run occasionally by the TAFE people, and the community people are willing students. The Government will not give the necessary money to provide courses in all of the communities to train the people properly.

I could go on and on. There is not enough time available to talk about all of those things. I would like to refer to the tin-mining industry. I hope that during the Matters of Public Interest debate tomorrow I will have an opportunity to do so. Everyone is concerned about the tin-mining industry in the Cairns area and the Cairns hinterland, particularly at Irvinebank, Herberton and Dimbulah.

(Time expired.)

Mr McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (8.56 p.m.): Through the Governor I pledge my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. I also pledge the loyalty of my constituents. I contrast that, unfortunately, with the fact that very few Opposition members have bothered to pledge their loyalty or the loyalty of their constituents. I am sure that many of their constituents would like to see their loyalty pledged even though Opposition members do not want to do it.

Mr Frawley: How many of them refused their Queen Elizabeth medals? I know that the member for Archerfield is one.

Mr McKECHNIE: I do not know whether many Opposition members refused them, but I venture to say that when the Queen visits Australia they will be there in the front line to catch even a glimpse of Her Majesty. However, they will not pledge loyalty in public because they are worried about what the Left-wingers in their party will do to their endorsements. That is a simple fact of life. The possible exception is the member for Archerfield, who does not believe in that sort of thing.

Queensland is the most decentralised State in Australia. It is the lowest taxed State. About 46 per cent of the nation's major projects are located in Queensland. Population growth in Queensland is double the Australian average. Job creation is

far better than in any other State. Last year, the work-force in Queensland grew by 23 000. However, the overall work-force in Australia fell by 300. Queensland is not creating jobs fast enough, but it is creating them at a faster rate than the other States. That is something of which this Government can be proud. Queensland's export performance is the best of any State.

Because country electorates have fewer people than city electorates, Queensland is a decentralised State. I would like to contrast that statement with the attitude of Opposition members. The Victorian Labor Government is planning to reduce the tolerance between all electorates to 5 per cent. Government members in Queensland believe that the only way to achieve decentralisation is to have a reasonable number of members of Parliament living in the isolated areas of this State. We live in tough times. Tough times are being experienced throughout the world. Queensland is creating jobs at a faster rate than any other country in the world.

My electorate is bounded on three sides by New South Wales. Some people who live in New South Wales wish that they lived in Queensland. "The Australian Financial Review" in November 1981 published an article on how Wran had squeezed New South Wales dry. The article points out that the position was worse than it appeared.

As an example, it cited the electricity industry in New South Wales. The changed accounting procedures of the New South Wales State Electricity Commission made it appear that there was a loss of only \$2.3m at that time when, in fact, it was a \$23m loss. The article stated that the simple fact of life was that the New South Wales Government was spending more than it earned. Queensland always endeavours to balance its budget.

There is now a direct contrast between the people in my electorate and those in New South Wales. They compare what is going on in New South Wales with what is going on in Queensland. Jobs are being created in Queensland; jobs are being lost at an alarming rate in New South Wales. The New South Wales Government has high taxation and high charges, which are destroying confidence and jobs. That happened under a Labor Government in South Australia and it happened under a Labor Government in Tasmania. Because of the mismanagement in Tasmania, the Federal Government has seen fit to subsidise freight from Tasmania to the mainland. My electorate is suffering because that is making it extremely difficult for fruit and vegetable growers in my electorate to compete with subsidised fruit coming from the South.

All of us have heard talk about how the States were squeezed a little bit by the Commonwealth recently under the tax-sharing arrangements. New South Wales received \$37m less than the sum recommended by the Grants Commission. In contrast, Queensland received \$120m less. The New South Wales Government used the Premiers Conference and the Loan Council as an excuse for greatly increasing taxes and charges in that State; yet it missed out on only \$37m, whereas Queensland missed out on \$130m. In spite of that, the Queensland Government did not bring down a mini-Budget, nor did it increase taxes and charges. The New South Wales Government used that as an excuse for increasing taxes and charges to obtain an additional \$400m, even though, as I have said, it missed out on only \$37m.

In New South Wales the fuel tax alone will bring in to the New South Wales Government a sum between \$185m and \$200m. That is one tax that the Queensland Government will not impose on the people of this State. What a comparison between what happens under a Labor Government across the border and a Government of my political persuasion in Queensland!

I have in my possession a summary of some of the increased charges imposed by the New South Wales Government since it was re-elected on 19 September 1981, which is not even 12 months ago. I begin with freight rates on grain. Whereas grain growers in the marginal areas in the far south-west of Queensland pay the Queensland Government \$14.07 per tonne freight to port, the grain growers in Boggabilla, which is just over the border in New South Wales, pay the New South Wales Government \$21.21 per tonne. Those figures highlight the difference between the way in which the Queensland Government treats its primary producers and that in which the Labor Government in New South Wales treats its primary producers. I hope that Queenslanders are never silly enough to elect a Labor Government in this State.

I admit that when the Queensland Government brought down its last Budget and I read that some court fees would rise by 24 per cent I thought that that was above the inflation rate and I was disappointed. But what has Mr Wran done in New South Wales to people who are trying to seek justice? He has increased court fees by up to 100 per cent.

Mr Frawley: He's a QC, isn't he?

Mr McKECHNIE: Maybe he is.

To show his real contempt for people on the land, Mr Wran increased land and environment court charges by 150 per cent. In New South Wales the Labor Government gives justice to criminals at a lower cost than it gives justice to primary producers. That is well known in my electorate, because my electors know exactly what the Wran Government thinks of primary producers. If ever Queenslanders were silly enough to elect a Labor Government in this State the same thing would happen to people living in country towns and inland areas.

Mr Lee: They say that even the rabbits are leaving New South Wales and crossing the border.

Mr McKECHNIE: I do not know about the rabbits.

One of the most recent rises in New South Wales was that in the cost of inland fishing licences. The licence fee rose by 66 per cent. The fishermen, however, got off their tails and did something, and even Mr Wran listened to them. The fee was subsequently reduced. So anyone in New South Wales who decides to go fishing in inland waters is hit, too.

A person who lives in New South Wales and is disillusioned with the Labor Government in that State might decide to get away from it all and go for a walk in a national park. Whereas in Queensland it costs nothing to go for a walk in a national park, in New South Wales over the past 12 months the entrance fees to national parks rose by up to 150 per cent. So it costs money even to go for a walk in a national park in New South Wales.

Another example is doctors' registration fees. In the last 12 months they have increased by 250 per cent in New South Wales.

Then I look at the exemptions for pay-roll tax. Pay-roll tax is levied at a rate of 5 per cent in all States. However, the advantage for small business in Queensland is that it pays nothing if the pay-roll is below \$180,000. In New South Wales, a business must fill in a return if its pay-roll is only a mere \$10,000. Admittedly, the New South Wales Government grants some exemptions, but generally small business is far better off with pay-roll tax exemptions in Queensland than in any other State. What have some of the Labor States done with pay-roll tax for large companies? They have increased the tax by another 1 per cent. Those who employ a lot of labour in the Labor States are penalised for employing people. It is shocking that although the trend throughout Australia is to try to reduce taxes on labour, the Labor States have gone ahead and imposed a surcharge on companies employing a lot of labour.

One of the catalysts to development in Queensland was the abolition of death duties, and I am proud to have been a party to that move. What happened as soon as a Labor Government was elected in Victoria? It tried to reintroduce death duties. Finally, pressure forced that Government into delaying the reintroduction of death duties. As soon as a Labor Government gets into power and thinks it can get away with reintroducing death duties, it will do so. The Victorian Government has delayed the reintroduction of death duties, but that will not fool the Victorian people. They will keep flocking to Queensland because they know that if they invest their family savings in this State those savings will not be taken away from their families when they die. In fact, the money will be used to encourage development and create job opportunities.

Even when a person in New South Wales gets sick of the Government and decides to drown his sorrows in a few ales, he finds that liquor licences have been increased to 10 per cent. The fee in Queensland for a similar licence is 8 per cent. In the last 12 months, the New South Wales Government has increased the cost of liquor licences for public halls by 400 per cent. People who are trying to run a function for charity will find that it will cost them more.

Not even the dogs get off scot-free in New South Wales. In the last 12 months, the roll fee for veterinary surgeons has been increased by 66 per cent. That increase will be passed on to the owners of dogs. So not even the dogs will escape the consequences of the grab for money that Mr Wran has made in New South Wales.

Some of my constituents have to send their children to school on a New South Wales bus. In border electorates some New South Wales children go to school in Queensland and some Queensland children go to school in New South Wales. It depends on what is the most practical situation, and that is common sense. A bridge across a river near the border got washed away, and for a while the Queensland kids could not use the bus in New South Wales. When the bridge was restored the bus service was no longer available. It was taken away without any warning or any consultation. Labor members get up in this House and talk about what we should be doing for education. Heaven help education if ever a Labor Government comes to power in Queensland! I have seen what happens over the border in New South Wales.

There has been a reduction in rail services over the border in New South Wales. The Queensland Government has bent over backwards to try to help people in isolated areas. Many times it has kept rail services open when perhaps it would have been economic to close them. The New South Wales Government has encouraged rationalisation of the railways. Once a railway is closed the towns that it serves begin to die.

The matter that I am most stirred up about is the mess that the New South Wales Labor Government has made of the electricity industry in that State. Many of my constituents receive electricity from New South Wales. That emanates from an agreement, entered into many years ago when it was economical for the Queensland Government to provide the Northern Rivers area with power and economical for the New South Wales Government to provide much of my electorate and the Balonne electorate with power.

Traditionally those people in my electorate who have been receiving power from New South Wales have been very lucky, as that State has a greater population than Queensland and a much smaller area to cover. Therefore, it is logical that the service in New South Wales should be much cheaper than it is in Queensland. For years electricity in the North West County Council area, which serves the shires of Inglewood, Goondiwindi and Waggamba, and the Tenterfield Shire Council, which serves Wallangarra at the other end of my electorate, was much cheaper than the Queensland rate.

However, honourable members could not imagine how much havoc has been created in the past 12 months in the electricity industry in New South Wales. The Wran Government in New South Wales, like the former Labor Government in Tasmania and the former Labor Government in South Australia, tries to be all things to all people. It tries to win votes—to buy votes—by promising miracles and then delivering the goods, delaying the inevitable by running up deficits and refusing to do maintenance. In 12 months we have seen a complete turn-about. I can remember the member for Nudgee a few months ago trying to scare Queenslanders by talking about a 40 per cent rise in electricity tariffs in this State. That did not happen. Electricity tariffs in Queensland increase once a year. This year the rise was approximately 20 per cent, which was too much—it was certainly too much—but it was nothing like the Opposition's figure. They were purely scare tactics by the member for Nudgee. However, in the last 12 months the people in my electorate who are receiving their power from New South Wales have seen their cost rise by 60 per cent. They are now paying substantially more than people in Queensland, when they should be paying less because it is much more economical to distribute power in populated areas than in unpopulated areas. New South Wales has the advantage of a large population living in a smaller State.

Let me give some examples in my electorate. I will talk about a domestic consumer using 250 kW per month light and power. In Stanthorpe now that would cost \$19.72. In Goondiwindi, under the North West County Council, dictated to by a Labor Government in New South Wales, the charge is \$24.75, or 25 per cent higher than Stanthorpe. In Wallangarra, under Tenterfield power, supplied under the dictates of the New South Wales Labor Government, the cost is \$23.75, or 20 per cent higher than Stanthorpe. Let me turn now to the night rate for water heating for 250 kW per month. In Stanthorpe, in a Queensland supply area, the cost for domestic consumers is \$6.55. In Goondiwindi, under the North West County Council—a New South Wales authority—the cost is \$9.75, or 50 per cent higher than Stanthorpe. In Wallangarra, which is served by the Tenterfield

authority, the rate is \$11.25, or 80 per cent higher than Stanthorpe. These figures show the abysmal lack of business management by the Labor Government in New South Wales, and my electorate is suffering as a result. It is disgusting.

For an all-electric home using 250 kW of light and power plus 250 kW of night rate, the cost in Stanthorpe is \$26.27, whereas the cost in Goondiwindi under the New South Wales authority is \$34.50, or 33 per cent higher than Stanthorpe.

Mr Jennings: They are devastating figures.

Mr McKECHNIE: Yes.

The cost in Wallangarra under the Tenterfield authority is \$35 or 35 per cent more than in Stanthorpe. Only 12 months ago these people were receiving power at a much better price than Queenslanders generally. In 12 months the chickens have come home to roost. I have heard inane interjections from Opposition members to the effect, "Why don't we supply it from Queensland?" The simple fact of the matter is that many years ago an agreement was made between the two States because it was more economical for Queensland to supply the Northern Rivers area and for New South Wales to supply that area in my electorate and some of the Balonne electorate. That was a good deal for Queensland, as it was for New South Wales, because it provided cheaper electricity for people in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales, in the Wallangarra area and in the Shires of Inglewood, Waggamba, Goondiwindi and some other areas.

Nobody could have foreseen the total lack of management by the present New South Wales Government. It gave hand-outs to everybody and bankrupted that State. Now the people in my electorate are suffering because of that. The problem that they have to grapple with is what to do. Should the Queensland Government be asked to build a power line into that area and take the franchise back, in the knowledge that in several years' time there will be a change of Government in New South Wales and reality will be restored in that State so that it should be able to provide power more cheaply than Queensland, or does the Government take the short-term advantage and do something quickly?

The councils of Goondiwindi, Waggamba and Inglewood have delegated one of their clerks to investigate all of the options and spend a great deal of time to try to find out the best recommendation to put to the Queensland Government. As yet, I have not received a recommendation from those councils but, after I do, the Minister for Mines and Energy (Hon. I. J. Gibbs) will receive a deputation from those councils. The Government will then make up its mind on what should be done to protect the people of my electorate from the ineptitude of the New South Wales Government.

Opposition members have been interjecting but they are now hanging their heads in shame because they espouse socialism. But when they speak to business people they do not espouse socialism. They say that they are democratic socialists and do not mind private enterprise. But their actions belie that because it is only a matter of time after the Labor Party gets into power in any State before the economy of that State is wrecked. We have only to look at the Labor Party's support for the 38-hour week campaign in Queensland.

Mr Davis: Yes.

