

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 1982

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TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 1982**SITTINGS DURING REMAINDER OF SESSION**

Pursuant to the proclamation by the Governor, dated 11 October 1982, that the remainder of the current session of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Queensland be continued and holden on Tuesday, 12 October 1982, in the Legislative Assembly Chambers at Parliament House, the House met at 11 a.m. in the Legislative Assembly Chambers.

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. S. J. Muller, Fassifern) read prayers and took the chair.
The Clerk read the Proclamation.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following Bills reported by Mr Speaker:—

Constitution Acts Amendment Bill;
Rural Fires Act Amendment Bill;
Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Bill;
Local Government Act Amendment Bill;
Hospitals Foundations Bill;
Hospitals Act Amendment Bill;
Soccer Football Pools Act Amendment Bill.

REOCCUPATION OF RESTORED PARLIAMENT HOUSE, WELCOME TO ALL MEMBERS

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I extend a special welcome to all members into the refurbished Parliament House. I feel sure that all members will join with me in congratulating the skilled tradesmen on the high standard of workmanship evidenced throughout the building.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: During the transition from the Parliamentary Annexe there probably will be some minor administrative difficulties, but I confidently look forward to the co-operation of all members during this period.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the year ended 30 June 1982
President of the Industrial Court of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1982
National Trust of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1982
Metropolitan Transit Authority for the year ended 30 June 1982
Queensland Museum for the year ended 3 December 1981

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977-1981
State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971-1981
Jury Act 1929-1981
Liens on Crops of Sugar Cane Act 1931-1981
Justices Act 1886-1980
Magistrates Courts Act 1921-1976
State Securities Registration Act 1925-1981
Real Property Act 1861-1981
Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act 1967-1980
District Courts Act 1967-1980
Supreme Court Act 1921-1979
City of Brisbane Act 1924-1980
Harbours Act 1955-1980
Harbours Act 1955-1982
Electricity Act 1976-1982

Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982
 Noise Abatement Act 1978-1982
 Metropolitan Transit Authority Act 1976-1979 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982
 Forestry Act 1959-1982
 Forestry Act 1959-1982 and the Acts Interpretation Act 1954-1977
 Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act 1958-1979 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982
 Irrigation Act 1922-1979 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982
 Water Act 1926-1981

Regulations under—

Public Service Act 1922-1978
 Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971-1981
 Business Names Act 1962-1979
 Cash Orders Regulations Acts, 1946 to 1959
 Money Lenders Act 1916-1979
 Invasion of Privacy Act 1971-1981
 Co-operative and Other Societies Act 1967-1978
 Building Societies Act 1886-1976
 Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958-1974
 Bills of Sale and Other Instruments Act 1955-1981
 Friendly Societies Act 1913-1978
 Liquor Act 1912-1982
 Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1962-1982
 Recording of Evidence Acts, 1962 to 1968
 Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980
 Property Law Act 1974-1981
 Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976-1981
 Construction Safety Act 1971-1975
 Queensland Marine Act 1958-1979
 Mines Regulation Act 1964-1979
 Land Act 1962-1982

Rule under the Coroners Act 1955-1980

Proclamation under the Forestry Act 1959-1982

PETITION

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petition—

Amendment of Traffic Acts Amendment Bill

From Mr Borbidge (21 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend legislation dealing with persons found to be driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .05 per cent.

Petition received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

1. Local Government Superannuation Scheme

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

(1) What is the present situation regarding the compulsory superannuation scheme for local authority employees?

(2) Is 30 per cent of the total input taken out for administration costs?

(3) Are there any actual published figures to show employees what amount they would be paid on retirement after a long period of contributions?

(4) Is the Government aware that there are many more schemes that show a much higher return to employees, as well as private insurance companies which have much better retirement schemes, than the local government superannuation scheme?

Answer:—

(1) Consideration is presently being given to the question of superannuation benefits for permanent employees of local authorities following representations made by certain unions. It appears obvious at this stage that if additional benefits are to be forthcoming additional contributions will need to be made to the superannuation fund.

(2) No. The latest published figures available to the Department of Local Government indicate that of the total income of the Local Government Superannuation Board for the year 1980-81, amounting to \$18.7m, \$77,225 was expended on management expenses.

(3) No. A particular contributor's retirement benefits are dependent upon his age at the time of entry to the scheme and his salary at the time benefits are payable. Details of the retirement benefits available to a particular contributor based on his circumstances at a particular time are, however, available to the contributor upon application to the Local Government Superannuation Board.

(4) As stated in my answer to (1), the Government presently has the Local Government Superannuation Scheme under review, and the question of additional retirement benefits to contributors will be one of the matters considered.

2. Bareboat Surveys

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

(1) How many vessels are engaged in bareboat chartering in Queensland?

(2) How many of those vessels are in survey?

(3) What difference is there in survey requirements between bareboats and other vessels engaged in tourist activities?

(4) How often are these vessels required to be surveyed?

Answer:—

(1) There are currently approximately 96 vessels with permits to engage or which are the subject of application for permits to engage in bareboat chartering in Queensland waters.

(2) All vessels currently registered for bareboat chartering are in survey and there are several applications waiting survey.

(3) The survey requirements for bareboat charter vessels, as is also the case with other vessels engaged in tourist activities, vary according to the area of operation of the vessel. The requirements for bareboat charter vessels also allow for the fact that they lay-up at anchor during the hours of darkness. The type, size and construction of the vessel also bring different requirements into play. Otherwise, the requirements are basically the same for bareboat charter and other commercial vessels proposing to operate within given restricted limits. Following discussions with bareboat charter operators, the Marine Board is currently reviewing the requirements affecting the types of vessel used in this activity.

(4) Surveys are required every 12 months but flexibility is provided for where, for practical reasons, a survey cannot be arranged just when required. In such cases the Marine Board may approve continued operation for a specified time pending the carrying out of the survey.

3. Road Safety

Mr Lester asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What special efforts are being made to save the lives of Queenslanders on Queensland roads?

(2) What future plans has the Queensland Government in mind to ensure this program continues?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The Queensland Road Safety Council, of which I am chairman, has the specific charter to promote and encourage safety on our roads by education and instruction and publicity. To that end the Road Safety Council with its 13 field officers in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville carry out a number of programs Statewide.

These include the Defensive Driving Course, safe cycling courses, motor cycle training programs, commercial fleet safety courses and the High School Driver Education Programme.

The Defensive Driving Course has been shown to be a most effective mass education program aimed at drivers. With a view to making this course available in more centres of the State at more frequent intervals, a volunteer instructor system has been introduced whereby volunteers from the community are specially trained in the presentation of the Defensive Driving Course by Queensland Road Safety Council staff. At this time, there are four such volunteer community groups in operation at Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Gympie.

A school training program is also conducted by the Road Safety Council and is used by teachers in primary, secondary and pre-schools throughout the State. Under this program schools are visited by field officers and promoted with resource material such as posters, brochures, audio-visual material, cassettes and games for pre-schools and even literature and road safety songs for kindergarten children. This material has been developed in such a way that it can be integrated into the school curriculum.

In the area of publicity, honourable members will be aware that considerable emphasis has been placed on television advertisements especially in peak holiday and traffic times. The main areas of concentration for this campaign is alcohol and driving and the use of child restraints. As well, considerable newspaper and radio publicity is sought for all road safety programs.

Recently I introduced the "Road Safety—Finally its up to You Campaign" which is aimed at reminding all individuals that finally road safety comes down to them, even acceptance of the need for a responsible attitude while driving or riding on the road. Under this program stickers are being distributed through all primary schools in the State. Bumper stickers for motor vehicles have been and are being distributed to transport organisations and companies and, in addition, 12 roadside hoardings at various places throughout the State, including a number of railway stations, display this slogan.

Apart from the activities of the Road Safety Council the Department of Transport has overall responsibility for regulations governing the movement of all vehicles with special emphasis extended to the safety of all road users.

Legislative initiatives taken by the Government to help save lives include—

- Reduction of speed limits for semi-trailers;
- Graded licences for bus drivers and semi-trailer drivers;
- Graded licences for motor-cyclists;
- More comprehensive licence tests for motor-cyclists;
- More comprehensive tests for heavy vehicle licence applicants;
- Traffic law tests before issue of a learner's permit;
- Permitting the use of high-beam lights in built-up areas; and
- Compulsory traffic education programs for convicted drink drivers.

As well, at the last ATAC meeting of Australian Transport Ministers, I initiated the setting up of a National Committee on Road Trauma to investigate the psychological, medical and social causes and consequences of road accidents. This was accepted and the formation of the committee is presently being finalised. This is the first time in Australia that such a comprehensive overview of this nation's most critical epidemic has been undertaken.

Apart from this the Queensland Road Safety Council has a program of continuing research into a number of areas of major concern. These include the causes of heavy vehicle accidents (which is being co-ordinated by Dr Barry Smithurst of the University of Queensland's Department of Social and Preventative Medicine), the RACQ—Road Safety Council joint research program into road accidents, the effectiveness of child restraints, and motor-cyclist training.

As well as our current programs a number of other initiatives are also being undertaken. These include—

The lowering of the allowable blood alcohol content for drivers from .08 per cent to .05 per cent. This legislation will be given its second and third readings tonight.

An expansion of the Defensive Driving Course volunteer instruction program to encompass more areas of the State. Initially these will include the Rockhampton and Townsville regions.

The introduction of legislation to enable courts to refer careless driving and dangerous driving offenders to complete the Defensive Driving Course. Again, this will be discussed tonight.

The continuation with the establishment of a driver training complex at Mt Cotton in conjunction with the Police Department which will provide training for the whole spectrum of road users. These include driving school instruction, heavy vehicle drivers, bus operators, police officers, and civilian testing officers.

These are but a few of the initiatives which honourable members will be aware are being undertaken to help reduce the road toll in our State. As has been my practice when further initiatives are undertaken, all honourable members will be informed.

4. Economic Initiatives

Mr Lester asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

What initiatives are planned to ensure there is no lull in business activity after the Commonwealth Games, thus ensuring that Queensland retains its present enviable status?

Answer:—

While the Commonwealth Games have had an effect on business activity in South-east Queensland, the major factors leading to the strength of the Queensland economy have been the mineral and mineral-processing developments already in hand, primary production and the very large increase in tourism activity. The new State Budget, providing as it does for the creation of many new jobs, should provide an incentive for business activity. In addition, the strong selling through such projects as Enterprise Queensland, by the Queensland Government of Queensland as a location for mineral, commercial and industrial development, as well as the ready availability of mining and primary products for sale in the world market, should ensure a continued high level of business activity in Queensland.

5. High Alcohol Content Beer

Mr Lester asked the Premier—

(1) Will he take action to ensure that the sale of high alcohol beer such as Commonwealth Games Special will no longer be allowed in Queensland after the Commonwealth Games?

(2) Will action be taken to ensure that on no future occasion, for example bicentennial celebrations or the official opening of the Cultural Centre, special event high alcohol beer will be allowed to be sold?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) It is my understanding that the special high alcohol beer that was produced as a promotion for the Commonwealth Games will now be withdrawn from sale.

As to possible future action to prohibit the sale of high alcohol beer—I can assure the honourable member that this is a matter that I will discuss with my Cabinet colleagues concerned.

6. Railway Sleepers

Mr Katter asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) How many railway sleepers were purchased by the Railway Department in the last 12 months?

(2) How many of these sleepers were concrete and from where were they purchased?

(3) How many sleepers will be purchased in the next 12 months, how many of these will be concrete and from where is it expected that they will be purchased?

(4) How many sleepers have been purchased from New South Wales in the last two years?

Answer:—

In answer to the honourable member—

(1) A total of 985 483 sleepers were purchased during the 12 months to 30th June, 1982.

(2) None of the sleepers supplied during that period were concrete sleepers.

(3) It is anticipated that 1 576 000 sleepers will be required during 1982-83. Of this total, 226 000 will be concrete sleepers to be supplied by Humes Limited, Mackay.

(4) A total of 34 500 sleepers were purchased from New South Wales in the two years.

7.

Residential Allotments, Collinsville

Mr Katter asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

With reference to the land soon to be released for public auction at Collinsville—

(1) How much of the price is allocated to sewerage, roads, surveying and other such costs?

(2) When will the auction of the land take place?

Answer:—

(1) The following is a summary of the costs relative to the development of the residential land at Collinsville:—

Developing and Servicing Costs—		\$	\$
Roadworks and Drainage		1,108,818.00	
Sewerage and Water Reticulation		369,323.83	
Maintenance Allowance		20,000.00	
Additional Works (MRD)		6,000.00	
Construction Safety Fee		2,700.00	
Survey and Plotting for Design		15,184.00	
			1,522,025.83
Associated Costs—			
Rise and Fall Allowance		83,000.00	
Testing for Design		400.00	
Engineering Design		83,850.00	
Inspectorial Supervision		48,739.00	
Engineering Supervision		27,955.00	
Licensed Surveys		27,000.00	
As Constructed Drawings		1,800.00	
Preliminary Report and Estimate		3,250.00	
Rezoning Requirements		3,324.00	
			279,318.00
			<u>\$1,801,343.83</u>

Average Cost per lot \$10,064.00

The addition of Raw Land, Administration Costs and Holding Charges increases the Cost per Lot to \$12,000.00.

These costings do not include any provision for loss of interest on capital outlaid during the period of development or a return to the State for the risks involved, or any profit on such a large capital outlay. These are normal entrepreneurial considerations and requirements of private developers in the subdivision of land. Having regard to these considerations and the costs involved, it is contended that the proposed average sale price of \$15,000 per allotment is quite reasonable.

(2) It is anticipated that the sale of the 26 allotments being made available for public competition will take place January/February 1983.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee; Correspondence between Deputy Premier and Treasurer and Auditor-General

Mr CASEY: In asking the Deputy Premier and Treasurer this question, I refer to the Auditor-General's first report on the accounts for the year 1981-82, and particularly to his comments at page 12, which clearly indicate that he feels there is a need for a parliamentary public accounts committee in Queensland. Two weeks ago, when I asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer a question about this matter, he stated publicly that he would write to the Auditor-General seeking an explanation from him of his intentions and comments. I now ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer whether he is prepared to table in this Chamber a copy of his letter and a copy of the Auditor-General's reply.

Dr EDWARDS: Correspondence between the Auditor-General and me is confidential and I do not intend to table it. My understanding of the comments made is that the Auditor-General was not referring to a public accounts committee. I am informed that this is a matter of Government policy and any announcement will be made in due course.

As to the particular matter raised—the Auditor-General was referring to the need for this Parliament to be able, in some formal way, to allow Ministers to be discharged of their responsibilities. He was not referring to a public accounts committee as being able to do that. It was obvious from his discussions with me that he believes there is a need for a formality to allow that to occur. In due course, I will be discussing the matter with my Cabinet colleagues. No doubt a decision will be made on it.

Casino Licences

Mr CASEY: In directing a question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, I refer to his comments in February this year wherein he clearly stated in relation to the casino applications and the corporate structures of those casino applicants that the finalists would not be allowed to make major changes to their proposals. The Treasurer clearly stated that in February this year, and I can list the various newspaper reports. I also refer to statements contained in a week-end newspaper that Sir Roderick Proctor, who is not supposed to be carrying out any further negotiations for the successful Gold Coast casino applicant (Jennings Industries Ltd), was currently negotiating with a wealthy South African hotel gambling syndicate regarding the corporate structure of the Jennings group. As the proposal is to have the South African Sun City Hotel group, of whom the major shareholder is South African Breweries, become heavily involved in the Gold Coast casino operation with a 12 per cent investment and also control of the casino operations, does that not constitute a major change to the structure, and why has Jennings been allowed to do that when some applicants had their tenders rejected on that basis?

Dr EDWARDS: It is very interesting to note that the Leader of the Opposition takes all his facts from newspapers. If we are to believe every statement in the newspapers, his security as Leader of the Opposition will not continue for much longer. I hope that he takes notice of the newspapers on political matters as well.

At no stage did the Government make it clear that the corporate structure, as presented in the submission of 29 people, would be the final corporate structure. It would be impossible for 29 people who did not have a licence to be able to indicate to the Government their final corporate structure when the negotiations could not be completed without the issue of a licence. The Government has always said that the corporate structure is a matter that must be submitted to it for consideration, investigation and approval. The Government is interested in how the casino will be run. The judgment that the Government made was on that basis. The corporate structure is one aspect. The contents of that corporate structure will be decided in due course when final consideration is given to the matter.

I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that there will be full investigation of every detail provided to the Government. No stone will be left unturned to make certain that that investigation is complete.

As to the matter of South African involvement in the Gold Coast casino—that has not been formally placed before the Government at this stage. I suggest that the former Press Secretary of the Leader of the Opposition should get his facts correct and not write such

fictional statements as were made at the week-end. As to the South African brewery—that is one of the matters that is being investigated by the casino group, Jupiters. It is having discussions with a large number of people concerning the final arrangements. When those negotiations have been completed, the arrangements will be submitted to the Government for consideration, examination and decision.

Ms Pat O'Shane

Mr NEAL: I ask the Premier: Will he outline the political background of Ms Pat O'Shane, who spoke yesterday at the Women of the Year function?

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Cook to contain his emotions.

Mr Scott interjected.

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

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Obviously the honourable member is aware of this information already. The remarks made yesterday by that woman were commented upon widely. She sought to insult people in a public place. I was surprised to find that the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Wran, and his Government are paying her a salary in the vicinity of \$48,000 a year. He is also paying her travelling and accommodation expenses to enable her to travel round Australia insulting people.

I shall read from information that was supplied to me this morning. That woman has been well known over many years in the pro-Communist movement. She is a former wife of part-Aboriginal activist Mick Miller. In 1977 she wrote a booklet entitled "Law and Disorder. Politics, Police and Civil Liberties". The booklet was published by and distributed through the Queensland branch of the Communist Party. She has written for the official Communist Party newspaper "Tribune". In 1980 she attended a Labor and Communist movement conference. Her involvement in the so-called land rights cause is a further example of attempts by pro-Communists to manipulate Aboriginal people for political purposes. She is employed as head of the New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs on an annual salary of more than \$48,000.

Retrospective Legislation

Mr LEE: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: As it has been reported in the media that retrospective legislation will be introduced in the Federal Parliament and as this type of legislation is objectionable to me, will he inform the House of his attitude to such legislation?

Dr EDWARDS: My own party's position has been declared on this matter, as has the position of the National Party in this State. Our parties do not support retrospectivity in these matters. We are totally opposed to tax evasion and tax avoidance schemes, and we offer no apology for adopting that stand. For a long time we have been calling upon the Federal Government, both Labor and Liberal, to carry out a total review of the taxation system. The Premier and I have been outspoken in this regard. Such a review should be made so that tax evasion and tax avoidance schemes can be eliminated from a very complicated taxation system. Of course, the Labor Party's proposal in this matter is one of total hypocrisy. When it was in Government the Labor Party had an opportunity to deal with this matter, but it did not do so.

I believe that the retrospective action that the Federal Government is taking in this matter is unacceptable and will not be supported by the majority of Queenslanders.

This Government is well known for closing taxation loopholes. For example, the Stamp Act has been amended on numerous occasions.

Mr Fouras interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: I challenge the honourable member for South Brisbane to put before me any evidence of tax evasion. If he does so, I shall act immediately. I challenge him to give me one instance of tax evasion in any area over which this Government has control. If he does not do so, he stands condemned in this House. The Government's position is very clear: If it is given any evidence of tax evasion or tax avoidance, it will act immediately, but it will not act retrospectively. That is this Government's position.

Mr TURNER proceeding to give notice of a question—

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the House to come to order. I have been reluctant to take any firm action up to this stage, this being the first day in the newly renovated Chamber, but I assure honourable members that I am reaching the limit of my tolerance and I suggest to them that, if they wish to participate in today's debates, they respond favourably.

Mr TURNER: My apologies; there appears to be a malfunction with my microphone.

Disposal of Twelfth Night Theatre Building

Mr WARBURTON: In asking a question of the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, I refer to the unannounced decision by Cabinet on 12 January 1982 relative to the disposal of the premises of the Twelfth Night Theatre at Bowen Hills and now ask: What stage has been reached in this matter, which, no doubt, will be of grave concern to theatre-goers, hirers and others with a direct interest in the premises, and can he assure the House that the Government will ensure that the premises are maintained mainly for cultural purposes?

Mr ELLIOTT: The Government is very much aware of the role that the Twelfth Night Theatre has played in the cultural life of the city and the honourable member can rest assured that it is greatly concerned about the future of the premises. He has my assurance that the Government has in mind the need for the ongoing use of the theatre as a theatre. I am not in a position to tell him any more at the moment, but I should like him to know that the Government is very much aware of its obligations in that regard.

Queensland Film Corporation

Mr WARBURTON: In asking a question of the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, I refer to the Queensland Film Corporation's investments in film and television rights. Is the Minister able to give an assurance that all such projects financed with Queensland money are undertaken wholly in Queensland? If that is not the case, what guide-lines are required to be adhered to by the corporation?

Mr ELLIOTT: What the honourable member should understand is that the corporation, unlike corporations in some other States, was set up under an Act containing a sunset provision, which means that in three or four years' time it will cease to exist. The corporation has a charter to develop an industry in this State, and I believe we can honestly say that has happened. What Queensland has today is a small but very talented group of people who make in this State feature films and movies for television. Those people have received quite a deal of support, both financial and physical, from the corporation.

Under its charter, the corporation has also invested in other films. In the main, they have been made in Queensland. However, because of the requirements of various feature films, which, as the honourable member would understand, have to give a picture that truly represents history, at times other locations might be used as well. Generally speaking, the corporation has in fact given money to those people who have made films in Queensland.

Technical and Further Education, Central Highlands

Mr LESTER: I ask the Minister for Education: What is the latest in a number of steps that have been taken to establish a college of technical and further education to service the expanding Central Highlands area?

Mr GUNN: I congratulate the honourable member on the strength of the case he put forward for the establishment of a technical and further education college at Emerald. He will be pleased to know that I will be visiting Emerald tomorrow with the national TAFE Council with a view to establishing a TAFE centre on a site already chosen. I assure the honourable member that we will be putting forward the strongest possible case for Federal funding for such a college. I feel certain that notice will be taken of the case that the honourable member has put forward, and I would say that he has a fair chance of obtaining the necessary Federal funding.

Future Aid for Papua New Guinea

Mr HARTWIG: I draw the Premier's attention to the fact that Papua New Guinea is considering cutting its ties with Her Majesty the Queen and the Commonwealth and establishing a republic, or some other form of government. I ask him: If that should occur how does he view the prospect of further aid and assistance for Papua New Guinea, particularly as Papua New Guinea and Queensland share a common border? What does he think could occur in the event of such a happening?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I believe that the statement which appeared in the Press represented the views of one person only. I do not believe that the views of the Government of Papua New Guinea were expressed. In the circumstances, I do not think that such a situation will arise.

New Government Aircraft

Mr MILLINER: In directing a question to the Premier, I refer to his recent announcement that the Queensland Government has placed an order for a new Lear fan-jet. I ask: To his knowledge, has that aircraft been certified by the Department of Aviation as a single or a dual pilot aircraft? If that aircraft is eventually certified as a dual pilot aircraft, will the Government go ahead with the purchase, and what will be the anticipated cost of employing a second pilot for that aircraft?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I hope that the honourable member is aware that the use of an aircraft in this State is very important and vital to good government. Every week various Ministers fly to all parts of Queensland. A week does not pass when we are not in some part of this great State meeting people and talking to them about their needs and requirements so that appropriate action can be taken. It is very important that a modern aircraft be available. I take it that the honourable member knows that the aircraft to which he has referred has engines at the tail and not at the front. The aircraft is very sophisticated and modern. It is half the weight of the Government's Super King Air aircraft. It travels at well over 100 miles per hour faster than the present aircraft and uses half the amount of fuel. It carries the same number of passengers. The honourable member would concede that it is a very modern aircraft. At the moment the aircraft is certified for one pilot. For some considerable time in the United States two such aircraft have been operating under testing procedures. The aircraft should arrive in Australia towards the end of next year or half way through the following year. The honourable member would know that the Government is a forward-thinking Government and that it is looking to the future.

Mr FRAWLEY having asked a question without notice—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question is facetious and therefore is disallowed.

Use of Public Transport System during Commonwealth Games

Mr SCASSOLA: In directing a question to the Minister for Transport, I refer to the very successful public transport system that was provided and co-ordinated by the Metropolitan Transit Authority during the Commonwealth Games. I ask: Will he provide for

the information of honourable members and the people of Queensland particulars of the number of people who availed themselves of the services provided and, in particular, of the rail/bus shuttle service that was provided during the Games?

Mr LANE: The honourable member draws the attention of the House to a matter which I note is referred to in today's "Telegraph". The rail/bus co-ordinated system had the enormous task of carrying people to and from the Commonwealth Games.

Honourable members might be interested to know that on Thursday, 30 September, the opening day of the Games, 23 974 people travelled from the direction of the city to the Games site and 6 700 people travelled from the Beenleigh end of that line to the Games site, making a total of 30 674 people. On that day, 31 400 people travelled by rail away from the two stations, Banoon and Sunnybank. The numbers varied from day to day, but a total of 92 015 passengers used the rail/bus co-ordinated service to get to the QE II stadium during the week of the Games and 100 655 passengers journeyed away from the QE II stadium, making a total of 192 670 journeys either to or from the QE II stadium during that week.

Mr Vaughan: How did you work out those figures?

Mr LANE: Tickets were sold.

Mr Vaughan: But they were not checked.

Mr LANE: It is obvious that Opposition members in this House today are going to try to find faults with what was a very successful week in this State. When I rose to speak I wondered just how long it would be before Opposition members would adopt their usual groan and moan tactics and speak against the Commonwealth Games. I am very disappointed that it was the honourable member for Nudgee who led the call in that regard.

In addition to the figures I have given, I point out that 1 565 children travelled to the Games to participate in the opening ceremony and other activities on opening day. Much of the credit for that should go to Ron Sherman, the public transport co-ordinator, a retired colonel from the Australian Army, who had the overall responsibility of co-ordinating the various modes of transport to enable the public to move freely to and from all the Games venues. I note that an acknowledgment of his efforts appears in today's "Telegraph". I acknowledge them in the Parliament and, as the week passes, I will be saying more about the various transport arrangements.

I thank the honourable member for Mt Gravatt for his co-operation and that of the many people in the Sunnybank and Mt Gravatt areas—his constituents—who assisted by their good will and their general day-to-day co-operation associated with transport to the Games. I particularly thank him for advising the public in the locality surrounding QE II stadium about the arrangements, through public meetings and material he distributed to letter-boxes on his own initiative. That went a long way in assisting the smooth operation of public transport arrangements for the Games.

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

XIIth COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.13 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That this Parliament record its appreciation to all individuals and organisations whose efforts contributed to the success of the XIIth Commonwealth Games in Brisbane."

Queenslanders, and indeed this nation, can be justly proud of all aspects surrounding the staging of the XIIth Commonwealth Games. As a spectacle, it was unsurpassed by anything in this State's sporting and cultural history. As an exercise in organisation, it showed again that Queensland can match its expertise with that in any other part of the world. As a vehicle to enhance the concept of the Commonwealth of Nations and promote international fellowship, it was an outstanding success.

At the pinnacle of this concept is Her Majesty the Queen—the unifying figure among all nations of the Commonwealth. Her presence in Queensland, together with that of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, further enhanced a great occasion and provided the people of our State with the opportunity to express their loyalty and support.

Nowhere was that support more evident than at the tumultuous closing ceremony. The emotion of those moments as Her Majesty departed the arena will live in everyone's memory. Never have we witnessed a more heartfelt a more spontaneous expression of good will towards our monarch.

I thank all Queenslanders who supported the Games through their attendance at the various events. Their enthusiasm was infectious. It injected the true spirit of the "Friendly Games" and helped to carry Australian competitors forward to even greater achievements. Everywhere I went during the Games I heard nothing but praise for the way Brisbane people and Queenslanders generally had opened their hearts to welcome Games visitors, competitors and officials. I endorse that praise and thank Queenslanders for their part in extending the hand of friendship and fellowship to our neighbours in other parts of the Commonwealth.

More than 2 000 competitors and 500 team and technical officials came here for the events. The Commonwealth Games Federation, the Australian Commonwealth Games Association and the XII Commonwealth Games Australia (1982) Foundation Ltd worked to organise the participation and presentation of the events.

Special thanks go to the foundation, which had the task of running the Games. Under the chairmanship of the Honourable Sir Edward Williams, KBE, and its general manager, Dan Whitehead, the full-time staff of around 100 was ably assisted by over 5 000 volunteers. Together they did a tremendous job for Queensland and Australia.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: I thought it was significant that the Queen spoke about the number of jobs that you had created when only the day before record unemployment was announced.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: By interjecting the honourable member has again demonstrated his negative thinking.

The role of the three tiers of government is also recognised and appreciated. Our thanks go to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Fraser, MP, and the Federal Government, for their financial and other support, especially the provision of personnel from the armed services, who played such a vital role in Games logistics. Our thanks go to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Roy Harvey, and the Brisbane City Council, for its financial input, the superb transport arrangements and their planning to make the city a show-piece for visitors. I also thank the Toyota company and others that provided motor vehicles. All are to be commended.

Our own Government was also financially involved, and many of its staff helped in numerous ways, for which we express our appreciation. Protocol was arranged through the royal tour and ceremonial staff of my department; publicity through the State Public Relations Bureau; transport by the Queensland Railways and liaison with the Commonwealth Games Foundation by the Department of Sport.

I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the role of the Queensland Police Force. Members had to undertake the mammoth task of traffic control and security associated with both the Games and the royal visit. In every respect they undertook their duties and responsibilities in a way that maintained the highest traditions of the force.