Mr McKECHNIE: I hear an Opposition member agree with me.

I have always said that everybody should work 40 hours a week. I am sure that most members of Parliament work between 60 and 80 hours a week. Also, their wives probably work 30 to 40 hours a week without any remuneration, and they are happy to do it. I pay tribute to their help to all the members of Parliament. It does not hurt us to work long hours. At this time, when the economy of the world is undergoing a great trauma, it is absolutely economic suicide to inflict, on industry, shorter working hours for the same rate of pay. I am sorry that some businesses and some sections of Government have given in in the past and that some workers now have a 38-hour week.

We should be looking at some amendment to the relevant Act so that the 40-hour week can be restored to State awards. I believe that the ordinary rank-and-file workers would back such a move. I can understand anybody, no matter what his wage—whether it be \$8,000, \$80,000 or even \$200,000 a year—wanting more money because the whole argument is about wage relativity. Even if a really senior business executive on \$200,000 a year sees someone in a lesser company getting nearly as much money he feels

he is hard done by, and I can understand somebody on \$8,000 saying that he needs more money for the very basic necessities of life. I can support that attitude, and surely if unions were responsible they would be conducting a campaign to see that their members receive sufficient money to provide the basic necessities of life plus the other things that they want. But they should not be inflicting a shorter working hours campaign on industry during this period of recession.

I made sure I remained in the Chamber when the Leader of the Opposition spoke in this debate, and I listened with great interest to every word. His speech was pathetic. All he did was knock Queensland. I am sick and tired of hearing Opposition members talk all sorts of nonsense and criticise this Government for not doing enough for Queensland. Of course we can do more and of course we should do more, but there is a limit to how much Governments can tax people. If a Government is going to give away a lot of lollies it has to increase taxes. I believe we should give away a lot fewer lollies than we are giving now and reduce taxes even further.

Business all over the world is lacking in confidence and is looking for somewhere to invest in development and create jobs. We have a stable Government in this State and a stable system of government in Australia, and if only the Government would grant incentives rather than hand-outs business would flock to this country and we could very quickly restore full employment. One has only to look at the benefits of the ordinary man in the street that the abolition of death duties has brought to this State. It has meant the creation of jobs. It is true that we have a rate of unemployment almost as high as the other States, but that is because people are flocking here as fast as we create the jobs. But if Queensland were not creating the jobs no jobs would be created, because jobs are not being created anywhere else in Australia. If the Commonwealth Government would take a leaf out of the book of the Queensland Government this country could become the investment Mecca of the world. I know, and every other member knows, what happened in California when it did something worth while about cutting taxes. It became the ninth largest economy in the entire world. That is the sort of encouragement we should be giving to people so that they can create jobs here. I am told that another country—it might have been Puerto Rico—cut taxes and converted a Budget deficit into a massive surplus, because of the investment that was attracted. It granted incentives and people came along, invested their money and created employment.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke much ado about nothing. He was kowtowing to the union leaders, trying to hang on to his leadership. The only reason why he is still leader is that Opposition members cannot make up their minds about who should replace him. That once great party has sunk to a pretty low level when it keeps a leader just because it cannot decide who should take over from him.

The Leader of the Opposition made a strong plea on behalf of the Aboriginal people. I believe in equality, and that is what we should be aiming at. I make it clear that any Aborigine can buy land in Queensland just as any Queenslander can. Many people do not understand that. They believe the deceit practised by Opposition members and some of the so-called civil rights spokesmen. If an Aborigine wants to work, save his money and then invest in a business, he can do so just as easily in Queensland as in any other State. It is morally wrong that Aborigines should get privileges over and above those given to other Queenslanders, and that creates a white backlash. That is a great shame. We should be integrating all Australians into one community with the same rights and privileges for all.

One thing that demonstrates why ALP Governments fail is their tendency to jump on every social issue raised by pressure groups. The way that the ALP is kowtowing to Aboriginal communities is a good example of that. If a Government kowtows to every pressure group, it has to increase taxes and charges to pay for all the lollies it promises to hand out. The only result of that is more unemployment.

People may be pacified for a while, but we should be encouraging Queenslanders to save for a rainy day, to put something away for their old age. Before Opposition members interject, I point out that I am not castigating the payment of pensions. The age pension is a right. People who pay taxes throughout their lives have a right to be looked after very well, but they should be encouraged during their working lives to put something away so that they do not have to depend solely on the age pension.

The Leader of the Opposition continued to harp on the 38-hour working week. Government members are asking themselves who the Leader of the Opposition is. We know who the nominal head is; but if we take note of the media, we know that in fact it is Peter Beattie. It is a shame that the Labor Party has sunk to such a level that it cannot find a parliamentary spokesman to put forward its case to the media, and that Peter Beattie has to do it outside this Chamber.

I remember when the honourable member for Lytton was supposedly organising a great coup. Figuratively speaking, Mr Casey's head was to be cut off. He would no longer be the Leader of the Opposition. The members for Lytton and Rockhampton were to do all sorts of things to Mr Casey and appoint a new leader. What position has the honourable member for Lytton accepted? One of serving under Mr Casey until the next election. He has not even got a shadow portfolio. He has agreed to be the special projects man of the Leader of the Opposition. If someone was trying to take the leadership away from me, I would not appoint him as a special projects man. That demonstrates how desperate the Leader of the Opposition is to maintain his position.

I have criticised Labor Governments in other States. I stress that times are tough throughout the world. Queensland is doing better than any other State. Opposition members should be singing Queensland's praises throughout the nation to encourage development and job opportunities in this State, but they are not doing so. They are simply knocking progress and knocking Queensland.

I do not want to create the impression that all is well in Queensland. I have stressed that all is not well throughout the world. If Queenslanders accept that they all have to work a little harder for their money and put their heads down, Queensland will come out of this mess.

I hope that the Opposition has learned something from the speeches made by Government members during this debate and that they will stop knocking Queensland and get behind us to try to make this a better State in which to live. In my electorate, I have only to look at the tin miners and the fruit and vegetable growers and at the effect that the drought has had on the wheat farmers. A cost spiral is occurring. Costs are increasing, but the price of the finished article is not. People have invested their life savings in businesses. Whether it be in primary industries or in small businesses in towns, people have invested large sums of money. They are paying high interest rates and not receiving a satisfactory return on their investment. It is bad for them, for their families and for the social structure. The Opposition does not understand that it is also bad for employees. When a business can no longer afford to employ staff, it is forced to retrench labour.

Unionism used to be a wonderful thing, and it was needed many years ago. I have been a member of a union.

Mr Davis: You never paid.

Mr McKECHNIE: For the information of the honourable member for Brisbane Central, I would point out that when I went out shearing, I was shearing for only three sheds and I was made to pay two years' subscription. That is the trick that the union played on me.

Unionism used to be a great thing and it used to be necessary. However, today it is ill-advised. In many cases it has become a tool for the destruction of Australia. Indeed, it certainly has proved a tool for the destruction of Britain and many overseas countries.

That is not to say that all unions are bad. Some union leaders are very responsible people, and I take my hat off to them. Probably the vast majority of union members are responsible people. In some cases they have been badly led by ratbags who have no interest other than in trying to create the sort of change that they know will bring about the destruction of our economy for political purposes.

People in the electorate must understand that some unions are handing over massive amounts of money to the ALP. At election-time, the ALP says, "We are the friend of small business." Mr Wright is a very good actor. He puts that story over pretty well.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! The honourable member is referring to a member of the House by his surname. Mr Wright is the honourable member for Rockhampton. I ask the honourable member to refer to all honourable members by their correct title.

Mr McKECHNIE: The honourable member for Rockhampton is a good actor. He travels throughout the State trying to convince small business organisations that the ALP cares for them. The simple facts of life are as I have outlined earlier in my speech. When the ALP obtains power anywhere, it tries to bend to all the pressure groups that help to elect it. For instance, in Victoria the Teachers Union subscribed \$100,000 to the ALP's election campaign. It has since received its reward. A similar practice is occurring with unions in Queensland. Some unions contribute to the ALP because they are buying conditions for a future ALP Government that this State cannot afford. Of course, what they do not understand is that they are really wasting their money. Those unions will never have the misfortune to serve under an ALP Government in this State because the ALP is in such a shambles and so out of touch with public opinion that it will never gain power while the present coalition Government realises that it is necessary for the two great parties, the National Party and the Liberal Party, to work together for the benefit of Queensland.

The Government has a track record of which it can be proud. Although times are tough, I reiterate that they are not as tough in Queensland as they are in any other State in Australia or, for that matter, in virtually any other country in the world.

Mrs NELSON (Aspley) (9.35 p.m.): On behalf of myself and the electors of Aspley I swear allegiance to the Crown and congratulate the Governor on his Opening Speech. In congratulating His Excellency I mention particularly two issues that he referred to. One is the quality of service delivery in Queensland, the other is the development and progress of the State, which combined resulted in a balanced Budget in Queensland alone of all States in Australia.

I want to make particular reference to the Aspley electorate and to concentrate on a number of issues that are of importance to my electors. For some months I have spoken on the proposal to establish a hypermarket. A few final comments need to be made before that issue is laid to rest.

It now appears that the project will proceed. Despite the fact that Australia has three levels of government, nobody seems to be capable of making a decision as to whether the project should go ahead. No decision has yet been made, but it is my opinion that it will go ahead on the basis of a Federal decision that has yet to be announced.

The point that needs to be made is that, although Governments in Australia are unable to make a decision on whether to allow the South African company Pick'n Pay into retail marketing in this country, the South African Government is making determined efforts to prevent that company from taking very much money out of South Africa. If the project is allowed to proceed, quite significant proportions of the profit will be committed back to the South African economy on a yearly basis as a condition of allowing any money at all to be taken out of South Africa.

I find that situation quite ironical in view of the fact that local authorities, the State Government and the national Government in Australia are unable to reach a decision as to whether it is in the national interest to allow another level of retailing to enter the market-place.

Recently I returned with a parliamentary delegation from a visit to some of the newly developing nations in the South-west Pacific. Amongst those nations that we visited were Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Nauru, Vanuatu and Noumea. Noumea is still a territory of France but it is slowly moving towards independence.

Of interest and of relevance to this debate is the fact that the three issues of critical importance in all those nations are education, health and transport. What the people in those countries mean by transport is roads; it is quite different from what we mean by transport.

It is fascinating to visit each of those nations, and to see the very great emphasis that the provincial and national Governments are placing on those issues. I surveyed my electorate and found that the three most important issues amongst its very Western and well developed society were roads, health and education. It would be an eye-opener to my constituents to visit those nations and see the type of problems that they face in providing health services, education facilities and roads.

The House may be interested to know that, whereas Queenslanders take a free health service for granted and Australians take free education for granted, in virtually not one of the countries that the delegation visited was there a free health service or free education.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: What free health service?

Mrs NELSON: The honourable member is not sitting in his proper seat, so he has no right to interject.

It is worth reporting to the House that some of the schools in Papua New Guinea charge their national students up to 1 000 kina a year. Such charges are quite common. The cost of education in those developing nations and even the cost of Government education are extremely high. That is because those Governments simply do not have the resources to provide education free of charge.

It is interesting to note how devoted the Governments of those nations are to achieving a full health service and a wide range of health services for both rural and urban populations, together with education facilities. To achieve those services the Governments must have access to those areas. Such access is provided by roads.

What happens in those nations is very relevant to the Queensland electorate. Although most urban communities have good roads, they do not necessarily have good transport. In fact, significant numbers of students in the electorate of Aspley live considerable distances from schools. They do not have access to public transport and often their parents have to pay between \$10 and \$20 a week to get them to the local primary or secondary school. It is quite scandalous that in an outlying suburban area such as Aspley, in the middle of the capital of Queensland, parents have to spend that amount of money simply to get their children to school. Although we think that we are terribly civilised and sophisticated in our society, we still impose a burden on many of our families who wish to achieve equality of education for their children. In any person's language \$10 or \$20 is a considerable amount of money.

In the brief time available to me, I wish to draw the attention of honourable members to the matter of road safety. Significant accusations have been made in the Chamber today against the Minister for Transport and the Government in general about the alleged failure of the Government to act on road safety matters. Those accusations are both ill-founded and wrong. Of all the Ministers for Transport in recent years, the present Minister has spent the greatest amount of time in attempting to deal with this very critical issue in Queensland.

Honourable members may be interested to learn that in Nauru, which is one of the small nations that we visited, there is a rising incidence of road fatalities, which is clearly related to alcohol usage. With Nauru's small population, the authorities are able to make studies very quickly. Although it might be convenient for some members to say that alcohol is only one of the factors and is not the major factor in road fatalities, there is no doubt that studies carried out in all Western societies, and now in some of the Communist bloc nations, prove quite conclusively that the abuse of alcohol is one of the biggest causes of death and maiming on the roads and indirectly leads to a massive escalation of costs in the trauma area of health services.

The Minister for Transport and the Government acted wisely in deciding to reduce the permissible blood alcohol level of motor vehicle drivers. The Government should embark on a campaign for a considerable period of time to convince the Australian electorate, and the Queensland electorate in particular, that alcohol and driving just do not mix. Apart from the fact that .05 is a small amount, frankly I think it is advisable that people should not drink at all if they intend to drive a motor vehicle. When we get inside a motor car we tend to forget what a powerful weapon we have in our hands.

Another matter that has been brought to the attention of honourable members today is the population explosion in Queensland through an increase in the domestic birth rate and immigration from other States and nations. Much has been said about the virtue of this development. I endorse the remarks made by other members about the good things that population increases bring, but I sound a note of warning about some of the vices that population increases bring. If there is to be an increase in population which benefits the whole community and does not place extraordinary strains on that community, then that population increase needs to be planned. There has been

no planning for the population increase in Queensland. In the last two years there has been an incredible increase in the number of people coming to this State as permanent residents. I believe that Queensland will face very serious problems in providing educational facilities and health services for special groups, such as the aged.

Because of the matters that were brought to the attention of honourable members by my colleague the honourable member for Salisbury, Queensland already has acute housing and welfare problems. She quite correctly said that the increase in the use of welfare services is clearly linked to the number of New Zealanders and southern families coming to Queensland and thinking that this is Utopia and that this State will automatically be able to provide jobs and housing for them. There is no doubt that the progress and development in the State has meant that a large number of new jobs has been created in the last five years, but last year every one of the new jobs created was eaten up by the increase in our immigrant population. Indeed, 5.8 per cent of Queensland's adult population is still unemployed.

Mr Davis: It is 6.2.

Mrs NELSON: No, 5.8 per cent.

If the Government reconsidered its promotion of the State in other countries and in the South, tapered off its loud exclamations of joy about people coming here, and perhaps lay low for a couple of years, migration might plateau, thus helping us to overcome some of the problems that I have mentioned.

I would like to raise two other matters that concern me greatly. I refer to the hatred of the Government that is being expressed by the Opposition in the public arena, in this House and in the media and directed towards the populace.

This morning the Leader of the Opposition, in a very vindictive attack on the Government and in particular on the Premier, as is his wont, used the words, "hatred", "greed" and "fear" They are not the sort of terms that the leader of any Opposition—indeed, the leader of any Government—ought to be using at a time of economic recession, when we ought to be attempting to unite our population to work our way out of the problems we face at the moment.

Conversely, it is quite ironic for the leader of a socialist party to talk about hatred, greed and fear when in fact the whole structure of that party is based on class hatred, greed, envy and fear tactics to bludgeon its so-called supporters into going out on strike, as we have experienced in the last few weeks.

The basis of our Westminster system, the basis of parliamentary democracy and the basis on which the Australian Government is founded—and the Queensland Government is part of it—is confidence and trust. If the people lack confidence in the Government—if they do not trust their politicians—the whole system of democracy in this country will collapse round us. It is held together by a very fragile thread, and people do not understand that fact. We take our democracy for granted. Very few countries have anything remotely resembling parliamentary democracy. We ought not take ours for granted.

There are very few places in which a person making statements of the vindictive type expressed in the House today would not be carted off and incarcerated in some ghastly prison or, worse, killed. Because we have such a democracy and such freedoms, we have a responsibility to exercise them properly. Words such as "hatred" and "greed" and attacks on colleagues such as those made tonight by a number of members for quite useless purposes—for no political gain whatsoever—do nothing but discredit this House.

Many members have mentioned the media. I do not want to get into the act and kick the can. However, they have a role to play in protecting parliamentary democracy. In recent times the media have had very young and inexperienced reporters who really know nothing about party-political organisations and in fact know very little about how the Parliament is supposed to operate. Unfortunately, they have presented the functioning of Parliament in a sensational and trivial way, which leads members of the community to believe that their interests are not being well served in this Chamber.

Mr Hooper: You wouldn't say that if the media were here.

Mrs NELSON: They can read "Hansard". The member for Archerfield ought to know that they all read "Hansard"

Mr Hooper: You're a coward.

Mrs NELSON: I wish they were here. It is just as important for them to act responsibly as it is for us to act responsibly.

Mr Hooper: You are trying to take Mr Doumany's job.

Mrs NELSON: Apparently everybody else is, too, so I may as well get in on the act. Is the honourable member sure he is not interested himself?

Mr Moore: He's all muscle between the ears. He'd never get the job.

Mrs NELSON: In the Labor Party, that is a prerequisite for office.

The final comment I wish to make about the role and the presentation of Parliament and the protection of democracy is in the funding of elections. I realise that some of the statements I am about to make may be controversial, but they ought to be expressed in this Chamber. When legislation was first introduced into various Parliaments to limit the amount of money that candidates seeking office could spend, it was on the basis of protecting democracy against individuals of great wealth.

The purpose of that legislation was to ensure that individuals could not buy their way into Parliament and use their money to remain there. That legislation worked quite effectively until the advent of party political organisations. The time has now arrived in Australia—I know that the question has been discussed in nations adjacent to Australia, and also in nations such as Canada and the United States of America that have constitutions similar to Australia's—to look at the amount of money that party political organisations are allowed to spend during election campaigns.

Very grave dangers face parliamentary democracy if any one organisation in any nation is able to be influenced by donations of a substantial nature, whether from within that nation or from outside. My greatest fear is that international political machinations will intrude into national and State political organisations. That fear has certainly been expressed by some of our Pacific neighbours, and a number of them are looking at legislation to limit the amount of money that party political organisations can spend.

I express to the Parliament the view that we, as a Parliament, ought to investigate this matter at a committee level and make recommendations to the Executive.

Mr Hooper: An all-party committee?

Mrs NELSON: Yes, it ought to be an all-party committee, because it is a matter that crosses party political boundaries.

Although democracy has to be protected against individuals, equally it needs to be protected against groups of individuals, which is what party political organisations are. I do not suggest that governments ought to fund party politics, because I see that as a contradiction in terms. What I suggest is that no political organisation ought to be able to spend four, five, six or even ten times as much money as another organisation that may have an equally valid philosophy to present to the people. Its inability to present that philosophy to the people because of a lack of money might mean that we could have the tyranny of an authoritarian Government or that international organisations could be running the State or the nation simply because they bought people and brought money into political organisations. I do not believe that has yet happened in Australian politics. However, it certainly has happened in nations adjacent to us, and I have a very grave fear that it could come to this country.

I conclude by again affirming the allegiance of the Aspley electorate to the Crown and expressing my thanks to His Excellency the Governor and his wife, Lady Ramsay, for the continuing service that they provide to the State and to the Parliament.

Debate, on motion of Mr Wharton, adjourned.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED MERGER BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 5 August (see p. 130) on Mr Doumany's motion—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr R. J. GIBBS (Wolston) (9.53 p.m.): Although the Bill is fairly complex in its intent and, indeed, in its drafting, my committee has had a very close look at it and has found that it is a necessary piece of legislation to facilitate the merger of the Commercial

Bank of Australia Limited and its subsidiary the Commercial Savings Bank of Australia Limited with the Bank of New South Wales and, in turn, its subsidiary the Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank Limited.

The legislation contains a number of points that the Opposition feels should be brought out, and I hope that the Minister explains them in his reply. In his second-reading speech, the Minister said—

“An amount is to be paid to the Crown to cover estimated stamp duty, registration fees, etc., which would have been paid in the absence of legislation. Because such payment is to be made, a merger of the banking businesses is to be effected by legislation, without loss of revenue to the Crown and without involving Crown servants in a considerable amount of time.”

He said further—

“Negotiations are taking place with the Bank of New South Wales as to the appropriate amount of payment in lieu of stamp duty, etc., that will adequately compensate Queensland for the loss of revenue which otherwise would have occurred.”

I find this is one of the unsavoury things about the type of legislation that the Government is notorious for introducing, when we are told that an amount of money is to be paid in lieu. Can the Minister indicate in his reply exactly what amount of money will be involved in lieu of stamp duty and why it could not be spelt out in the legislation?

There are a number of pleasing aspects to the legislation. My committee has taken cognisance of the fact that clause 10 states that the merger between the two banking organisations will not affect legal proceedings or judgments which are in force at the present time.

I am pleased to note that clause 12 ensures the protection of the superannuation, salary entitlements, holiday pay, etc. of those staff who will be transferred to the Bank of New South Wales. As I said, the Bill is rather complex but the Minister has outlined it in some detail. Although the Bill is complex it is certainly not controversial legislation and the Opposition is happy to accept it. I point out that the comments I have made in relation to this legislation also relate to the Bill which will follow.

Hon. S. S. DOUMANY (Kurilpa—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (9.57 p.m.), in reply: First of all, I thank the honourable member for Wolston for the support of the Opposition for this very necessary piece of legislation. He raised the matter of the amount of payment in lieu of stamp duty and its determination. It is my understanding that our Treasury officials are still having consultations with the banks concerned as to the precise quantum. This is of necessity an intricate procedure because of the magnitude and the complexity of all the elements of the transaction. Although the Bill is obviously meant to simplify many arrangements, in terms of arriving at a simple gross-up estimate there still has to be some consistency in the way to approach the estimates of the different components, and I understand that will be done. But I cannot give a figure on this occasion. In fact, it is a question which would probably need to ultimately be directed to my honourable colleague the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. As I said when I introduced the Bill, this is a very practical piece of legislation which will expedite a most complex transaction and save the Government and its officers a great deal of time and money, and it is intended to protect the interests of the many people involved, including the employees. We have had the precedent of two such Bills, one only a couple of years ago and one in the early 1970s, and in both cases similar legislation worked well and did the job it was designed to do. So without any further ado, I commend the Bill to the House.

Motion (Mr Doumany) agreed to.

Committee

Mr Akers (Pine Rivers) in the chair

Clauses 1 to 17, schedule and preamble, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Doumany, by leave, read a third time.

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY LIMITED MERGER BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 5 August (see p. 131) on Mr Doumany's motion—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr R. J. GIBBS (Wolston) (10.2 p.m.): As I indicated, the Opposition is happy to accept and support the legislation. There are a couple of differences between this legislation and the legislation that was passed a moment ago. However, they are negligible and, as I have indicated, the Opposition is prepared to accept the legislation.

Hon. S. S. DOUMANY (Kurilpa—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (10.3 p.m.), in reply: I thank the honourable member for Wolston for supporting the legislation. Naturally, the comments that I could offer in summing up are virtually the same as those that I offered on the preceding Bill. I therefore commend the Bill to the House.

Motion (Mr Doumany) agreed to.

Committee

Mr Akers (Pine Rivers) in the chair

Clauses 1 to 17, and preamble, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Doumany, by leave, read a third time.

TOOWOOMBA SHOWGROUNDS BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 5 August (see p. 136) on Mr Glasson's motion—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr KRUGER (Murrumba) (10.6 p.m.): The Opposition has no objection to the intent of the Bill, but I propose to move an amendment. I believe that the Australian Labor Party can offer a suggestion better than that proposed in the Bill.

The intent of the Bill is to make the land owned by The Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland fee simple so that the society may sell that land and purchase a larger block. All members know that the society has outgrown the block that it owns in the middle of the city of Toowoomba. The Crown should take over that land for community purposes and for future public purposes.

Originally, I was concerned that the land may be taken over by somebody for the purpose of commercial development. Today, in the “Daily Sun”, I read the heading “Showground set for sale” The article continued—

“Legislation to clear the way for sale of the Toowoomba Showgrounds will go before State Parliament today.”

It also stated that Kern Corporation has proposed a development in the area and could be interested in buying the showground. I am concerned that the people of Toowoomba may be interested in having the land used for community purposes. It makes good sense that it should be held for those purposes.

The Toowoomba Show has grown to such an extent that no longer can a show of sufficient magnitude be conducted on the site available. When one takes into consideration that parking is a problem in the area, the showground is no longer large enough for a show of the usual type. The Toowoomba Show is one of the largest provincial shows in Queensland, and possibly in Australia. The area in question is not small. When one looks at the possible use of that land in the future, one sees that it could be developed for community purposes—a cultural centre, sports complexes, sections for parkland and for various other purposes. The people of Toowoomba ought to be able to decide that in the long term. However, the first move would be for the Crown to take over the land and to hold it in trust or for the local authority in the area to hold it in trust for use in the future.

When one considers how the cost of development of the type that I have mentioned would be met, one must have in mind the construction of the Queensland Cultural Centre on the south bank of the Brisbane River. Its estimated cost was \$103,328,000. When one takes into consideration the cost of fittings, additional costs, inflation and various other costs that might arise, a final cost of \$125m for the cultural centre is possible. It has been suggested that there is a need for regional cultural centres throughout the State. Toowoomba is suitably located for such a regional cultural centre. I am not saying that a cultural centre is the only thing that should be established on the land, nor am I saying that the land should be set aside only for cultural purposes. In a complex of that size, a cultural centre could be developed together with squash courts and other sporting complexes.

Having said that, I believe that the Government should set aside the money from the fund that it used for the purpose of establishing the Queensland Cultural Centre. In the meantime, the land should be held with the Toowoomba City Council as trustee, and as development occurs in the future in the way in which the people of Toowoomba want it to be developed—it would have to be their decision; we in Brisbane should not be saying to them how the land ought to be used—

Dr Lockwood: It is funny that you say the people in Toowoomba want that. Nobody in Toowoomba has said that to me.

Mr KRUGER: The people of Toowoomba tell me that they never see the honourable member, nor does he contact them.

My comments are based on common sense, and the Government should be looking at development of that type. If in the future the people of Toowoomba want to develop the site as a cultural centre or a sporting complex and then sell off some of the additional land that may be available, they should be the ones to make that decision.

I propose to move an amendment to clause 5 and I hope that the Minister will accept it. I propose to add words to the clause. Say, for example, that the value of the land is \$2m and that that is the sum that the show society expects to collect from the sale. The Government could take over that responsibility and have the land held in trust until such time as the Toowoomba City Council desires to develop it. It should be available to the local people.

Mr BURNS (Lytton) (10.13 p.m.): I speak to this Bill because I am concerned about the operation of a number of show societies in Queensland and the problems that confront them in relation to their finances. By this Bill the Government is moving to deal with land in Toowoomba, but there are problems elsewhere.

A major problem exists in relation to the Ipswich Showground. Part of the problem has been created by the attitude of the Minister in charge of racing to the Ipswich Showground. Those honourable members who know anything about show societies and showground trusts will know that a number of people join show societies and have the right to vote to elect committee members to run the societies themselves.

This week in Ipswich a ballot-paper was issued for the show society election. The names on the ballot-paper are not in alphabetical order. The names of the existing committee members appear at the top and beside those names are listed the number of times that the members attended the committee meetings. This is on a ballot-paper! In addition, anyone who stands against the committee members has his name in a separate box at the bottom under the heading "Other nominees" The ballot-paper then sets out the number of the voter; it might be number 430. So there is no secrecy or democracy in the conduct of the ballot. This causes grave concern over the conduct of a ballot that will determine who controls the public area, which is really the grounds of the Ipswich Show Society. So much concern has been created that "The Queensland Times" was moved to publish a half-page story on this issue and on complaints from a number of committee members.

As the Government moves to help greyhound racing and trotting, it sets up trotting boards, greyhound racing clubs and so on within the confines of show societies. At Ipswich, for example, the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club has been set up and it operates in the showgrounds.

I understand that originally Dr Edwards offered the club \$600,000 and that Mr Hinze then gave it—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! I ask the honourable member to refer to the Treasurer as the Treasurer and to the Minister as the Minister for Local Government.