Apart from the support from the three levels of government, many Australian and Queensland industries, organisations and individuals assisted by sponsorships and donations. To all of these go our thanks. Accommodation for competitors at Griffith University and technical officials at the University of Queensland was made possible by these universities rearranging their study programs. We thank them for that.

Our thanks must also go to the hundreds of international and Australian media representatives who gave publicity to the Games, Brisbane, Queensland and Australia. Acting as host broadcaster, the Australian Broadcasting Commission gave outstanding radio and television facilities for the media while AAP supplied still photographic coverage to the print media. I am sure all honourable members will join with me in applauding the ABC's live television coverage of events. It was first class.

Mr Milliner: Four Corners did not do a bad job either.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Four Corners is not worth mentioning here or anywhere else.

Also in the first-class category were events associated with Festival '82 staged in conjunction with the Games. Our congratulations go to Mr Les Padman, his hard-working committee and all those who took part in the various performances for their part in providing the magnificent mix of cultural activities during the Games period.

And, of course, no summary of Games highlights would be complete without recognition of the Queensland schoolchildren who performed so magnificently at the opening ceremony.

Mr Speaker, the XIIth Commonwealth Games are over, but the memory will remain for our lifetime. The spirit of national pride, of community involvement and international goodwill they engendered will be of lasting benefit to us all.

In closing, I think it appropriate that "Hansard" record the sentiments expressed in the editorial of yesterday's "Australian" newspaper—

"Queensland has good reason to feel satisfied with its organisation and conduct of the 12th Commonwealth Games—and all Australians have cause to thank the Sunshine State for its efforts, which brought worldwide credit to the nation."

I commend the motion to the House.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (12.20 p.m.): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion by the Premier to place on record in this Parliament our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all activities associated with the very successful staging of the XIIth Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

Never in the history of Queensland has so much pride been generated in, or so much publicity given to, our city of Brisbane, our State of Queensland and our nation of Australia. We have gained a status that has brought credit and recognition for which we must pay tribute.

The success of the games is a team-work story—some aspects known publicly, but many others worked out in private meetings and discussions so that this great event, so valuable for the future of the Commonwealth, could take place with dignity and excitement.

As the Premier has said, the Games have been an outstanding success financially, organisationally, promotionally, from the sporting aspect and, in fact, in every respect.

The visit of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip and their involvement and support added enormously to the spectacle. The importance and the value of the monarchy has been emphasised once more as the centre of our democratic system.

I join with the Premier in thanking the Commonwealth Government and the Brisbane City Council for joining with the State in its financial commitment to provide the wonderful facilities. They are joint facilities given to the people of Queensland for their use as a result of these Games. The Government's contribution was large—about \$18m, including \$3m for the running of the Games. It was money well spent, and it was deeply appreciated by all concerned.

I do not intend to be specific in my appreciation, but I would like to thank the Commonwealth Games Foundation for its untiring and dedicated efforts. It was the backbone of the Games and its businesslike approach, despite some initial difficulties, deserves full commendation. I join with the Premier in paying tribute to Sir Edward Williams and Mr Dan Whitehead for their contributions to this organisation. Their low profile activities, carried out in an efficient and understanding manner, were a highlight, and the morale generated at that level filtered through to envelop Games officials, volunteers, and finally, the public.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who worked so hard. These people, who gave of their time and talents to be part of the spectacle, were outstanding. They acted as officials for events, hostesses, gatekeepers, parking attendants, telephonists and in countless other areas to be part of this great effort.

A special mention must be made of the hostesses at the events. They were magnificent.

Sir William Knox: They were charming.

Dr EDWARDS: They were charming, beautifully attired, courteous and enthusiastic. They certainly reflected the friendly spirit of the Games.

The Armed Forces were also outstanding. Their commitment is hard to measure, but they worked so hard in many ways to assist.

The police played a major role, as the Premier said. The traffic control and the security were excellent, yet carried out with integrity and sincerity, and relatively unobtrusively.

I also would like to pay tribute to the children of our schools, who were the centre of the opening display. Never could my words express the pride and feeling every person present or watching on television had for those schoolchildren. They were magnificent.

I also hasten to mention the other participants in the opening and closing ceremonies—the ethnic and Aboriginal and Islander groups, the sky-divers and the many other people who made us feel so proud.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to the Australian Broadcasting Commission, as host broadcaster, and the Brisbane media for their excellent coverage of the Games. The excellence of the ABC coverage deserved the high ratings attained.

I would also like to commend the print media, particularly the Queensland Newspapers' publications and the "Daily Sun"/"Sunday Sun" group for their excellent editions over the Games period.

There is no doubt that the highly professional and well-presented media coverage contributed enormously to the festive spirit generated over the 10 days. I also pay tribute to Festival '82 for the significant role it played.

The Premier and the Minister for Transport have paid tribute to the railwaymen and the bus operators, who showed that we could successfully handle mass transport on a large scale.

Finally, I join with the Premier in paying tribute to two other groups, the competitors and the public, without whom the Games would have failed. Both played the game well. The competitors had worked for years. Some were rewarded by medals; others did not reach the winner's dais; but they all added to the competition and to the spectacle. The public were patient and supportive. They appreciated every effort and were rewarded by a successful event.

This is, therefore, a tribute to many. They have not sought this appreciation. They played their role for the sake of sport, the public and the Commonwealth. Their reward lies in the knowledge that the Games have been a great success. That success must not stop here. We need to continue the togetherness, the co-operative spirit, the national pride and the promotion of Queensland and Australia that we have just begun. I hope that efforts will continue for the future strengthening of international goodwill and understanding.

I have much pleasure in supporting the Premier's motion.

Mr CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (12.26 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition I join in supporting the motion moved by the Premier today to congratulate all those associated with the staging of the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games. The Labor Party in Queensland has always been 100 per cent in support of the Games. It was a Labor administration, under Clem Jones as Lord Mayor, in the Brisbane City Council that conceived the idea and which followed it through under different administrations until the Games were staged.

At the outset I want everyone in the House to get it clear that the Games were the Brisbane Games. That is what they were known as and that is what they will continue to be called. Despite that fact, I fully acknowledge that the people of Queensland and Australia got behind the Games and helped them to be the success that they were—financially successful in some instances and physically successful in so many others. Because of the way that our financial structure operates the Queensland Government benefitted financially on this occasion.

In recent weeks some Government members tried to knock Opposition members in relation to the Games. As far back as 1976 expressions of concern were registered and demands were made by Government members that the council should show, before approval was given, that it could stage the Games successfully. That happened at a vital stage of negotiations, when the Games plans could have fallen in a heap. The Brisbane City Council

deserves our sincere thanks for conceiving the idea, for persisting with it despite all the problems, and for the way in which it convinced other bodies and organisations to get behind the Games.

After making those statements, I join fully with the comments made about the Commonwealth Games Foundation people, Sir Edward Williams, Dan Whitehead and the army of supporters and workers who, not for two or three weeks, but sometimes for three or four years, worked voluntarily as members of the various committees that helped to stage the Games.

Without indulging in tedious repetition, I congratulate the many people who were thanked by the Premier and Deputy Premier. Full thanks must go to the people of Brisbane and Queensland who supported the athletes and helped to stage the Games.

Time and again the media reminded us that athletes were able to lift themselves above their previous best performances for one reason only, namely, that they felt carried on the voices of the crowds as they neared the end of their race, as they jumped in their diving events, as they neared the end of their swimming events or took part in weight-lifting. On all occasions, the part played by the people in sporting events, even events that they knew absolutely nothing about, helped to lift the Australian competitors and make the Games a great success for Australia.

I join in thanking all the other bodies, the railwaymen and the bus drivers who worked so very hard to get people to and from the Games venues, and the members of the Police Force. I sincerely thank all those people who handled the traffic. The way that the people behaved in crowded situations was a lesson for us all.

I thank the sponsors—in the main, Queensland-based firms—who spent so much money to ensure the financial success of the Games. Had it not been for their commitments several years ago, the members of the foundation would not have been able to get the Games off the ground financially.

The Queensland Police Force should be congratulated for its restraint and friendliness during the Games. Although some problems were experienced, the Queensland Police Force showed restraint. Because of that restraint, the problems that arose did not get out of hand. That is a lesson that has been learned and should continue to be put into practice by the Queensland Police Force.

I support the comments made by the Premier and Deputy Premier about the ABC and the media. From the opening ceremony until the closure of the Games, the only time that things fell flat was when the executive director of the National Party paraded round trying to get into the act.

Hon. J. A. ELLIOTT (Cunningham—Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts) (12.32 p.m.): I take great delight in supporting the motion moved by the Premier.

The success of the Commonwealth Games represented the culmination and realisation of years of planning and input by a tremendous number of people at all levels. To me, that was one of the outstanding achievements of the whole exercise. It clearly indicated to everyone that all levels of Government can co-operate and work together for a common goal.

That co-operation began at the conclusion of the Edmonton Games. Shortly after the Edmonton Games, an inter-governmental committee was set up at Commonwealth/State ministerial level and at Lord Mayor/Foundation Chairman level. The co-operation displayed by those people contributed to the success of the Games. Unfortunately, in some instances bickering and backstabbing take place. However, on this occasion everyone worked towards a common goal. That is a credit to everyone associated with the Games. I pay particular tribute to those people. They did not grandstand. Regular meetings were held between them without any publicity or fanfare of any sort. Initially, numerous problems were encountered. However, those problems were ironed out by people who were prepared to sit down round a table and discuss them.

I express special thanks to the officers of my department who were very much involved in the staging of the Games. From top to bottom, everyone contributed in his own way to their success.

I thank the volunteers who offered their services. I reiterate what the Deputy Premier said about the hostesses at the various Games venues. Anyone who attended the Games

would appreciate the enthusiasm that was engendered by them. Everyone was immediately imbued with a spirit of goodwill and cheerfulness.

I cite some particularly significant examples of that. One of my relatives attended a Games event and was seated in one of the uncovered stands. On his arrival he spoke to one of the officials who told him, "So-and-so has just performed in the heats. He has won that event." That sort of thing does not happen very often. Usually, a spectator who attends a sporting event is told by the attendant, "Here is your seat. Please sit down." The attitude that was displayed by the 5 000-odd volunteers at the Games was something special. They realised that they had the opportunity to display Brisbane, Queensland and Australia to the world, and they did just that.

I cite another example of the goodwill shown by Brisbane people, this time at a fairly high level. The Minister for Sport in the Bahamas, the Honourable Kendall Nottage, went to the Milano Restaurant on his own to have lunch. He sat down at a table. A group of ladies were having lunch on the other side of the restaurant. One of the ladies walked over to him and asked, "Are you having lunch on your own?" He said, "Yes, I am." She said, "If you like, you can come and join us for lunch. We will be very happy if you do." So he had lunch with them. The ladies invited him to join them and their husbands in a party that night and they took him round Brisbane and showed him the city. I have heard of similar occurrences right down the line. They typify the outlook, approach and attitude of Brisbane people to the Games. It was because of their attitude that the Games were so successful. The people really were right behind the Games right from the word go. No matter what race, creed or colour the visitors were, the people of Brisbane went out of their way to assist them.

Visitors who were wandering around the Queen Street Mall during the day were asked, "Are you right? Do you know where you are going? Do you know what you are looking for? Can we help you?" I hope that we see a continuation of that attitude on the part of the people of Brisbane.

Mr Davis: Keep smiling.

Mr ELLIOTT: A tremendous amount can be achieved if, as the honourable member for Brisbane Central said, we all keep smiling. That is what the whole exercise was all about. All of us now have an opportunity to take advantage of what happened over the past few weeks.

At this stage I join with the Premier and other speakers in paying tribute to Mr Les Padman and his band of workers who organised Festival '82. A great deal of organisation went into that side of things. The very high standard of Warana and Festival '82 reflects great credit on Les Padman and his helpers. They have shown that they have the ability to run any type of festival. They did a magnificent job at all venues.

I am delighted to be associated with the motion. Brisbane has received a marvellous boost. I hope that it continues to receive such a boost. If it does, tourism not only in Brisbane but throughout the State as a whole will benefit from the tremendous enthusiasm and patriotism displayed by the people of Queensland and Australia. There are great positives to be gained from this exercise, and we should build on them and take advantage of them. As I have said, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be associated with the motion.

Hon. D. F. LANE (Merthyr—Minister for Transport) (12.39 p.m.): It is my very pleasant duty to join previous speakers in supporting the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier. I take this opportunity to place in "Hansard" some facts concerning the massive and most successful logistics operation of conveying people by public transport.

Certainly the Commonwealth Games are over, but just as certainly memories, and very pleasant memories, will linger. Some facts concerning the not-so-glamorous aspects, such as public transport, need to be recorded in "Hansard" so that future generations, if they are interested, can look back to them.

Over the nine days more than 200 000 passenger journeys were made to the Games by public transport. A total of 192 670 trips were made by train-bus to the QE II complex, and private buses carried 28 400 people, including 14 000 from the Gold Coast.

Queensland Railways ran 380 electric and diesel train services, the Brisbane City Council provided thousands of co-ordinating services and private coach operators operated 610 trips. Yet, apart from delays during predictable surges, such as the conclusion of the opening day, the massive task was accomplished without a major hitch. Even at the conclusion of opening day, some of the congestion resulted from the deployment of trains to carry to other stations the hundreds of schoolchildren who had performed so wonderfully during the opening ceremony. The House will support me, I am sure, when I offer the thanks of the Government and the people to the staffs and operators for the hard work, long hours and dedication involved.

Planning started four years ago when the Metropolitan Transit Authority commissioned a transport study and report. After that, a technical working group consisting of all the operators was formed to develop detailed planning and involved operators, the MTA, the Brisbane City Council and the Departments of Transport and Main Roads, as well as private bus operators.

About 18 months ago a public transport co-ordinator, Mr Ron Sherman, was appointed specifically to handle the task of co-ordinating the whole affair, and he did a superlative job. Mr Sherman worked with the technical working group on transport operation matters and established and worked with a public information committee to communicate planning to the people.

The committee comprised representatives of the bodies that I have mentioned, and included representatives of the Commonwealth Games Foundation. Input was also made by the Taxi Council of Australia and private bus and coach operators, in particular the Gold Coast Games Transport Committee.

I mention all of these things and organisations to indicate the length of planning and the number of people involved in ensuring relatively trouble-free public transport during the Commonwealth Games.

A detailed research project was carried out to provide forecasts of passenger transport preferences as accurately as possible. Some 2 500 Games ticket-buyers were surveyed in depth, and patterns of movements and modal choices were arrived at. Planning then started on detailed rail and bus movements, the provision of private car-parks and for shuttle buses to run from the parks to QE II.

In addition, the BCC commenced planning direct bus services from its Salisbury and Garden City terminals, and services from the city to the Chandler Sports Complex, as well as inter-venue buses between Chandler and QE II.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr LANE: Private bus and coach companies were also contacted to arrange transport from out of town, charter services for groups and organisations and shuttle services around the outlying car-parks.

On the Gold Coast, private operators set up a special Games transport subcommittee to handle the expected heavy loads of Games commuters.

The main venue, QE II Jubilee Sports Stadium at Nathan, lent itself to a bus-train operation, with trains running up the Beenleigh line to Banoon and Sunnybank and buses feeding passengers from the trains into the QE II grounds.

The logistics were startling. To move the anticipated crowds at QE II, it was estimated that some 30 trains and 500 BCC bus trips daily each way, would be required.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr LANE: It also necessitated building up the Banoon and Sunnybank railway stations into interchanges to handle the cross-flow of train and bus patrons, the provision of giant bus-parks and interchanges in the QE II grounds, and the setting up of a special traffic and car-park control and communications centre at the Nathan complex.

Mr Fouras: You are boring us to death.

Mr LANE: I had intended to make my speech today in a positive way, reporting to Parliament on the logistics of the transport arrangements for the Games, but that was the third interjection from members of the Labor Party. They say that they are bored with this report about the good work done by all the people who drove the buses and did

the planning in the Brisbane City Council, and about the number of railwaymen who participated in that wonderful exercise. They now tell me that they are bored with the details about all this good work and public good will that went into that great transport enterprise. I had to depart from my prepared speech just long enough to answer their interjections.

A budget of \$130,000 was set up by the participating members and operators to cover the costs of the vital research study, advertising and promotional aids. A detailed model of the area surrounding the QE II stadium was built by the Main Roads Department and, along with supporting maps and information aids, was sent on tour to regional shopping centres and the Brisbane Exhibition, where thousands of people studied it and received information and literature.

A strong media advertising program was introduced, telling the public that it would be easier to use the bus/train method of transport than to bring their cars—with the exception of Chandler, where the council had built a temporary car-park for 4 000 vehicles. It certainly achieved the desired results, as the public transport passenger figures show.

Although initial advertising was fairly low key, the tempo was increased as the Games neared and, just prior to and during the course of the Games, large newspaper advertisements appeared every day, supported by a heavy commercial radio spot campaign. With "take the bus/train to the Games" as the main theme, the program resulted in an excellent response from the people of Brisbane.

The co-ordinating committee realised that some people would wish to drive to the venues, no matter what alternatives were offered. Consequently, it set up a ring of public car-parks, which were provided by schools and businesses in the area and staffed by p. and c. committees and service clubs. I have no doubt that the honourable member for South Brisbane, who was earlier interrupting my speech, would be bored also by the thanks that I now extend to the members of the many p. and c. committees and service clubs who voluntarily staffed the car-parks and provided such a wonderful service to the community. Let him sit there and be bored with that, too. I am sure that all of those who participated will be bored by his negative approach to the debate.

All told, 13 000 car-parking spaces were made available. In order to keep private streets and residential areas near QE II clear of traffic, a limited access zone was declared and the council distributed hundreds of special stickers for residents to display on their car windscreens and allow them access. Barriers and police barred Games spectators from entry and many plaudits have been received from grateful residents.

That the planning, execution and advertising paid off was borne out by the passenger counts that I outlined earlier—more than 200 000 passenger journeys and only 6 500 vehicles in car-parks on the busiest day. As a result, traffic conditions round the venues were, in the main, very good, with some minor delays being experienced on the freeway and in Mains Road.

I put much of that down to the public good will that was extended to the planners. It overshadowed all other Games operations. Once again, may I congratulate all concerned in the operation, the Brisbane public and the Games visitors for their tremendous co-operation.

The honourable member for South Brisbane and the honourable member for Brisbane Central, who have been interjecting, no doubt will leave the Chamber during the vote, thus registering their disgust at all the help that was given by voluntary workers. They will have to put up or shut up when the vote is taken.

The operation proved to me beyond doubt that complete co-ordination and integration of Brisbane public transport is no longer a pipe-dream. It will encourage the Metropolitan Transit Authority and all the operators to press on with our plans for Australia's most efficient transport system.

Mr WARBURTON (Sandgate) (12.49 p.m.): I add my congratulations and best wishes to all those responsible for the success of the Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane recently.

Mr Lane: Fouras will interject if you pass compliments to anybody.

Mr WARBURTON: It is unfortunate, Mr Deputy Speaker, that certain Ministers, particularly the Minister for Transport, did not listen to the Treasurer yesterday when he called upon all members of the Parliament to act honourably. I hoped that the Minister, who is interjecting repeatedly and calling out from the other side, would learn a lesson from the remarks of the Treasurer.

As I was saying, we on this side of the House—each and every one of us—convey our congratulations to those people who participated in the staging of the Commonwealth Games, whether at the level of the foundation or the volunteers who offered their services free. The thanks of all of us go to them.

I know that people have picked out certain groups of officials who participated in the success of the Commonwealth Games, but I wish to refer to all of the officials, who did a wonderful job. Those of us who observed the centre arena at QE II would have seen the regimentation of the officials, the way they acted and the way they held themselves high. Certainly we were filled with pride at their actions and the way they represented Queensland.

Some matters arise from the success of the Commonwealth Games that I wish to refer to briefly. The city of Brisbane has been suggested as the venue for the Olympic Games to be held in approximately 10 years' time. I support the proposal to investigate that suggestion. Some people, particularly the Press, are talking about the euphoria of the occasion and perhaps some of us are overcome with euphoria because of the success we have had round us. But, on the other hand, it is logical to conclude, after the tremendous success of these Games, that Brisbane—particularly Queensland—can afford to investigate that proposition. I know that people have said that numerous other venues would be required, such as those for canoeing and gymnastics, which were not needed for the Commonwealth Games.

It is Federal money that is needed most. The cost would be millions upon millions of dollars over and above the cost of the Commonwealth Games to the city, the State and the nation. So I give that little word of advice. Hopefully it will not detract from the fact that the Government, together with the Brisbane City Council and the Federal Government, will at least analyse very closely what an Olympic Games would mean to the city.

From my point of view it is unfortunate that not one Government member has mentioned anything about the very unfortunate and very sad episode at Mt Coot-tha. I do not cast any aspersions upon honourable members but it is unfortunate that no mention has been made of this very sad occasion. All of us who watched Gary Hammond gain his tremendous success in the cycling events—he was a silver medallist—feel very greatly for that champion and his friends and relatives. I do not suppose there are any better words than those expressed in today's "Daily Sun"—

"The Brisbane to Sydney cycle tour got off to a horrific start yesterday when Games silver medallist Gary Hammond was critically injured in a head-on collision with a motor cycle."

That very fine and talented sportsman could face the end of his cycling dreams, which is very, very unfortunate. I am sure that each and every honourable member here joins with me in wishing him very well and a quick return to the sport in which he is very successful and undoubtedly loves.

As I said earlier, there are other matters that are definite spin-offs from the Commonwealth Games. Recently legislation on liquor laws passed through this place. As a person who observed the position closely and is represented on a bowls club council—that particular club was given permission to supply bottled liquor up to five litres in quantity for use outside the club—let me say that that legislation has been an outstanding success. The relaxation of the liquor laws has done no harm whatsoever to this city. In the city of an evening—a time when the city was usually stark, with no people around—literally hundreds of people were milling round because at last we had civilised laws. At last they had somewhere to go and were able to act in a civilised fashion, instead of having to rush and tear round, while enjoying a few drinks and a bit of company in hotels, restaurants or many of the other venues where the relaxed laws applied. So I hope that all honourable members opposite will have a close look at the position, and when the liquor laws come up for review, perhaps we will see some sensible and forward-thinking amendments.

The other point that I wish to make—and I am still talking about spin-offs—is that I have spoken with many of the people associated with the sports conducted during the Commonwealth Games and they have told me that dozens upon dozens of people,

particularly young people, are making approaches to the various sports associations wanting to become involved. That is one of the spin-offs that I and many others knew would occur.

During the Commonwealth Games, young people, and many older people, were introduced to sports that some did not even know existed as top-ranking sports in this nation and overseas—for example, badminton. As young people, many of us played shuttlecock, or badminton, but we did not realise that it was a top-ranking sport. In addition, sports such as weight-lifting, wrestling and, in particular, cycling have now been shown to the public and to the youth of our nation, and I know that the associations representing many of those sports are now receiving dozens of approaches.

Mr Hewitt: It makes me wonder how good I would have been had I been able to use that track.

Mr WARBURTON: I do not doubt that the Minister would have improved greatly.

Undoubtedly that spin-off is about to show itself, and I believe that within a very short time the amateur sporting bodies will receive hundreds of applications and that hundreds more people will become involved in their sports. Of course, they will need facilities, and that brings me back to a point that I raised in the House a long time ago. That point was taken up by the Government, for which I thank it. I refer to the establishment of a sports house in Brisbane. It would have to be situated in Brisbane because that is where most, if not all, of the amateur associations have their headquarters.

Such an establishment is essential now that the Government has recognised the importance of sport. Apart from very properly handing out money year after year from consolidated revenue, it has now seen the importance of the actual activities, and one hopes that it will move quickly to establish a sports house. For the information of members, I point out that a sports house would provide facilities for amateur sporting associations. Many associations do not need much space, and one room in a substantial building, with telephone, shared typing facilities, etc., would suffice. Such a building would need to contain rooms in which those associations involved in sport and based in Brisbane could get together.

In addition, anyone who has been fortunate enough to have a look at the Sports House in Sydney would have noted that it also contains a very outstanding sportspersons museum and library. It contains photographs and items used by the great New South Wales sportsmen of yesteryear—for example, the championship belt worn by Jimmy Carruthers, one of Australia's great boxers.

I suggest to the Government that the sports house in Brisbane could be established at The Mansions. I have inspected the building and believe that it has excellent potential for a sports house. It has everything going for it, and it is part of the Parliament House precinct. It is part of an area that will, I hope, be visited by thousands in the future.

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

Mr WARBURTON: Prior to the recess for lunch I referred to the urgent need for the State Government, now that it has recognised the great benefit of sport to the State, to proceed quickly with the establishment of a sports house. I said that the Government should try to establish it in the vicinity of Parliament House, and mentioned The Mansions as a suitable site. Some people say that that building is not suitable, but from my knowledge of the Sports House in New South Wales it is very suitable. Honourable members know that hundreds of schoolchildren visit Parliament House. What a wonderful experience it would be for the schoolchildren and tourists if they could visit a sports museum at the same time as they visited Parliament House.

The amateur sporting associations of Queensland, which did a wonderful job during the Commonwealth Games, give No. 1 priority to the establishment of a sports house. I believe that they would prefer to have that rather than the sports institute that was mooted here some time ago and discussed recently.

I repeat that Opposition members give their whole-hearted congratulations to all the people who did such a fine job during the Commonwealth Games.

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police) (2.17 p.m.): I join with the Premier, Deputy Premier, Leader of the Opposition and other speakers in heaping commendation on the people responsible for the very successful Commonwealth Games that we witnessed in the past fortnight in Brisbane. It is not

part of my make-up to take credit away from anyone. I believe that Queenslanders grew up to a certain extent last week when they saw what they could do. Everyone in Queensland made a contribution. I have in mind the crowds who attended the Games and all the people in their organisation, from Sir Edward Williams down through to the various Federal, State and local bodies.

When I was in the weight-lifting stadium I was talking to Clem Jones.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr HINZE: I am giving a compliment, if the honourable member would only shut up for a minute.

I said to Mr Jones, "Clem, I think you can take some pride in these Games. Although you are not out there getting a pat on the back, some of us know that in the very early stages you made very worthwhile contributions towards getting the Games." The doubts raised in those days are being raised now. We asked ourselves, "Have we the ability? Can the State or the city conduct the Commonwealth Games successfully?" Doubts were expressed on all sides. The same situation prevails. After witnessing the events of the last fortnight we believe that we can look forward to staking a claim to stage the Olympic Games in Brisbane in 10 years' time. We should all be of that mind. Problems will arise. Other additional venues will be required and enormous sums of money will have to be spent, but the task is not beyond us. We should be forward-thinking and try to get an idea what the State of Queensland will look like in 10 years.

When I attended some of the night functions in Brisbane during the Commonwealth Games, I was very proud to look at the Cultural Centre and the other fine buildings that our visitors saw. I was also proud of the way in which the various events were conducted and of the organisation that went into them.

It is with great pleasure and personal satisfaction that I rise to take part in this debate and to give my views on what have been freely acknowledged as the most successful ever Commonwealth Games. It is now history that Brisbane has hosted an absolutely fantastic international sporting event. Right from the outset these Games were dubbed the "Friendly Games", and that is how they will be remembered in history.

The Commonwealth Games have given Brisbane, and indeed Queensland, international recognition. They have gone a long way down the track to revamping Australia's national pride.

Mr Scott: You tried to remove that at the beginning, though, didn't you? You set a very low standard at the beginning.

Mr HINZE: I do not think that the honourable member's interjection is worth answering. He should lift his sights a bit. If he does, he will be recognised.

Mr Scott: I will lift them in a minute.

Mr HINZE: The honourable member will have every opportunity to do so.

Now that the Games are over, there is already talk of staging a future Olympic Games in Brisbane. I reaffirm my personal support for the proposal. I hasten to add that if venues for water sports are required, we are well placed to hold events on the Hinze Dam at the back of the Gold Coast. It is an excellent site. That, of course, is the logical place. There is ample room to accommodate hundreds of thousands of visitors on the Gold Coast.

I am sure that all honourable members are aware that the Commonwealth Games legislation, because of its sunset clause, became void at midnight last Sunday.

Fortunately, the threats of violence prior to and during the Games did not eventuate. In numerous public statements in the period leading up to the Games and during the Games I made clear the Government's optimism that violence would not occur. Certainly, a number of persons were arrested during illegal street marches in Brisbane last week. Some of those charged were arrested two or three times, indicating quite clearly to all of us the influence of hard-core radicals within the land rights movement.

Those events are behind us today, and I would like to express my appreciation to the majority of the Aboriginal community for the commonsense approach that they adopted during the Games period. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the co-operation of Senator Neville Bonner and the role that he played in speaking out

against illegal street marches. Senator Bonner and other Aboriginal leaders, including Mr Steve Mam and Mr Budger Davidson, quite rightly asserted that illegal street marches would detract from the Aboriginal cause. The Aboriginal people must realise that the questions that they are asking and the causes for which they are fighting cannot be decided or won overnight.

Mr Scott: Would you say why the Premier would not speak to Mr Mam?

Mr HINZE: The honourable member should direct his question to the Premier.

There is room for talk; but only around the negotiating table between sensible men interested in finding a solution. Obviously, the proper action was not to march up and down the street with banners or at Musgrave Park. That is a good place at which to play cricket. I played cricket there when I was a child.

The question foremost in the minds of all those who are interested in the land rights issue is what role Mr Charles Perkins will play in any future negotiations involving Aboriginal matters. Before going any further down the track, I think it is timely and appropriate for me to recall some of the more infamous statements made by Mr Perkins in the lead-up period to the Commonwealth Games. First, he said, "The Brisbane Games will be Australia's battle of Wounded Knee and that's a statement of fact." Secondly he said, "There'll be at least 5000 Aboriginal people in Brisbane to stop the Games. We are on the verge of the most violent reaction between blacks and whites this century." And there is more from Mr Perkins. He said, "The Aboriginal people will get their land rights during the Commonwealth Games—over Joh's dead body if necessary." Another quote from this senior Commonwealth public servant was, "What you have seen before in Australia and New Zealand during the Springbok tour is nothing. This time the faces on national and international TV will be black. Quite definitely, the Games will not go ahead in Brisbane."

Those were the words of Mr Charles Perkins from articles that appeared Australiawide only days before the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Moore: He ought to be sacked.

Mr HINZE: Some members are calling for the sack. By the time I have finished this statement, he will probably think that that is worth while.

It is now a statement of fact that the Games proceeded without violence, without racial disruption and, to the surprise of many people, without Mr Charles Perkins. Somebody said, "Where is Charles Perkins?" It reminded me of a war-time quotation. When we listened to the news in the morning, we were told, "They have successfully retreated to prepared positions." That is what Charles Perkins did. He got up on the forum in the square, and when they wanted him, of course, it was found that he was not there. He had retreated to Canberra.

Mr Perkins went on public record many times to say that he would lead land rights protests in Queensland during the Games. When the time came, he turned traitor and scuttled off to his cosy desk in Canberra. Mr Perkins has done a Judas on the Aboriginal people, not by refusing to march but by inciting and urging them to break the law and then refusing to stay around and bear the consequences. Quite clearly he has conned his black brothers.

"What happened to Charlie Perkins?" is a question being asked by Aboriginal communities right throughout the State and, indeed, around Australia. Mr Perkins made great play of what he would do during the Commonwealth Games for his people. In fact, he did nothing.

We now learn that Mr Perkins intends to turn his attention to the Queen's goodwill visit to Australia and that he will deliberately try to embarrass Her Majesty at a function in Canberra this evening. Mr Perkins intends to present to the Queen a petition seeking royal pardon for those persons arrested during demonstrations in Brisbane last week.

I think that all honourable members should be made aware of what Mr Perkins had to say when asked about his plans on ABC radio earlier this week. Mr Perkins stated that he "could not give two hoots about embarrassing the Queen or anyone else." Quite obviously this man will attempt to make political capital out of the royal tour and will try to embarrass Her Majesty in the eyes of the Commonwealth.

There have been media reports this afternoon that Mr Perkins, following an earlier meeting with the Prime Minister, is considering abandoning his plans and instead presenting his petition to a member of the Queen's staff. If this is supposed to be a compromise proposal worked out between the Prime Minister and Mr Perkins, quite clearly it is unacceptable to the people of Australia. No-one wants to see a Commonwealth public servant place the Queen in an unprecedented situation of political and diplomatic embarrassment. If the Commonwealth Government, through the Prime Minister and the Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister, allows this to happen, then it, too, is culpable. What a ridiculous situation we have when the Commonwealth Government is prepared to allow one of its employees to run rampant.

Mr Scott: Would Perkins be a member of the Liberal Party, do you think?

Mr HINZE: I would not know whether he would have enough intelligence to be a member of any party. I am stating positively that if he were a white public servant he would not be able to do what he is trying to do today.

In the week-end Press, both the Prime Minister and Mr Wilson expressed their support for Queensland's land rights policies and criticised the role activists played in last week's demonstrations and, indeed, the futility of the demonstrations themselves. Their views were contrary to those expressed by Mr Charles Perkins.

It is now high time for the Prime Minister to stand by the commitment he gave to this Government and to the people of Australia to discipline Mr Perkins for remarks he has made and actions he has taken in recent weeks, and, more specifically, for the remarks that he continues to make about the Premier. Mr Perkins's comments in this morning's "Courier-Mail" concerning the Premier are again unprecedented. Who can recall such an outburst by any public servant other than Mr Perkins? The Prime Minister must accept the blame and condemnation of this country if he allows Mr Perkins to make a mockery of the Queen's goodwill tour.

The efforts of the Queensland Police Department in safeguarding the rights of VIPs, other visitors, competitors, officials and spectators at the XIIth Commonwealth Games were nothing short of magnificent. As Police Minister, I undertook that the Police Department would perform its responsibilities with the lowest possible profile under all circumstances. That promise was fulfilled. I would personally like to congratulate the Commissioner, Mr Terry Lewis, Assistant Commissioner, Mr Syd Atkinson, and the Games Commander, Superintendent Ron Redmond.

Despite some deliberate attempts on the part of illegal demonstrators to incite violence, our policemen and policewomen undertook their duties with patience and tolerance. I think that Parliament, party political loyalties aside, should acknowledge that fact. The policing of the Commonwealth Games required sound judgment and common sense and, in a give-and-take situation, the Queensland Police Department displayed commendable compromise.

On the day before the Games opening ceremony, the Superintendent of Traffic, issued a permit to hold a legal street march in Brisbane. That decision was made after certain undertakings were given by Aboriginal representatives. Let me assure this House that media reports of intervention by the Prime Minister were not based on fact. Despite this concession by the Police Department, a small clique of demonstrators continued to hold illegal street marches.

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, summed it up nicely when he said that he imagined some of the people involved in these demonstrations had "been in every kind of demonstration this country has had".

Both the Prime Minister and the Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Wilson, have stated quite clearly in the last week their support for the Queensland Government's handling of the Aboriginal land rights issue and their condemnation of illegal marches and protests.

To the amazement of everybody, offenders arrested during the Games within a four-day period were able to produce cash bail money of more than \$33,000. The majority of those people stated that they were unemployed, and chose to forfeit bail.

I am very concerned by reports that Commonwealth funds allocated to organisations such as the National Aboriginal Development Commission and some other bodies representing our

indigenous people may have been used partly to provide bail money. I believe this is a matter that warrants further examination.

I believe that the XIIth Commonwealth Games have been a credit to this city, this State and this nation.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to the Commonwealth Games Foundation through its chairman, Sir Edward Williams, and the Queensland Police Department, through the Commissioner, Mr Terry Lewis, for the excellent roles that they played in their respective areas.

Mr SCASSOLA (Mt Gravatt) (2.32 p.m.): I join with the Premier and Deputy Premier and Treasurer in thanking everybody who contributed to the Commonwealth Games. The Games were certainly a very exciting event in our history.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: They were more exciting than your speech will be.

Mr SCASSOLA: If the honourable member listens for a change he might learn something.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: If the athletes ran as fast as you speak they would still be running the half mile.

Mr SCASSOLA: It is better to run than to act as the honourable member does.

As I have said, the Games were a very exciting and moving event in Queensland. They generated in people a pride in being Australian and in doing a job well. Everyone connected with the Games deserves a lot of praise and thanks. I do not propose to refer to those matters that previous speakers have already mentioned. I agree with what they said.

I wish to make a few comments about the transport and parking arrangements during the Games. I had some connection with these matters because my electorate includes the area surrounding QE II. I had some knowledge of the arrangements as they were being made. The traffic and parking arrangements were excellent and contributed very substantially to the success of the Games. Mr Sherman, who was appointed the co-ordinator of traffic and parking for the Games, deserves tremendous thanks. From memory, he was appointed to the position within the Metropolitan Transit Authority some 18 months ago. He threw himself whole-heartedly into the job. He was able to draw together the various bodies that were involved in transport and parking in the vicinity of the various stadiums. Earlier in the debate the Minister for Transport gave some details of the arrangements.

One of the important points was that the co-ordinator, Mr Sherman, and the members of his committee met and discussed the proposals with the residents who were likely to be affected. They not only conveyed information to the residents but made themselves available to them, particularly Mr Sherman. He drew on the experience of the local people and that, too, was a contributing factor to the success of the arrangements. They gave information and sought the views of others. That resulted in extraordinarily successful transportation and parking arrangements.

Some steps ought to be taken to recognise in a concrete way the very fine job done by Mr Sherman. Indeed, the traffic and parking arrangements were so successful that I have not received one complaint from residents. I have received only praise and thanks from them that the arrangements made were in fact made. Everybody who lives in the vicinity of QE II is most thankful for the co-operation and assistance given by Mr Sherman and his team, and for the efficient and effective way that the transport and parking arrangements were made. It was a singularly successful exercise in co-operation. It was a singularly successful exercise in ensuring that the people in the immediate vicinity of QE II were fully informed and inconvenienced as little as possible. Once again, I express my thanks to all of those involved in making the arrangements, and to the residents in the vicinity of QE II in particular for their co-operation and patience. In co-operating with the arrangements that were made, they also assisted substantially in the success of the operation.

In closing, I join with those who in recent days have suggested the establishment in Queensland of an institute of sport. The suggestion is worthy of very serious consideration and, indeed, implementation. I know that the idea was suggested some time ago. It is now timely that it be seriously looked at and implemented. We have the facilities. In my opinion, the facilities which are now available in Brisbane should be used to assist young

people to gain excellence in their chosen sport through the provision of coaching and other assistance to fit them for strenuous international competition in future Commonwealth and Olympic Games, and to give them the skills that will enable them to bring credit upon themselves, their State and their nation.

Mr SHAW (Wynnum) (2.39 p.m.): I am very happy to have the opportunity to join previous speakers in offering congratulations to all those who were associated with the holding of the Games, particularly the volunteers who worked so hard to ensure their success. I refer not just to the period of the Games themselves but also to the long period leading up to the Games. It is timely, though, to recall the work that was very much responsible for the success of the Games—the work done by Brisbane City Council employees, by employees of ambulance boards both in and around Brisbane and by public servants and other Government staff, all of whom worked much harder, for longer hours, and gave much greater attention to their duties than would normally be expected for their monetary recompense. The role of the police in controlling the Games was quite satisfactory. We cannot run away from the fact that some blemishes occurred in other areas associated with the Games, but by and large the police attitude towards security at the Games was quite good.

There is always a problem in balancing the amount of security which is undertaken by security forces, in this case the police, surrounding the holding of such an event. It has to be acknowledged that it is impossible to guarantee the complete security of athletes and others involved in such events. For example, it is impossible to guarantee protection against the activities of suicide squads. Always there must be a balance, and although some complaints were lodged about the prominence of firearms, etc., there was no great imbalance.

Not only is it notable but also it is regrettable that Government members have not included in their congratulations the trade union movement. With my background I am not normally noted or recognised as a person who is one-eyed about the union movement; I have never been accused of being a representative of the trade union movement. However, it is very regrettable that the very positive role that the trade union movement played in ensuring that the Games were a success has been completely overlooked. We can recall the fears that people expressed about the holding of the Montreal Olympics. At that time industrial relations in Canada, combined with what can only be described as gross inefficiency on the part of some of the construction enterprises, escalated the cost by a fantastic degree. It was not the private enterprise inefficiency that got the blame, but the Canadian trade union movement. One of the arguments advanced, notably by Government spokesmen, for not proceeding with a bid for the Games in Brisbane was that the trade union movement would use the opportunity to make exorbitant demands, which would escalate the cost by such a degree that we would not be able to afford to stage them. That did not happen. The trade unions have been clearly responsible, and that fact should be recorded.

I wish to tell the House of one story. We have heard of all the positive things; the chairman of the foundation said he did not want to hear about the bad things, and I can understand his sentiments in saying that. However, the story needs to be told because it highlights the very responsible attitude adopted by the trade union movement. Close to the commencement of the Games some electricians were working at one of the venues because a fault had occurred in some of the electrical equipment. Because it was necessary for them to work on a wire they turned off the power to the complex and four or five workmen entered the ducts to work on the wiring. One competent person was left to guard the switchboard to make sure that no accident occurred. A policeman arrived on the scene and demanded to know why the power was off. He reached up and was about to turn the power back on. The worker who was guarding the switchboard quite naturally grabbed his hand, and quite possibly he may have used a little more force than was necessary.

Mr Warburton: He saved his workmates' lives.

Mr SHAW: As I said, he grabbed the policeman's hand, and the policeman responded by charging him with assault. It was pointed out to the policeman, as the member for Sandgate just said—

Dr Edwards: Isn't there another place where this sort of thing can be raised?

Mr SHAW: I am not making destructive comments.

Even though it was pointed out to the policeman that the man was saving the lives of his workmates—a number of people would have died if the power had been turned on at that stage—before the charge was withdrawn the worker was asked to apologise to the policeman.

Naturally the worker took the matter to his union. Had the union wanted to be irresponsible, quite an issue could have been made out of it. It is notable that nothing further has been heard of the matter. For the information of the Treasurer, the point I was coming to is that to honour the agreement it made that there would be no trouble during the Games the union advised the worker that it would be better if he apologised, and the apology was given. It would have been more appropriate if that policeman had apologised to the worker concerned.

Many other workers deserve a word of praise. I think the honourable member for Sandgate mentioned them earlier; he certainly has mentioned them to me privately. Bus drivers and others deserve a great deal of praise. The Minister for Transport mentioned them. They worked through their normal lunch breaks and left their vehicles only to more or less take refreshment on the run and then get straight back to work. There was a tremendous amount of support and enthusiasm to ensure that the Games went well.

Over the last few weeks I have been aware of the euphoria, as someone described it, and enthusiasm with which people welcomed and supported the Games. It is timely to recall that when Clem Jones first suggested that this city should host the Games there was a great deal of opposition to his suggestion. As Clem said, there was even questioning in his own administration about whether that was feasible. That questioning was probably wise, but those people who were involved were convinced that it was a good idea. That confidence was held by Bryan Walsh at a time when the idea of the Games was not popular. I hope that members will forgive me if a little bit of vinegar creeps into some of my remarks, but I mention this because I was called upon to accept the responsibility of convincing the electorate that the Games would be a good thing for the city when it was not popular for politicians and elected representatives to do so, and when in fact many of the people who are today posturing so grandly were totally opposed to what we were trying to do.

This morning the Treasurer referred to the Games as a great event, and so they were. He made the statement—it was the sort of statement that has made me say what I am saying now—that the council joined with the State Government in this project. At a reception the other day I heard the Premier acknowledge the wonderful work done by the Federal Government and the State Government and then said, "The council satisfactorily conducted the 'Shine of Brisbane' campaign." It is fitting to give credit where it is due. I intended to practise what I preach and give credit to the State Government because, from the time it accepted the Games, its role was positive and constructive and, according to information I have received from people who were associated with the Games, it has in every way done the right thing. I acknowledge that.

Dr Edwards: The council did, too.

Mr SHAW: I am certainly acknowledging that the council did its job. I will not ask the Treasurer to support what I am saying because it would obviously embarrass him to do so, but he heard the speech made by the Premier the other day which completely ignored the council's contribution.

That leads me to recall some of the things that were said at the time the bid was made, because at that time those of us who supported the Games were very much on our own.

Although I have not heard his name mentioned, I wish to acknowledge the support given by the late John Herbert. He was one of the early supporters of the Games and did a lot of work to convince people that the Games would not be the disaster many feared.

Dr Edwards: And Sir Gordon Chalk, too.

Mr SHAW: I accept that Sir Gordon Chalk supported them well, too.

I have not heard much said about people such as Norm Gailey, who is associated with cycling. He went to Montreal at his own expense to promote Brisbane's bid for the Games. Arch Steinback, who was associated with swimming, also gave tremendous assistance when it was very difficult to get.

It is interesting to note that at that time, although the State Liberal Party was silent, the Liberal Party in the council was completely opposed to the Games. Several statements were made by the Liberal opposition in the council. One such statement made by the Liberal councillors in opposition in 1976, was reported in "The Courier-Mail". It was headed, "Games bill may be ratepayers' hurdle". Alderman McDonald said, "The cost will be phenomenal. The Liberal Party will win the council at the next election over opposition to the Games."

Mr Davis: Who said that?

Mr SHAW: Alderman McDonald, on behalf of the Liberal Party. He also said, "The Liberals look like having to carry the dreadful Games baby." They are carrying that dreadful Games baby with much pride at the present time and doing a lot of posturing.

On 6 July 1976, Alderman McDonald was reported in "The Courier-Mail" in these terms—

"The Liberal Party believes it would win a Brisbane City Council election— if it were fought now on the Commonwealth Games issue."

He asked that a poll should be held to find out the support for it.

On 30 June 1976, an article appeared in "The Courier-Mail" headed, "State balks at Games money." The article continued—

"The Premier (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) is understood to have told the Lord Mayor (Alderman Sleeman) that the State Government may not be able to underwrite the Commonwealth Games for Brisbane.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen is believed to have told Alderman Sleeman that the Government feared the cost would be many times greater in six years than forecast." That fear was quite understandable, but the people who have been supporting the Games strongly in the past few weeks could have given it a little more support in the early stages.

The article continued—

"The State Government is so concerned about its existing financial problems that Cabinet appointed a committee yesterday to eliminate any unnecessary programmes and look at reducing all but essential works

The Premier confirmed late yesterday that he had invited Alderman Sleeman to lunch at the Executive Building."

It comes to mind that the expenditure on that luncheon might have been the first thing that could have been cut out.

At a later stage, the article continued—

"Some influential Liberal Ministers can be expected to press for support for the Games to be held in Brisbane."

I acknowledge that a few of them lent their support and I am grateful that they did so.

The article then continued—

"The Liberal Party team leader in the council election (Alderman S. McDonald) said that if a Liberal council administration were elected, it would review the decision to apply to hold the Games because of the cost."

If the Liberals had won the election, the Games would not have been held. That is what the leader of the Liberals in the Brisbane City Council said.

On 6 March 1976, Alderman McDonald's comments were reported in "The Courier-Mail" in this way—

"The question of how much the Games will cost ratepayers if Brisbane's bid is successful is being pushed as a campaign issue by the Liberals, who will stand in the council elections for the first time on March 27."

In some ways I regret making some of my comments. Some of them have been prompted by personal feelings aroused by vilification by members on the other side of the political sphere and certain members of the media who have conveniently forgotten their attacks and who at this time are very quick to take personal credit for the Games that have been so successful.

Mr Davis: Like Fraser.

Mr SHAW: Yes, indeed, like the Prime Minister.

I congratulate the State Government for the role that it has played. I congratulate the Brisbane City Council for the very fine job that it has done. That has not generally been recognised. The velodrome was constructed by Brisbane City Council day-labour gangs. The velodrome has a concrete surface that is open to the elements. It is recognised as the best of its type in the world. Work on the velodrome was completed by the Brisbane City Council day-labour gangs when the contractor was not able to complete it. There is a tendency to forget some of those matters when congratulations are being handed out.

It is timely to remember the difficulties caused at that time by the knockers of the people who were trying to be progressive. Difficulties arose because of a lack of support for the athletes who took part in the Games. There was doubt and uncertainty in their training programs not only for the Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane but also for the last Olympic Games, partly in relation to the provision of equipment.

I will not waste the time of the Chamber by traversing matters raised by other honourable members. The facilities in this city for many types of sporting and recreational pursuits are first class. The optimum use must be made of them. The Brisbane City Council will be undertaking some of the projects adopted in Christchurch to make facilities available to sporting clubs, because it is from that level that the champions of the future come.

There are many lessons to be learned. When we are all patting each other on the back, it is timely to remember that the path was not always rosy and that, in future, things should be made easier for the people who have had to struggle to make the Games possible.

Mr SCOTT (Cook) (2.58 p.m.): I am very happy to add my voice to those that have been raised in this Chamber in congratulating all the people concerned with the Commonwealth Games. They have certainly been a great credit to the State of Queensland, to the people who live in Queensland and to the people who organised and carried out all that was necessary to make such an event successful.

It is interesting to note that it has given us a week and a half's respite in the tortuous days of the Fraser Government. That has been good. It has removed people's minds from politics. The Leader of the Government in Canberra said that he would get politics off the front pages of the newspapers, with the implication that he might put sport on the front pages. He has had some respite from the goings on in his own party and his own governmental area because of the very thing about which we are speaking today—that is, sport and, in particular, the Commonwealth Games.

I am particularly pleased to add my voice, because the Games were greatly appreciated by people living in country areas. They do not receive many of the good things that are going on in this State, because the State and Federal Governments have never seen fit to extend any real facilities to people living in country areas. In this instance, by virtue of the ABC transmission, country people were able to enjoy watching the Commonwealth Games, something that city people tend to take for granted.

It is interesting to note that on the occasion of the Commonwealth Games the ABC went to great lengths to provide transmission from Brisbane via the Intel communications satellite and the Moree transmission station. I draw the attention of honourable members to the fact that many centres in Far North Queensland, and, I presume, in the rest of Australia, receive what are commonly known as New South Wales television transmissions. That is because transmission is via satellite and from Moree to the various isolated centres. I understand that after some firming-up operations the technical facilities that were used to transmit the Commonwealth Games to remote places will, by the end of the year, provide the link by which all people in Queensland will be able to watch television. They will be able to see Queensland television instead of something coming from New South Wales. Reference has been made to fringe benefits from the Commonwealth Games. That particular fringe benefit will flow on to people in my area and I am very pleased about it.

While the Games were being held I was able to visit certain centres in the Cook electorate. It was too good an opportunity to miss, so I did not come to Brisbane. I was able to travel to the remote areas of my electorate. I was able to drive right up to Lockhart River. Although it does not have television, other places such as Coen, Laura and Cooktown

certainly do. Also I visited Georgetown, where I saw people glued to their sets. In people's homes and in various places around town I found it impossible to drag people away from television sets. The people in those areas are sports-minded people. They knew the names of the competitors and they knew their expertise. Naturally they were cheering for Australia, which was extremely good to see.

I must compliment the ABC on its television coverage of the Games. I might even say that the ABC was not backward in coming forward to compliment itself. That was quite appropriate. The ABC could not have done a better job. I say, "Good on the ABC. I'll drink to it." As we in politics say, the ABC had the microphone.

A whole new range of sports fans has been created in Queensland and throughout Australia. Because of that very short period of television transmission of the Games, people who previously had only a slight interest in sport have become dedicated sports fans. Many Queenslanders know a good deal about sport—much more than I know—but others do not know a great deal and yet took the opportunity to learn as much as they could about sports, competitors, times and other things.

Mr Mackenroth: Malcolm Fraser.

Mr SCOTT: He simply used the Games for political purposes—or almost solely for political purposes.

It was interesting to note the number of black competitors from other countries. I suggest that the teams from Great Britain would not have been as strong as they were if it had not been for the black competitors in those teams.

That brings me to the particular point that I want to make. The black people of Queensland are to be complimented on the way in which they conducted themselves during what was for them a very trying period. They did an exceptionally good job. They went about things in a proper way. They have a very strong case to present, yet they attract little sympathy from Government members in this House. I do not think any Government member has any sympathy whatever for black people.

During the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games we saw evidence of that. Certain predictions were made by the Premier and he charged Aborigines with having the taste of blood in their mouth. He made that dreadful comment from the land of his birth, New Zealand.

We all saw the goings-on of the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police (Mr Hinze). Incidentally, because both Aurukun and Mornington Island come under his control through the Local Government portfolio, he should have sympathy for the Aboriginal people. However, he has none whatever. No Government member has sympathy for them. That is particularly so of those on the Government side who concocted that horrendous piece of legislation known as the Commonwealth Games Act.

The one glimmer of hope that I saw in the Minister's speech was his comment that that Act was sunset legislation and that the sun had set on it. Let us hope that never again in Queensland will a Government find it necessary to introduce legislation of that nature. It was not necessary. All the provisions contained in it are already contained in existing Queensland law. The police had the necessary power to handle whatever situations might have developed in Brisbane during the Commonwealth Games.

Of course they did not develop. Responsible Aboriginal people and their leaders were determined to use an opportunity to put forward a legitimate and valid point of view. They did that very properly, very reasonably and very successfully. The television and other media reporters not only made notes of the happenings at the various sporting complexes but also were present at the various relatively minor incidents that took place in Brisbane. All that news was broadcast around the world, and I have no doubt that it was written up in overseas newspapers.

I have taken as much note as I could of overseas reports, and found that very little filtered back to Australia. We are an incredibly isolated community and I have not yet seen what those people wrote about the situation in Queensland. They will certainly be commenting on it, and I am sure that they will refer to the repressive situation in which the Aboriginal people in Queensland find themselves, and the good way in which the Aboriginal protesters conducted themselves in the various parks and streets of Brisbane. They were able to show their own flag and demand their rights. I am pleased to say that the police in Queensland did not go too far.

Dr Edwards: Do you support a separate group of black people?

Mr SCOTT: I will not have any of the Minister's nonsense. He does not know what he is talking about. He has no sympathy for black people, so I ask him not to interject with that sort of rubbish.

The police were restrained. They very sensibly issued a march permit, which the Government would not have issued, and if the recommendation came from the commissioner, Mr Terry Lewis, I give him full credit for reading the mood of the people of Queensland. They wanted these protests to be properly conducted—and they were properly conducted.

I turn now to the few attempts to conduct illegal marches. I can understand that action. I become heated when I hear the nonsense from Government members. I admit that I get a bit emotional about these matters, and I do not blame those people who met in the parks and said, "We will march whether we have a permit or not."

Senator Bonner demonstrated very clearly that he is totally offside with his own black people. I do not believe that he has a close relationship with black people, land rights or anything else. He is a typical Liberal. He is in the right party as far as showing concern for black people is concerned. All that Senator Bonner does is mouth platitudes. I have heard him on the radio since the Commonwealth Games were completed. In fact, I heard him on a midday program on the ABC yesterday. I heard him wriggle round trying to say that he was onside with these people, that he was a tribal elder and that they should have listened to him. Of course, they did not listen to him because he is on the wrong track. He has no sympathy for Aboriginal people, let alone for Torres Strait Islanders.

Mr Frawley: He is an Uncle Tom.

Mr SCOTT: It is seldom that I agree with the honourable member for Caboolture, but I must agree that Senator Bonner is an Uncle Tom.

The Aboriginal people were well organised to conduct their affairs. They needed an opportunity to show how strongly and firmly they could put their case, and they did that extremely well.

This afternoon, I interjected while the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police (Mr Hinze) was speaking. He should have said that the Premier should have received Mr Steve Mam. For the information of those honourable members who do not know who Steve Mam is, I point out that he is the elected representative of the Brisbane area on the National Aboriginal Conference. That is the man to whom Government members should listen and with whom they should confer. Of course, they totally dissociate themselves from that democratically elected group, which is typical of the lack of democracy exhibited by the other side. Steve Mam, who is a leader of his people, was able to negotiate with the police in a proper and constructive way. He did so very successfully, and it was good to see it. That was one of the major factors that led to a peaceful demonstration here in Brisbane.

Dr Edwards: And meetings arranged by this Government.

Mr SCOTT: Why doesn't the Treasurer recognise him? The hypocrisy rolls off the Treasurer's own tongue in the Parliament. Of course, he is trying to suggest that he arranged those meetings. If he did so, it was only under extreme pressure. If the Treasurer has regard for the NAC, he should get the Premier, at whose side he sits, to publicly acknowledge that its members are democratically elected.

The other person I mention is Ms Pat O'Shane. She has been denigrated in an answer to a question asked by the National Party Whip. The Treasurer played his part in the shameful terms used to denigrate a person who cannot answer in this Chamber.

Dr Edwards: I didn't say a word.

Mr SCOTT: By interjection, the Treasurer was having a go at me. That just does not wear here.

Ms O'Shane is a person of great attainment. She is the only Aboriginal barrister in Australia. She was raised in Far North Queensland, in the little centre of Machans Beach, of black parentage. She was trained as a schoolteacher and has done something for herself through great dedication. After teaching in Far North Queensland, as an

adult she studied law in New South Wales and became a qualified barrister. She has had further attainments as a result of her own qualities and through her own efforts. She has been appointed Director of Aboriginal Affairs in New South Wales.

A Government Member: By whom?

Mr SCOTT: By Mr Wran. I am not ashamed to say that she was appointed by Mr Wran. Won't the member accept that?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I respectfully suggest that the member for Cook direct his remarks to the motion before the House.

Mr SCOTT: I accept your direction, Mr Speaker. I am very pleased to do so. I am talking about the black people who are in a position to work for something in our State and those who chose the opportunity to use the forums provided, not willingly, by the Government—the media, the parks and even the streets. The black people chose to talk about their rights and their needs. They did that very successfully during the period of the Commonwealth Games.

Ms O'Shane was not properly treated by her listeners yesterday when she addressed the Women of the Year function. Her listeners did not like what she said, but they had to sit and listen to it. It was the same yesterday afternoon. This is related to the Commonwealth Games, Mr Speaker, because all these things have happened as a result of the publicity generated by the Commonwealth Games. Yesterday we had to sit and listen to speeches by the Treasurer, the Premier and the Minister for Works and Housing, who said what wonderful things the Government had done but ignored the demolition of the Bellevue at midnight and other similar actions. They tried to give a totally false impression of the Government's achievements. We should have their speeches tabled so that we could read them at our leisure and talk about them.

Dr Edwards: I would be very happy to do so.

Mr SCOTT: I am pleased to hear it. We will have a look at them and make constructive criticism of their content.

I might say that there was not very much Aboriginal representation at the Cultural Centre function attended by the Queen. That was because of the way in which the DAIA writes down the people it is supposed to look after. There were just a couple from Far North Queensland, and the ever-present egregious director who allegedly looks after their interests. That is the type of thinking that this State has towards those people—push them away; push them to the fringes; never have them near the centre because they might teach us something about life and teach us something about people.

I comment on the \$13m that has gone into this building, which has been completed in time for the Commonwealth Games and is thus related to the debate this afternoon. That expenditure should have been deferred. We have been told by the Treasurer what a parlous condition the State's finances are in. He recently introduced the Budget, which will be debated by the Parliament this afternoon. If he has the leadership that he tells the people of this State that he has to offer, why was that expenditure not deferred and the funds directed to the country areas where they are so badly needed?

Dr Edwards interjected.