Mr BURNS: I bow to your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The Treasurer, when he was Minister in charge of racing, offered the club \$600,000 and the present Minister in charge of racing (Mr Hinze) gave the greyhound club \$1.2m. Since then the club has been given another \$120,000 in what I understand are non-repayable grants. I think that the club only has to pay the interest. But that is not really the problem. If another organisation is set up within the showgrounds complex, who controls the grounds? Who makes the decisions about the future of the grounds? For example, if the greyhound club wants to expand a bit further, who decides whether it can do so? Does the show society have the right to say, "No"? This is a problem that confronts many show societies in Queensland, not just this one.

I shall use Ipswich as an example because I know the situation there. The greyhound club is reportedly in grave financial trouble. It introduced night greyhound racing, but I am told that the crowds are very poor. For example, I understand that the frozen food company that has been supplying frozen food was owed thousands of dollars. In the end, it had to take its stock away. The greyhound club decided not to pay. I understand that last week a large number of members of the greyhound club decided to resign. At the same time, the show society that has been there for many years is faced with the worry about who will pay the debts if the greyhound club goes broke. I am told that a situation has been reached with the greyhound club where the bank that was backing the greyhound club went to the gate of the Ipswich Showgrounds and started to collect the money as the people passed through the gate to the greyhound races. So the bank that was backing the greyhound club was not too sure about the financial stability of the club.

Here we have a situation where a ballot is to be held. The ballot is highly suspect and is not being conducted in a democratic way. There is something wrong when they place numbers on the ballot-papers. The names on the ballot-papers are not in alphabetical order. They contain arrangements that help certain people and disadvantage other people. At the same time, a club that is operating in those grounds has been sponsored or financed by the Minister in charge of racing and his staff. The people who run the show society want to know what is going on. For example, the people who support the show society want to know whether the greyhound club pays any rent. Last year the show society lost \$29,000 on its year's operation. Anyone who recalls the story of the last Ipswich show will remember that even the sideshow people did not turn up. In addition, there was no trotting at the show, and the attendance was substantially down. As I say, the show society lost \$29,000 on the operation. A balance sheet was issued showing that a profit of over \$600,000 had been made. People were not advised that between \$600,000 and \$700,000 was provided in Government subsidies for the buildings on the showgrounds.

What is the present financial responsibility of a show society under those circumstances? Where does it stand? Does the Government when it steps in, as the Minister in charge of racing has done on this occasion, set up a liaison committee between the show society and the greyhound club so that they both have some responsibility, or is there some form of individual responsibility for the grounds? For example, what happens if the greyhound club is unable to repay its loan? Does the show society become responsible for the debt? What body has the right to make decisions about the showgrounds?

I know that the Arabian Horse Society went to the Ipswich Show Society and said, "We want to have a one-day show there." The Arabian Horse Society was told, "It will cost you \$500 for the day." It costs only \$50 a day at the Rocklea showgrounds. This is a public piece of land. Such land is generally held in trust. Generally, we have to pass an Act of Parliament if a society wants to sell the land or otherwise dispose of it. I am talking about a public piece of land in the middle of Ipswich. The trotting people have been thrown off it. There has been no trotting in Ipswich for some time because the trotting people cannot get the Kern Corporation,

which is involved in this deal, and the Moreton Shire Council to agree on the new siting of the trotting complex in the area. Trotting is going to the dogs, and the dogs are going bad.

The people on the show society are concerned. A large number of different people decided to run for show society ballots. I want to know what is going on. The people of Ipswich are entitled to an explanation. I ask the Minister to investigate this scandal.

Dr LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (10.20 p.m.): I support the Bill. I do so because I, as the local member, am totally unaware of any popular community move along the lines of the amendment foreshadowed by the Opposition spokesman to have the city council take over the land. Certain Toowoomba City Council aldermen have spoken in favour of the land being reserved for a cultural complex; but the facts have to be considered.

The Royal Agricultural Society in Toowoomba has taken it upon itself to purchase a very large tract of land that will enable it to run a show in a way that it believes it should be run for the people of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs—indeed, for the people of the State. As part of that transaction, the land is mortgaged. The Bill will allow the Bank of New South Wales, as mortgagee, to see some time in the foreseeable future when it can recover the moneys it has outlaid to the Royal Agricultural Society to buy the new block of land.

The type of amendment to be put forward by the Opposition will severely undermine the financial position of the Royal Agricultural Society in Toowoomba. In my opinion, the Opposition has not given any thought to its amendment. In fact, the proposed amendment could result in the financial ruin of that society. The type of amendment to be put forward is anti-RAS, anti-Toowoomba and anti-agricultural shows in general.

The proposal that the land be put aside either as a gift or to be held in reserve for the Toowoomba City Council ignores the fact that the society is in debt to the bank. I do not believe that the Labor Party is suggesting an alternative means of finance. It will leave the RAS with a huge parcel of land to develop at its own expense. The Labor Party, of course, will not be coming to the rescue. As I said, I do not think that the Labor Party has thought the amendment through; neither do I think that it has widespread support in the community.

Certainly, councils can become involved in such ventures as civic centres. However, it has to be said that commerce can, too. I will illustrate what I am talking about by referring to the Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association in Toowoomba. It was financially viable when it was first established four or five years ago. However, it is now experiencing severe competition from private entrepreneurs, who are taking away a good deal of the patronage. The police youth club is now having difficulty attracting the full patronage that it once enjoyed. I can envisage the time when, if the council establishes a cultural centre in Toowoomba, private entrepreneurs will see the value of it and enter the field. We will then have a huge council debt—or a State debt—languishing while a private facility flourishes.

The member for Lytton said that he had a great personal concern for the funding of show societies in the State of Queensland. I do not think that that concern is shared by his party. As I have said, the ALP amendment would strip the RAS in Toowoomba of the money it needs to relocate and redevelop its showgrounds, which it must do as the present site is far too small. My information is that since World War II various committees of the RAS in Toowoomba have considered alternative sites. To date, finance has always beaten them.

The society considered developing the showgrounds to include a greyhound track, but the area has a 2-metre slope and immense excavation would be required to provide a satisfactory greyhound track.

The grandstands are ageing. The committee has had to consider replacing them at immense cost. It has had to balance that with the fact that the site is too small to allow for the type of show that is envisaged as being suitable for the '80s and '90s and into the next century. After weighing up all the factors, the society decided that it must go elsewhere. One new pavilion has been constructed. The others are very old and to replace them would cost millions of dollars.

The showgrounds are not blessed with adequate parking space. In fact, during the show anybody who can find a car-park within half a mile of that area is extremely lucky. Facilities for patrons are not all that the RAS committee would like.

I have discussed the matter with the members of the committee and the people of Toowoomba. The objects of the Bill have been known for some time so all of the people of Toowoomba have had an opportunity to speak to me about them. The local newspapers have contained comments on them. From nowhere in Toowoomba has the suggestion come to me that there should be any type of amendment such as the Labor Party proposes to move this evening. The Bill must go forward without amendment.

Mr AKERS (Pine Rivers) (10.27 p.m.): I support the Bill. As the Government and the local member want it and there is no public outcry against it, I am very suspicious of the motives of the ALP in putting forward some other proposal. Perhaps it is engaging in a bit of grandstanding. Certainly I will support the Bill and oppose any amendment moved by the Opposition.

The Opposition spokesman said that the Government would have to pick up the difference between the money the society will be paid for the land and the money that will be available if the land is transferred. Once again the ALP proposal involves getting money from anywhere and spending it willy-nilly without any real thought. For all of those reasons I certainly oppose the amendment.

I wish to mention a couple of problems that occur in show societies in my electorate. Show societies form an excellent part of the community of Queensland. They are very necessary to enable people to see the agricultural and industrial development of the State as well as such things as school work.

The first society I mention is the Samford Show Society which, for several years, has been struggling to keep going. Six or seven years ago the show commenced as not much more than a pony club meeting and has become a full two-day show. But the trouble is that the society does not have its own land; it has to rely on the goodwill of the owner of private land. Therefore, the society has to go to the considerable expense and effort of setting up the entire showground and dismantling it at the completion of the show. Because the society cannot erect any permanent structures, it has to hire a marquee for \$500 or \$600 which is money down the drain.

I understand that part of the delay is caused by the Pine Rivers Shire Council and I call on the council to resolve the matter very quickly to establish the show society on its own land.

The second society I mention is the Pine Rivers show at Lawnton. It is a much older one. In fact, this year's show was its 78th. In the 30 years that I have attended that show, trotting has been one of its attractions. Most country shows have trotting as an attraction. It is not high-class trotting and certainly it does not have the big name horses or drivers, but it is good entertainment and is a good part of a local, country show.

But suddenly, virtually a few weeks before the show was due to start this year and without any warning or even a request from the society for approval, it received a letter from the Queensland Trotting Control Board saying, "In reply to your request for approval . . .", and it should be noted that that request did not come from the society, " . . . you cannot have any trotting this year." Suddenly the board decided that the track was unsafe. I know that there has been trotting at that show for 30 years and there has never been an accident worth mentioning. In fact, I cannot remember any accident during that period, so certainly there were no serious ones. For at least 10 or 15 years there has been greyhound racing at the showgrounds, and apparently it is the greyhound equipment that is suddenly being regarded as making the track unsafe. So although the trotting board has allowed trotting to go on for all that time, suddenly out of the blue it said, "No." The show society had lined up sponsors for several thousand dollars' worth of prizes. As I said, the show society gives an opportunity for horses slightly below the very best standard and drivers slightly below the very best standard to compete for reasonable prize-money and build up their reputations without having to go to the enormous expense of racing at Albion Park. Out of the blue, and without being given the opportunity to fix anything that was unsafe, the show society was told that it could not conduct any trotting. I do not think that is good enough. This Government says that it supports private enterprise and people who do their own thing, and to suddenly have a Government body take that action is far from good enough. I think it is a disgrace, and I hope that the problem will be resolved before next year.

Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (10.32 p.m.): I totally support the Bill. I believe it has the support of everybody I represent in the Toowoomba and surrounding areas. I believe they would be disgusted with the proposal put forward by the ALP, and I am sure that when it becomes public knowledge that the ALP wants the Royal Agricultural Society in Toowoomba to hold its capital investment in trust for the ratepayers of Toowoomba, so that the society cannot use its land in the way that it wishes and move to new premises outside Toowoomba, which are nearly 10 times as large as the present land, they will be even more disgusted.

I want to pay tribute to the committees of all show societies, and particularly the Royal Agricultural Society. The ladies and gentlemen who make up these committees have worked extremely hard over the years and have a long and proud history of presenting shows to the people of the Downs and surrounding areas. They are very proud of their shows, and justly so. There are two other societies that operate in my area, the Lockyer Agricultural and Industrial Society and the Crows Nest Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society. The Crows Nest show is a small country show, but the Lockyer show is a much larger event. The Royal Agricultural Society show in Toowoomba is a very large show and very well patronised. It sets very high standards and its crowds have been growing over the years. If the society believes there is public demand for it to conduct a show, and there certainly is, it will continue to do so. Several years ago it was thought that local shows were on the way out; they were finding that costs were running away from them, crowds were difficult to attract and their format seemed to be the same year after year. But then things seemed to change. There is no challenge like the one to produce the best quality article or the highest standard of animal in an area, and that challenge will always be there. The show societies have gone in for crowd-pleasing stunts and so on. They have gone to a lot of trouble to provide that style of entertainment for the general public so that all who go along to a show, not only the connoisseurs of cakes and plants but also the kiddies and adults who are not interested in the traditional show format, can have an enjoyable day.

I give the Bill my total support and reiterate my belief that I am sure the Opposition proposals will be thrown out of the House. I am sure that is the wish of the people in the Toowoomba area.

Hon. W. H. GLASSON (Gregory—Minister for Lands and Forestry) (10.36 p.m.), in reply: To say the least I was amazed at the amendment foreshadowed by the Opposition's lands spokesman relating to the resiting of the Toowoomba Showgrounds. The Opposition's proposal is against the wishes of the Toowoomba show society. I thought I made abundantly clear in my earlier speech the predicament confronting the Toowoomba show society. The honourable members for Toowoomba North and Lockyer spoke directly about the problems facing the show society. It is suffering from growing pains caused by the siting of the showgrounds. Things are so bad that the society is virtually being strangled.

I attended the last Toowoomba Show and witnessed at firsthand the problems besetting the Toowoomba show society. Thanks to the foresight and good management of the committee a new area of land was purchased. Unfortunately the committee got into a financial bind—and no-one needs reminding about the interest rate problems today—after raising a loan through the Bank of New South Wales to purchase the site for the new showgrounds. The committee approached the Lands Department for assistance to get out of its bind. I pay tribute to the departmental officers, especially the gentleman who is in the lobby tonight. The land is held under deed of grant in trust.

In my original speech I thought I made abundantly clear the responsibilities confronting the committee in relation to the land held in trust that had to be returned to the department. They would be given freehold title over it so that they could subdivide it and sell it to allow them to resite.

The amendment suggests that the land should revert to the Toowoomba City Council. What has the Toowoomba City Council to do with the Toowoomba Agricultural Society in relation to this land? It has nothing whatever to do with it. The land is held in trust by the Royal Agricultural Society. How does the Opposition suggest it would finance the resiting of the structures on the new area? After subdividing and selling the land the society will first pay the debt it owes to the Bank of New South Wales and the money left in hand will go towards developing the new showgrounds. The area will provide for the development of the showgrounds and for machinery and other demonstrations in the

area. The land will serve a dual purpose during shows. In addition, parking will be provided for show patrons. At present, there is no parking at the Toowoomba showgrounds. Anyone who wants to exhibit a dog at the Toowoomba showgrounds has to lead it for four or five blocks.

Mr Kruger: I have done that.

Mr GLASSON: In that event I am doubly surprised that the honourable member has foreshadowed the amendment which would virtually stifle the operations of the Toowoomba show society.

Mr Kruger: You have taken it the wrong way. Obviously you can't understand it.

Mr GLASSON: I regret that we see this matter in a different light.

The honourable member for Pine Rivers told us about his local show societies. We envisage exactly the same situation applying in relation to the Toowoomba City Council.