Mr SCOTT: Let us have something for the future. Let us speak of the bicentenary celebrations which will be another celebration a la the Commonwealth Games. In 1988 let us set our sights on having some real expenditure in country areas to commemorate the bicentenary. Everbody knows that Captain Cook sailed the entire length of the Queensland coast; he did not stop just in Brisbane. I hope that at that time the functions will not be wholly centred on the capital of the State. Our sights should be set wider.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Unless the honourable member returns to the motion before the House, I will ask him to resume his seat. I have given him one warning. I would expect that at some time he may make some passing reference to the motion before the House. For the last 10 minutes he has not done so.

Mr SCOTT: I am quite happy to continue my remarks and to congratulate the people concerned. At the beginning of my speech honourable members who were listening would have noted that I added my voice to the congratulations, particularly to the workers who

kept the whole show together. They did a wonderful job. I am quite happy to conclude my remarks by extending sincere congratulations to those concerned with the Commonwealth Games, which have certainly been a great thing for Brisbane, Queensland and Australia.

Mr LESTER (Peak Downs) (3.17 p.m.): I also extend my congratulations to all who had anything whatsoever to do with the staging of the recent Commonwealth Games. I am sure that all people of the Peak Downs electorate would wish to be associated with those congratulations. Those who had any doubts about the strength and the future of this great State could no longer have them. It was a team effort of Queenslanders who got together to do a job and engaged others to help them. The job was a magnificent one and it has done us all proud.

It surprises me today that there are those who are knocking some of the things that were done. For once in our lives can't we get together and all be proud of what has been a magnificent event in the State of Queensland? The State has come of age and it will go even further.

Many other activities were held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games, Festival '82 which was the lead-up to the Games, probably did more for Queensland than anything has done for a long time—of course, with the exception of the Games. The cultural activities were varied and very good, including such things as little children in parks being shown how to paint and draw. That is a new type of cultural activity that is coming to the State. It involves children and all families, not just the elite who can afford to be taught.

A magnificent part of the Games, which has not been mentioned in great detail today, was the effort of the voluntary helpers, officials and usherettes, who helped with the staging of the Games, did it for nothing and did not ask for anything. That is the type of thing that is bonding the people of the State together.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It is the sort of thing your Government is trying to destroy.

Mr LESTER: I have stated that the voluntary help involved many Queenslanders and created a bond. Also, Festival '82 helped to bond the family unit together. An honourable member opposite has said that the Government is trying to destroy the family unit. That interjection makes me wonder about the intelligence of the honourable member. At one stage I thought he did have some intelligence; but a remark such as that really makes me wonder, because in this instance families, officials and all Queenslanders have worked together to achieve something great. Now we have done it, let us pat ourselves on the back. Why not? Why do Opposition members try to destroy things? Why do they say that things were not done?

Let us lift ourselves and be positive. That is the way in which we will get ahead and stage the 1992 Olympic Games. Not only will we stage them; they will be every bit as magnificent as the recent spectacle of the Commonwealth Games, which were only a start. We will stage the Olympics, and do so in a way that has never been done before. We will do that through a continuing team effort and without the stupid carryings on of some Opposition members, which will not help at all. I make a call here in this Chamber for each and every Queenslanders to get behind the effort to gain the Olympic Games. It will not be easy. Who said it would be? But, after all, it would be a worthwhile achievement and we would ultimately reap the benefit.

Those people who, in the early days, knocked the Commonwealth Games—

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Your party did.

Mr LESTER: My party did not. My party helped make the Games possible. The Government of Queensland gave \$10m, as did the Commonwealth Government. The Federal Cabinet moved to Brisbane for the Games. Has that ever been done before? The members of Cabinet were here for the duration of the Games, and they have gone away with a lasting impression of good organisation. Those people in the South who dared to think of some of us as hicks cannot do so any more, because the record is on the board. No other State has been able to do anything as magnificent as we have done in the past few weeks. Look at the wonderful way in which the Queen was treated. It has been suggested that her visit was not part of the Commonwealth Games.

Some people have even dared to knock the refurbishing of this building. The Labor Party continued to knock the Government when it suggested that certain things be destroyed; yet the Government has restored Parliament House to the extent that it is now the finest parliamentary building in Australia. Some people are now saying that it ought not to have been done. Such people know on which side their bread is buttered. It is about time they got on with the job of trying to make Queensland great. If Opposition members did that instead of knocking all the time, there would be a better Opposition in this Chamber. That is good advice. I suggest that honourable members opposite take it, although I know very well that they will not.

It is pleasing that a great many officials were Queenslanders. We do not wish to take all the credit for everything that was done, but the nucleus of officials were Queenslanders. We are all very proud indeed that so many Queensland athletes won medals. After all, we are Queenslanders and this is the Queensland Parliament; so let us here in this Parliament give a special pat on the back to those Queenslanders who won medals. I would like to see a reception given by this Parliament, on behalf of the people of Queensland, for those athletes who won medals, or even for all the athletes who took part in the Games. Such a gesture would be much appreciated.

It is wonderful that the many people who watched the Games events on television were so impressed. It is not unreasonable to say that people could get a better view of the Games events on television, but many people went to the Games venues to enjoy the spirit of the Games. They felt uplifted and believed that they should do their little bit by watching the events first-hand.

I gave credit to the young people when I said that the usherettes were mainly young people working in a voluntary capacity. The schoolchildren of Queensland performed magnificently at the opening ceremony and, to a lesser degree, at the closing ceremony. In the opening spectacle, the children and their teachers, egged on by all of us, showed Queensland as a wonderful State. If a contestant performs ordinarily, in a hundred-yard race he gets away with the rest of the runners. In the magnificent opening ceremony, we got away with a five-yard start, never looked back and were never beaten.

Let us resolve to stop unnecessary knocking, look to the future, work out a way of doing things and then do them.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (3.28 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate. It is regrettable that some comments were made that should not have been made on this occasion. The motion provided an opportunity for all honourable members to pay tribute to the people who gave so much of their time and effort in promoting and staging the Games and making them so successful. The sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Opposition, by the Premier, by me and by many honourable members about the significant points in staging the Games were typical of what should have been said on this occasion. I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition will agree with me that some of the statements made by Opposition members and Government members were uncalled for when we were paying tribute to people. The debate was used by them for the wrong purpose.

I am sure that the adoption of this motion will be some small compensation for the people who worked so hard to make the Games successful.

Motion (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

SUPPLY

Committee—Financial Statement—Resumption of Debate

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Miller, Ithaca) in the chair

Debate resumed from 23 September (see p. 1192) on Dr Edwards's motion—

“That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1982-83, a sum not exceeding \$512,000 to defray Contingencies—His Excellency the Governor.”

Mr CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (3.29 p.m.): Governments are elected by people and they have a responsibility to those who elect them to ensure that their wishes, their desires and their ambitions are put into practice. Unfortunately, Governments that have been around for a long time tend to become complacent, careless and even contemptuous of those who elect them.

I believe that such is the case in Queensland today. The present Government in this State bears the classical signs of one that has been in office too long. It is now complacent in its attitude towards the issues of the day, careless in the way in which it conducts its affairs and contemptuous towards the people of Queensland. It can even be said that it bears signs which indicate it has even become corrupt in its practices.

Unquestionably, the wage and salary income earners of this State and nation believe that somewhere the system which controls their lives and their life-styles has gone wrong, and they are the ones who are being disadvantaged, both financially and politically.

Living standards have declined dramatically in this State and nation in just the last three years, and the only answer that the National and Liberal Parties have is through their coalition Governments, both State and federally, to increase taxation on the ordinary people.

Meanwhile, they have encouraged the tax avoidance industry to flourish and ordinary people have become the scapegoats. The Queensland National-Liberal Party Government must bear its full share of the blame for this situation. After all, in addition to their own mishandling of the affairs of this State, Mr Bjelke-Petersen and Dr Edwards led the campaign for Messrs Fraser and Anthony at the last Federal election. They are just as guilty as their Federal colleagues for the mess in which Australia now finds itself.

The State Budget is a sleight-of-hand trick in the same mould as the present Treasurer's previous Budgets. All this nonsense of Queensland's great effort in balancing its Budget each year is so much hog-wash. The State Government has had money flowing out of its ears for years, and it simply manipulates the transfer of funds each year in the month prior to 30 June to show a balance. In fact, it has surplus funds available to it all the year round, which are used to pork-barrel in National Party electorates whilst the very real problems of unemployment, housing, welfare services and honesty in Government are thrown out the window.

Foreign investors have been more welcome than Queenslanders. The profits of the resources boom have been felt in overseas boardrooms rather than in Queensland pay-packets. There has got to be an alternative. In fact, there has got to be a better alternative. I believe a Casey Labor Government can provide that better alternative, and it is my intention today to indicate to the people of Queensland the way in which that can be achieved.

The first point that must be made is that Governments must be honest. The National-Liberal Government in Queensland is not being honest about the current state of the economy. In his Budget Speech, the Treasurer failed to outline the true situation of the Queensland economy. The people of Queensland are entitled to know the situation, and I will give it to them. I will not omit key indicators, as the Treasurer has done, nor will I exaggerate or play down key facts.

Nationally, the economy is on the slide, and although Queensland has weathered the Fraser/Anthony onslaught better than the rest of Australia, that has been mainly because projects which were begun in the heady years of the '70s are continuing towards completion. But the prospects for the future are nowhere near as bright.

With resources projects not nearly as attractive as they were eight to ten years ago, many plans for expansion or establishment of new undertakings, especially in the mining area, have been shelved or completely abandoned. As the current construction jobs disappear, thousands more names will appear on the unemployment register and more and more Queenslanders will become concerned for the security of their present jobs.

Rural industry is depressed for a number of reasons. The drought has taken its toll, thus increasing rural unemployment. This has further aggravated the already bleak rural picture caused by the Liberal-National economic policies. There has been a marked deterioration in sales of agricultural equipment (and this has flowed onto the manufacturing sector, as we have seen recently in Bundaberg) as a result of poor sugar prices and the drought in grain-growing areas.

The beef industry is suffering from restricted entry to export markets, and this is also causing some downturn in domestic prices to producers.

The prospects for Queensland industry are very bleak. Engineering firms are beginning to retrench employees, and tender lists are expanding as the competition for even small contracts becomes a matter of survival. The situation will deteriorate as the present major construction jobs in Queensland near completion.

As an example of the state of the Queensland economy, which relies heavily on overseas trade, let us look at exports and imports over the last year, what we could classify as our Queensland balance of payments. Exports are down by \$75m, or 38.4 per cent. Imports, on the other hand, are up by 31.1 per cent. The simple facts are that we are spending more than we are earning.

The present Government is always boasting of how well off we are in Queensland. The truth is that in many ways we are worse off than the other States. In terms of the amount of money Queenslanders have in their pockets to spend, we are the poorest in the nation. Despite the Government's claim that more people are coming to Queensland as the haven of free enterprise, the total number of businesses in Queensland fell slightly last year.

One of the demand factors which affects the whole economy is consumer spending. In the year 1981-82, it grew by only 2.5 per cent. However, we had a 3.5 per cent increase in population, so there was an effective drop in consumer spending per head of population. Capital expenditure also showed a marked deceleration as the year progressed.

The Treasurer made the understatement of the year when he said that the building and construction industry was in a "flat" state. "Squashed" would be a better word. He even went on to say that the number of new dwellings approved had fallen "marginally"

Let us have the truth. Expenditure on new housing is seriously below former levels. Dwelling approvals are down by 38 per cent and the value of such approvals, even with inflation, is down by 22 per cent.

It has been estimated that the housing and construction industry contributes 20 per cent towards the turnover of the economy. If this sector is in such a depressed state, it is sure to affect the rest.

These figures, however dramatic, do not reflect the hardship being faced by thousands of families trying to overcome the deposit gap and high interest rates to buy their first home. Nor does it project the struggle being undertaken by those existing home purchasers who find that their repayments are constantly escalating.

What, then, is ahead for the Queensland economy this year? There are indications that the consumer outlook will deteriorate even further. Business confidence is eroded. The sugar and beef industries will remain depressed. There will be little if any increase in investment in mining and resource projects.

All this adds up to one thing—increasing unemployment. It is staring us straight in the face—no-one's job is secure. This is the situation which worries the Labor Party most, because the ALP is concerned about people.

If existing jobs are to be protected business must thrive and development proceed in a balanced and ordered manner. But that cannot happen unless the most important resource we have—the people of Queensland—share in the development and the benefits that go with it and unless they are sure of their job, through which they play their part. If they do not have a job they must be given the opportunity of obtaining one so that they can contribute towards the productive capacity of this State.

The Treasurer in his scenario for 1982-83 admits that there is no real prospect of any significant fall-off in unemployment in the short term, and tragically he makes no effort in his Budget to do anything about it. In other words, so far as the Government is concerned, those 75 000 Queenslanders out of work, or 7.1 per cent of the work-force, will remain out of work. This Government washes its hands of those people. It tries to say that it is the fault of the Federal Government.

This Government says a State Government cannot have such a great influence on the economy, that we cannot effectively protect ourselves from the economic ills of the nation and the world. It is this National-Liberal Government that should be unemployed.

A Queensland Government can play a substantial role in insulating Queensland business and Queenslanders from the current economic problems. It has the funds to do so, and I will use the Treasurer's own figures to prove that it is possible.

It is against this backdrop of an economy whose momentum has been declining that we must view both the Budget for 1982-83 and the Government's performance during the past 12 months.

In fact, I would go so far as to say that, unless we first understand the Government's performance, we will find it impossible to understand the Treasurer's Budget strategy.

The key to the Treasurer's accounts lies in a single statement on page 12 of the Budget Speech where he says "the Consolidated Revenue Fund can provide only \$8 million for the Special Projects Fund."

The Special Projects Fund is a good place to start because, as the Treasurer also says, a shortfall in that fund is "potentially catastrophic to development and employment in the State." Just how catastrophic I shall presently disclose.

In his previous Budget, the Treasurer appropriated \$161.7m for his special capital works projects. But in this year's Estimates he reveals that he actually spent \$250.7m; that is, \$89m more than he budgeted for.

What we have to look for is not so much where the money was spent as where the extra came from. Was it a revenue flood that was totally unexpected at the time when the Budget was brought down? Or was it something else?

Last year the Treasurer spent less in his department than was appropriated, and he still found that extra \$89m. In both 1980-81 and 1981-82, although the Budget was more or less balanced, the Special Projects Fund was overspent by \$60m and \$89m respectively.

In the year just finished, the Treasurer used the funds which had been allocated to increases under Public Service awards, some \$90m, to supplement his capital works projects, as he had done in the previous year.

He can do that because the heading is not specific to a fund. It is an allocation that he makes at the beginning of the year and on which he can draw for whatever purpose he decides. That is how the Treasurer is able to find money while at the same time cry poor.

The item to cover increases under Public Service awards could clearly be termed the Vote Buying Fund. That brings me to the next point. If we look carefully at that item in this year's Estimates, we see an appropriation of \$136.5m.

Two other funds need close consideration if we are to properly understand the Budget strategy. They also provide the basis on which the Labor Party strategy can be understood. Those two funds are the Treasurer's Advance Fund and the Superannuation Additional Benefits Fund. The former suffers the same fate as the Public Service and Other Awards Fund. It is appropriated but not spent—at least not traceable to a specific use.

We do know, however, that the Treasurer's Budget as a whole was balanced, so reasonable men would conclude that it is spent somewhere. This year, however, the appropriation is for \$9.5m. A handy amount to have just prior to an election!

But the nub of the Budget is a great and rambling fund known as the State Service Superannuation Additional Benefits Fund. From this fund the Government ostensibly pays its contributions to retiring employees' superannuation. It has also found that it is a handy fund for funding its new housing scheme, which is really only a readjustment of existing schemes.

The fund at the beginning of this year stood at \$759.2m, according to the Auditor-General. It is the major component of what is loosely referred to as the Treasurer's cash balances, with which he plays the short-term money market. This year he will appropriate \$107m to the fund's credit.

The figure has no actuarial significance in either its size or its timing. Indeed, if some means could be found of channelling those funds as loans to the private sector, whether industry or housing, the fund could go a long way towards becoming self-funding. It would reduce the fund's dependence on gratuitous appropriations. I shall return to this point at a later date.

Expert actuarial advice given to me indicates that the appropriation need not even be made in advance. An equally sound practice would mean that the funds are appropriated next year when the expenditures from the fund are known with surety. Coupled with a more prudent investment of the fund's balances, this would enable the release of the \$107m for capital works projects during this year.

Similarly, certain Government operations which are currently losing substantial sums of revenue could, with a modest increase in capital investment, be turned into profitable ventures.

The railways is one such example. On the revenue side, the installation of electronic weighing equipment would give the Government accurate measurements of the tonnages that are carried.

The present system by which the rated capacity of mineral wagons and containers of general freight are accepted as accurate assessments of the weight actually carried has led to a situation where the former are overloaded by 10 per cent and the latter by up to 40 per cent.

On current indications the revenue lost to the Government is over \$60m in freight charges and the inaccurate assessment of mineral royalties. The amount of lost revenue is increased by goods receivals being handled by private contractors. Insufficient checks are made of the tonnages carried, and therefore no accurate assessment of the freight charged can be made.

I have no doubt that there are yet other funds on which the Treasurer and Premier can draw at a moment's notice, but it is unlikely that their importance will match that of the funds that I have referred to. Nevertheless, a full and complete picture of all these funds will be obtained when Labor assumes office next year.

I mentioned briefly that the Government's use of the Additional Benefits Fund did not realise the full potential of this fund, either in providing the benefits that it should or in the contribution that it could make to the State's economy.

Apart from the small flirtation with the new housing scheme, the sole use that the Treasurer can find for these funds is on the short-term money market. That market epitomises the speculative nature of certain types of investment whose only purpose is the creation of paper debt and paper profit.

Nor is it only the Treasurer who speculates so wildly. The statutory authorities and many of the boards set up to assist primary and secondary industry, all of which are controlled by the Government, are also engaged in this speculative venture.

Yet some boards borrow millions of dollars during the year to finance their activities, some at finance company rates. Those rates far exceed those earned by the Government on the short-term money market.

I turn to what I regard as one of the greatest sins in this nation, committed by the present administration—the way in which it has stood by and allowed the tax avoidance industry to flourish. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost to this State because some members of society are unwilling to bear their fair share of the tax burden.

The Treasurer and Minister for Justice will shake their heads and deny it—as the Treasurer did this morning—saying that such matters are a Federal responsibility and have nothing to do with the State Government. The truth is that his Government should be vitally concerned about tax avoidance because, if thousands of millions of dollars of tax are avoided nationally, Queensland loses hundreds of millions of revenue from the Commonwealth tax-sharing agreement. The Premier and his cronies complain about high levels of personal taxation. However, if they helped stamp out tax avoidance, the burden on honest individuals would be reduced.

I have previously indicated in the Parliament the way in which this Government let one of the leaders of the tax-avoidance industry slip through its fingers and go on to become a Mr Big of the tax-avoidance racket. I have also shown how the appallingly low staff levels in the Corporate Affairs Office in Queensland have resulted in a failure to detect

dealings in which firms were bought and sold under dubious circumstances and consigned to the bottom of the harbour for tax-avoidance purposes. There has been a basic lack of manpower and proper control—by the Government.

This, I must repeat, is no reflection on the staff of the Corporate Affairs Office. Every year but one since 1973 the Auditor-General has criticised the poor staff levels in the office and the lack of follow-up on companies that had not lodged annual returns. The Auditor-General suggested computerisation as a means of improving the office operations, revenue collection and surveillance of company dealings.

Nothing was done by the Government, with the result that this year the Auditor-General stated that \$5m in revenue was lost because the Corporate Affairs Office did not have the wherewithal to collect it. \$3.5 million of that is estimated to be recoverable immediately if the extra staff were appointed and improvements were made.

The Minister for Justice claims that, because of staff ceilings and the cost of additional staff and equipment, it was impossible to do as the Auditor-General requested. I give an assurance that a Labor Government would ensure that the Corporate Affairs Office was improved to carry out its task effectively. My Government would also take every step to eliminate tax avoidance and evasion at a State and Federal level.

Crimes against individuals and property are bad enough, threatening, as they do, the peace and liberty of individuals. Tax evasion and avoidance are greater crimes, however, as they threaten the very essence of the nation by undermining the people's confidence in the laws. The present Government aids and abets that practice, firstly, by refusing to inquire into the behaviour of known offenders and, secondly, by promising only co-operation with any Commonwealth action that might eventuate—whatever that word might mean.

Further it has allowed practices to occur in Queensland that blatantly breach the spirit of the law. One such practice was widespread throughout Queensland. It involved the trading of options on property. As those options were not required to be registered under Queensland law, there was no compulsion on those involved to pay the required stamp duty on the transactions. In some instances the options were traded three and four times before the title was transferred and stamp duty finally paid. I repeat that it was paid on the last transaction only. Given the extent of this form of property trading in the south-east corner during 1981-82, an estimated \$5m of lost stamp duty is not unrealistic.

The speed with which those options changed hands made the realised profits subject to a Commonwealth capital gains tax; yet, because there was no record of the transactions, the Commonwealth was unable to trace the beneficiaries. Queensland's share of that lost revenue is inestimable, but would have been worth many times the value of stamp duties lost.

A simple legislative amendment would have given the people their just entitlement from these transactions—an amendment which the Government has not even contemplated. It is that continual omission of duty which has aided the tax-avoidance industry.

One change to the raising of revenues that the Labor Party would consider would be a financial institutions duty, similar to that introduced in New South Wales and Victoria this year. Although the duty requires more study, and I will be looking closely at the Victorian and New South Wales legislation, it is a much fairer system than presently exists in Queensland.

Stamp duty on cheques means that a person writing a cheque for \$2 pays just as much duty as a person writing a cheque for \$200,000 or even \$2m. Obviously if such a duty were introduced, other charges would be abolished. Labor would review the operations of the new duty in the two southern States, and consider its advantages and disadvantages before making a decision.

I will now summarise how much additional revenue is available to the Treasurer if he really wants to do something about unemployment in the State, combined with a desire to administer the affairs of Government efficiently. I have referred to the \$107m from the Superannuation Additional Benefits Fund. The second amount is the \$60m in extra revenue from the railways through the installation of electronic weighing equipment. \$9.5m is available from the Treasurer's Advance Fund as well as \$5m from stamp duty on the transfer of options and \$3m from upgrading of the Office of the Commissioner for

Corporate Affairs and the proper collection of company annual returns. That is a total of \$184.5m. Under the present economic situation, a Casey Labor Government would use those funds to create jobs, to get this State out of the doldrums, and to help those in our society who need our assistance most.

The first step in strengthening and widening the base of Queensland's economy would be to encourage the establishment of manufacturing and processing industries in all parts of the State. One of the main problems with the Queensland economy is that it has too many eggs in too few baskets. Further processing of our raw materials and further downstream manufacturing would ensure that the higher profits from value-added factors towards the end of the production chain are kept in Queensland, and not allowed to escape overseas or to southern States. Labor would allocate an additional \$5m for such assistance.

Rail is the most economical way of moving large tonnages over huge distances. I have already mentioned that the installation of weighing equipment costing about \$10m would drastically increase railway revenue. Decentralisation of the railway receival yards, especially in Brisbane, to various points throughout the metropolitan region would also aid in increasing the volume of freight that the railways carry. It would also ease the bottleneck at the Roma Street yards, which currently deters more customers than it attracts.

The second area of investment that would add substantially to revenue is the duplication of railway lines in areas in which high-density traffic currently causes long delays. Unless that investment is made now, the growth in coal exports and other exports that is expected to occur during the remainder of the 1980s will be far below its potential. All honourable members accept that the State's railway system must be the central feature of a properly integrated transport network, but mismanagement by the Government and short-sightedness in forward planning by the Railway Department have already increased the volume of road transport and consequently the burden on the State's roads. The State Government is ignoring both. An additional \$30m spent during the remainder of 1982-83 on upgrading the railways in the way that I have outlined, will ease the problem considerably. The weighing equipment alone, when installed, would increase revenue sufficiently to more than cover the expenditure.

In addition, over 1 000 extra employment opportunities would be created in the railways throughout the State, with more to follow during 1983-84. A profitable railway network would once more become the central feature of the State's transport system.

I will now turn to housing. As I mentioned earlier, one sector of the economy that has felt the full force of the recession is the housing sector. The housing crisis is occurring in two areas. Firstly, high interest rates are making it impossible for young families to purchase their first home. The deposit gap is too big. The repayments are too high. Secondly, the consequent high cost of rental accommodation has created a serious situation in welfare housing.

In the year ended June this year, the number of applications to the Housing Commission for rental accommodation soared by more than 50 per cent. This National-Liberal Government is solely responsible for that increase. Queensland has by far the worst record of any State in the welfare housing area. I suppose that is only to be expected from a Government whose friends and supporters, and, consequently, interests, are the wealthy and the privileged, rather than the poor and the needy.

To begin correcting this situation a Labor Government would give welfare housing the highest priority. \$40m would be made available throughout the year, with particular attention in regional areas to the capacity of local builders to fill contracts. This would directly create another 1 000 jobs and, just as importantly, provide housing for hundreds of families now deprived of that essential amenity.

One of the worst actions of this National-Liberal Government, which has placed great strain on the economy of provincial and rural Queensland, was the decision to slash subsidies to local government, and completely stop special grants to local authorities.

I have a great pile of letters from local authorities all over Queensland describing the hardships they have faced because of this decision. They have had to sack their workers, abandon their major projects or increase their rates. And this action was taken at a time when interest rates were at their peak and the pressure on local authorities was already severe. In most areas of Queensland the local council is the major employer, and assistance to local government can help to create jobs throughout the State.

A Labor Government would restore the local government subsidies to their previous levels, pending a full inquiry into the finances of local authorities generally. This would require expenditure of at least an extra \$6m on subsidies. In addition, \$5m would be spent on special grants in areas of high unemployment. A total of \$11m would be spent to help to maintain an estimated 300 or more extra jobs in local authorities, which would have a generating effect. In keeping with a regional approach to unemployment, local authorities would be asked to submit details of urgent road and other capital works which need to be undertaken, and could provide employment.

In recent years, we have heard a lot about education, and I accept that in this Budget the Government has begun to do something. But it is Labor Party policy that the Ahern report recommendations on class sizes be introduced as soon as possible. A Labor Government would employ an additional 3 200 teachers to implement that recommendation, with 1 600 starting in our first year of government. Those teachers would be in addition to those employed to cope with increased enrolments. In the first year those additional teachers would cost an estimated \$21m. Of course, on top of that, certain capital works would have to be carried out to accommodate the extra staff members, and \$10m would be allocated for this purpose in the first year of a Labor Government.

Despite the National Party-dominated Government, one of the most neglected sectors in Queensland is rural industry, which is presently in the grip of a drought that is costing millions of dollars. Obviously when it changed its name from "Country Party" to "National Party" it turned its back on rural people. The best that this Government can come up with is a haphazard, patchy scheme of assistance, headed by a proposal to pay graziers to destroy cattle and sheep. What is needed is a long-term approach that would help insulate the man on the land from the severe effects of drought. After all, prevention is better than cure.

A Labor Government in Queensland would immediately bring a \$20m water conservation program, with subsidies for dam construction, the sinking and rejuvenating of bores and other on-farm projects, to ensure that the next drought does not have the same effect as the current one. This would provide considerable employment in rural areas, where the unemployment rate is the highest in Queensland. The combination of harsh weather and harsh economic policies is draining the life-blood from country towns and cities. Labor would not stand by and see the country die.

One of the main ways in which private sector activity can be encouraged by Government is through capital works programs such as buildings, roads, dams and bridges. It offers an economic boost to the relevant industries and, of course, the State benefits with the construction of important works.

The Government acknowledges the importance of this fact with allocations from its Special Projects Fund. But we would go even further and allocate an extra \$30m for capital works through the Special Projects Fund. One area of concern is the construction of major water resource projects. At the present rate of funding some of these dams will never be built. The Kinchant Dam, the Emerald Scheme and the Bundaberg scheme are still on the go. I could cite a great many more, but I do point out that there is a great lack of any positive indication of really getting on with the Burdekin scheme. All of those schemes are on the never-never because each year costs are rising to a greater extent than is the Budget allocation. That will have to be changed. A Labor Government would allocate funds to get the jobs completed, to increase productivity and to return income to the Government.

In relation to overall strategy on employment, a plan is needed to co-ordinate Queensland's future manpower needs. A Labor Government would establish a manpower-planning commission. Its role would be to investigate the reasons for unemployment in particular areas and to make recommendations on how the problems could be overcome. The commission would also have a brief to study the long-term needs of Queensland industries in terms of skilled, professional and semi-skilled employees, and to recommend ways in which those needs could be met. It would cost only \$1.5m to establish such a commission, which would be of tremendous benefit to industry in Queensland.

One of the disasters of recent years has been the way in which small business in Queensland has been ignored by this supposedly free-enterprise Government. Under the Bjelke-Petersen-Edwards administration, small business has found it more and more difficult to survive, especially in the big shopping centres, where abominable leasing practices exist and have done so for some time.

Small business is the backbone of commerce and industry in Queensland, employing almost half of the wages employees of the State. The Government does not recognise the problems of small business, but I assure honourable members that the Labor Party does. Labor would immediately allocate \$3m to assist small business. Further details of this assistance will be released by the shadow Minister for manufacturing, business and consumer affairs over the next few months.

To help overcome the balance-of-payments problem being suffered by this State at present, and to diversify our markets so that we are less vulnerable to regional trends, a Labor Government would open trade offices in Brussels (the headquarters of the E.E.C.), Singapore (the trading centre of the East), and the west coast of the United States. It would also embark on a co-ordinated promotion of Queensland products and a proper market-development program.

In total, Labor's overall plan would directly create an estimated 5 375 new jobs. They would be made up of 1 600 additional teachers, 1 000 additional railway employees, an additional 1 000 employees working on housing, initially 300 additional workers employed by local authorities, with further local authority employees being necessary as the subsidy schemes got underway, 1 000 men employed on capital works projects and 500 on the water conservation program. It should be noted that, with the exception of the teachers and the railway staff, the employees will be in the private sector, helping to stimulate it and get it back on its feet. That, of course, would have a flow-through effect on the rest of the economy.

The Treasurer claimed that the multiplying factor was 5.5, so I will use his figures. In overall terms, Labor's plan for employment in Queensland would create almost 35 000 additional jobs. It would be foolish of me to claim that that would halve the present unemployment rate, because economic conditions are getting worse. Job security is of paramount importance in Queensland, but Labor's plan would help. It is a positive, responsible approach to the problems confronting the State, with its main priority being people. It is a practical plan that I believe the people of Queensland will support.

I will now make some comments on a very special way in which the State can control its own financial resources. Queensland's industries are being disadvantaged by the national financial sector. The level of deposits in financial institutions in this State has been growing faster than anywhere else in Australia. The proportion of that money, hard earned by Queenslanders, that is made available for borrowing in this State is far less than in other States. In other words, the industries of Queensland and the workers of Queensland are being milked for money by the banks, which siphon off millions upon millions of dollars from Queensland and use them to increase lending in other States.

And this Government has allowed it to happen! It has always preached "Queensland first" but it has never really practised what it preached. It likes to talk about saving Evans Deakin and use its huge propaganda machine to criticise southerners, but it has done nothing to protect Queenslanders from this institutionalised southern rip-off in the financial sector. The figures prove it. Queensland has the lowest ratio of all the States of loans, advances and bills discounted to deposits.

I table the statistics and seek leave to have them incorporated in "Hansard"

(Leave granted.)

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid on the table the following document:—

All Trading Banks

Ratio of Loans, Advances and Bills Discounted to Deposits

	December 1981	June 1981	December 1980
New South Wales	0.803	0.784	0.757
Victoria	0.719	0.764	0.771
Queensland	0.547	0.575	0.539
South Australia	1.16	1.185	1.138
Western Australia	0.913	0.960	0.954

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Mr CASEY: An amount of \$1 billion, which should be available for lending in Queensland, has been skimmed off the top for lending in southern States, and Mr Bjelke-Petersen and Dr Edwards, despite their avowed support for Queensland industry, have done nothing to stem the tide.

The table shows that, in Queensland, the level of lending from trading banks, compared with levels of savings, is significantly lower than in other States. Expressed as a percentage of deposits, in Queensland, lending is less than 60 per cent, while in Victoria it is 70 to 80 per cent, New South Wales 80 per cent and South Australia 110 to 120 per cent. In other words, Queensland investors are subsidising the lending levels in southern States, while Queensland borrowers are being penalised.

It is estimated that \$1,400m is channelled out of the Queensland banking system each year. If this practice was stopped or even reduced, hundreds of millions of dollars more would be available for lending in Queensland through the private sector to stimulate that group, with a flow on to other sections of the community. That would bring back revenue to the State of Queensland.

If the current slump in business and manufacturing is to be overcome, business must be able to borrow—to raise adequate finance—regardless of the current high interest rates, and it must be able to service that finance. The present system, with the financial giants severely curbing the amount they have available for lending in this State, will not help the Queensland economy out of the doldrums. However, what is even worse is that the Queensland Government acts like a high-roller.

Previous Labor Governments followed a basic principle that State finances were to be used to the best advantage of the people and the industries of this State. That is no longer the guiding force in the management of this State's affairs under the present Government. The Treasurer, just like a retired Gold Coast investor who has sold his companies and has nothing to do, believes that the only strategy available to him is to invest the Government's ready cash on the short-term money market and live on the interest. It must be made clear that this type of investment is totally unproductive. It only produces a boost to the southern and overseas banks, which control the short-term money market.

Another irony in this Government's policies is that while many of the instrumentalities under the Government's control scour the financial markets for loans and banking facilities, for which they pay through the nose, the Treasurer is busily telexing Queensland Government funds round the nation. The very people to whom the Treasurer lends are the same people from whom the Government and the semi-government authorities borrow, but at far greater penalties. The Treasurer believes that this speculative, non-productive investment is the only avenue open to him.

Spending the money on capital projects in Queensland, which would create jobs, encourage industry and have a flow-through effect on the whole economy, is dismissed by the National-Liberal Government as a policy. Those tens of thousands of unemployed Queenslanders would like to see things change. As always, there is a solution. There is a better way, and only Labor would show the way. The solution is for the State to lend its money at reasonable rates, but it should lend it for productive purposes in Queensland to allow expansion of industry, manufacturing and housing activity. The Labor Party has such a policy.

The establishment of a State development bank has long been a plank in the ALP platform as a means of ensuring that the people of this State can play an active part in the development of Queensland, and ensuring that the southern rip-off is stopped. The recent mergers of larger banks threatens a further deterioration of financial services in this State. Against this backdrop, in the circumstances I have described, only one course of action is possible. Queensland needs, and will have, a State trading bank, operating in competition with every existing trading bank, within the limits of the State of Queensland.

A State trading bank would reverse the trend started by the bank mergers. It would improve services, improve competition and increase the number of banks and branches. It would not be necessary to purchase a banking licence in the market.

A State trading bank would perform all the banking services and provide all the banking facilities for semi-government instrumentalities which are being provided by the existing banks. These services would be provided at very competitive rates.

These authorities would also provide the backing for the bank's lending program, in the form of fixed deposits, as they currently do with their present bankers. Further asset backing for the bank would be provided from those Trust and Special Funds from which the Treasurer currently makes his short-term investments.

Of course, the Treasurer is going to jump up and say that, by increasing the term of investment from short term to medium term by investing in a State bank rather than the money market, Queensland is going to lose money. Rubbish!

Any revenue loss could be more than recouped by the stamp duties earned on the State bank's lending to the private sector, and the higher level of investment finance available to Queensland industry could mean higher levels of employment and higher pay-roll tax collections. On top of that there would be a better return from the Commonwealth under the tax-sharing arrangement. The capital cost of setting up such a trading bank would not be as great as one would first imagine.

The SGIO has already established a network of offices throughout the State, a network which was crucial to the success of the SGIO Building Society and which could be just as crucial to the establishment of the State bank. The key to the success of this policy is in the very nature of the trading bank. It can retain deposits, make loans and attract those loans again as further deposits. In this way the funds with which the Treasurer speculates, and which are totally unproductive, are used to help Queensland industry expand and create employment. It would also stop part of the drain of our hard-earned money to prop up the southern States.

In conclusion, let me look at the nature of this National-Liberal Government and at why it has not taken the opportunity to make an effort in its Budget to attack the problems facing this State.

I believe this Government is more interested in helping its rich friends and in enjoying the lurks and perks of office than in properly governing this State.

It is willing to bend over backwards to help Keith Williams, Sir Justin Hickey and others, but it has not taken any specific action to stem the rising tide of unemployment.

It can afford to send Ministers and their friends on an all-expense-paid fishing trip to Torres Strait, but it cannot help the rising number of families on the Housing Commission waiting-list.

The Cabinet can vote to buy a new \$2.2m Lear fan-jet to satisfy the Premier's supesize ego, but it cannot afford to help the Aboriginal and Islander people suffering from disease and living in substandard housing on reserves throughout the State.

The difference between the National and Liberal Parties and the Labor Party is one of priorities. The National and Liberal Parties look after their friends, the few; the Labor Party cares for all in this State—old and young, wage earner and businessman, black and white, rich and poor.

In the current economic climate, Labor would introduce a Budget which tried to help all Queenslanders. It is an approach far more suited to the times than the cynical hoax perpetrated by the Treasurer.

Hon. W. D. HEWITT (Greenslopes—Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services) (4.14 p.m.): In the first instance, I associate myself with the motion that was put before the House earlier today. We have all come through a very exciting time for this State. Great credit is reflected upon everyone who has been associated with the organisation of the Commonwealth Games. The city of Brisbane has matured and we stand in high regard in the eyes of the nation. Because of that we should all be very proud. We all bask in the reflected glory of that.

I acknowledge the fact that today we return to this refurbished Chamber. It and, indeed, the whole of this building are a great credit to every person who was associated with its refurbishing. The artistry is quite remarkable. In all conscience I thought that craftsman of such style and capability were long dead. It is wonderful to see that such work can be done.

If there is one private member whose efforts should be recognised it is the honourable member for Windsor. He could see in his mind's eye probably better and with greater clarity than anyone else precisely how this end result would be. I associate myself, with great warmth, with expressions of congratulations to the honourable member.

Today we debate a very significant document, probably one of the most important documents that are presented to this House each year. As the forms demand, the Leader of the Opposition has responded. He has offered his criticisms and alternative policies, such as they may be. One could easily offer some degree of sympathy to the Leader of the Opposition. The reality is that Queensland stands distinct and apart from the rest of the nation as far as its development, confidence and future are concerned. There is an attitude abroad now which two years ago would not have been identifiable. A great number of people say that Queensland now is the California of the '80s. There is little doubt that our development will be pre-eminent, certainly well into the next century, and it is therefore difficult for a Leader of the Opposition to offer meaningful criticisms when the document before the Chamber is a very responsible one. It is balanced, it responds to the challenges of the State and, in every sense of the word, it reflects great credit upon all of its architects.

The problems of the Leader of the Opposition are further compounded as he finds himself in the invidious position of constantly having to look over his shoulder because his own leadership is by no means secure. In the last two weeks his deputy had attached to him a label which in many ways was offensive but which many people believe was appropriate. He is called "Claytons". There is on the market in Australia these days a beverage called "Claytons". People who usually partake of alcohol but who, for one reason or another, choose for the time being not to drink, are encouraged to drink this beverage Claytons. It is said, "It's a drink you drink when you are not drinking." As I say, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has now been called Claytons because he is the man who launches a coup when he is not launching a coup. It is said by the usually reliable Press that a coup was in mind a few weeks ago and that, for reasons of his own, he reneged, he did not proceed with the challenge.

The Leader of the Opposition should be reminded that the leader of this nation, Malcolm Fraser, and his counterpart, Bill Hayden, were both placed in similar positions in 1982. They responded in the only possible way that leaders under challenge can respond; they called the shots. If the Leader of the Opposition is to maintain any credibility in this State at all, he must also ultimately bite the bullet in the same courageous way that the leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and the leader of the Federal Liberal Party did.

There are three things that he must do. He must invite his deputy to indicate support from now to the next State election; conversely, he must invite his deputy to launch a challenge; or, if his deputy cannot live with him, he must invite his deputy to step down from the deputy leadership. If the Leader of the Opposition does not take one of those steps, then he will be seen to be a failure in his own right and, of course, his own future will be placed in even further doubt.

In his speech on the Budget on 6 October last year, the Leader of the Opposition made a number of significant statements, and it is worth while recapitulating on those some 12 months later. When talking about Commonwealth-State relationships, he said—

"The whole area of Commonwealth-State financial relationships is one that must be revised and placed on a basis that makes it beyond manipulation. To this end, I have had recent discussions with the Federal Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bill Hayden, and various State Labor leaders, including Mr Wran, Premier of New South Wales, and in the near future I am hopeful of a Labor leaders conference at which I intend to initiate a major discussion on the future of Commonwealth-State financial relationships so that the Labor Party has a proper plan, with simple guide-lines, that sets out its policy in this field."

That was 53 weeks ago. We know nothing about that projected plan. There is absolutely no mention of it in the much-vaunted Labor Party statement of policy released recently. One can only assume that that promise has not been honoured.

In that same speech he made the following statement—

“Between now and the next State election, I will be making known in every corner of this State Labor’s plan to completely restructure the beef industry in Queensland and place it on a legislative footing similar to that which has been enjoyed by the sugar industry in Queensland for the last 65 years.”

Once again, the silence is deafening. We have heard nothing further about that claim and no further reference was made to it in his speech today.

Finally, this absolute gem screams out from the pages. The Leader of the Opposition said—

“The SGIO Games of last week-end clearly indicated that there will be very few Queensland champions for the home crowd to cheer at next year’s Commonwealth Games.”

The names of Tracey Wickham, Lisa Curry, Kenrick Tucker, Garry Brown and Doug Sam scream at him. The best advice one can give to the Leader of the Opposition is that he should never take a job as a tipster. He would not do too well.

The Leader of the Opposition outlined a great number of initiatives that he says a Labor Government would take. He plucks out of the air a magical figure of some 30 000 jobs that would be created. It is a lovely figure. The reality would be nice if it could be seen. However, what he did not deal with at any length was that most of the money he said he would raise would be from loan sources and not from revenue sources. Therefore, he would lead this State on the same perilous path that Messrs Wran and Cain have chosen to tread, namely, to plunder every fund at his disposal and leave Governments of another day to pick up the bill. It is not good enough.

A number of points the Leader of the Opposition touched upon will be responded to at length, I am sure, by the Treasurer, but some demand an immediate response. He lamented the support that financial institutions give to Queensland and made particular reference to savings banks. He was in the Parliament when we renewed the agreement with the Commonwealth Bank—I think it was in 1966—which provides that loan funds from the Commonwealth Savings Bank flow to this Government at a very favourable rate of interest that probably puts us ahead of any other State in banking contractual relationships.

He further lamented that we have such extensive recourse to the short-term money market and said that that is unproductive—a remarkable statement. The short-term money market unproductive? It brings untold millions of dollars into the State each year with absolutely no risk and very little effort. He says that that money should be used in other ways. Surely he should understand that “short-term money market” means just that—short term. Sometimes we are using money that we have at our disposal for only 24 hours; sometimes a week; sometimes a little more. It is money we have that we could not use for any other purpose. It is money that would otherwise lie dormant. It is money that we use on the short-term money market. To say that it should be abandoned is to demonstrate an abysmal understanding of the finances of our State.

When any Leader of the Opposition chooses to criticise a Budget, he must ultimately do three things. If he is critical of the document and believes that there should be added expenditures, he must indicate the source of the added finance—where he intends raising the money. Most sources of income he referred to today would be through borrowings and would not enhance revenue at all. Conversely, he could indicate that he would have recourse to deficit funding. If that is Labor policy, the Labor Party should state so quite clearly. It is certainly the policy of the two Labor Governments in New South Wales and Victoria, with potentially quite disastrous results. This State takes pride in the fact that year after year it has lived within its resources and has brought forward balanced Budgets. If the Labor Party intends to have recourse to deficit funding, let it say so.

The third thing that he could do would be to indicate different priorities, to indicate that some heads of expenditure could be depleted so that others could be enhanced. He did not do that. I put to the Chamber that those are the three options at the disposal of someone who chooses to be critical of the State Budget.

It is fortunate that in the absence of clear indication on any of those issues from the Leader of the Opposition that we have at our disposal the Queensland Branch State Policy of the Australian Labor Party, because it is not as reticent as the Leader of the

Opposition apparently is. Although one could use this as a veritable gold-mine to exploit the weaknesses and the shortcomings of the Opposition, I content myself with referring to only one section. Under the heading of "Public Sector" it states—

"A Labor Government in Queensland will take all steps necessary to protect and expand the public sector in this State, recognising that a thriving public sector, including State-owned enterprise, is a practical and responsible method of ensuring that the resources of Queensland are enjoyed equally by all Queenslanders."

I would have thought that these days most Governments are seriously questioning the role of semi-government authorities—the qangos as they are described. The Government is concerned about the expenditure of State-owned enterprises and has recognised the shortcomings and the inefficiency of them. The history of this State in particular is full of failed State enterprises. It is a past era; it can be recreated only by recreating all the errors and catastrophes that identified them. Yet we find that the Labor Party says that the State-owned enterprises should be encouraged and, under a Labor Government, would be enhanced. Those in our community who vigorously believe in the free-enterprise system and its success should take great note of that.

That same document states that the Labor Party in Queensland would totally abolish pay-roll tax—a very fine ambition. Most people criticise that tax and identify some of its shortcomings. But the reality is this: this year the Government budgets for \$408.6m by way of income from pay-roll tax—a mere bagatelle if one speaks of abolishing it overnight. It represents 49 per cent of internal taxation and 15 per cent of total taxation, which is the sum of reimbursements coming from the Commonwealth combined with the sums raised internally. The Labor Party should indicate clearly how pay-roll tax would be phased out and, more importantly, what other tax fields would be exploited to make up for the shortfall. To say that pay-roll tax would be abolished is the most bland and sweeping statement that can possibly be made. I cite the figure again: in excess of \$408m has been budgeted for in the current year.

If honourable members speak of pay-roll tax, at least they should speak about it with compassion, reasonableness, concession and making sure that there are incentives for industry. Therefore, comparisons between Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria are interesting. In Queensland, after the exemption rate is passed, the tax is on 5 per cent of wages. In New South Wales, it is 5 per cent of wages plus a surcharge of 1 per cent for pay-rolls in excess of \$1m. That same provision applies in Victoria. In Queensland, the base exemption is \$204,000 per annum reducing by \$3 for \$2 to a flat exemption of \$36,000 for pay-rolls above \$316,000. In New South Wales, the base exemption is a mere \$120,000 reducing to nil for pay-rolls over \$300,000. In Victoria, the base exemption is \$140,000 reducing to a flat exemption of \$37,800 for pay-rolls above \$293,000.

In Queensland there is a pay-roll tax rebate for group apprenticeship schemes. A similar scheme applies in New South Wales. Victoria does not offer a similar incentive. In Queensland there is a rebate for pay-roll tax related to the wages of first-year apprentices from 1982-1983, and similar concessions also apply in the other two States. So honourable members will see that, although pay-roll tax remains a very lucrative tax field, there is at least constant movement in Queensland for an increase in the exemption rate and a genuine attempt to encourage people to employ apprentices.

The reality of life is that world conditions do have an effect upon the Queensland economy, a fact which was denied by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on 22 September when he made a speech in a debate on Matters of Public Interest. He said that we blame the world economy for any problems in the State, and his proposition therefore was that we should not do so. If it is his proposition that we live in some small, isolated, secure part of the world that does not feel the external chills, then it is nonsense. It is a reality of life that the world situation does rub off on to us, and even the leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party does not hesitate to make that concession. As recently as yesterday he was reported as saying—

"It is undeniable that many of the economic problems we suffer in Australia are the result of overseas factors beyond our control."

That statement is in direct conflict with the statement made by the deputy leader in this Assembly on 22 September. Even Prime Ministers Scullin and Chifley could do little to isolate Australia against the chill winds of world trade; similarly Queensland cannot avoid

those influences. We are not, nor should we be, a nationalised economy. In fact, Queensland is the most open economy of any of the Australian States. We do our own trading; we do not look for massive Commonwealth support. That is in clear contradiction to Victoria and New South Wales, which have heavy protection policies relative to the textile and motor vehicle industries. That protectionist policy in the southern States adds to the economic problems in this State.

As recently as September, Professor Alan Powell, the Ritchie Professor of Economics at Melbourne University, addressed the Economic Society of Queensland, and he made it quite clear that Queensland is more sensitive to the pressures of inflation and protection than is any other State. What is remarkable, really, is that the strength of Queensland's economy withstands all of those external factors. We manage to counter them; we contain them; yet we still enjoy great confidence in our economy. It is significant that yesterday the "Daily Sun", in talking about our bid for the Olympics, said—

"Brisbane has the ability to stage an Olympics and to provide the proper friendly environment for it."

The important words, which the editorial does underline, are—

"Queensland can do it because it is the last entrepreneurial State in Australia."

Mr Moore: Who made that remark?

Mr HEWITT: The editor of the "Daily Sun", as recently as yesterday.

One should look for reasons why Queensland's economy is so successful. Because it has a diverse economy, it has demonstrated a capacity to withstand better than other States the pressures to which I have referred. The Leader of the Opposition made great play on the proposition that the State's economy is not diverse. The opposite is true. It has a diverse economy that is not dependent upon one or two favourable economic factors for the good health of the overall economy of the State. For example, wool, grain, beef, sugar manufacturing, tourism and the great mineral developments all make very significant contributions to the economy, and the benefits flowing from the State's great mineral development make a very significant contribution. The fact is that Queensland is now doing better than the rest of the nation in these relatively slower times, and it has been doing better than the rest in the recent period of high growth.

We now find that as the Australian economy marks time we mark time faster. When it recedes a little Queensland is the last to move down and will not move down so far. Most importantly, when the Australian economy, as a whole, moves off again we will move faster and further because we are geared, ready and buoyed up for the movement when it comes.

Those points can be illustrated by relevant statistics, pointers that always assist in making an assessment of these things. For the 12 month period to December 1981, Queensland's population grew at a rate of 3.5 per cent compared with 1.3 per cent for the rest of Australia. Much of that growth can be attributed to people migrating from other States, the latest estimate being that some 3 500 people are moving each month to Queensland from the other States. The value of retail sales in Queensland during the 1981-82 financial year is estimated to have increased by 15.1 per cent over the previous financial year, compared with an Australian average of 11.87 per cent. New motor vehicle registrations increased by 6.7 per cent in the same period compared with the national average of 4.29 per cent. The value of building approvals for non-dwellings during that same year was \$910m, which is 66.1 per cent higher than the value of approvals in the preceding financial year, compared with an increase during the same period of a mere 18.7 per cent for the rest of Australia. Likewise, the consumer price index for Brisbane rose by 10.1 per cent during 1981-82 compared with 10.7 per cent, which was the average for the six State capitals.

Very simply, all of those statistics give the lie direct to the argument advanced by the Leader of the Opposition that our economy is stagnating and falling behind national movements.

Based on preliminary estimates for 1981-82, the number of civilian wage and salary earners in Queensland increased by 23 000 or 2.4 per cent as at 1 June 1982, taking the work-force to some 978 000. In the rest of Australia, civilian wage and salary earners

decreased by 23 300 during 1981-82, to something in excess of 6.3 million. Those figures indicate that whereas employment opportunities contracted in the rest of Australia in 1981-82, employment grew by 23 000 in Queensland. The Minister for Employment and Labour Relations constantly punches home the point that real growth in employment is taking place in Queensland.

Arguments have been advanced about movements to the city and about some of the developments slowing down. The latter argument was adverted to by the Leader of the Opposition. However, he gave no recognition to the major coal projects that have come on-stream in the last 10 years and, more importantly, those that are soon to come on-stream. There are some 10 major coal-mining projects that have either recently commenced production or are currently under construction, and which are to be in production within the next two years. These represent a combined up-front investment of the order of some \$3,600m. The multiplier effect related to that figure would produce something in excess of \$9 billion.

The mines that I refer to are Oaky Creek, German Creek, Blair Athol, Scottville/Newlands, Curragh, South Blackwater Expansion, Riverside, Yarrabee, Boundary Hill and Tarong. A total of almost 34 million tonnes of coal per annum will be supplied for the domestic and export markets by these projects. The State's coal exports will more than double over a period of just a few years. As a consequence, the present great export coal industry—the glamour industry of the recent few years—will more than double on firm contracts over the next two to three years. That is a remarkable, exciting story, one that should be properly highlighted in a debate of this nature. Much of this relative buoyancy in the State's economy can be attributed to the rapidly increasing population and to the spin-offs from the large projects that have taken place in recent years, or which were committed prior to the current downturn in the world economy.

The fact is that Queensland will fair much better than others during the present period of depressed economic activity and is assured by the legacy of the enormous boost in the resource projects of the last couple of years.

One should refer to the impact of the development of the mining industry in recent years. It has been estimated that if the increase in mining and its direct effects were alone deleted from the Queensland economy, revenue shortfall into the Queensland Treasury from 1977-78 to 1981-82 would be at least \$689m. It has further been estimated that, allowing for changed employment due to technology, the oil crisis and cost-push inflation, the increased employment in Queensland is 93 000 to 126 000 persons above what would have occurred had the pace of development not altered since 1966. Those are dramatic figures. When it is acknowledged that that major work-force relates to coalfields in Central Queensland, it is a nonsense thing to say that we are not applying ourselves meaningfully to the whole question of decentralisation; we are responding to it in a very meaningful way.

There are those who say that there is no identifiable strategy as far as Queensland financial administration is concerned. Those people do not read very broadly, because in the briefing notes attached to the Treasurer's Financial Statement this year we were told those objectives which spell out quite clearly for the world to know precisely what the strategy is. They say that the Budget's key objectives are: to sustain growth and development; to ensure continuation of all Government services, programs and projects at current levels; to respond to the pressures of a 3.5 per cent population growth by providing infrastructure and extra police, hospital staff, railway and other employees where needed; to ensure that Queensland remains the lowest tax State; to minimise the effects on Queensland of the general recession in Australia and overseas; and to produce a balanced Budget for 1982-83.

The question of Queensland being the lowest tax State in Australia is now well established, and tables are outlined at the back of the Treasurer's Financial Statement which identify that. It has now been calculated that Queensland could raise another \$400m to reach the level of other States. We are undertaxed by way of comparison to that extent. That is quite remarkable. We can also look at debt servicing.

Mr Innes: Not "undertaxed", "lowly taxed".

Mr HEWITT: Lowly taxed.

As far as debt servicing is concerned, we devote only 6.18 per cent of our operating costs as a percentage of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to service our debts. That is a very low figure, and once again it shows that there is very prudent management of our resources.

If the Government can claim a success story at all, and it can claim a great deal, then surely its program, as far as forward planning is concerned, is pre-eminent. That is probably identified best of all in the power generation industry. This State can presently claim that it is eight years ahead of demand. We can presently assure consumers continuity of supply to 1990.

Mr Borbidge: Not like New South Wales.

Mr HEWITT: The honourable member should not anticipate me; I will move to that.

Not being content with that headroom, the Government devoted \$1m to conduct feasibility tests to establish where further sites for power generation should be placed even into the 1990s. That is a success story. It reflects great credit upon those who are actively involved in the business of forward planning.

Let us by way of comparison look at the other States. Queensland presently can assure eight years' supply. Victoria and New South Wales could not guarantee their consumers that they could keep them warm for the winter just past. It is quite a remarkable comparison.

While I am in the business of making comparisons—for a few years there was on the Australian political scene a golden boy named Neville Wran. There were times when the Leader of the Opposition and other Opposition members wanted to be actively associated with him. That is no longer the case; the friendship seems to have been lost and a distance has opened up. Opposition members in Queensland now want to do their own thing. Neville Wran no longer seems to be very popular with Labor thinkers. One wonders why.

To learn the whole sorry story, one needs only to have recourse to the report of the New South Wales Auditor-General. So let us find out what has gone wrong in New South Wales as a consequence of financial mismanagement. The New South Wales Labor Government has resorted to a range of extraordinary measures, including the sale of assets of Government authorities, in an effort to stave off that Government's bankruptcy. People in New South Wales now talk freely and loosely about their Government's bankruptcy. The plight of the New South Wales Government was highlighted by the annual report of the New South Wales Auditor-General and, to a lesser extent, by the New South Wales State Budget which was delivered recently.

The New South Wales report raises the question of whether the Cain Government in Victoria is on the same road. Most people agree that it is.

Apart from the sale of assets, the Wran Government over a number of years has systematically run-down the reserves of New South Wales statutory authorities to meet current financial commitments. The tenor of the speech delivered this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition gives the very distinct impression that a Labor Government in Queensland would embark upon similar financial administration.

Admittedly, external circumstances, the economic recession, huge rises in public servants wages, increased interest rates and the rural drought have aggravated the difficulties confronting the New South Wales Government, but the run-down in the reserves of Government and semi-governmental authorities has left little capacity to ride out the Government's present difficulties.

In the past year, to find money to meet the Government's soaring deficit, which otherwise would have reached \$290m—we still have not been told whether a Labor Government in Queensland would have recourse to deficit funding; the Labor Party should tell us—the New South Wales Treasurer directed the State Railway Authority to sell a portion of its rolling-stock for \$221m and then lease it back. In other words, the cost of the deficit has been transferred to future Governments while today's Governments are paying the current exorbitant leasing rates. In the past year the cost of leasing back railway rolling-stock was \$21m.

Other actions taken by the New South Wales Government include the calling in of advances made to authorities and departments in earlier years and the doubling of contributions—that is, taxes—on State instrumentalities from \$37m to \$76m. The report of the Auditor-General in New South Wales makes very dismal reading.

One gains the distinct impression that the Cain Government in Victoria is creating for itself all sorts of problems. We know that it contemplated, and then dropped, a new death duty. We know that it explored quite draconian pay-roll tax measures. That exploration is not yet terminated, so we could well see pay-roll tax imposed upon a whole host of fields in Victoria that previously were never touched.

The Victorian Leader of the National Party, Peter Ross-Edwards, has found it necessary to berate the Cain Government. In a recent radio broadcast he said that many of the promises made by the Labor Party during its election campaign earlier this year have not been honoured. He said that one can only assume that when those promises were made the Labor Party lacked the knowledge to know what it was doing, was grossly improvident or was being deliberately dishonest.

Mr Ross-Edwards also said that the Cain Government had not implemented the \$30m job incentive scheme or the total exemption from stamp duty of first-home buyers. He said that promises of no new tax and of stabilisation and reduction of some charges were quite groundless.

It is interesting to place that in the context of the great flourish of promises made this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition. In the light of the experience in Victoria, the promises made by the Leader of the Opposition are a cause for grave concern. His whole speech gave one the distinct impression that he would plunder trust funds and have recourse to action similar to that taken by the Wran and Cain Governments, with similar dire consequences.

The fact is that the economy of this State is riding well. It is being hurt less by external factors than the economy of any other State. It would be an act of great folly for the Queensland people to change direction; I am sure they won't.