Problems will arise if the Royal National Association area is expanded. On Saturday, I spoke to the chairman of the RNA, Sir Archie Archer, who said, "Bill, we have growing pains here." Because the city of Brisbane is developing, it is only a matter of time before problems are experienced. The amendment proposed by the Opposition places another hurdle before the Toowoomba show society. I do not know how the Opposition approved and supported the amendment.

The honourable member for Sandgate spoke to the Minister in charge of racing about the development of the Deagon race-track. Opposition members should see the development that has taken place at Deagon as a result of the foresight of the Minister. There is now room to expand.

Mr Kruger: He had it sold.

Mr GLASSON: I will never accept that. The Minister in charge of racing, who because of illness, is not in the Chamber, has displayed more foresight and vision concerning racing than any other person in Queensland. To see that, one has only to travel around the State. The Government wants to see the same thing happen in relation to land available for show societies. The Toowoomba Show is a once-a-year opportunity for the city to display the show-case of the district. Everything should be done to assist the society. Although the member for Lockyer is not the member for the area, it is on his doorstep, and he is well aware of the situation. I am surprised that more Opposition members have not supported the Bill. I hope that they will oppose the amendment. I regret that I cannot accept the amendment.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Motion (Mr Glasson) agreed to.

Committee

Mr Akers (Pine Rivers) in the chair; Hon. W. H. Glasson (Gregory—Minister for Lands and Forestry) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Clause 5—Offer for sale of land freshly granted—

Mr KRUGER (10.43 p.m.): I have just heard the greatest heap of garbage ever to come from the Government benches. I must say that the issues were misconstrued. I tried to do something honest for the people of Toowoomba, believing that it was in their best interests. The Minister stated that he knows about the problems experienced at the Toowoomba showgrounds. I know the problems experienced at the showgrounds. Never in the remarks that I made, or when I indicated that an amendment would be moved, did I say that problems did not exist. I did not say that the Toowoomba show society should not shift to new grounds. I fully support most aspects of the Bill, but I believe that the Government should hold the existing showgrounds in trust for the local authority for development for community purposes.

The Minister and his colleagues have tried to make it appear that I have done something entirely different. That is not so. Unfortunately, that is the way in which the Government acts. I formed an opinion that seemed reasonable to a number of people. The Government can spend \$125m on the cultural centre. In no way did I suggest that we are going to try to stop the people in the Toowoomba area from selling

that land at its market value. This morning's "Daily Sun" reports that the society expects to net at least \$3m from the sale of the land and that Kern Corporation has proposed a \$20m development on the site. I am not worried if the Government has to pay \$3.5m to the show society towards the purchase of its new showgrounds. The Government members know what I was saying, but they do not want to admit it. They want the Opposition to appear as having no brains and not wanting to come up with a constructive proposal.

That is the type of attitude that Government members adopt. The honourable member for Toowoomba North went out of his way to try to convey the impression that things were not as I intended. He was followed by the honourable member for Lockyer, and, finally by the Minister. I thought the Minister would appreciate the nature of my comments and see some good sense in setting land aside. He said that the Opposition was denying the show society what it required. We are not denying it anything. We are proposing that the show society be paid the money that it would have got from a normal sale on the open market.

The Government can afford to spend \$125m on the Queensland Cultural Centre in Brisbane, but it cannot spend \$3m to hold a piece of land in the guts of Toowoomba. Obviously the Government would like the Kern Corporation and not the people of Toowoomba to have that piece of land.

The Government talks about decentralising cultural and sporting activities. The land in Toowoomba is a select piece of land. I have been to as many shows there as have Government members, and I know the land.

I take on board the statements made by the honourable member for Pine Rivers about the Pine Rivers show. The coursing club developed the land and suddenly the show society, which has owned that land and controlled it for many years, has very little say in what happens to it. Because the Trotting Board suddenly decided that because the turf on which the dogs run might be chewed up, the show society's wishes are just not on.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order! It is difficult for me as occupant of the chair to argue with the honourable member, but I do think that he is getting away from clause 5.

Mr KRUGER: I am trying to draw a parallel with the situation in Toowoomba. I am trying to show why my foreshadowed amendment is necessary. With your permission, Mr Akers, I shall deal briefly with the situation at Pine Rivers. Pegs are put outside the general coursing area for trotting, and it does not affect the grounds at all.

My main concern is that the Government will sit pat and that occasionally a Government member will try to make it appear that my remarks are designed to go against the wishes of the show society and that I am destroying the intent of the Bill, thereby ensuring that the show society cannot proceed with its intention. The inference drawn by Government members is incorrect.

I am saying that the show society in Toowoomba needs larger grounds. In my amendment I am merely saying that the Government ought to put up the money that the show society would obtain from the sale of the old block of land, so that it can offset the cost of the new block, as was intended in the Bill. That land should be held in trust only after the Government has taken control of it. It should not be held in trust by the council, nor should the council purchase it.

Most land that is held as parkland is Crown land held in trust by a local authority and controlled and maintained by a local authority. If at some time that local authority or the people of that local authority area decide that the land ought to be developed for cultural purposes, badminton courts, squash courts or anything else, and if it is not all used and it is decided that some of the land ought to be sold on the open market, there is no reason why that cannot be done.

I therefore move the following amendment—

“At page 3, line 30, after the word ‘otherwise’ add the following words—

‘Provided that the land shall first be offered to the Toowoomba City Council to be held in trust for the purpose of future development as a regional cultural centre or like use or other public purpose to be determined by the needs of the

people of the region surrounding Toowoomba. The value of the land to be paid to the Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland from the same fund as has provided the Brisbane Cultural Centre.’”

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order! Standing Order 316 provides—

“An Amendment, whereby the charge upon the people will be increased, may not be made to any such Resolution, unless the charge so increased will not exceed the charge already existing by virtue of some Act of Parliament.”

The last sentence of the amendment moved by the honourable member for Murrumba increases the charge on the people. Therefore, that sentence makes the amendment out of order. It is a matter for the honourable member to decide whether he wishes to withdraw the whole sentence or to have the whole amendment ruled out of order.

Mr KRUGER: Mr Akers, if that is your wish, I will delete the last sentence.

Mr BLAKE: I second the amendment moved by the honourable member for Murrumba. As the amendment was read out, I was amazed to hear the argument from the Government side that the intention of the amendment is to stand in the way of the society's moving to new grounds. That is not the intention in any shape or form.

Before speaking to that point, I point out that the Minister himself referred to how the society had become bound by growth within this area of Toowoomba. As there is a shortage of open space in that area of Toowoomba, the idea is that this is a great opportunity for the Government to acquire that land, perhaps place it in trust with the local authority and make the restitution that is necessary to get the society out of its problem. Surely there is nothing backward in that proposal. The Government and the Minister have talked about the growth in the area and the restriction on the use of the ground by the society. There is no intention on the part of the Opposition or in its amendment to stand in the way of the society's changing its venue or being recompensed to allow that to happen.

Surely this is an excellent opportunity for the Government to act and acquire some of the open space in Toowoomba that is now in great demand. As I implied before, there is nothing new in this situation. Local authorities in many cities throughout Queensland have not got sufficient open space left within their cities; but the cost of acquiring land in those cities would be more prohibitive than it would be in Toowoomba.

The situation in Bundaberg is similar. There is a shortage of open space and recreational areas, and a shortage of land for many other purposes, such as the establishment of pensioner villages or pensioner housing. In fact, in Bundaberg the Education Department has an area of land known as the Millbank Reserve. Since the building of the Avoca Heights school, the residents have expressed the opinion that that land in the Millbank Reserve is surplus to the requirements of the Education Department, if not for ever, certainly for quite a while in the future. They would like to see that land utilised as open space or even for the building of pensioner houses. If the land is surplus to the requirements of the Education Department, the people do not want to see it lying idle for a long time. They would prefer to see it handed over to the Works Department or the Housing Commission and used for housing aged persons in the area.

That concept, I believe, is a constructive one. The imputation of ulterior and obstructive motives to the Opposition simply indicates either that members on the Government side wish to mislead the Parliament about the intention of the amendment or that they do not understand the amendment.

I do not think that I need reiterate the fact that there is no intention—and there is nothing in the amendment that would facilitate it—of standing in the way of the wishes of the society to move to other grounds. It simply means that there is an excellent opportunity for this Government to acquire very scarce, valuable and necessary open space within the city of Toowoomba so that it can be utilised in the best interests of the citizens of Toowoomba, at the same time allowing the society to effect the objectives that it has expressed to the Minister. There is nothing sinister in our amendment. There is nothing obstructive in it. It simply gives the Government an opportunity to do something constructive and progressive for the citizens of Toowoomba.

Mr FITZGERALD: The Opposition is trying to grandstand on the issue. I do not think that it has discussed the matter with the Toowoomba City Council. It has put forward an amendment that has had to be altered.

Mr Kruger: Whom have you talked to in the council?

Mr FITZGERALD: I ask the member for Murrumba whether he has talked to the Toowoomba City Council.

Mr Kruger: Yes.

Mr FITZGERALD: Is he aware of the negotiations that have taken place already between the RAS—

Mr Kruger: What about yourself? Who is doing the grandstanding? You are trying to grandstand.

Mr FITZGERALD: I ask the member for Murrumba whether he has spoken to the RAS. Has he spoken to people from the Toowoomba City Council? Is he aware that negotiations have taken place? Is he aware that Toowoomba does not have a cultural centre? I agree that the Toowoomba City Council has been negligent over a number of years in not providing a cultural centre for the people of Toowoomba. I do not believe that the Government should be providing cultural centres for every shire or city throughout the State.

Mr Kruger: Have a look across the river.

Mr FITZGERALD: I know. I have had my say about that, too. However, I do believe that the city council has an opportunity to buy the subject land. The ratepayers and the council have every opportunity to come into this and purchase some of the land. They do not want the 25-odd acres, or whatever is there. They will probably not be able to utilise the lot of it. Toowoomba presently has no cultural centre. In fact, anyone wishing to run a dance in Toowoomba has to hire the indoor bowls hall.

Mr Kruger: You are supporting my amendment, apparently.

Mr FITZGERALD: I am not. What I am saying is that if the elected members of the Toowoomba City Council have decided over a number of years to make Toowoomba the second-lowest rated provincial city in Queensland, and if they wish to continue that, that is their policy; but this Government should not enter into it and decide to foot the bill for the Toowoomba city area.

Mr Kruger: That is a change of attitude for this Government.

Mr FITZGERALD: The Opposition has to realise that. It has not thought the amendment out, obviously. I believe that it has not had discussions with the RAS or the Toowoomba City Council. We on this side of the Chamber should not have to cop it.

Mr WRIGHT: I am amazed that the member for Lockyer would oppose the idea of this Government's making provision for a cultural centre in Toowoomba. I hope that all of his electors who would benefit from such a facility will remember that at the next election. I simply am amazed that he would suggest such a thing and propose in the Chamber that this Assembly should only support the provision of a cultural centre for Brisbane, for that is what he said. He said that this Government has no responsibility to assist shires, councils or cities—in other words, people—outside the metropolitan area to benefit from a cultural centre. However, having said that, let me set him aside. He has been caught off-side. He did not think of this himself and he is trying to take some credit away from the Opposition's thoughts and actions on this matter.

One would surely realise that 19 acres in the centre of a city such as Toowoomba would have a myriad of uses. One would have hoped that a responsive Minister such as the Minister for Lands would at least have canvassed the alternatives. I wonder whether the Kern involvement is the reason why that has not been done. One well knows the story of the past involvement of the Kern group in Toowoomba when it wanted land for a shopping centre and how the Minister for Local Government, a member of the National Party, overruled the decision of a special town planning study to ensure that the Kern group acquired a very valuable piece of land and was able to build a shopping centre that placed a number of stores in great difficulty.

I question the Government's intention here. No doubt the show society in Toowoomba would like to expand. That is understandable. The show society in Rockhampton is in a similar position; it is somewhat restricted by the amount of land that is available. Most show societies in provincial cities would like access to a far greater area of land, but the Government cannot give away valuable real estate as it has done here. The Parliament and the Government have a responsibility to act on behalf of the people of Queensland and to safeguard the realty of the State.

I say to the Minister that he will stand condemned for selling for the present and not thinking of the future. That is what is happening. The Government has proposed something that is for the short-term benefit of a society. As the city of Toowoomba grows and the population climbs to 100 000 and then 150 000, which must come about, the people will regret what the Assembly is doing tonight. Unfortunately, it will be the Minister, the Government and the Parliament that will be condemned for a lack of foresight.

The proposal of the member for Murrumba (Mr Kruger) is certainly a good one for Queensland. Although it contained a technicality—one cannot propose a motion that involves such expenditure—surely that could be overcome by way of a special loan. Surely there is a need for the Government to try to preserve such a facility, which is an asset not only to Toowoomba but also to the whole of Queensland. Surely the Parliament ought to reconsider this proposal.

I ask the Minister to tell us in his reply the alternatives that he considered. Or did he simply act on a request from a show society that would be very pleased to obtain a large amount of money to pursue its singular objective, which is what its interest is? I do not expect that society to consider all the cultural needs of Toowoomba; its job is a singular one in that it has a responsibility to cater for the exhibition-type activities of that city. Nobody blames it for wanting more land. However, the Government and the Minister have a greater responsibility, and I believe that the legislation should not be passed unless the Government accepts the amendment. In fact, I believe that the legislation should not go through so that a better amendment can be prepared in consultation with the Toowoomba City Council, the show society and the Government to ensure that the piece of land is preserved not just for Toowoomba but for the whole of Queensland.

Mr HARPER: I support the Bill without amendment. It is a very well known fact that the Opposition is opposed to the principle of freehold tenure. Honourable members seem to have lost sight of the fact that what is being talked about is a deed of grant in trust with the security that that terminology implies.

The Bill facilitates the disposal of the land by the responsible body so that, without cost to the Government, it may yet again achieve improvement to Royal Agricultural Society facilities for the total benefit of the community. I am pleased to see an agricultural society, a responsible body of people who give time and effort without charge, wanting to do something without cost to the Government. So often the Opposition's attitude leans towards Government hand-outs, and in this instance it has suggested something that will cost the Government money. In contrast to that, the Royal Agricultural Society is trying to achieve, without cost to the Government, something for the people that it represents and for the community that it serves. The Opposition's intention obviously is to obstruct the rights of the holder of the deed of grant in trust. Honourable members must remember that that is what we are speaking of and that it was discussed in this place in the previous session of this Parliament. No doubt it will be again discussed in the present session.