I take a great personal interest in forward planning, particularly for infrastructure requirements. In recent months, the Government has decided that certain infrastructure requirements should be made, in particular of the mining industry. One of my responsibilities is mapping and surveying, and in the field of mapping it is also important to stay ahead of development. I shall indicate quite quickly to the Chamber some of the issues that confront mapping and surveying.

It is interesting that, contrary to trends in other industries, technological change is creating manpower shortages within the Department of Mapping and Surveying, especially of persons able to develop and apply the new technologies that give promise of increased map production. Without increased map production we will be unable to provide the maps essential to underpin the State's development.

Within the Budget's objective of nil Public Service growth, retraining of some existing staff will be undertaken to provide greater resources to research and to the development of computerised mapping. This means that some traditional map types will be discontinued. Hopefully, these will be restored when computerised techniques render it appropriate to do so.

Continued assistance will be given to tertiary institutions in the task of educating and training the skilled manpower required for modern mapping. Consistent with the need to divert more manpower to the application of new technology, greater use will be made of private contractors in the collection of data and the preparation of standard maps. The mapping task facing Queensland is huge. Without recourse to computers, even basic map coverage of the State would take an unconscionably long time. This is acknowledged by the surveyors and cartographers in the Department of Mapping and Surveying.

They are enthusiastic about embracing the new technology. They are eager to adopt new methods to streamline map production. In increasing numbers, they are going "back to school". They are undertaking education and training to equip themselves for the future. The department gives them every encouragement in these endeavours and makes every effort to maximise the opportunities to apply their new skills, whilst at the same time ensuring that job satisfaction exists for those unable to retrain for whatever reason. Decentralisation of services will be accelerated by placing cartographic staff in regional and district offices throughout the State.

The present State map of Queensland, which depicts the whole State on either one, two or four sheets, has outlived its usefulness and is to be recompiled from the latest large-scale maps. The State map is used for a variety of purposes, ranging from the depiction of the various administrative boundaries, electoral districts, and land agents districts to the general-purpose depiction of roads, railways and topographic detail. The base map is used extensively by other departments for the depiction of their specific information.

It is intended that the new State map will be very multi-purpose, incorporating a great variety of levels of geographic and administrative information. In due course, this data also will be digitised and held on magnetic-tape file.

The recent ventures into the production of air-photo and map posters has gone a long way towards promoting public awareness of maps and air photos and the range of products and services that the department has to offer. The recent production of tourist maps in close association with the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation is a new initiative which, with refinements, will be further pursued in the forthcoming year. At present under investigation is a proposal to re-fly, and so update, large areas of Commonwealth photography in northern and western areas of the State. The Commonwealth photography is in many instances 10 or more years old.

I wanted to give honourable members some background of that because it is important that a great number of departments remain consistent in their forward planning for infrastructure requirements.

Lastly, I give the Committee some little-known detail on the use of Landsat. The Chamber should know that Queensland participates in the Landsat program—an American satellite that constantly throws back to earth a good deal of data that can be interpreted with great value.

In September the Waggamba Shire Council approached the department with these requests—

- (i) Location of gravel deposits for use in the construction of new road works.
- (ii) Annual monitoring of total area of the shire under cultivation, forest and natural pasture.
- (iii) Identification and monitoring of any natural or man-induced disaster.

As a consequence of that, an officer of the department conducted a computer search of the image to locate possible sites for gravel deposits and to estimate the area under cultivation, pasture and forestation in September 1981. Interpretation is now becoming so sophisticated that the department will be able to assist local authorities to identify gravel deposits, among other things.

I welcome the opportunity to participate in the debate today. I believe that the document we debate is a sensible and responsible one. It responds in a very positive way to the demands of a developing State, and I take pleasure in supporting the initiatives shown by the State Treasurer.

Mr MOORE (Windsor) (4.56 p.m.): In speaking in this debate, I mention a matter that does not really concern this Assembly. However, that is quite normal for some members; so I will not blush about it. I refer to the Prime Minister's proposal for retrospective legislation on so-called tax evasion.

I absolutely oppose the legislation. Anything that was lawful when a person acted should not become unlawful by retrospective legislation.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: What if it was unlawful when they did it?

Mr MOORE: That is another story.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Why did you support retrospectivity when it was applied to allow Dr Edwards and Mr Booth to remain members of this Assembly? They committed unlawful acts, and you supported that legislation. You can't have it both ways.

Mr MOORE: Are you making the speech, or am I?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order!

Mr MOORE: I am very pleased to take that interjection, Mr Akers. Any retrospectivity in that legislation penalised nobody. However, the Commonwealth's proposal is quite different. It will ask the participants in various schemes to disgorge funds. It might amount to millions of dollars. I do not believe that it will be the hundreds of millions of dollars that Mr Fraser speaks about. In some instances it could well amount to a million or so, or a couple of million, and that is a sizeable amount of money. However, if people are asked to disgorge it after having spent it, that is more than just a retrieval of the money. It will put many firms into bankruptcy. The concept of it is wrong.

If the Federal Government was not clever enough to recover the money—and certainly it had had enough warnings about tax dodgers—it should not seek retrospectivity as a remedy. Big companies such as Vestey's, the meatworks people, still do not pay any tax. They will not be caught up in this web. Recently Holmes à Court was talking about his various smart little moves of starting a take-over, bringing it almost to fruition, seeing the share prices rise, selling out and making a cool \$4m or \$5m. According to the Press, no tax will be paid. I do not know that no tax will be paid. That is what the Press says. We will never catch the smart overseas operator, because we just do not have the resources.

What will happen is that retrospective legislation will be introduced and all my poor constituents in Windsor who amend the chemist bill, the doctor's bill or the cost of the children's education by a few lousy dollars—their bottom of the harbour schemes—will be the ones who are pinched, yet they are the ones who are saying that we should catch these dreadful people. The only people who will be caught are the poor people of this nation who do not have the financial expertise to benefit from any real dodges.

The concept is wrong. Fraser should have another think. He should put it down to experience and put the cork in the bottle now. But he will not be able to put the cork in the bottle now because the Government will not employ anybody bright enough. It should employ somebody who is involved in those schemes, not just rely upon public servants to come up with an answer. The Government should employ the fellows who devise the schemes.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: How about Brain Maher?

Mr MOORE: He might not be bad. I do not know anything about the gentleman. He is a member of the Labor Party, so I presume he is all right.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: He is not a member of the Labor Party.

Mr MOORE: I am told that he is.

The next topic in relation to the Budget is the effect that inflation has upon the State and the nation. However, when one gets caught up in the purchase of a home for approximately \$50,000 and figures of that nature, the only hope that one has of finally meeting the commitment is to pray that inflation carries on so that wages will rise and once again there will be greater inflation and higher wages so that the commitment to the repayments, as a percentage of the income, becomes less and is thus more manageable. So virtually the only ones who benefit from inflation are those who borrow to some extent beyond their means and need inflation to reduce the real debt.

My view is that it is not beyond the ability of the Federal Government to grasp the nettle on inflation. The Government has done nothing about interest rates; it has allowed them to remain high. Really, it comes down to what comes first—the chicken or the egg. If the Government allows interest rates at 15 per cent and 16 per cent, there is no way in the wide world that inflation will be anything less than 1 or 2 per cent above that. So if we were all fair dinkum about reducing inflation we should reduce interest rates and controls on borrowing.

However, if that were done and inflation was brought under control, so that there was virtually no inflation, and if the rest of the world retained a very high inflation rate, what would Australia do with its dollar? The Australian dollar would have to be revalued upwards so that it would have greater purchasing power but while Australia remains a trading nation, I do not see that it can do much, if the rest of the world has an inflation

rate of, say, 10 per cent, without continually manipulating the value of the Australian dollar. If that is the case, then interest rates in Australia will have to be similar to the inflation rates overseas. Therefore as I see it, we are locked in to some extent.

It is a man-made problem, and there is no need for anyone to lose by it in this age of computers. I have said before—and it needs a lot of repetition—that there is no reason why, if inflation is running at 15 per cent per annum, the Federal Government cannot increase the value of everything else by 15 per cent. In that way a person on a fixed income or with fixed assets would find his income increasing at the same rate as inflation and nobody would be hurt.

The Government simply relies on inflation to give someone a profit. Inflation ensures that the Federal Government receives greater taxation revenue. But the Federal Government needs greater revenue only because it is spending more. I have said before that we should be talking about spending less in the Federal and State spheres because there would then be less need for taxes. Until we do that and give some incentive to the public, who in many instances are now paying half their income in taxation, there is no incentive for them to earn more money.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition talking about the Labor Party's policies. He seems to have in mind that the Government has some money of its own. The only money that the Government has to spend is the money it receives from the taxpayer and redistributes to the needy, less the amount required to pay public servants' wages, superannuation schemes and all the rest of it.

I read in a newspaper quite recently that State Budgets just cannot be likened to one's household budget, but that can be done and it is the only way that the State can operate. That means that we cannot budget for deficits because we do not have access to a printing press. The only thing we can do, if we are running into a small deficit, is to write out an IOU and place it in the safe of the trustees of the State Service Superannuation Fund. It is something that we would have to pay back. But in effect we just cannot operate with deficit financing.

In this Budget we have given pay-roll tax concessions to the extent that the exemption level of \$180,000 is now increased to \$204,000. The income estimated to be derived is \$400m. Many people are saying that we should abolish pay-roll tax, but we should not do that at all.

Mr FitzGerald: It is the lowest in Australia.

Mr MOORE: I do not care whether it is the lowest or not. All we have to do is raise the exemption level so that the little fellow is not paying and we can extract it from the firms that can afford it, because the money they are paying is less 47½ per cent anyway. If they were not paying us pay-roll tax they would be paying 47½ per cent company tax on the money, so it is costing them only half what it appears to cost. That should be remembered. It is the big fellow we need. We do not hurt him by charging him pay-roll tax. It is virtually the only growth tax we have, but we have to continually look at raising the exemption level so that we do not catch too many small businesses in our net. I cannot foresee the introduction of any other State tax. Pay-roll tax was originally introduced to pay for child endowment, and the Federal Government handed it over to us as a form of growth tax. Unless we introduce a supplementary income tax, which we will not do, then that is the only growth tax we have, and I do not quibble with it at all.

The Treasury has a difficult job running this State. Most other departments, such as Primary Industries and Railway, in the main get their money from the Treasury. For example, in this Budget the Railway Department will receive \$697.9m, an 18 per cent increase, which is greater than the rate of inflation. The increase of 1c a litre in the price of diesel fuel means that the Railway Department requires an extra \$10m to pay its fuel bill.

There has been much talk about electrification. Fortunately, we have an AC electrification scheme that can be expanded to all points in Queensland. That must be done. The days of hydrocarbons being used as a straight fuel for locomotion have passed. With Middle East nations being able to hold the world to ransom it is time that we moved to rail electrification throughout Queensland. We have reasonably cheap coal in

Queensland and coal deposits that are not being exploited. Some of them should be owned solely by the power authorities for the generation of electricity. That might not agree completely with the principles of private enterprise, but I see nothing wrong with a power authority having its own coal-mine so that it can produce electricity economically to meet the various needs in the State. When we run out of coal—that day is a long way off—and we have to use nuclear energy to supply power for electric locomotives and all the other electrical machines and gadgets that are used in industry and elsewhere, electric power will be available although the generating source will be different.

When I travelled through Great Britain by train I occasionally saw a single cloud in the sky. I thought that was marvellous, but I learnt that it was sitting above an atomic power-station. The atomic power-stations in Britain, which are almost within spitting distances of houses, are pin-pointed by the clouds above them. Despite our fear of atomic generation, we will have to live with it one day.

Rail electrification will need continual upgrading. To start with, we should build standard 4ft 8½ins gauge tracks, with all railways electrified. That would create work. If we were confronted with a war we would find the necessary dollars and manpower to produce the goods. We can liken the present economic situation to fighting a war. We have thousands of men unemployed. Let us put them to work in the first instance on rail projects from one end of Queensland to the other. In electrifying the railways and providing all the necessary gear we should not buy anything from overseas, but manufacture it all here. There is no reason why we cannot have our own shipbuilding or any other industry. We should employ our own people and use our expert technology in the electronic field and every other area.

The Budget for 1982-83 provides for total expenditures of \$3,668m. Not many years ago that was more than the total Budget of the nation. That is an indication of the effect of inflation. The programmed expenditure is only 12 per cent higher than actual expenditure last year. The Treasurer did not indicate whether some form of cut-backs were necessary. Before the end of the financial year, unless extra revenue is forthcoming, with inflation running at about 16 per cent, we could well be in trouble.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the ALP encouraging industry. The ALP did not learn a lesson when it established State stations, State butcher shops from which a person could purchase half a sheep for 1/3d., especially if he knew the butcher, and State hotels, and introduced all the other schemes that went bust. If anyone wants to see an example of a State butcher shop, he should go down near the Roma Street railway station. In the sheds occupied by the railway advertising branch, one can still see the cork linings of the old cold-rooms of the State butcher shop. The Labor Party is still talking the same sort of rot. Instead of encouraging industry, it is talking about doing the job itself. With the unions running such schemes, they would have to be a fiasco.

Mr PREST (Port Curtis) (5.17 p.m.): Before taking part in the Budget debate this afternoon, on behalf of the people in the provincial areas of Queensland I congratulate those persons responsible for the conduct of the Commonwealth Games which were so successful. The coverage of the Games given to country areas by the Australian Broadcasting Commission was magnificent. Country people have neither the time to come to Brisbane nor the finance to pay the accommodation costs. However, on this occasion they were provided with a magnificent coverage of the events staged at the Commonwealth Games venue. I congratulate the ABC for the coverage of the Games given to country people. Watching the coverage given by the ABC was very time consuming. People who should have been doing other work spent a great deal of time in front of their television sets because the Commonwealth Games were a wonderful spectacle.

I congratulate the schoolchildren who took part in the magnificent display under trying conditions during the opening ceremony. I pay a tribute to all those people who participated, in particular those lucky ones who won medals.

Among those persons who performed magnificently was the sportsman from my own area, Kenrick Tucker. Over the years he has passed through the grades as a cyclist. Although he was on the sick-bed for some days prior to the Games, he produced fine form to win a gold medal for Australia. It was a wonderful achievement for Kenrick and his father Ken, who was part of the Games team and a person with whom I have had association over a long period of time in his capacity as a railway worker.

The Budget contains certain sections which members on this side will not debate at this stage because they concern the Estimates. They include housing and transport.

The Budget is in keeping with the Federal Budget. The least said about it the better. Many people would like to forget its contents and its lack of contents, but because the Budget affects their lives and those of their families, comment must be directed at it. The old saying, "If you cannot say something nice, say nothing at all" cannot be applied to the Budget.

One thing that stands out clearly in the Budget is that the poor people in our society will be hurt most by it. Of course, that has been so under most Budgets brought down by National-Liberal Governments.

Workers in Australia are losing their jobs—those in Queensland are no exception—yet the Budget will not do anything to assist the 74 600 persons who are jobless. They constitute 7.1 per cent of the State's work-force. That level is the highest since the days of the Depression of the 1930s.

Queensland is a good State, but it is poorly administered. Therefore, a very sad state of affairs exists in Queensland.

Dr Edwards interjected.

Mr PREST: The Treasurer hates to hear Opposition members state that we could have done better in the administration of the State.

The Government tells us continually that Queensland is a very rich State, yet 74 600 persons are unemployed and people are waiting in long queues for welfare housing. Schools are overcrowded. And this is a wealthy State! It is wealthy only for those who can afford it.

The Federal Treasurer, Mr Howard, when bringing down his Budget, said that unemployment will rise. Figures show that his prediction was correct. That is about the only true statement he has ever made.

The State Budget will do nothing for the economy. It will certainly do nothing for the workers of Queensland, the unemployed or the schoolchildren who will be seeking jobs in a few months' time. Unemployment and the cost of goods and services will continue to rise.

The Budget could be described as a piece of work by a bad tradesman. It could be likened to food handed out in a prisoner-of-war camp. It is rotten and we have to swallow it, but we dare not complain about it. The Treasurer, like guards in a prisoner-of-war camp, smiles and enjoys seeing people hurt. He knows that those who are hurt cannot do anything to change the situation. He expects them to swallow the garbage in his Budget and he knows that unemployment and the demand for welfare housing will increase.

As I have said, the cost of goods and services will increase as the result of this Government's policies. The 15 per cent rise in rail freights will increase the cost of all goods. The Government will create a situation in which more businesses will turn to road transport. Business and revenue will be taken from the railways. On top of that, more transport vehicles will be put on the already overcrowded roads and the whole road system in Queensland will become dangerously overloaded. Motorists will be confronted with a very dangerous situation. Each year a large number of people are killed because of the bad state of the roads.

I am appalled that the Budget provides no relief at all for local government. If Opposition members had the time to explain the Budget in detail, the people would learn just how negative it is.

As I am the Opposition spokesman on local government matters and as we will not be debating the Local Government Estimates, I must endeavour to point out the pitfalls and benefits, if any, for local government in this Budget. Can anyone imagine a State Budget being introduced without any mention being made of local government? Knowing the financial problems confronting local government today, I am bitterly disappointed at the Government's attitude. Local government is an area worthy of receiving financial assistance or at least consideration. It plays a most important role in this State. Therefore, I shall give a valid reason why I believe it is important that a very close and full inquiry should be conducted into the structure, administration and financial arrangements of local

government. Queensland has 135 local authorities which are responsible for providing many services to every citizen in this State, but they receive very little assistance from the Government with which to provide those services.

Local authorities represent 1 353 499 electors in Queensland. There are about 1286 elected or appointed aldermen or councillors, or administrators with executive committees. The Treasurer, in his Budget Speech, did not see fit to mention local government, which is a very responsible tier of government. As I say, there are about 1286 people in local government, of whom about 113, or 10 per cent, are women. They are endeavouring to do a job that is made difficult by a lack of governmental assistance or consideration.

Overall, in Queensland, each person elected to local government represents about 1 050 electors. Aldermen in the Brisbane City Council represent, on average, about 21 681 electors. So, if the figures for the Brisbane City Council are omitted, each elected alderman or councillor represents about 710 electors.

An extract from a booklet dealing with ratepayers states—

“There is a shire in Queensland of three hundred population, its area is bigger than Tasmania, and these three hundred people have thirty-six ratepayers. The thirty-six ratepayers elect nine councillors; thirty-two of the ratepayers are related to one or other of the councillors—now what worries me is—is it democratic to have just four of the ratepayers who are not related to the councillors at all?”

Mr FitzGerald: What salary are those councillors on?

Mr PREST: I do not know.

Mr FitzGerald: It would be very low.

Mr PREST: They must receive expenses.

I took out some figures for the Perry Shire. There are five male and nine female electors in Division 3 of the Perry Shire. They return two councillors. That is an average of one councillor to every seven electors. There are 18 electors in Division 2, and they return two councillors. That is an average of one councillor to every nine electors. There are 16 electors in Division 3 of the Boulia Shire, and they return two councillors. That is an average of one councillor to every 13 electors. There are 37 electors in Division 3 of the Burke Shire, and they return three councillors. That is an average of one councillor to every 12 electors. A similar situation prevails in many other shires in Queensland. No doubt the people in those shires elect National Party supporters. That is probably the reason why so much commotion has been coming from Government members. In some shires people are elected to councils at great cost to the ratepayers, and they represent as few as seven people.

Mr FitzGerald: What salary are those guys on?

Mr PREST: I am not speaking about that. I am speaking about the cost of administration of local authorities, which is a worry. The honourable member for Lockyer can be assured that they are receiving a salary; otherwise they would not be in the job. If they were not receiving something out of it, they would not want to be councillors.

It is easy to imagine the great cost involved in the administration of shires that have a small number of ratepayers. A fair and far-reaching inquiry is long overdue. It is essential that such an inquiry consider the structure, functions and finances of local government. That is necessary because of the cost of administration today. Because of this Government's lack of concern, cuts in subsidy for certain works done by local government and the withdrawal of special State Government grants to local government, local authorities today are finding it impossible to meet their financial commitments. The problem has been exacerbated by excessively high interest charges, in line with the Federal Government's policies.

While I am speaking about the financial problems of local authorities, I will refer to their loan debt. At 30 June 1979 it amounted to \$979,879,192; at 30 June 1980—12 months later—it stood at \$1,083,810,229. That figure increased by \$119,801,144 to \$1,203,611,373 by 30 June 1981. With cuts in subsidy, withdrawal of the special grants and increased costs because of inflation, it would be reasonable to believe that the debt figure would have increased to an amount in excess of \$1,300m as at 30 June 1982. The figure for that period, of course, is not yet available.

Because of the huge interest and redemption payments, many local authorities are compelled to finance more works out of revenue. When all of those factors are added together, it is obvious that rates and charges levied by local authorities are of great concern to property owners; not only to the commercial sector and landlords, who are able to pass some of the costs on to the consumer, but also to the ordinary person who owns his home. The cost to him today is almost unbearable in some local authority areas.

It is obvious that the Queensland Government is using local authorities as a form of Government agency to carry out works that are rightly a State Government responsibility. Very little or no payment is made by the Government. As a result, local authorities have to increase rates and charges to pay for those services or public works so as to provide a standard of services and facilities that is necessary in today's society. Let it not be forgotten that it is the Government that sets the standards that have to be met; yet it gives very little or no financial assistance. If these circumstances continue—that is, cuts in Government assistance, high interest rates, increasing costs for goods and materials and high unemployment—local authorities will have far greater problems than they have today. One of the results will be that many rate accounts will not be paid. People will be unable to pay the rates and charges levied against them, and councils will be forced to cut spending. Because of high interest rates and redemption, loan borrowings will be reduced. Consequently, works programs will be drastically cut or even deferred indefinitely. Staff, especially outside staff in the work-force, will be retrenched and plant will be idle. The interest and redemption payments on that plant will cause still further financial problems. The problems are increased by the lack of understanding and consideration by the Government. The problems of local government will therefore continue to grow.

I feel sorry for shire councils with large areas and small populations in small towns. To provide services is very costly and they have so few ratepayers to pay for them.

Mr McKechnie: Your answer is to abolish them.

Mr PREST: No, it is not. The honourable member for Carnarvon has a very narrow mind.

What is necessary is an inquiry at which all local authorities could make an input. I am certain that the findings of such an inquiry would provide a better structure for local government and help to produce better financial arrangements. Today local authorities are in financial trouble.

Mr Eaton: If an inquiry was held there would be a contribution by local authorities themselves and any decision would be a decision on their submissions.

Mr PREST: Of course it would be. The honourable member for Mourilyan shows some sense, which is more than I can say for members on the Government side. He is a very wise man.

Ratepayers in the remote, isolated parts of Queensland are entitled to services, amenities and a standard of living similar to those in the cities and the larger towns. At the 1982 Local Government Conference held recently in Bundaberg, these problems were drawn to the Treasurer's attention, but he was firm that the Government would not restore the subsidy payments to their previous level and that he would not give the \$5m special grant back to local authorities, even though it was shown by the delegates to the conference that the Treasurer had attempted to misconstrue and mislead the people when he gave a reason for the withdrawal of that special grant. Unfortunately, while this Government is in power, there is no light at the end of the tunnel for local government. If the Government does not change its attitude or policies on local government, the people of Queensland will have no option but to change the Government—and that will not be before time. Local authorities should be given a government that will give them consideration and financial assistance, not just more costly responsibilities.

It appears that the Government acts and performs better and gives more consideration to local government in an election year. I state that because the 1982-83 Budget, the one that we are discussing today, makes no mention of additional assistance to local authorities, even though the state of the economy is bad and local authorities are in need of financial assistance. In the 1981-82 Financial Statement the Treasurer said—

“The Government has recently announced changes to the scheme of capital subsidies for works undertaken by Local Authorities. These changes were essentially

aimed at rationalising administration of the scheme and reducing the Government's future commitment to a more financially manageable level, having regard for the diminution in capital funds from which the subsidies are paid."

That decision was a very real blow to the financial administration, and local authorities in Queensland are still trying to have the subsidy restored and, thus, their financial arrangements rectified.

In the Treasurer's 1980-81 Financial Statement—delivered in a State election year—he said—

"The Government has been concerned for some time at the impact Local Government rates have on pensioners. While many Local Authorities do provide concessions already, further assistance is needed.

The Government therefore proposes to provide a subsidy to Local Authorities of 50 per cent of the cost of pensioner rebates that the relevant Council allows out of its revenues, on the condition that the State subsidy is passed on directly to pensioners as a further rebate to them. The additional subsidy will be available in respect of general, water and sewerage rates, up to a maximum limit where 75 per cent of each of the pensioner's general, water and sewerage rates is being refunded. There will also be a limit applied to the total State rebate allowed each pensioner to ensure that large benefit does not flow to high valued property or property used for business purposes."

That proposal was unfair and unworkable. A more equitable system must be introduced. That proposal gave most pensioners some assistance but, unfortunately in some areas, local authorities reduced their remissions to pensioners. However, it was a start from a Government which, in the years before and after the election, forgot the pensioners and their problems in the payment of rates and charges.

In the 1980-81 Budget the Treasurer said that a 20 per cent subsidy on rates and charges levies to a maximum of \$600—a maximum of \$120 Government assistance a year—would apply from the 1980-81 financial year. In fact, it did not apply until 1 January 1981, so pensioners received only a 10 per cent subsidy in that half year. But in the following years, 1981-82 and 1982-83, rates and charges rose dramatically, far more than the rate of inflation. This year general rates in some areas have risen by 20 and 30-odd per cent. Over the past two years it would have been very common for the increase to be in the vicinity of 40 per cent.

However, the Government has not seen fit to increase the maximum figure of \$600 or the percentage. The maximum figure of \$600 should have been increased in line with the increased cost imposed on pensioners by the respective local authorities. In fact the Government should have increased the pensioners' rate remission in line with the remissions in other States.

In the past two years pensioners have had to pay the full increase in rates and charges, and in some areas it has been as much as \$120 or \$150 a year. These increases are far greater than the CPI increase in pension payments. The Government should have increased the maximum payment under the pensioner rebate scheme but, as this is not an election year, it is understandable that the Government has shown so little consideration for the pensioners in our society. I guess the only ray of hope for our pensioners is that next year is an election year. No doubt, when the Budget is brought down next year, an increase will be granted to the pensioners of Queensland in the hope that they will forgive the Government. The Government will be hoping to woo the pensioners and gain their votes by promising to increase the maximum figure on which the pensioner rate remission is based.

I have referred to a few of the problems faced by local government, a tier of government that the State Government failed to recognise in this Budget. We in the ALP are concerned about the problems faced by local authorities. It is high time that the Government gave some consideration to assisting local authorities and not just employing them as unpaid agents of the Government. They are being forced to act as indirect tax-collecting agencies for the Government. We do know what assistance has been given by this Government to local authorities. Of course, it is only in an election year that the Government seems to come to life and recognise the problems faced by local authorities.

Only recently the Government reduced subsidies and eliminated special grants, yet it is always imposing additional responsibilities on local authorities. Unfortunately it does not give them any money in return.

I was very pleased to see provision in the Budget for the transport of non-State schoolchildren. I have been asking for that for some time. The Treasurer told us—

“For parents of non-Government school children travelling to the nearest appropriate school by public transport, where the distance involved is greater than the presently prescribed limits, the Government will meet two-thirds of the nett family cost in excess of \$12 per week.”

Children in the Tannum Sands/Boyne Island area pay \$1 each way or \$10 a week in bus fares. Under this scheme parents will receive no benefit if only one child attends school. If two children travel on the bus and pay \$20 per week, the parents will receive \$5.33, which is two thirds of the amount in excess of \$12, that is, \$8. That is a rebate of only \$2.66 per child, or about 25 per cent of the actual cost of the weekly bus fare for a child to attend a non-State school. I admit that it is a start, but I hope that the Government does not take as long to consider a more realistic figure as it has done to come up with this meagre assistance for the parents of non-State schoolchildren.

All children should be treated equally. No high school is available in the Tannum Sands/Boyne Island area. The children are forced to attend a school in the city. The parents should be given assistance to meet the school transport costs, but only meagre assistance is available. I only hope that the Government provides more realistic assistance in the next Budget. As next year is an election year, I hope that the Government will woo the church schools and the parents of the children who attend them by offering something more realistic.

The police play an important part in the community. I am very pleased that a police station is being built in the Tannum Sands area. The Tannum Sands/Boyne Island area has a population of just over 5 000. It is a growing area. In the circumstances I believe that the station will have to be extended. It is pleasing that a station is being provided in this area which is so vital to the economy of the State. I only hope that the Minister keeps its future needs in mind.

I am concerned about the police station at Many Peaks which, supposedly, was to be closed. In November 1980 I wrote to the Minister about it. He replied on 18 November, saying that closure of the station was not being contemplated and that it would continue to be a police station. It is possible that, with the opening of the new station at Tannum Sands, the Government may contemplate closing the station at Many Peaks. Many Peaks is an isolated place with a hotel. It is in a flood-prone area on the very rough road to Monto. It is essential that its police station be maintained.

Mr Hartwig: You have had a police station there for years.

Mr PREST: That is right. The honourable member knows the district.

I am asking the Minister to make sure that the Many Peaks Police Station is not closed. It is essential that it remain open and that the roads in the area be improved.

When the Minister was in Gladstone on 7 April this year he promised the local officers a new headquarters before the end of this year. Unfortunately I saw nothing in the Budget to indicate that provision had been made for a new police station at Gladstone. Until two or three years ago Gladstone was the centre of a police district. The promise was made that it would again become a police district when the necessary accommodation was provided. I repeat that, in April, the Minister promised additional accommodation, but I saw nothing in the Budget about the additional accommodation at Gladstone, which would allow it to become a police district.