As I said, the Opposition is obviously out to obstruct the rights of the holder of that deed of grant in trust to act in the best interests of the community which the holder serves. Accordingly, I oppose the amendment and I wish the Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland continued success in its objectives.

Dr LOCKWOOD: I oppose this amendment. I very much doubt that the Opposition's motives are directed towards the best interests of the people of Toowoomba. I suggest that this is a cynically designed amendment that has been framed deep within the heart of the Labor Party with the help of a former alderman and a sitting alderman. The amendment will be defeated, not on party lines but on common-sense lines.

So that the people of my electorate know exactly what it is I intend to read the amendment into "Hansard" I want them to know that the Labor Party has moved the following amendment—

"Provided that the land shall first be offered to the Toowoomba City Council to be held in trust for the purpose of future development as a regional cultural centre or like use or other public purpose to be determined by the needs of the people of the region surrounding Toowoomba."

You have previously ruled under Standing Order 136, Mr Akers, that the last sentence of the proposed amendment is out of order, and so you should have. It reads—

"The value of the land to be paid to the Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland from the same fund as has provided the Brisbane Cultural Centre."

That sentence would add \$4m or more to this year's State Budget without having been budgeted for or approved. If it wishes, the Labor Party has the right to attempt to move that the Toowoomba City Council be compelled to purchase the land at its present value and add it to its budget for this year, which has not been approved either.

Mr Wright: That is not what it says.

Dr LOCKWOOD: That is what the amendment attempts to do.

The Labor Party is attempting to impose this cost on the State Government, even though at no stage in the past has it attempted to do so, or will it attempt to do so during the Budget debate this year. When the honourable Ken Tomkins was Minister for Lands and Forestry he received deputations from the Toowoomba branch of the Royal Agricultural Society, and I was very pleased to lead those deputations. The possible introduction of the Bill was discussed. The people concerned rely on its being passed to relieve them of the problems of congestion and noise round the showgrounds and to enable them to locate the showgrounds away from what was once the north-east corner of a small city. The showgrounds are presently located very close to the centre of a very large city that is bulging at the seams. On the basis of the legislation that was promised to the Royal Agricultural Society it began to plan a move to an alternative site. It has been looking for one since World War II. Members of the Opposition do not even know about some of the sites that were investigated. One such site was along Stephen Street, Harristown, near the railway line.

Mr Innes: You have to forgive them. They don't have any members in Toowoomba.

Dr LOCKWOOD: They opened this can of worms and they will have to suffer the consequences. As I said before, the Opposition has loaded a spring, and it will rebound in the middle of the back of the ALP in Toowoomba. But they have started it now and they can wear it.

Mr Powell: Are you suggesting that the Labor Party is run by other than its members in Parliament?

Dr LOCKWOOD: I think there are gods upstairs.

On that basis the Royal Agricultural Society planned a new site. It has reached the stage, without comment from the Opposition, where it is in debt to the hilt. It has entered into arrangements to purchase a new site which will cope adequately with expansion, perhaps for the whole of the twenty-first century. Opposition members who are grandstanding in this Assembly say that all of it should be put aside.

Mr Wright: That is not so.

Dr LOCKWOOD: That is right. The Opposition is trying to put \$4m in one sentence on the State Budget, or \$4m or more in another sentence on the Toowoomba City Council budget.

Mr Wright: As you know that is peanuts in the State Budget, because the land is worth every penny of it.

Dr LOCKWOOD: As the honourable member wells knows it is not peanuts. Many a project in the honourable member's electorate costs far less than \$4m. I want the people of Rockhampton to know that the honourable member for Rockhampton is advocating that priorities in his electorate be wiped off the slate while the money is spent in Toowoomba. Electors in all Opposition electrates should note that is what

has been advocated by the Labor members in this Assembly. The procedure would not stop there because Queensland has 134 local authorities each of which would be entitled to hold its hand out for \$4m, and that would total over \$500m.

As the member for Toowoomba North I have received complaints from members of the City Golf Club and RAS members on similar lines to the effect that Jack Duggan, a council alderman and deputy mayor, was seeking to resume large tracts of urban land in Toowoomba for a major developer. He went about that in the belief that he could resume land held under deed of grant in trust which could then be applied not for cultural purposes but for the purposes of large developers.

Mr Wright: Can you prove that? Will you say that outside?

Dr LOCKWOOD: I have the complaint. The honourable member should campaign on this in the City Golf Club, which is the workers' golf club. If he were to do that he would be shoved off the ground. An attempt was made by Mr Duggan to take the City Golf Club from the railway and other workers in Toowoomba. When he finally did his sums he was amazed to find that when a deed of grant in trust is revoked the land returns to the State Government. He went cold on that idea, which was prompted by the fact that the City Golf Club had its club house located on council land.

Mr Wright: Have you any shares in Kern?

Dr LOCKWOOD: No. The honourable member is talking to the wrong man.

Mr Wright: Did you sell them?

Dr LOCKWOOD: I did not have any shares. I treat the honourable member's question with the contempt it deserves. I put this old legal question, which I am sure my legal friends opposite will appreciate, to the honourable member: Have you stopped beating your wife? Answer "Yes" or "No". He has no defence.

The City Golf Club retained its land. I am pleased to say that its members still play golf there. Indeed, I played there two weeks ago.

Mr Duggan apparently learnt by his mistake. In moving on the deed of grant in trust held by the Royal Agricultural Society in Toowoomba he had none other than Labor's bright, shining star in Toowoomba, former alderman Lindsay Jones, attempt to have the deed of grant in trust revoked.

Mr Wright: I think Peter Wood has you worried.

Dr LOCKWOOD: No. The honourable member opened a rat trap from the past and I am springing it for him.

Alderman Lindsay Jones campaigned for the resumption of the deed of grant in trust. I can only doubt his motives. Certainly they were not designed to benefit the people of Toowoomba.

Mr Powell: He left Toowoomba under a cloud.

Dr LOCKWOOD: It was a very big cloud.

There is a very good chance of a cultural centre being amalgamated with the RAS and the greyhound facility, if the many people genuinely interested in a cultural centre were to consult with the RAS. Part of the purpose of this Bill is to allow the sale of that land with the moneys being applied to the designing of a facility.

Mr Wright: Sold to whom?

Dr LOCKWOOD: It does not say; it may be sold to anyone.

Mr Wright: Whom do you think will get it?

Dr LOCKWOOD: The land can be purchased by the Toowoomba City Council if the Labor Party digs into its pockets and gives it the money. It can be incorporated in the design. Adequate parking and other facilities can be provided.

The Toowoomba City Council has for years prided itself on lower rates. Recently an increase of 20 per cent in rate charges was imposed.

(Time expired.)

Mr GLASSON: I state very clearly that I was not trying to make muck of the Opposition's amendment. I would like Opposition members to appreciate the position in which the Toowoomba show society is placed. The Opposition amendment states—

“Provided that the land shall first be offered to the Toowoomba City Council to be held in trust for the purpose of future development as a regional cultural centre or like use or other public purpose to be determined by the needs of the people of the region surrounding Toowoomba.”

That is a most open, vague amendment. The Toowoomba show society is placed in a difficult monetary position. Members of that organisation spoke to commission members and me and said, “This is the bind we are in. How do we get out of it?” I was asked by the member for Rockhampton whether I knew about the firm Kern Bros. As far as I am concerned, I know nothing about Kern Bros and the present issue. What is more, I am not interested in that firm. The Government has endeavoured to do something positive to help a society in the city of Toowoomba to solve its problems and to obtain a new site.

Clause 5 of the Bill enables the best price to be obtained for the Toowoomba show society to resite its showground. All alternatives were considered.

Mr Warburton: You mentioned the Minister in charge of racing. As the Government will earn an additional \$4m from racing by way of taxation, would you use that money? You are looking for money. I am offering a suggestion.

Mr GLASSON: The member for Sandgate can keep that question for the Minister in charge of racing. I am referring to the Toowoomba show society. Clause 5 of the Bill is believed to be the best approach and a balance to achieve the objectives of the Toowoomba City Council.

I was surprised by the comments made by the member for Bundaberg. He said that the Government was out to make idiots of members of the Labor Party. If any Opposition member can convince me that the amendment proposed by the Opposition solves the problems of the Toowoomba City Council, I will carry a water-bag to Bourke. It is not possible to get agreement by the people in the city of Toowoomba. If the Treasurer looks after the problems of the Toowoomba City Council, then he has an obligation to look after every town and city in Queensland. In the present financial climate the Treasurer has enough problems without looking after the city of Toowoomba. Regrettably, I cannot accept the amendment.

Mr KRUGER: The Minister has told us that he believed that there was no good intent because of part of the proposed amendment. When he said that earlier it was quite clear that the money was going to be provided from other sources. Because of the wording of the Standing Order you quoted, Mr Akers, you disallowed the portion of my amendment that illustrated my good intent. I do not disagree with your ruling, but the amount of money envisaged by me could have been made available. If the Minister wants to make that the only reason for delaying the show society, he could take the Bill off for tonight and we could reconsider the ways and means in which finance could be made available to the show society.

Clause 5 reads—

“The Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland shall offer the land for sale and may do so—

by public auction or private treaty;
for cash or on terms of credit;
as one lot or more than one lot; and
with or without improvements thereon.”

That is the most open book that anyone could have for the disposal of the land in return for the best possible price that can be obtained.

The intent of the amendment is that money would be paid to the show society equivalent to the sum that it expected to get so that it could be offset against the purchase price of the new land. Any honourable member who does not understand what I meant has nothing between the ears. It has to be one or other of the alternatives. Everybody knows what I meant. It is only because of a technicality that I cannot move my original amendment.

If the Minister believes that what I am doing is an honest attempt to do something for the show society he can withdraw the Bill and come back with the necessary finance. Possibly the Minister would like to do that but because of the attitude of some of his back-benchers, particularly the member for Toowoomba North, he would not be game to do it.

Honourable members must realise that I did not intend to cripple or stifle the show society in its proposal to get rid of that prime piece of real estate in the middle of Toowoomba. It is possible that in the future it will be used for a nursing home or something else. It is prime real estate and it should not be allowed to slip into the hands of the Kern Corporation simply because of a technicality concerning an amendment moved in this Chamber.

Other measures have been knocked back because of technicalities. The Government has been forced to withdraw certain legislation because of technicalities. There are many other Acts that should be withdrawn because of technicalities. It may be cynical to think that the Government is trying to make out that my amendment is not put forward in the best interests of the people of Toowoomba and surrounding districts.

Mr Lee: We cannot understand it.

Mr KRUGER: I would not expect the honourable member for Yeronga to understand anything. He sits there half asleep all day and night. Since he lost his portfolio he has been sulking.

There is no point in speaking any longer; it is clear that Government members have made up their minds. However, I would make one last plea to the Minister—that he consider delaying the passage of the Bill and reconsider the intent of the amendment that I moved.

Mr WRIGHT: I ask the Minister to place on record exactly which alternatives were considered. As Minister in charge of this legislation he has a responsibility to tell honourable members. He referred in a general way to the alternatives. I ask him to tell us exactly which alternatives he, his department or the Government considered when they were disposing of the land and trying to resolve the problems confronting the Royal Agricultural Society in Toowoomba.

Mr POWELL: Clearly the Labor Party has given honourable members an insight into the way it works. It has been dictated to by a bunch of its members in Toowoomba who have attempted to usurp the functions of the democratically elected representatives of the people of that city. However, the Opposition does not have to perform any longer now that the Labor Party's "Godfather" has left the public gallery.

Mr Lee: Was that Beattie?

Mr POWELL: I believe that is his name.

Any honourable member who listened to the comments made by the two members who represent Toowoomba would realise that they support the Bill and in particular clause 5 as it reads. They support it fully. They are the elected representatives, and as someone sitting in the Chamber listening to the debate I am more likely to take notice of their comments than of some party-political nonsense put forward by Opposition members. It is quite clear that the Labor Party has a total misunderstanding of the way in which show societies work.

Maryborough is a very good example of a change of site of a show society. The Maryborough City Council owned the land and the show society shifted from the centre of Maryborough to the outskirts where, with State Government help, which has not always been acknowledged, it has been able to build an extremely good new showground. It is a credit to the area.

Obviously, that is what the show society in Toowoomba really wants to do. The society cannot do it unless it realises the asset that it has in Toowoomba, but the Labor Party would deny the society that. The people of Toowoomba will be best served if the Bill is passed without amendment. I sincerely hope that members have enough good sense to see the value of taking the advice of the Minister and of the elected representatives from the Toowoomba area.

Mr GLASSON: To answer the query raised by the member for Rockhampton—the committee and trustees approached us with a proposition. I believe that we had neither the prerogative nor the right to delve into the operations of the committee and the trustees or to inquire into something that they wished to do to improve their position in their city. No alternative was investigated by the department.

I move—

“That the question be now put.”

Motion agreed to.

Amendment (Mr Kruger) negatived.

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—Application of purchase money—

Dr LOCKWOOD (11.27 p.m.): The purchase money will come from the sale of the land by auction or private treaty. If it is sold by private treaty, there will be every opportunity for any organisation, individual or company in this State or nation to buy the land. No attempt is being made by the Parliament, the Government or the Cabinet to direct the RAS in Toowoomba as to whom it shall sell the land. The Government expects that the land will be sold to the highest bidder. A prospective buyer can purchase the land by private treaty if his price exceeds the reserve, or he can wait until the land goes to auction.

This clause refers to the development of the land described in the Second Schedule. Of course, this is the out-of-town land. One of the things that needs to be said about out-of-town land is that there can be ready access to it. If the RAS intends to go out of town so that it can accommodate a large number of cars, I venture to suggest that the time is fast coming when other sporting facilities will have to move out of the city centre. One that springs to mind does not have any off-street parking but, nevertheless, it survives by the grace of the city council and the superintendent of traffic.

Some of the popular venues that have been used quite often for many functions are the All Whites Rugby League Club and the Newtown Rugby League Club, which are on the boundary of the city. People like to use these venues because they provide off-street parking. They are well located in that, if a band is playing at night or a dance is proceeding, the neighbours do not become annoyed. So it should be with any cultural centre such as has been mooted by the Opposition. A cultural centre cannot survive with near neighbours if it is to do the fair thing by those neighbours.

As my colleague the member for Lockyer well knows, there has been a great deal of protest in Toowoomba about the noise from the showgrounds. The showgrounds committee, for its part, is doing the best it can to alleviate that noise problem by moving out of the city into the wide open spaces where there will not be a near neighbour. The noise generated by a show or a greyhound meeting will not annoy neighbours. The RAS is to be congratulated on that.

One of the matters that I have discussed with the RAS on the facilities required for a greyhound racing club at its present inner-city site is the use of multiple small speakers allowing everyone attending to hear the proceedings of a meeting in a function room instead of a single very loud speaker that would project sound far beyond the showground's boundaries.

At a site outside the town, the RAS would also be allowed to include, as set out in clause 6 (c), a speedway. In the past, the speedway has undoubtedly netted the RAS a great deal of money. However, speedways are very noisy as the cars are not muffled. When the speedway is in progress in Toowoomba, anyone half a mile or more away can have his peace shattered by the noise. The RAS is fully aware of that and is doing what it can to move its facility out of town.

I believe that the new facility has been thoroughly well researched and located. This Parliament should do all in its power to assist the RAS to obtain that location by applying the funds from the sale of its land in Toowoomba towards the purchase. I might say that there is absolutely no compulsion on the RAS on the part of the Government as to whom it should sell, just as there is no obligation on the Government to apply for the benefit of the RAS the land that has been held as a deed of grant in trust in the city of Toowoomba. That is done for the RAS out of the good graces of the Government to see the RAS well established on its new site. That generous offer by the Government is, I believe, worth \$2.5m on today's prices. As a gift to the RAS, it is well worth while.

Individually, members of the RAS will not end up as wealthy land owners. The new site will revert to the Government as a deed of grant in trust. No individual member of the society will obtain a pecuniary benefit in any way from his association with the RAS, the sale of the land or the acquisition and development of the new site.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7, first and second schedules, and preamble, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Glasson, by leave, read a third time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House): I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

Pensioner Travel Concessions

Mr SMITH (Townsville West) (11.36 p.m.): I wish to discuss the discrimination against Queensland pensioners. The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation recently launched a new advertising campaign designed to entice more visitors to experience the wonders of Queensland. The theme of “Queensland, the amazing State” is being promoted in a most attractive manner and I feel that the campaign will be successful because Queensland certainly is an amazing State. The events of the last few hours concerning the 38-hour week campaign have proved that, if nothing else.

The State’s promoters quote the most recent figures on population growth and it appears that our numbers have been swelled by an influx of southerners who have come to Queensland to settle, frequently to start a new life or to retire. Southern-based companies are looking to Queensland as a site for business expansion, and the potential for industrial and development expansion is encouraging. Somebody has already said this evening that Queensland has 46 per cent of the nation’s major projects.

Southern holiday-makers also flock to Queensland to thaw out in the warm winter and, as regular head counts are conducted, Queensland is found to be the most popular State for Australians to visit. Queenslanders in one way or another all display pride in their State. It could be a great State, in spite of the Government, and it certainly could be another California. It would, however, be just as interesting to know the number of interstate visitors who are not able to come to Queensland.

Pensioners, who in their circumstances of having to live on a low fixed income, tend to rely quite heavily on pensioner travel concessions in order to achieve that travel. Remarkably, in the amazing State of Queensland pensioner travel concessions are not available to non-resident pensioners. In other States of Australia travel concessions are available to non-resident pensioners on a reciprocal basis. Queensland, however, elects to abstain from this type of arrangement because the Government feels the cost and responsibility for assistance to non-resident pensioners should be accepted by the Commonwealth Government as part of its social services program to pensioners. In other words, it won’t play the game; it won’t come to the party.

As can be expected, because Queensland denies travel concessions to non-resident pensioners, other States have instituted retaliatory measures against Queensland pensioners. Most honourable members should be aware of the sign at Circular Quay in Sydney that advises that pensioner concessions are not available to pensioners from overseas and Queensland. No wonder southerners say that Queenslanders are different. I consider that sign to be a gross insult to Queensland pensioners and the whole matter to be a shameful affair.

When the Minister for Transport was questioned by an Opposition member on this matter in Parliament in August 1980, his answer hardly compensated for the cost imposed on Queensland pensioners travelling interstate, or for the cost imposed on interstate pensioners who have to pay full travel costs when visiting our amazing State. Surely the Government can realise that the amount of money non-resident pensioners save through travel concessions would be spent here and that would pay for the concessions, if they were available. The whole affair discredits Queensland and lowers the dignity of pensioners everywhere.

While on the subject of pensioner concessions, I would like to enlighten members about a very peculiar situation that has come to my attention. The Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs awards the dependants of totally and permanently incapacitated pensioners two free rail fares a year within their State of residence. In Queensland this concession was available from the Department of Welfare Services via the Department of Employment and Labour Relations and is now available through the Department of Children's Services. The procedure is that a pensioner's wife makes application and, if she is found to be eligible, the children of the family travel on her concession.

If ever there was maladministration and total disregard for the possibility of anomalous situations it is to be found in the following example: When a totally and permanently incapacitated pensioner's wife, for whatever reason, is no longer with the family, particularly if she has died, the children of the pensioner, who are still dependants, are not eligible for the travel concession. The pensioner cannot apply on their behalf because his travel concession is arranged directly through the Railway Department by way of ticket booklets and those tickets apply only to him. The children, by virtue of being dependants, cannot apply for themselves.

(Time expired.)

Gold Coast Nursing Home

Mr JENNINGS (Southport) (11.41 p.m.): I regret that it is necessary for me to make this statement to the Queensland Parliament in regard to conditions and the feeding of patients at the Gold Coast Nursing Home, 40 William Street, or 78 Stevens Street, Southport.

On Monday, 19 July, I received verbal and written complaints from a number of people that there were alarming and major deficiencies in the management and the quality and quantity of food being served to the 90 old patients at that home.

I checked with the senior official of the Health Department in charge of nursing homes. He confirmed that there were a number of serious problems and requested that I submit my complaints in writing to the Minister. He said, "There is no way we are going to put up with what is happening there." He said also that since the new management took over under an arrangement there had been approval for approximately 50 additional beds.

The official informed me that the Health Department had sent two dietitians, two nurses, one medico and one Health Department official to inspect and report on the premises, and that they visited the home in pairs and issued a set of instructions to the management.

I wrote a letter to the Minister the same day, 19 July 1982, marked "Urgent". In it I outlined my concern that the department seemed unable to take immediate action to correct the situation in which old people were losing weight alarmingly. I recommended that consideration be given to instituting proceedings for criminal negligence as I felt this was the quickest method of getting action.

I was informed that, following my representations, the Minister had arranged for another nursing sister and a dietitian to visit the hospital and that they issued certain instructions.

By Tuesday, 27 July, I was advised by numerous people that conditions at the home had not improved. I advised the Minister by telex that, because of this situation, I had visited the home myself and was informed that there was joint management between Mr Richard Wittman and Mr Manfred Schroder.

I discussed the situation with the matron and Mr George Wittman (who is the father of Richard Wittman) over the phone.

I handed Mr Richard Wittman a letter which stated that I intended to take every possible action to see that such negligence was stopped.

I telexed the Minister advising him that I had visited the home and had received from the management an agreement to have a dietitian from the Health Department visit the home.

I requested that the Health Department send an appropriate dietitian to investigate the situation over a period of, say, a week or so and report back.

I received a telex at 9.30 a.m. on 29 July 1982 from the Minister which stated that it was not departmental policy to supply a dietitian as requested and that such personnel issue instructions, explanations and books of reference at the time of inspection and reinforce these subsequently with written details.

As it became obvious that the management had ignored any such instructions, I immediately decided to engage a dietitian and nutritionist to inspect the home on my behalf and at my expense and to report back on the food, the menus, the general conditions in regard to these matters and the weight of patients, etc. I engaged Miss Susan Hatch, BSc, Grad Dip Nutr & Diet, from Southport to carry out this investigation.

Even after her engagement I continued to receive complaints from a number of people about the lack of food, patients losing weight, lack of hygiene and an Alsatian which had the objectionable habit of biting people.

Miss Hatch submitted her report to me on 12 August. I regarded it as alarming and conclusive evidence that the claims of underfeeding, insufficient food supply and inefficiency and a complete repudiation of instructions from the Health Department were correct.

Briefly, the report by Miss Hatch states that a menu was non-existent, that there were major deficiencies in the food served, that the staff had to bring their own margarine, powdered milk and eggs and that the number of chickens used for a main meal during Miss Hatch's attendance was 3 x 3½ boiling chickens, which provided only 61 grams per person instead of 250 grams.

I might add that at one meal prior to my visit the management admitted that they had only one chicken for 90 people. Quite often, cheese was not available, even when it was the main meal protein source. Under the new management, the milk supply was cut by 54 litres to 20 litres for 90 people. The main protein for breakfast was scrambled eggs. The number of eggs was cut from 90 to 36 for the 90 people. Fresh fruit was practically non-existent.

During July, the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables purchased dropped in money terms from approximately \$60 per week to approximately \$15 per week.

There was no proper hygiene or garbage storage. There was an attempt to cover up a weight record book and scales. Upon further investigation it was found that some of the patients had dropped dramatically in weight over the past two to three months by up to 6 kg.

There have been many other complaints including complaints from doctors that their patients were continually hungry. In spite of their specific complaints to the matron nothing was done to increase the food supply.

I visited the hospital again on Sunday night, 15 August, and found that the meal which was to be served in the dining-room was a proper cold meat salad, etc., and was advised that over the last few days, since the dietitian whom I had personally commissioned had carried out her investigations, there had been a dramatic improvement in the supply of food.

I have received a letter from the Minister for Health dated 13 August advising that a number of visits have been made by his departmental staff, that all action possible within the current legislation has been taken and that he has requested the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police to consider instituting proceedings for criminal negligence.

I bring this matter to the attention of the House because it is important for honourable members to consider which laws of the State should be amended so that, in future, immediate action may be taken against the management of any private nursing home that purposefully and callously sets out to underfeed patients in spite of requests and instructions to the contrary from Health Department officials and doctors.

Most of us will be old some day. Each of us has parents, and each of us has a responsibility to see that people who cannot protect themselves are protected. Each of us must see that the people who are responsible for, and who are paid to look after, older people who cannot look after themselves do just that.

I therefore table the background documents relating to this matter and seek leave to have included in "Hansard" the report of Miss Susan Hatch, dietitian, which I commissioned.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the documents on the table.

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Southport sought leave of the House to have a certain document included in "Hansard"

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! The honourable member for Southport did not seek leave, but I will give him an opportunity to do so. I understood that he intended to table the document.

Mr JENNINGS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I sought leave to have included in "Hansard" the report of Susan Hatch, dietitian. I do not seek leave to incorporate all the documents that I tabled. It is only the dietitian's report that I seek leave to have included in "Hansard"

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not all of the documents?

Mr JENNINGS: Only the dietitian's report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! It is the usual practice in this House for members wishing to have documents included in "Hansard" to see either Mr Speaker or Mr Deputy Speaker before they address the Chamber. My understanding is that the honourable member did not approach Mr Speaker or myself. If that is so, I cannot allow the document to be included.

Bush Fire Dangers

Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (11.47 p.m.): I bring to the attention of the House the grave fire danger in some of the rural residential areas surrounding the city of Toowoomba and in the Gatton and Crows Nest areas created by the heavy growth of grass after good early summer rains and the very severe winter with heavy frosts.

Nowadays, many people in rural areas have no experience of problems relating to the land. In earlier days, people on the land were used to dealing with flood, drought and fire. The development that has taken place in the last couple of years in the areas to which I referred has meant that many rural properties have been subdivided into rural residential and hobby-farm areas. Many people have moved from the city to enjoy country life and to bring up their families in the solitude of the country. Sometimes they do not take into account the dangers of the site on which they build their houses.

I draw to the attention of honourable members and the people concerned that, in undulating country, people should be very careful about siting their houses. They must assess their chances of getting out of the way of fires that might happen to sweep up hills on which houses are built. The problem is accentuated when a house is sited two-thirds of the way up a rise. The safest place in which to build a house is at the bottom of a rise, but most people prefer to build on a rise because they prefer to have a view. When people select the side of a hill as a site for a house, they should be aware of the fire danger and always keep the area around the house and yards clear of all flammable material.

In recent years it has become very popular to put houses in bush settings, with gums and other native trees hanging over the gutters and growing up against walls. How many people who build houses in such positions have ever experienced a real bushfire, which can sweep over many chains in a couple of minutes, trapping horses and cattle? I am concerned that some of these inexperienced people will endanger their own lives and the lives of their children.

Many of the people who settle in these particular areas have no experience in fighting fires. Quite often, the men folk are away during the day because they generally have jobs away from their rural residential properties or hobby farms. In other words, their main source of income is not derived from that property. One can realise the predicament in which a woman is placed when she has no planned line of retreat. She may not know which way to escape from the property if a fire reaches the front gate. There is a real danger to such people. They rely on a bush fire brigade, if there happens to be one in their area.

If somebody goes out to burn rubbish around his place, he may not be aware that he could be starting an illegal fire. All fires are illegal if they are lit in the open. A permit from the local fire warden is required to light a fire. This draws attention to the precautions that must be taken before a fire is lit. Before I entered Parliament I had carried out the functions of a fire warden. People were amazed at some stipulations placed on them. Some people are of the opinion that a box of matches is all that is required to light a fire. They take with them a dry bag and begin to light 100 or 200 acres. They think that they will be able to control it. In the past, if I knew that they had no experience, I always insisted that they seek the assistance of a number of people to help them burn off. I asked people to consider burning off their properties in controlled burns. It should be done very quickly.

Fire dangers are becoming worse each day as the weather warms up. Fire-fighting equipment should always be kept on hand. If people desire to live in isolated areas, they probably will not have the benefit of a town fire brigade to come to their assistance. Most rural areas are beyond the limit of reticulated water supplies. Therefore, the fire brigades have no obligation to go to anybody's aid. It must be realised that people who live on their own can rely only on the bush fire brigades and must take precautions themselves to protect their property and the lives of their families. Adequate water supplies must be on hand.