I shall now deal with the performance of the police in the district. Normally we get on very well with the police. We have no problems and we receive a very good service from them. When a road safety problem was reported to me—motor vehicles were forced to cross double lines to get around a building construction—I took the matter up with Senior Sergeant Bruton. He was not available at the time that I made the complaint. I

informed the girl at the station that I was going to Rockhampton and that I wanted to make the complaint then. I had just replaced the receiver when he rang back and told me in no uncertain terms that I did not control traffic, that it was the responsibility of the senior sergeant, and that if I had a complaint from a constituent, I should send it to the senior sergeant and he would "fix the so-and-so". As far as he was concerned, I could go to Rockhampton and make a complaint. As he asked me to do so, I made that complaint to the police in Rockhampton. I had to fill in three forms so that the matter could be sent to the Police Complaints Tribunal. After waiting for many weeks, I was notified personally by Inspector Dickson from Rockhampton that no action would be taken against Senior Sergeant Bruton.

The police are asking for co-operation. We are trying to reduce the road toll. Because a complaint is made to the senior sergeant in charge of a city or district about a traffic problem, he gets up in arms and starts to ride the high horse. Of course, we do not want that. If he told me off the way that he did, what chance would an ordinary person have if he made a complaint? I would not be surprised if he found himself in the jug for the afternoon. When inquiries are conducted by the Police Complaints Tribunal in that manner and members of Parliament receive answers such as that, we cannot have much faith in the police officers. I would draw that to the attention of the Minister for Police.

When the Minister for Police (Mr Hinze) was in Gladstone in April and spoke about racecourses and other matters, he met members of the Calliope Shire Council and the Yarwun/Targinnie fruit growers to discuss the road problem in the area. The Boyne Valley Road is in very poor condition. For many years the Government has promised that it will upgrade and seal certain sections of that road. However, nothing has been done.

Mr Hartwig: It has been like that for 50 years.

Mr PREST: The honourable member for Callide is correct.

When the council asked the Minister for \$20,000 to upgrade the road, he said, "I'll give you \$200,000 next year. That will be a start, and we will review it after that." I sincerely hope that, now that the Budget has been introduced and the money is available, he will keep his promise to the Calliope Shire and hand over \$200,000 for work to be done on the Boyne Valley Road.

The Minister made a similar statement about the road between Gladstone and Mt Larcom. That road is very busy as it is used as a short-cut between Rockhampton and Gladstone, reducing the distance between those two cities by 20 km. The road traverses the Calliope River and leads in the direction of Fishermans Landing, along a dirt track to Mt Larcom. Problems have been created by the heavy trucks and the excessive number of vehicles that use that virtually unformed road.

The Minister said that if the companies would not pay to maintain the road he would ensure that it was upgraded while plans were being drawn up for the new highway that would be in use in three years' time. I call on the Minister to honour the promises that he made to those people and to spend more money on roads. If the road toll is to be reduced, something must be done to improve the roads in that area.

I am happy that the Treasurer has allocated \$135,000 to a special drug investigation. Drugs constitute a grave problem. Many ships that enter our ports carry drugs. In a Magistrates Court hearing in Gladstone on 26 August, the police said that last year more than 200 people had appeared before Gladstone courts on drug charges. The police always seem to be able to apprehend the little fellow, the man who has a small quantity of marijuana in his possession or who grows a plant or two, and have him fined \$200 or \$300. However, they do not seem to be able to catch the supplier.

Recently a doctor told me that in one week alone he treated six heroin addicts. He wanted something done about the drug problem. I undertook to take the matter up for him. I knew it was no use talking to local police because in a city such as Gladstone everyone knows who the police are. I contacted a district officer, who assured me that he would put the matter in the hands of Inspector Deveney of the Drug Squad.

The doctor told me that each of those six heroin addicts was paying as much as \$300 a day to satisfy his desire for heroin. That means that a supplier of drugs to 10 addicts is earning as much as \$3,000 a day, seven days a week. That is not a bad income.

One of the problems is that quite often the source of supply of drugs is unknown. When anyone asks the police to investigate the matter they say, "We have put the matter in the hands of the local police and we will let them deal with it." A concerned person might as well do nothing. As I said, everyone knows who the local police officers are.

What will the allocation of \$135,000 do in combating the drug problem? Queensland is a big State. I am quite certain that drugs are available right along the coastline. They are readily available even in discos. I am concerned about the drug problem as a whole, and I am particularly concerned about the use of heroin.

I was saddened to learn that the doctor to whom I have referred was told by the relevant Government department, "Don't do anything to treat them. Don't give them any treatment whatever." The doctor asked, "What will I do?" He was told, "Let them go. Give them the big A. They will die, because they will kill themselves within two years." What a fine attitude for the State Government to adopt towards drug addicts!

I am pleased to read in the Budget Speech that free hospitalisation will be retained in Queensland. However, I am concerned about the charges imposed by the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade for the transport of patients from one public hospital to another public hospital. Gladstone is a fairly lucky city in that it is only 135 km or so from Rockhampton. The ambulance charges are \$40 for the first 24 km and \$1 per kilometre after that. That means that a person who is seriously injured in Gladstone and cannot be treated at the Gladstone Hospital can be called upon to pay as much as \$282 for ambulance transport to Rockhampton. Many people in public wards cannot afford such a cost.

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

Mr PREST: Prior to the recess for dinner I was speaking about Queensland's free hospital system. I referred, in particular, to the QATB and to its charges of \$40 for the first 24 km and \$1 per kilometre thereafter. A person could go to a public hospital in a country area and find that that hospital did not have the facilities to treat him. He could then be transferred to a major hospital for specialist treatment. That person could find he had to pay a substantial bill for ambulance charges. It costs \$282 to be conveyed in an ambulance from Gladstone to Rockhampton, which is a distance of 132 km.

Mr Wright: A lot of money.

Mr PREST: Yes, it is a lot of money, particularly when one considers that the taxi fare between Gladstone and Rockhampton is between \$80 and \$100.

People have to be transferred to major hospitals not because of their condition but because of the lack of facilities in country hospitals. In many instances, the people who have to be transported those distances can ill afford to pay the charges. The charge might be all right if a patient is transferred from a private doctor to a private medical centre for specialist attention.

Ambulance centres have to get their money from somewhere. They raise funds in various ways and the funds that they raise are subsidised on a dollar for dollar basis. If the ambulance centre in Gladstone charges \$282 for transporting a patient to Rockhampton, after receiving a subsidy it could receive approximately \$564. I am concerned not only for people in my area but also for people in the western areas who have to be transported longer distances. How do they meet the cost? I ask the Minister for Health to have a close look at the cost of transporting public patients to public hospitals. I appreciate the work done by the QATB. I also appreciate that it receives a great deal of money from the public through raffles and donations.

When the Minister in charge of racing was in Gladstone in April, he met officials of the Gladstone Amateur Turf Club and gave them the go-ahead to draw up plans for a new grass race-track in that area and to present them to him. He gave instructions that Blain Bremner and Williams Pty Ltd draw up the plans. The plans were drawn up and presented to the Minister quite some time ago, but the officials of the Gladstone Amateur Turf Club are still waiting for an answer from him.

Mr Coyle of the Port Curtis Greyhound Racing Club is also concerned that he was not told of the Minister's visit to Gladstone. Some years ago he applied to a former Minister in charge of racing for the establishment of a greyhound club and track in

Gladstone. He claims that his correspondence was not even acknowledged. He received no reply to his application. Had that been drawn to the Minister's attention, I am sure he would have had the common decency to answer Mr Coyle.

I ask the Minister to make inquiries about Mr Coyle's application on behalf of the Port Curtis Greyhound Racing Club. I ask him to see how the application has advanced and whether there is any opportunity to establish a coursing club in Gladstone. There is one in Rockhampton, which is operating quite effectively. If possible we would like another set up in the new racing complex at Gladstone.

The TAB speaks about greatly increased profits this year, so the racing industry will be expecting a greater amount of money. Much of it should be spent in country areas. I have always said that it costs as much to race a horse in the country as it does in the city. Millions of dollars are being spent at Albion Park and Doomben. Not all the money should be spent in the city. It is high time that some of it went to the country.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It is mainly spent on the courses at which the Minister's horses run.

Mr PREST: That is true. The Minister is heavily involved in galloping and trotting. It was pleasing to see him receive what he called the greatest thrill of his life when his horse Decidedly won the Queen's Cup on Saturday. I would have thought that another experience of his in the last 12 months would have been a thrill much greater than having a horse win a race. I assure him that it would have been for me.

Tonight I wish to speak about the Cook Shire. Recently, with the member for Cook (Mr Scott), I visited that shire and attended a public meeting on the subject of having a democratically elected council, instead of an administrator and an appointed executive committee, running the shire's affairs.

The Cook Shire Council was dismissed on 15 January 1959. I do not know the reasons for its dismissal. However, in local government there should not be any difference between the people in Cook Shire and those in any other local authority area in Queensland. The public meeting was attended by 130 or more people, who were adamant that the Minister for Local Government or the Local Government Department should conduct a feasibility study on treating the Cook Shire in the same way as other shires, with democratically elected representatives, not ministerial appointees, running the shire's affairs.

There is no complaint about the administration of that area over the past 23 years. However, the Opposition believes that it is the democratic right of the people in the area to nominate for and be elected to a shire position in the usual democratic way.

If the people who are appointed by the Minister as the executive committee are doing a worthwhile job, there is nothing to stop them from throwing their hats into the ring and nominating and gaining support democratically from the electors of the shire. I believe that a petition is being circulated in the Cook Shire asking the Minister to take the necessary steps to reintroduce into the Cook Shire a fully elected shire council so that the people of the shire can properly enjoy the democratic rights available to most other Queenslanders. They are entitled to that.

After visiting the Cook Shire, I must say that Queensland has some very bad roads, but the road from Mt Carbine to Cook is one of the worst roads that one could ever travel on. It is so bad that a good business venture would be for a person to establish an enterprise so that somebody travelling north could trade in his vehicle on a four-wheel-drive vehicle, drive through Cook and, on return, sell the four-wheel drive back to the person, who would then act as a car wrecker, and pick up his own second-hand vehicle to return home. The road is very bad. It is the most convenient route to get to the Cape York area. If we are to attract tourists, a great deal more money must be spent on it. Tourism is one of the major industries in that area and it would receive a great boost if a better road was constructed beyond Cook, which is as far as work has gone so far.

I was very impressed with the area. There is no doubt that it is being well represented by Mr Bob Scott, as it has been now for quite some time. The people of the electorate really appreciate what he does and the time and attention that he gives them. He is never home as he has to travel very long hours over very long distances on very bad roads. No doubt that is why he will have no trouble being re-elected at the coming State election, whenever it may be.

An Opposition Member: What about Mr Killoran?

Mr PREST: I will not buy into that. I am certain that Mr Scott will be able to cope with whomever may be the candidate selected to stand against him.

I was terribly disappointed, as I stated earlier, that one of the most important Government departments, the Department of Local Government, did not get a mention in the Budget and did not receive any assistance. I sincerely hope that the economy of the State improves and that the State will become a better place not only for the rich but also for the poor—the 74 600 who are unemployed. The State is supposed to be rich, yet 7.1 per cent of its work-force is unemployed. Many people are clamouring for welfare housing and our schools are overcrowded. I hope that the provision in this Budget will increase the number of teachers so that class sizes can be reduced to an acceptable level, which will be a help to teachers, who work so hard for the welfare of our children.

I am pleased to see the amount of money that is being spent in my own area. Presently a new hospital is being built with a 120-bed section. It has been talked about and promised for many, many years and is long overdue. It is very pleasing to see that it is coming to fruition.

Mine is a developing area, and the growth that has taken place in Tannum Sands and Boyne Island has reached the stage where the population is equivalent to that of Gladstone when the boom started in the early 1960s. Of course, the area has a separate identity and must be treated as such by Government departments. A new primary school is being built at Tannum Sands and will be operating by 1983. It will remove the need for children to travel from that area into Gladstone.

One can always talk to the Minister for Works and Housing (Mr Wharton) and I sincerely hope that in the very near future he sees the need to construct a lot more Housing Commission homes in Gladstone. I directed a question to him today about tenants occupying Housing Commission homes under the guaranteed rental system while leasing or letting their own homes at the same time. I do not think that is fair. The conditions that apply to the ordinary person in the community should apply to those tenants.

One thing I am concerned about is the lack of assistance received by our coloured brothers in the community, the Aborigines. I thought it was unfortunate that the Premier went to New Zealand and said that Queensland Aborigines are a very rich race of people and that they have more money than they know what to do with. He said that the Aborigines were all satisfied, healthy and wealthy—that they are like the sheikhs of the Middle East. He said they received royalties from uranium mining. It takes more than that to make people wealthy. I have never seen a very rich Aborigine or coloured person.

(Time expired.)

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise) (7.32 p.m.): In entering the Budget debate I join with honourable members on both sides of the Chamber in paying tribute to the people who were responsible for organising and running the Commonwealth Games. Over the past couple of weeks we have seen a great, unifying event. It has brought nations from right throughout the world closer together, and has been a great unifying event for the people of Australia. That is important, and it is one of the long-term benefits that will come from the Commonwealth Games.

I take this opportunity to commend those people who have been involved in the restoration of Parliament House. We are meeting in a magnificent old building, something that is part of a great parliamentary complex. The tradesmen who worked on this project for so long should be commended.

It is appropriate to quote from the newsletter of the Queensland Finance and Land group on its assessment of the Queensland economy. It reads—

“We do not need reminding that 1982 ushered in the greatest period of constant, pessimistic news reporting since the early days of World War Two. The news coming from other states has continually been gloomy. Coupled with this flow of pessimism has been the device that gives a story greater impact and saves a lot of research—sweeping generalisations.

If a factory closes in Melbourne or a development project cancelled in New South Wales, Queenslanders are told ‘Australia is in the grip of a recession’. Reports coming from other states and cities on the depressed state of their real estate markets is reported as the ‘National downturn in the real estate industry’.

Tell a healthy person often enough he looks ill and he will start to believe you.

Keep it up long enough and chances are he will end up at the doctors for a check up.

Queensland is the one state that is defying national and even international trends. It is the state that has the strongest growth, is outperforming the rest of the nation economically, is attracting the greatest number of new settlers from overseas and interstate that Australia has ever seen, and was in the middle of a booming revival of the capital city's real estate market."

The article continues—

"We are not claiming Queensland is recession-proof. We are saying that of all Australian states and Western countries, Queensland will be least affected by any recession—the last to be touched by it and the first to emerge from it."

I believe that the Treasurer adequately described the situation when he said that this is a Budget which does what the rest of the States would like to be able to do. That statement was proved to be correct following the bringing down of the New South Wales and Victorian State Budgets. I intend to draw to the attention of honourable members the Budget documents of the States of New South Wales and Victoria. When that is done and an objective assessment is made the positive financial administration of this State will become all the more evident.

The 1982 Queensland State Budget reflects solid growth and competent and effective management of the State's resources for the benefit of the taxpayer. It consolidates Queensland's reputation as the low-tax State of the nation. Indeed, criticism of the Budget stands revealed as shallow and baseless when the Budgets of New South Wales and Victoria are taken into account.

One has only to look at some of the headlines that were evident in the Press in Sydney and Melbourne in recent weeks. The Melbourne "Age" is not known as a bastion of conservatism but, on 23 September, it reported the Victorian State Budget under the heading, "Taxes will leap 23 per cent to \$2,403 million." Another headline is in these terms, "The Total tax take." An examination of "The Sydney Morning Herald" reveals headlines in these terms, "Transaction tax will raise \$100m this year", "No reduction in teaching hours", "Measures reflect the difficulty of the times", and "New finance tax in tight Budget".

For the benefit of the honourable member for Port Curtis who, earlier this evening, went to great lengths to tell us about the plight of local government in Queensland, I will outline how local government in New South Wales is suffering at present. In the Budget brought down in that State the Government's contribution to the Local Government Assistance Fund, which was \$9.5m in 1981-82, will be dropped from the 1983 rating year.

Mr Tenni: That shows how the New South Wales Government has knocked local government.

Mr BORBIDGE: That is right. The honourable member for Barron River is well aware of what Mr Wran is doing to local authorities in New South Wales.

What is more, local councils and water boards will have to meet half the cost of rate concessions for pensioners, which the State now pays in full. In the last financial year, the State paid \$39m for rebates on council rates, and \$17.5m for water board rates. That is the situation in New South Wales under that Labor Government.

Mr Tenni: What about the sacking of the 4 000 public servants?

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Barron River referred to the sacking of the 4 000 public servants in New South Wales.

Let me examine further the economic performance of the New South Wales and Victorian Governments compared with that of the Queensland Government.

Mr McKechnie: You forget about all the shire councils.

Mr BORBIDGE: That is right.

This year, Mr Wran led his State so close to the brink of financial disaster that he had to bring in two Budgets. The so-called "Premier State" continues to teeter on the brink of an economic abyss created by the Wran Labor Government. I remind honourable members that on 29 June this year the New South Wales Government announced a series of savage increases in taxes and charges. On 30 June, Mr Wran summoned Parliament to implement a 3c per litre petrol tax. It is the highest in Australia, and a tax that does not exist in Queensland. He also introduced a 5c a litre tax on diesel fuel. That has now been reduced to 3.5c a litre, which is the same as the tax applied by his socialist cronies in Victoria. On that same day he brought in a 17 per cent increase in electricity charges with a new tariff structure—

Mr DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the member for Surfers Paradise is reading his speech word for word, which is contrary to Standing Orders.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Row): Order! I ask the honourable member to desist from reading his speech.

Mr BORBIDGE: Thank you, Mr Row. I was referring to notes in the same manner as the Opposition members who preceded me. If they wish to make a tactic of that, I am sure that Government members would be very pleased to reciprocate during the remainder of the session.

Mr McKechnie: Some members of the Opposition cannot even read.

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Carnarvon knows full well what is happening in New South Wales, because his electorate borders that State. On 29 June, New South Wales transport fares were increased by 20 per cent, and hospital charges were increased by as much as 25 per cent, despite the fact that Mr Wran increased those same charges in late 1981. The measures were designed to reduce Mr Wran's Budget deficit by raising an additional \$350m.

I can understand how touchy Labor members are, because they know that there is a distinct difference between what they say in this place and what they do when they get on the Treasury benches anywhere in Australia. They have a responsibility to administer, not just to talk. I believe that the people of Queensland should look closely at what is happening interstate. Despite the extra taxes introduced by Mr Wran, the Budget deficit in that State remains at \$39.5m.

On September this year, the New South Wales Government decided to introduce its second Budget for the year. That was made necessary because of its economic incompetence. What was introduced then? A tax on financial institutions was announced. To acquaint honourable members with the matter, a report in "The Sydney Morning Herald" on 29 September states—

"The Government's main priority in producing the Budget was to avoid increasing taxes which it found easier after the mini-Budget of July which introduced levies on petrol and diesel fuel and raised public transport fares.

Financial institutions, including banks, stockbrokers and credit card operators will have to pay the Government three 3c on every \$100 they turn over from November 1st."

It should also be noted that at that time the New South Wales tax per capita was the highest of any State in Australia. However, that has now been overtaken by Mr Cain in Victoria. The Labor Party has established itself in Government as the champion of increased State taxation, high Government charges and disincentives to private enterprise. For the benefit of honourable members, I repeat that New South Wales will be spending \$38m less on local government this year.

Mr WRIGHT: I rise to a point of order. Mr Row, I draw your attention to Standing Order 141 that strictly says that speeches that are irrelevant must be discontinued. I ask for your ruling as to whether or not a speech that refers to the New South Wales Budget is relevant to this debate.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Row): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr BORBIDGE: That shows the sensitivity of members opposite. Opposition members, including the honourable member for Rockhampton, cannot take it.

Before I examine the situation in Queensland, let us examine the new Labor order of Mr Cain in Victoria. Following the lead of Mr Wran, a new stamp duty on receipts of all financial institutions, again 3c in the dollar, will be implemented. The yield for Mr Cain will be \$80m. Gas prices have been increased by 18.5 per cent. A 1 per cent surcharge on certain land tax transactions will yield \$26m. Higher stamp duty on sales of property valued at more than \$125,000 will yield \$180m.

The sum of \$138.5m that will be received by way of dividend payments from statutory authorities inevitably will lead to higher rates and higher power charges. I notice that Labor members in this Chamber have stated that they want inverted electricity tariffs in Queensland. An energy consumption levy has also been introduced on major gas users. This will yield to Mr Cain's Treasury an additional \$10m.

In all, State taxation in Victoria has been increased by 23.5 per cent in the first year of the new Labor Government. It is estimated that the Victorian Government's Budget will add \$350 per year to the cost of living for the average Victorian family.

Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works rates will increase by an average of \$95 per year, which represents a rise of 28 per cent. Mr Cain's Government will follow Mr Wran's example of milking dry the reserve and working capital of the State's major authorities.

On 23 September "The Australian" quoted the secretary of the Australian Taxpayers Association, Eric Risstrom, as describing the Victorian Budget as a disaster.

He said—

"The Budget lifts costs of manufacturing in the State and in the long term this will further jeopardise employment and will discourage firms from operating in Victoria."

Clearly, Mr Wran and Mr Cain have embarked on a strategy to hurt most those people who have the capacity to get Australia moving. They have opted for a line of attack or strategy that is totally opposite to what Queensland has implemented and is aiming for. Queensland is striving for Government encouragement and incentive to bring more jobs on line in the private enterprise sector.

In referring to the Victorian Budget, the Employers Federation said—

"It must be made clear that it will be the State's industry and commerce which will end up footing the bill."

In "The Australian" of 23 September the Federation director, Mr Ian Spicer, said—

"Industry will be expected to pay up through higher gas charges, higher banking fees and higher Board of Works rates, but we have been given nothing back in return. We are also disappointed that there has not been a greater exemption on pay-roll tax."

The total amount of tax collected in Victoria by the State Government now stands at \$519.18 per head compared with \$350.85 in 1979-80. This year's estimated Victorian deficit is \$97.7m.

The respective Budgets highlight a fundamental philosophical difference between Queensland on the one hand and New South Wales and Victoria on the other. Victoria seeks to create additional employment, but it will be artificial growth generated by substantial Government expenditure raised through higher State taxation. In contrast, it is expected that the Queensland Budget will create 18 000 additional jobs by Christmas. Of that number, only 3 000 will be Government funded.

It is significant that the Queensland Budget allows for a total expenditure of \$3,668.95m, which represents an increase of \$530.65m, or 16.9 per cent, on last year's expenditure. Despite that, there will be no new State taxes. I can understand the sensitivity of Opposition members, because their party has been the champion at implementing new taxes and higher taxes in State Government administration. The Queensland Budget gives further concessions in stamp duty, land tax and pay-roll tax.

Government members welcome very warmly the Treasurer's comments relating to the initiatives announced by the Premier earlier this year and his indication that the Government is actively pursuing a review of stamp duty legislation. That initiative has the capacity and the potential to consolidate Queensland's position as the growth State of the nation and to secure its growing role as the financial and entrepreneurial capital of Australia, particularly when one takes into account what is happening at present in the other States in Australia. Appropriate reforms in stamp duty legislation could have an economic impact rivalling that of the abolition of death duties a few years ago—again an abolition of a tax that was financed by the Government in this State. Reform in the area of stamp duty will require initiative, daring and forward thinking.

I welcome particularly the increase in the Education Vote by over 19 per cent to more than \$838m this year and the decision to phase in over a four-year period the recommendations of the Ahern committee of inquiry. The Government has acted promptly, and as promptly as a responsible administration could, on class sizes, and the appointment of an additional 1 545 teachers this year is a further indication of what is a basic, genuine and sincere commitment to the education of young Queenslanders.

I also welcome the increase of 18 per cent in the textbook allowance. That is very important, and it will be of great benefit to many Queensland families.

Main Roads expenditure of \$405.2m is up 19.5 per cent this year. Although I represent an area of the State in which the road standards are quite good, substantial expenditure will be required merely to handle the volume of traffic on the roads in the great growth area from Brisbane through the southern suburbs of Brisbane to the New South Wales border.

Tourism expenditure will top \$9m this year in the allocation to the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, which is an increase of 17 per cent. It is interesting that the Queensland Government is now budgeting for the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation as much money as the Federal Government gives to the Australian Tourist Commission. The time has come when the Federal Government, in particular, should increase the amount of money that it is allocating to the ATC to match what the most competitive of the States are now doing in that field.

Massive aviation charges are imposed by the Federal Government in Canberra. As far as I am aware, the departure tax is the highest in the world. It is about time that the Federal Government started to put a little bit more back into the tourist industry. The increase that the State Government is giving to tourism is welcome, but it is needed because tourism is now the State's third major income earner. The industry is worth approximately \$1.7 billion each year to the economic well-being of this State.

The Queensland Government's spending on tourism and its policies on tourism contrast sharply with the Victorian Government's contribution to the tourist industry in that State with its appointment of a former South Australian Premier, Don Dunstan, to the position of chairman of the Victorian Tourism Commission on a salary of \$54,000 a year.

A reappraisal of funding for regional tourist authorities is needed. It is vital that the present QTTC grant of \$25,000 a year be increased by an amount at least equal to the movement in the Consumer Price Index. This is an area that the Treasury, the QTTC and the Minister must examine. I urge that that review be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

We are looking at the employment of almost 90 000 people in the State of Queensland in the tourism industry. That is a number that will grow enormously by the end of his decade.

Mrs Nelson: Did you see the Premier of Victoria, Mr Cain, desperately advertising on television for people to come back to Victoria?

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Aspley makes a comment and I know it to be true. I also know that the level of business inquiries being handled by our own Government office in Melbourne has increased by 66 per cent over the last three or four months. After the introduction of the Victorian Budget, the level of inquiries is certain to increase further.

Extensions to the runway at the Gold Coast airport will enable aircraft of the standard of the A300 Airbus, the new Boeing 757s and 767s and even the 747SP to be accommodated. Last week-end—on Saturday, 9 October—TAA made its inaugural Airbus flight to the Gold Coast. It is the first such permanent service to a non-capital city destination. In effect, that means that the Gold Coast airport has the immediate capacity to service not only any imaginable internal or intrastate flight but also short to medium-haul international flights such as a trans-Tasman service.

I am disappointed that the Federal Minister for Aviation (Mr Fife) poured some cold water on that proposal when he was in the region late last week. The tourist and business community on the Gold Coast sees some form of trans-Tasman air service as a logical extension of consolidating the Gold Coast's position as a favoured holiday destination for New Zealand visitors. I urge the State Government and the Minister to again make representations to Canberra on that matter. New Zealanders constitute our major overseas market. In fact, most people flying into Brisbane from New Zealand are heading for the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast itself now has a substantial New Zealand population, and a direct air service would appear viable, logical, sensible and overdue. The casino development alone will be justification for the introduction of such a service. Townsville already has trans-Tasman connections, as does Hobart now, with two flights per week, I understand, between Tasmania's capital city and Christchurch.

I would like to comment about the sports Vote and the sports policies of the Queensland Government. It is interesting to note in today's "Gold Coast Bulletin" that two of Australia's leading athletic coaches have praised the Queensland Government for its financial support of sport but have said that Federal authorities are not doing enough. Australian women's sprint coach, Henri Schubert, MBE, has complimented the State Government for its financial backing of sport. Schubert said—

"The Queensland Government is leading the way in supporting sport. It has done quite a bit more than the Australian Government . . . It's a shame there is not more money made available for sport in other States."

Jack Pross, who has coached prominent Australian athletes, went on to say, "In Queensland, your Government has been a lot more generous than the other States or Federal authorities." That is a great tribute to our own Office of the Director of Sport, but it is important that the lead we have given be consolidated and continued in the years ahead.

The increase in expenditure on housing by \$119.7m to a total expenditure of \$277.1m places us as a national leader in that field. I welcome the news that some of the 265 pensioner units to be constructed this year will be build on the Gold Coast.

As 20 per cent increase in health expenditure will result in an additional 658 staff for Queensland's hospitals and other health facilities. The Gold Coast Hospital staff has been severely taxed. The Minister was there recently and, I believe, appreciates the problem. I hope that some of those additional 658 staff are allocated to the Gold Coast Hospital as soon as possible.

One of the most important aspects of this year's Budget has been the announcement of the new police headquarters to be constructed at Broadbeach and the additional police appointments in that region. Police strength on the Gold Coast has been stretched for some time. The announcement by the Treasurer should mean that the additional 80 officers already approved by Cabinet will be allocated as soon as possible.

The shortage of industrial land in a growth area such as the one I represent has also been a major problem. Recently the Government, through the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, purchased a 130 ha site for the sum of \$1.3m in the Merrimac/Burleigh area. I note the Treasurer's announcement that a feasibility study for the new estate will be undertaken this year, and I urge an early start on the project. I thank both the Treasurer and the Minister for Commerce and Industry for the priority that they have given this matter.

In all, the State has a balanced, positive Budget that will bring on line an additional 18 000 jobs by Christmas, of which only 3 000 will be Crown employees. It should be noted that in some 130 years of trading the accumulated State deficit for Queensland is only \$145,000. This is all the more impressive when comparisons are made interstate. This year in New South Wales the deficit is \$39.5m and the estimated deficit for Victoria is \$97m. I see my friend from Mirani is nodding in agreement with me.

Despite this positive Budget, significantly the best delivered in any State capital, the Brisbane metropolitan media reception was at best lukewarm. I wish and express the hope that some of the editorial writers of "The Courier-Mail" and the "Telegraph" would get about Australia and have a look at what is happening interstate and compare this State's performance.