Refuges for Homeless Youths

Mr FOURAS (South Brisbane) (11.52 p.m.): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the serious and tragic problem of youth homelessness. A recent survey by a Senate committee indicated that in Brisbane there were 2 000 homeless youths and hundreds of homeless youths in country areas. Unfortunately, the penny-pinching response by the Queensland Government to that serious problem is a classic example of the malaise that is gripping Queensland's welfare system. The policies of the Government are uncaring, unjust, and unrealistic. Queensland has only 11 youth refuges. Surveys have indicated that hundreds of kids are either roughing it up in disused houses, sleeping under bridges and in toilets or having to jostle with winos in homes run by the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul. That is a tragic situation. Youths as young as 14, 15 and 16 years are jostling for a bed with winos at those homes. However, the Government does less than any other State to attack that problem.

Some years ago Queensland was the last State to enter a program for youth services. Money was provided by the Commonwealth Government on a dollar-for-dollar basis to provide refuges and street services for homeless youths. Queensland is just meeting its commitment. It is presently \$150,000 a year. It has not been increased for two years. There is a need for changes in policy. The Federal Government has been very remiss in the provision of unemployment benefits for people under 18 years of age.

Tonight they received the grand gesture by the Fraser Government that increased that \$36 a week, which has not been increased since 1975, to \$40 a week—a mammoth amount when one considers that it costs \$45 a week for ordinary accommodation around Brisbane. Most children who have left home do not want to return because they prefer to rough it rather than return to the environment from which they ran away.

The last survey at the Salvation Army Home "Pindari" revealed that one-third of the occupants were under the age of 18 years. Hundreds more are roughing it. One wonders why no progressive policies to overcome youth homelessness are forthcoming from the Government. It is about time that the Government provided some half-way houses and some medium-term accommodation apart from the accommodation provided for emergency cases, which can be accommodated for up to six weeks in a refuge.

Look at what New South Wales is doing. That State has 21 refuges funded under the Commonwealth/State agreement. In addition New South Wales provides more refuges funded by itself and it provides money for half-way houses. In the 1980-81 Budget of the New South Wales Government it allocated \$222,000 to half-way houses. Furthermore, the 21 refuges that are funded on the joint basis receive special assistance from the New South Wales Government by way of welfare grants totalling \$200,000.

On top of all that, the New South Wales Government has programs aimed at relieving this problem. It has stretcher family programs under which families can take in homeless youths after they have been through the emergency accommodation. In the last financial year that program cost the New South Wales Government \$120,000.

Because of the very serious problem in Sydney's western suburbs the New South Wales State Department of Planning and Environment has founded three of its own refuges there. In another area the Welfare Department funds two of its own refuges, at a cost of \$130,000. Over and above its commitment under the Commonwealth-State agreement, the New South Wales Government is spending \$670,000.

In contrast, Queensland is refusing to top up Commonwealth funds in this area of welfare just as it is in others. It is about time that it helped the kids. Juvenile crime is on the increase. The incidence of breaking and entering is on the increase. Yet kids are left to roam the streets and to rough it. It is time that, instead of adopting an uncaring, unrealistic attitude, this State Government did something for the homeless kids and matched the efforts of the other States. Every day we are told that Queensland is the richest State in Australia and that it is not suffering from a recession. It should therefore allocate more money to these welfare projects.

(Time expired.)

Gold Coast Nursing Home

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise) (11.57 p.m.): My contribution will be relatively brief. I want to endorse the remarks made by the honourable member for Southport in relation to inquiries that were made concerning the Gold Coast Nursing Home.

As the honourable member mentioned earlier this evening, he adopted a very responsible approach and commissioned a dietitian, Susan Hatch of Southport, to examine food that was prepared for the patients at the Gold Coast Nursing Home.

It is important that the findings of Susan Hatch be incorporated in "Hansard", so Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have incorporated in "Hansard" the report of Miss Susan Hatch in relation to dietary service at the Gold Coast Nursing Home.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! I have viewed the report, as is customary, and I have no objection to the honourable member's seeking leave to have it incorporated in "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following document:—

Ground Floor,
National House,
80 Nerang Street,
Southport, Qld. 4215

To: Mr. Doug Jennings, M.L.A.

Gold Coast Nursing Home Report on Dietary Service 12th August, 1982

Since the time of my initial approach to the above Nursing Home on 2nd August, 1982, some improvement has been made. The situation at the Home with regard to food service, however, remains drastically inadequate.

The major deficiencies in the food service stem from poor planning and cost-cutting activities.

1. No menu existed prior to Monday, 9th August, 1982. The present one, though suitable on paper, has not been strictly adhered to due to lack of supply of foodstuffs, at the time of preparation.

2. The food Supply system is inefficient. The management have sole access to the food store. The duty cook must order the food at two p.m. each day, for the following three meals, from the matron and this is then taken from the store. Often, requested stores are not available. The job description for the day kitchen supervisor, lists the responsibility for food availability and budgeting as resting with the supervisor. With the present system, this is not possible, and hence, no one person is taking responsibility for budgeting or availability of food.

Examples:

Staff had to bring their own margarine, powdered milk and eggs from home for patient meals. On the week-end of 7th and 8th August, there was no menu

planned. It became a case of "use what is available and decide on a menu on this basis" This is not the way to provide a nutritionally balanced diet for ninety old people.

There is no established menu, budget or standardised food orders. General organisation of the food ordering and supply is not conducive to a reliable nutrient intake by the patients.

In more detail—deficiencies in the current food service system (which is for the above reasons, by no means a stable service) follow.

Quantity:

Protein intake is low.

Meat/chicken/fish—Raw weights ordered per meal are not sufficient. When chicken used for the main meal is curried chicken, 3 x 3½ boiling chickens are used. This means that raw weight per person is approximately 61 grams. The Health Department recommends 250 grams.

Not all meat cooked is served but is saved for either vitamisation for soft diets (at a later meal) or as on 11th August, 1982 for cold meat salad to be served at tea on Sunday, 15th August.

Lunch time cooked meat serve was no more than 60 grams. There is no meat/chicken/fish etc. in the evening soup. (Save once since new management when bacon bones were used).

Cheese—Cheese is not available often and therefore does not contribute to the protein intake. It is not served at midmeals. It was not available from store recently when macaroni cheese was the main dish on the menu.

Milk—Supply of fresh milk has been cut from 54 litres to 20 litres under the new management, with the view to supplementary with powdered milk.

Contrary to Health Department recommendation this powdered milk is commonly used in egg and milk dishes and with the morning oats. (when it is available).

NOTE: Staff have been advised that they may purchase extra milk and food if necessary at the time of meal preparation. This is inefficient.

No extra milk drinks are available to patients requiring extra calories or protein. Sustagen has been termed available but supplies are not sufficient.

Eggs—The main protein in the morning is scrambled eggs. The Queensland Health Department recommends one egg per person, served. All patients need this protein (ninety patients) and yet only 36 eggs are used.

Additional poached eggs are sometimes provided but these eggs are taken at the expense of another meal.

Midmeals are not sufficient. They consist of ¼ slice white bread with peanut butter or vegemite or for the last ten days, bought biscuits. The supply of bought biscuits was one box per week, it has now risen to three boxes per week.

The serving of green vegetables at lunch time is not adequate (e.g. two cabbages for ninety people) and sometimes non-existent.

Fresh Fruit—is not available to the patients daily, (once only since 2nd August, 1982). Fruit juice is only provided to the diabetic patients, and this has not been every day due to lack of supply.

Since July, the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables purchased in money terms has dropped from approximately \$60.00 per week to approximately \$15.00 per week.

Tea and water are provided between meals but cordial is not. Cordial (providing extra calories) has been served only once since 2nd August, 1982.

The money spent on dry goods ordered from Queensland Wholesale Department on behalf of the home have dropped by \$300.00 to \$400.00 per week since June.

Quality:

The food is generally of average quality. Some dishes served regularly are not suitable for most old patients, e.g. curries—and these may be served at lunch and then vitamised and served again at the evening meal. Food is held for too long before serving.

Frozen vegetables are placed in a pot quarter full of cold water and overcooked. (These procedures lead to nutrient loss).

Plates are not warmed and no facilities (e.g. Bain Maries) are available for keeping food heated until served, hence meals are often cold when received by the patient.

Due to lack of food service staff, the load on the two kitchen staff helpers is great, and individualisation of the food service is often not possible.

Prepared food was uncovered and standing in the kitchen. Kitchen cleanliness and general hygiene procedures are poor due to the lack of time by the kitchen staff and inadequate facilities.

The dishwasher is periodically not functional and inefficient even when it is operating. The evidence of soiled dishes waiting to be served again was obvious. There were no teatowels.

There are gaps in the screen door to the exterior.

Until 11th August, 1982, split garbage bins were used to store dry foods in the pantry. Vegetables were not stored 6 inches off the floor. Cupboard doors in the kitchen remained broken for a long period and have recently (2-3 days) been repaired.

Patient Weight Record Book

On 2nd August, 1982, Matron Carey advised me that there were no functional scales to weigh the patients and that a weight book as such was not kept. She further expressed concern that most residents were underweight. From my observation this is indeed true.

On investigation, I find there is a weight record book and an efficient set of scales. The weights of the patients have dropped dramatically over the past 2-3 months, some by up to 6 kg.

The patients have been weighed monthly. The nursing staff have just restored the weight record book after a period of it being in Matron Carey's possession.

The weighing of patients in the Nursing Home should be occurring at least twice monthly.

Susan Hatch,
Dietitian Nutritionist

New Nogoia River Bridge; Cotton Industry in Emerald District

Mr LESTER (Peak Downs) (11.59 p.m.): I rise to refer to two matters that are of importance to the Emerald area and the Central Highlands. One is the early construction of a new bridge over the Nogoia River and the other is the great asset that the cotton industry has proved to be to the area.

The Nogoia River Bridge is situated at the eastern end of Emerald on the Capricorn Highway. It is a narrow, low and dangerous bridge. I appeal to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police to allocate funds to the construction without delay of a new bridge.

[Wednesday, 18 August 1982]

Mr Neal: Get in while Mr Gunn is running the show.

Mr LESTER: It is very good that the Minister for Education (Mr Gunn) is listening to me. I appreciate that very much. He is a very good Minister. I do not know how he is able to do all the things that he does.

This bridge is also a bridging point for the towns of Emerald, Clermont, Capella, Tieri, Springsure and all points west to Longreach. It is also a bridging point between Longreach and Rockhampton. The bridge is of particular concern to many people because it has been structurally weakened by the heavy machinery used on the coalfields and in the other important industries in the progressive Central Highlands area that has had to cross it recently.

The Nogoia River divides the town of Emerald. That is one reason why it is important that a bridge should be accessible to all the people of Emerald at all times. Although the main part of the town is on the western side of the Nogoia River, on the eastern side there are many facilities, including a very important caravan park, an airport, the Andrews Estate, a very modern cotton ginnery and the grain storage facilities. A lot

of children and other people use this bridge. I appeal to the Minister to ensure that when the new bridge is constructed a bikeway and walkway are provided. That will assist many people.

I turn now to the cotton industry in the Emerald district. It is one of the success stories of Queensland. Many people criticised the building of the Fairbairn Dam, which was opened in 1972. They said that \$20m-odd was too much money to spend on that dam. I suggest that that \$20m has been repaid in taxation over and over again by the coal-mining companies, the people of Emerald who use the water and the cotton farmers. Water is an important investment, and this dam, which holds three times the amount of water in Sydney Harbour, is playing a very vital role in the development of the Emerald area and of Queensland as a whole. There are now 91 irrigation farms in the area. Most of them are producing cotton, but some are used to grow other primary products. There are 70 design-type farms and 21 river farms. There are some 17 000 acres of cotton in the Emerald area. Cotton was introduced into the area in 1974, and from 1978 onwards it has been a major industry in Queensland. In fact, it is the third-largest income earner, behind wheat and sorghum, in the Central Highlands area.

In the public gallery tonight are some cotton farmers from the Emerald area. It is good that they have stayed until the end of the proceedings to hear a few comments made about this important and progressive area of the Central Highlands. When people from my area are in the public gallery, it is good to see the Premier come in to listen to the comments being made about the area.

(Time expired.)

Abuse of Mining Act to Obtain Residential Rights

Mr AKERS (Pine Rivers) (12.4 a.m.): I rise to raise an example of the abuse of the Mining Act and to ask the Minister for Mines and Energy to investigate the matter. I have a letter from Mr Brian Hunter who, together with a Mr John Foxlee, formed a company called Pompy Pty Ltd to purchase a property on which to operate a Brahman stud in the Dallarnil area between Childers and Biggenden. Part of the land that they purchased is in the Stanton Harcourt mining field. A Mr Joe Vella had several large mining leases over the area at the time of the purchase. He informed Hunter and Foxlee that the area was worked out and that, if his production did not improve, he would cease operations. He has not worked the area for more than 12 months.

However, a Mr and Mrs Freeman are the difficult ones. According to the previous owner, they were squatting on the land for the past few years without his consent; but as he did not reside on the land, he took no action to have them removed. Probably he left them there for security reasons.

Last August Mr John Foxlee and his family moved to the property and began construction of their house. Mr Freeman led Mr Foxlee to believe that he and his family were trespassers on their own property.

In trying to resolve the matter, Mr Freeman told Mr Foxlee to see his solicitor. That is a good way to start off any relationship. The Foxlees asked Freeman to leave, which he refused to do. They then took legal action against him for trespass.

Mr Freeman and his wife have now applied for a mining lease and two mining claims. I believe that they are using the Act merely as a legal technicality to obtain occupancy of the area of a permanent residence and not for the purpose of mining.

Since that time, Mr Freeman has threatened and harrassed Mr Foxlee in his daily activities on the property, which is Mr Foxlee's property. Freeman, purely through the subterfuge of a mining application, thinks that he owns the place. The Freemans have made it very clear that they do not intend to mine the area, that their primary objective is to obtain the right of residence under the Act.

An application—number 869—is presently before the mining warden. I ask the Minister to look seriously at that application, to look at the bona fides of the Freemans, and then to consider whether there is some way in which that type of abuse of the Act can be eliminated.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! The time allotted for the Adjournment debate under the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 5 August has expired.

Motion (Mr Wharton) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.7 a.m. (Wednesday).