The Budget has the capacity to sustain growth and create employment while ensuring that Government services, projects and the infrastructure requirements of a growing population are maintained and built upon, that our low-tax status remains and that the effects of the general economic downturn are minimised. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that on a per capita basis the New South Wales Government collects by way of tax from its citizens \$577.56 per year; Victoria, \$561.34; Queensland, \$406.97; South Australia, \$414.21; Western Australia, \$449.73; and Tasmania, \$420.37. According to the Melbourne "Age" the Victorian per capita amount now stands at \$599.18, which makes it the national leader for State tax collection. Those figures do not take into account Queensland's free public hospital scheme, the cost of which is estimated to be \$427.6m this year, which is an increase of \$152.4m or 55.4 per cent.

It should be noted that, again according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, for the 12-month period to July 1982 the following changes in Australian employment were recorded. Queensland showed a 2.3 per cent increase, New South Wales a .7 per cent reduction and Victoria a .3 per cent reduction. Queensland continues to experience a population migration of unprecedented proportions. That was outlined to the Chamber earlier this afternoon by the Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services. He was correct when he said that in recent times Queensland has experienced what has become known as the California syndrome.

Increasing retail sales and across-the-board job growth in a number of different sectors have been brought about by a fundamental pattern of growth. Last year the Gold Coast topped Australia in high-rise constructions; it also achieved the distinction of the nation's largest growth in three-bedroom brick veneer homes. Of the \$32 billion in development projects still under way in Australia, projects worth just under \$16 billion—which is about half—are proceeding in Queensland. To the end of June this year the State's labour force has increased by 23 000 persons in the 12-month period, compared with a drop of 9 200 jobs in New South Wales, 11 700 jobs in Victoria and a national decline.

We have been consistently showing figures that we are creating half the new jobs in the nation. Despite experiencing the greatest internal migration in Australia's history, our unemployment rate over a period has been consistently the lowest of any State.

Since 1974, 220 831 people have moved to Queensland. Of them, 66.6 per cent have come from other States. Those figures are supplied by the Commonwealth Department of Industry and Commerce.

Mr Menzel: Even Don Dunstan came to Queensland.

Mr BORBIDGE: As the honourable member for Mulgrave says, even a famous southern Labor man came to Queensland for a short time before he went to Victoria to take up his \$54,000 Government appointment there.

In 1981 two-thirds of interstate arrivals—and this is a most significant figure to Queensland—were aged between 20 and 44 years. They can be presumed to be the most energetic of the work-force, the self-starters and the achievers. So to say that only older people have moved to Queensland is not correct. Last year 9 000 new businesses opened, 15 000 new companies came into being, retail sales increased by 17 per cent and building approvals increased by 24 per cent, and we attracted 40 per cent of Australia's foreign investment.

This Budget clearly demonstrates the Queensland Government's intention to maintain the positive political environment needed for businesses to expand and employ. Last year 48 283 people left Victoria. In the past 10 years Victoria's population has grown by 369 600 while Queensland's population, starting from a much smaller base, has risen by 534 700. There are many reasons for this continuing migration, and I am sure that one is the political and business climate generated by this Government. People have confidence in the Premier and in the Government.

I endorse calls—I have made them before as have other members—for the Government to seriously consider opening an office on the west coast of the United States. I believe that the Government offices in Tokyo and London are great investments in the future of Queensland. They are great investments in attracting jobs and people, and I believe that there is great potential for having a similar office on the west coast of the United States. It is interesting to note that the New South Wales Government does have a sizable office there, that the Victorian Government has an office and that the Federal Government is represented by a Consul-General.

A further example of where Queensland has leapt ahead of other States is workers' compensation rates, and in many respects these rates are as much as several hundred per cent lower in Queensland. For instance, the rate in Queensland is \$2.59 a week compared to \$17.08 in Victoria in one category, and \$16.61 compared to \$37.66 in another. At the present time in both New South Wales and Victoria there is fierce debate within the community about enormous predicted rises in workers' compensation insurance premiums. That financial burden is placing further strain on business activity interstate, and the burden of high workers' compensation charges and rates is not borne by small and large businesses—all employers—in the State of Queensland. As the honourable member for Lockyer interjected earlier tonight, our pay-roll tax is also the lowest. Our threshold is to be increased to \$204,000. That is particularly welcome, as is the rebate for first-year apprentices.

I remain of the view that Queensland will generate most of Australia's wealth in the years ahead. As Queensland has a growing population, this will have profound implications in terms of national affairs and the future of Australia's political, economic and social structure. It means that under strong leadership and responsible government Queensland's dynamic growth is only just beginning. I congratulate the Treasurer and the Government on bringing down a Budget without rival. It is the best Budget to be delivered in any Parliament in the nation this year.

Mr MUNTZ (Whitsunday) (8.11 p.m.): It is with pleasure that I enter the Budget debate. Before doing so, I would like to digress for a moment to compliment the Minister for works and Housing, the staff of the Department of Works and all the tradesmen and workmen who were responsible for restoring this grand old building to its present state. It is truly a fine piece of workmanship. They should be proud to have been associated with a project which will remain a landmark in Queensland for generations to come.

I take pride in the Government, the State and the people of Queensland who continue to strive to give of their best. Certainly after the past two weeks Queenslanders and Australians can stand a little taller, full of that same pride, loyalty and determination that preserves our freedom and democratic way of life, which is surely the envy of the rest of the world that had its eyes on Queensland during the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

The Government is to be congratulated on achieving a Budget deficit of only \$170,888 to the end of June 1982. Responsible control over expenditure has certainly enabled such fine-tuning, considering that total revenue amounted to \$3,276m. The Queensland Government is certainly big business. A deficit of \$170,888 for the last financial year represents a minute percentage of total expenditure. The Treasurer must be congratulated on the control exercised. I compliment him, knowing full well that he would be the first to agree that that would not have been possible without total ministerial co-operation.

Estimated receipts for 1981-82 totalled \$3,138m, whereas actual receipts were \$3,276m. Receipts for almost each category exceeded Budget estimates. Surely that is an enviable situation in any business operation. This factor has thus made up for escalating expenditures, an ingredient that every Government and business is facing world wide.

Expenditure on education, health, local government, main roads, police and transport exceeded budgeted amounts but, in all instances, the increase was 7 per cent or less.

The estimated deficit for 1982-83 is \$256,656, but included in the expenditure is the recoupment of the accumulated deficit of \$145,570 at 30 June 1982. Therefore, the actual estimated deficit for 1982-83 is only \$111,086. If Government control results in a deficit close to that amount, it will again mean the achievement of excellent financial management in anyone's language.

Commonwealth payments for hospitals and other services are estimated to be some \$73m less in 1982-83. However, this item and some other revenue items are compensated for by an increase in the tax-sharing grant, some part of which is attributable to the increased migration to Queensland.

Other revenue items, which represent about 52 per cent of total Budget receipts, are confined to the traditional sources of levying available to the State Government. Increases are proposed in some fees in the health sector, and increased taxes are proposed in the area of stamp duty on motor vehicles and pleasure boats.

I represent one of the best, if not the best, pleasure areas in Australia. It is disappointing that the boating public is being penalised in this way. The Whitsunday waters provide an enviable boating haven. It is difficult to mount an argument against such an increase in the stamp duty on motor vehicles and pleasure boats bearing in mind the imposts payable in other States, such as the petrol taxes and the higher stamp duties on motor vehicles, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria, which are suffering frustrations and ills under socialist Labor Governments that are dictated to by Communist union leaders. The situation would certainly be no different in Queensland under a Casey Labor Government.

I am pleased that the Treasurer has taken into account my suggestions on concessions in the pay-roll tax area. They are outlined in the Budget and are welcomed by business in general. They have received favourable comment from business associations and the rural community.

The phasing out of the exemption on wages in excess of the maximum pay-roll is welcomed by many small businesses that are striving to employ more people. The phasing out has come from a reduction of \$5 for every \$2, down to \$3 for every \$2. To my knowledge, this reduction in the phasing out is the first time that the scale has been altered for many years.

As I have previously informed the Assembly, the extra \$10,000 of wages above the maximum pay-roll tax exemption rate was taxable at a punitive 17.5 per cent. The new phasing out reduces this to 12.5 per cent. We are talking about an area of pay-roll in relation to a business employing up to 25 to 30 persons—a very big percentage of our source of employment in Queensland.

One hopes that the Government in the future can continue to reduce the phasing out of the exemption until the penalty rate is effectively nullified. The benefit of the increase in the maximum pay-roll tax exemption from \$180,000 to \$204,000 and the reduced phasing out of the exemption would benefit at least 1 500 small business employers, and it is to those people to whom we look to employ more of our young people, particularly 1982 school-leavers.

The estimated cost of \$5m for pay-roll tax concessions for first-year apprentices' wages is a small amount of revenue forgone for the benefit of encouraging the employment of first-year school-leavers and the taking on of apprentices. Such incentives should encourage employers to train young people to be skilled workers rather than have them engage personnel without giving them the opportunity of further training in later years.

Land tax exemption for primary producers whose land is owned by companies is a welcome change for owner-operated primary producing properties where, for various family planning purposes, it has been to their advantage to incorporate.

In the present climate it is appropriate, and I am compelled, to comment on retrospectivity in the laws relating to revenue raising and, in particular, taxation. I am personally against the principle of retrospectivity. I find it repugnant, and it always brings to my mind the time-honoured principle expounded by Lord Tomlin in the House of Lords in 1936 in the case of *Inland Revenue Commissioner v. Duke of Westminster*, as follows—

“Every man is entitled if he can to order his affairs so that the tax attaching under the appropriate acts is less than it otherwise would be. If he succeeds in ordering them so as to secure this result, then, however unappropriate the Commissioners of Inland Revenue or his fellow taxpayers may be of his ingenuity, he cannot be compelled to pay an increased tax.”

The introduction of the principle of retrospectivity prevents any kind of forward planning, incentive or the ability to make sound decisions when legal measures, which are specifically allowed under an Act, at some time in the future, may be deemed to be illegal. The ultimate in retrospective taxation laws is that any matter or action undertaken within the current taxation law can subsequently be legislated against, tax levied, penalties charged and the amount collected. That is a horrific prospect to look forward to. I hope this Government never considers this application of retrospectivity to its revenue laws. I, as a member of this Assembly, give notice that I will rigidly oppose any such move.

With the introduction of the National Companies Code from 1 July 1982, there have been considerable increases in the fees paid by companies for lodgment of documents and returns with the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. An example of the increases is the annual return fee for an exempt proprietary company, which has increased from \$50 to \$80. Most of these companies are owned and used by small family businesses and, although the fees have to be uniform throughout the States, it could be that our Queensland companies are being penalised because of the higher costs imposed by other States.

The new fees were no doubt agreed between the States. The large increases are shown in the Budget receipts of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs for 1982-83, being \$12.8m as against actual receipts of \$7m in 1981-82.

Although one does not welcome any general increases of an everyday cost item such as rail freights, one has to bear in mind the increase in costs of fuel and, in particular, the Federal Government's excise arrangements on diesel fuel used by the Queensland Railways. Road and other freights have increased dramatically in the last year and the general increase in rail fares and freight rates of 15 per cent would, on balance, be below the accumulative effect of more frequent increases in air fares, air freights and road freights.

The effect of rail freight increases will be felt by both rural and urban interests, and certainly unfairly affect northern, western and outlying areas once again.

Fortunately, sugar and beef freight charges will not fall directly in this category, as the contract rate for those commodities does not come up for renewal until May 1983.

I say "unfairly affect" the northern areas and ask the Treasurer again to take note of the fact that in 1981-82 the Queensland Railways Central Division showed a profit, or, more precisely, a surplus of revenue over working expenses, of \$95,028,729, compared with a loss, or a deficit of working expenses over revenue, of \$95,828,485 for the South Eastern Division, \$37,804,841 for the South Western Division and \$29,181,340 for the Northern Division.

It would appear that the Central Division, which includes the Mackay and Proserpine districts, is subsidising the unprofitable metropolitan area, even to the extent of electrification. I would not for one minute deny the people of Queensland that facility. However, when it comes to funding for highways, particularly the Bruce Highway, and railway facilities for Central and Northern Queensland, the Government should not lose sight of the real economics and the fair and reasonable distribution of profits. I urge the Government not to get bogged down in population figures. The Government must know by now that equitable distribution of representation has led to sound economic development and decentralisation in Queensland.

The Budget allows for a total expenditure estimated at \$3,669m, which represents a 16.9 per cent increase on last year's expenditure. However, the Budget papers suggest that general items and projects are being increased at a level higher than that, which sets the average at 16.9 per cent. Some notable increases are a 19.4 per cent increase in the Budget allocation for education, a 19.5 per cent increase in the allocation for main roads and an 18.7 per cent increase in the allocation for the railways.

The increase in the allocation for education is welcome, as it will enable the Education Department to engage in forward planning. The Ahern report recommendations on class sizes should be implemented over the next four years. I predict that an injection of funding into public works will be necessary to match that expansion. I support both the Minister for Works and Housing and the Minister for Education on such a submission.

The increase in Main Roads Department expenditure of 19.5 per cent affects my part of the State. That combined with the recently announced Federal Government's Bicentennial Road Program will certainly be the best news that North Queenslanders have received for many years. I have been a strong advocate for a road program that will give North

Queensland a flood-free, durable Bruce Highway in the 1980s. It now appears that 1988 could be the year in which we celebrate. To bring forward a road program from 30 years to 6 years is no mean feat.

Full credit must go to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police for the co-operation that I have received from him. He has driven over the Bruce Highway between Mackay and Townsville twice in the six-month period from August 1981 to February 1982 and obviously he has now convinced the powers that be in Canberra that Queensland must receive its fair share in road programs. I will not relent in demonstrating to Mr Hinze that North Queensland should receive first priority on Bruce Highway upgrading. I have no doubt that the Minister will keep faith with me and, in turn, with North Queensland.

Primary Industries has fallen short of other departments' increased expenditure, having a Budget allocation of approximately \$79.9m, compared with an actual expenditure of \$70.5m in 1981-82, which represents an increase of 13.4 per cent. Similarly, the Government grant to the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations has increased by 12.5 per cent, which is much smaller than the general rate of expenditures. Having regard to the significance of the sugar industry to Queensland and to the problems presently looming, the Treasury Department should examine that figure more closely next year.

Total payments for 1982-83 include an amount of \$240m for Public Debt services. This amount is 6.45 per cent of revenues. Undoubtedly, when recoveries are deducted, this percentage will be of the order of 5 per cent. Since 1976-77 the percentage has decreased from 5.59 per cent. The Government can be congratulated on maintaining such a low commitment to the repayment of loans for assets provided in the past.

When one compares this commitment to business or even personal interests, where 25 per cent is not an unrealistic figure, it becomes patently clear that our State is in competent economic hands. One dares to compare Queensland's figure with that of the Labor-Government-persecuted southern States, or with the fictitious figures that we have heard from members sitting on the Labor benches who advocate huge public indebtedness.

I am disappointed that the total Budget allocation for farm water supplies assistance has only increased from \$2.82m to \$2.833m, and out of that latter amount only \$1.65m is earmarked for advances to landholders for on-farm works.

Although I am in favour of the large, long-term water conservation projects, I have advocated in this place on prior occasions that more funds be provided for smaller local schemes and on-farm water-harvesting, conservation and distribution works, as it is my firm belief that many small schemes will give greater protection against crop failures and produce better yields, both crop and financial, in the short term. These funds are provided by way of loan and are therefore repayable by the recipient. \$20m spent by way of on-farm water supplies assistance loans will give benefit to many more landholders than the same amount of money committed to large water conservation projects.

It is also an incentive to those landholders who have the initiative to develop their properties rather than to the total population of a confined benefited area of a large project, some of whom do not wish to be involved for a number of reasons; for example, they may have already provided for their own irrigation requirements or perhaps, in their judgment, irrigation to them is not economically viable. Whatever the reason, I see a great deal of merit in providing the incentive to the individual property owner by means of loan funds.

Another matter that I bring to the attention of the Treasurer is that of rural reconstruction funding. Rural producers face a crisis. They, and their families, are the backbone of the economy of this State, and I ask the Treasurer not to lose sight of that fact. They have certainly provided the greater percentage of the credit balance of this very Budget that the Treasurer presents to this Chamber. The crisis I refer to is one of rising costs and falling returns, inflamed by drought and adverse seasonal conditions beyond human control.

The sugar industry is one industry to which I refer. Never before has the industry faced such a dilemma, and when I refer to "the industry" I refer to both the grower and the miller. They will need a sympathetic hearing during the '80s.

Farmers and graziers in the Mackay and Proserpine districts and those throughout Queensland will be seeking financial assistance this financial year. I stress that it will be loan assistance, not a hand-out, as rural reconstruction is sometimes considered to be. They simply ask to be able to draw on a small percentage of the resources with which their industry provided this State during the relatively prosperous '70s.

I note with concern that cash funds held under rural reconstruction as at 30 June 1982, amount to \$19m and budgeted outgoings for loans in 1982-83 is \$8m. If these funds are not being utilised to the fullest, perhaps the guide-lines for allocation or the simple administrative interpretation of the scheme is too restrictive. The funds held should readily be made available to rural industry, and I warn the Treasurer of the demands that will be placed on rural industry during 1982-83, particularly on the sugar, cattle and small crop industries.

I ask that avenues for increased loan funds be investigated and that every consideration be given to increasing the availability of such assistance to drought-stricken rural producers and industries depressed by deflated markets and inflated cost structures.

In conclusion, I reiterate that this State is undoubtedly under sound financial management, as evidenced by last year's financial result—a comparatively minute deficit and the close proximity of actual receipts and payments to the estimated figures. The 1982-83 State Budget is a continuation of that same sound, business-like management that the people of Queensland will continue to experience under a National-Liberal coalition Government.

Mr McLEAN (Bulimba) (8.30 a.m.): I take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were involved in the Commonwealth Games. Governments at all levels deserve commendation for their efforts in staging the Games. I include, too, the organisers and officials who played their part in staging the Games, the volunteers and, of course, the children who performed so magnificently in the opening ceremony. Any Queenslander or other Australian at that ceremony who did not have a tear in his eye or a lump in his throat must have had something wrong with him. It made one very proud to be Australian.

I congratulate those sportsmen and women who performed so well. The Australian athletes performed above themselves in some instances. Once again, their performances made one proud to be Australian. I convey my congratulations not only to the medal winners but also to all other competitors on the part they played. The spirit of the Games was magnificent and made one proud.

Australia has been called the lucky country. We are extremely lucky. After one has been overseas, it is always great to put one's feet back onto Australian soil. I am very proud to be Australian. Queensland is a great State in this lucky country. We are very fortunate to have such rich resources, a wonderful climate and beautiful beaches. However, this State is becoming luckier and luckier for some people while for others it is anything but that.

Tonight I will outline some of the areas in which the Queensland and Federal Governments are letting Queenslanders down. I will deal firstly with unemployment, which has just passed half a million—the worst since the Great Depression. I will touch also on the housing crisis, about which we are all aware. I will deal with welfare, not only for the aged but also for our youth. Of course, there are matters such as education and health which are of concern to many people.

If the problems are not solely the fault of the State Government, most certainly some blame rests with the policy-making bodies of the National Party and the Liberal Party at the Federal level. Policies are laid down in the conference rooms and board rooms of the National Party and the Liberal Party. A smell of decay has descended on the Federal Government. There is disunity that we have not experienced before. Crises of one sort or another occur regularly. As the weeks go on, chaos becomes a regular occurrence, and there is a degree of confusion that has not existed in my time. We have a Federal Government that has failed, and failed miserably.

The first subject I touch on is unemployment. It is the most pressing problem facing Australia today. It could eventually lead to the breakdown of the very fabric of our society. Families break up through unemployment; we see our youth with no future, heartbreak, sorrow, sadness and many other side-effects from unemployment; we see the demoralising and degrading positions in which people are placed through unemployment.

I read an article by Laurie Oakes on this problem. It is very pertinent. It appeared in the "Sunday Sun" of 10 October 1982 and was headed "Lost jobs are not an issue." Part of it reads—

"Even though unemployment has now topped half a million, research suggests that it still will not be a deciding issue in a federal election.

When swing voters are asked by market researchers what they consider to be the most important national issue, unemployment is top of the list.

But when those same swing voters are asked what issues are most important to them personally, unemployment drops to seventh or eighth place behind such direct hip-pocket matters as interest rates and income tax levels.

This is reflected in political opinion surveys done in the last few weeks, and it suggests that nothing much has changed in the last five years, even though the number of Australians out of work has increased dramatically."

The pertinent point of that article is the very strong stand that the Federal Government has taken not to try to counteract the unemployment problem.

"The Courier-Mail" of Saturday, 9 October, contains an article, headed "Government refuses to bow on jobs", which reads—

"The Federal Government yesterday rejected mounting pressures for expansionary economic policies to counter cascading job losses which now have put more than 500 000 Australians out of work.

The Treasurer, Mr Howard, said ultimate success in fighting unemployment could come only through maintenance of the Government's anti-inflationary policies.

In a long statement on unemployment, Mr Howard warned that Australia's economic recovery inevitably would be set back if the Government reversed its economic policies as the Opposition was demanding.

But the Opposition economic spokesman, Mr Willis, said Mr Howard was showing himself to be 'as negligent about unemployment as he is about tax avoidance'."

That article tells the story. The present Liberal-National Country Party Government is heartless and is showing its true feelings and policies on this issue.

In July this year member after member on the Government side in this Chamber praised himself because Queensland had the lowest percentage increase in unemployment. The Queensland figure was 5.8 per cent while the national average was 6.6 per cent. At the time Government members seemed to be very proud of that. The average period of unemployment was 33 weeks. When it is said quickly, that does not sound very much but I ask honourable members to imagine the suffering that people go through when they are out of work for that length of time.

Mr Scott: I do not think the Queensland Government shows any concern.

Mr McLEAN: Of course it does not. In this place we hear Government member after Government member trying to attach the Queensland Labor Party to the Labor Parties of New South Wales and Victoria yet, when the Opposition tries to attach the Queensland Government to the Liberal-National Country Party Government in Canberra, what happens? Government members will not associate with the Federal Government.

These unemployment figures are frightening to me but Government members are proud of them and state that Queensland is far ahead of other States. The latest figures reveal that 7.4 per cent of the Australian work-force is unemployed and that the Queensland figure increased from 5.8 per cent in July to 7.1 per cent. That means that 55 300 Queenslanders are out of work, an increase of 20 000 in the 12 months. That is not a figure that any Government could be proud of.

Most of the time I do not agree with editorials but the "Sunday Sun" of 10 October carries an editorial that I think is well worth quoting because it is very pertinent to my argument. It must certainly be an embarrassment to the Government. It reads—

"But now it is back to the grim reality of Australia's worst unemployment numbers since the Great Depression.

Figures last week revealed more than half a million Australians, an average 7.4 per cent, are without jobs.

It is a chilling prospect for 100,000 school-leavers soon to enter a saturated job market in which one in 14 already can't find work.

There are forecasts that by January or February the unemployment levels could go as high as 10 per cent—one in 10 Australians, most of whom can work and want to work.

The State Government cannot pretend convincingly any longer that Queensland is somehow immune to this national disease. It isn't.

It is just as pointless to claim all Queensland's job problems arise from southerners and New Zealanders streaming across the border to share in our prosperity.

Latest figures show the State's unemployment at 55,300 or 7.1 per cent of the work force—a rise of almost 20 000 in the past year.

And too many of those joining dole queues are Queenslanders displaced from jobs they previously filled, in some cases for years.

For school-leavers it is not simply a case of finding a job but also the frustration of beginning a career that has both a future and satisfaction.

The present unemployment is not the fault of dole bludgers and does not stop at the Tweed Heads boundary.

This economic ailment is as much Queensland as it is Australian.

And it won't be solved by an early federal election that seems to have the sole purpose of taking a struggling Government to the polls before things get worse instead of better."

That editorial was from a newspaper that in the past has most certainly not been known to favour the Labor Party.

Those figures are disturbing, and I repeat that they are the result of the failed policies of the National-Liberal Government. Those policies appear to be designed without any consideration for the creation of employment; they are heartless and cruel and have no thought or feeling for the individual Australian who is affected by them. The Government parties must stand condemned for their employment and job creation activities.

I now turn to housing, and this is another area where the National and Liberal Parties must come under some criticism. In the Federal area, to start with, the Federal Government's spending has dropped drastically over the years. From what I have read in different articles and heard at seminars it appears that there are up to 300 000 homeless people in Australia, yet the Federal Government has given \$352m less to housing this year than it did five years ago. If this trend continues, it appears that loan repayments will be greater than the sum received in a person's pay packet. There are now 4 million Australians who do not own their own homes. Years ago I thought, as did most Australians, that it was one's basic right to own one's home, yet we now see that 250 000 persons are living in caravan parks, in some instances the shanty towns of our society. Of course, not all people living in caravan parks do so out of necessity; there are some people in those parks because they want to be there. However, I am sure that the vast majority of caravan park residents are there through necessity, because they cannot obtain other accommodation or buy their own homes. Enormous rents of up to \$180 a week are paid in some caravan parks. Residents can be evicted without notice; they have no protection whatsoever. Surely that is one more area where this Government is falling down on its job.

Some 278 000 pensioners around Australia are in the private rental market. Private rents are going up week by week. Pensioners are forced to live on a pension that does not increase at the same rate as their rent. They have no security; they can be evicted at any time. Surely that is an unacceptable way for us to treat our old people, the people who made this country what it is.

Many other pensioners and old people live in boarding houses with just as little security. The occupants of boarding houses in the inner city areas where redevelopment is continually taking place do not know from week to week whether they will continue to have a roof over their heads. There is an enormous need for a complete review of pensioner and welfare housing.

In 1981, the need for welfare housing in Queensland grew by 35 per cent. The latest figures reveal that some 9 500 people are waiting for welfare housing. That number is growing day by day. Because of the policy of the Federal Liberal-National Country Party

Government and the National-Liberal State Government, that number will become much larger very quickly. What are the priorities in that area, and what is likely to happen in future?

In July 1982, compared with July 1981, there was a decrease of 1 000 in the number of home loans. In July 1981, 2 882 home loans were granted by building societies and banks, but in July 1982 only 1 971 were granted. In monetary terms, that was a decrease of \$36.3m from \$280m in 1981, or 16.3 per cent. In real terms, the forecast of 34 500 homes to be built is down to 30 000. When one takes into account the people who would have worked on the additional homes and supplied the material, the effect is quite considerable.

The State Government and the Federal Government have failed to cope with the housing needs of the Australian people.

Mr Kruger: This Government is a total failure.

Mr McLEAN: I agree. It is obvious that the situation will not improve until there is a change of Government in both spheres.

Dr Edwards: That will not happen for a long time.

Mr McLEAN: It may not be as long as the Treasurer thinks.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr McLEAN: What the Government has spent on the Premier's aircraft would build 100 houses, but he will not tell the Parliament where it flies or who flies in it.

The Government must hang its head in shame because of its lack of action in welfare. The Minister for Welfare Services continually blames the Federal Government for the lack of funds. That is the same Liberal-National Country Party Government about which every Government speaker has 50 cents each way.

Mr Kruger: They are trying to knock the Wran Government all the time.

Mr McLEAN: That is so.

The Federal Government's policies have allowed the tax avoidance scandal to reach a stage at which privileged people are being supported by the ordinary wage earners to a degree that is unacceptable to any fair-minded person.

That brings me to an editorial that appeared in the Brisbane "Telegraph" of 3 February 1982. It must be embarrassing to the Government, because that newspaper is renowned for putting forward the Liberal and National viewpoint 99 per cent of the time. The editorial was in these terms—

"No one likes paying taxes, but this unpalatable fact of financial life should be sweetened by the assurance that the burden of taxation is shared equitably.

Unfortunately, this is not the case in Australia. If you are self-employed, and earn sufficient money, it is possible to avoid, quite legally, paying any income tax. This privilege is simply not available to the employed person.

Such legal tax avoidance—as opposed to the illegal tax evasion—is costing the Australian taxpayer more than \$1000 million a year. According to the last report of the Taxation Commission, some \$973 million alone was tied up in schemes under dispute.

Now one tax expert, Professor Russell Mathews of the Australian National University, has warned that the Australian tax system is disintegrating and has become a major instrument for redistributing income from the poor to the rich.

Professor Mathews, who chaired a Federal Government inquiry into taxation some years ago, warned that tax avoidance was partly responsible for most of the social and economic problems affecting Australia today.

He estimated that 20 per cent of personal income tax nominally payable was being lost to revenue through avoidance and evasion. That 20 per cent would have been paid by a relative handful of 'tax' payers.

The Federal Government has been vociferous in its efforts to stop tax avoidance. But its actions have spoken less eloquently than its announced intentions. It is hard to escape the conclusion that there exists in the ranks of government supporters, sufficient people of sufficient influence to hinder any real tax avoidance crackdown."

That is the story in a nutshell. The editorial continued—

"For its part, the High Court of Australia has positively aided the tax avoider with a series of curious decisions that owe much more to legal formalism than to any idea of social or economic justice.

Were it so inclined, the Federal Government could virtually wipe out tax avoidance schemes overnight—by the simple expedient of a basic amendment to taxation laws, making such schemes illegal retrospectively.

Instead, it dithers at the edges of the problem with lots of fine, stated intentions that mask the lack of real action.

And all the time ignoring the benefits of a simple and fair tax system that would make the activities of the avoiders and their advisers an unpleasant memory."

I do not like reading editorials from newspapers. However, I think that one is very important to my argument.

While that tax avoidance was going on, reports in the newspapers revealed the other side of the story. A report in "The Sunday Mail" of 11 May 1980, under the heading "200 homeless sleep out each night", stated—

"About 200 homeless young people, aged 14 to 20, are sleeping outdoors in Brisbane every night."

Mr Wright: Not in Queensland, the land of prosperity?

Mr McLEAN: In Queensland.

The report in "The Sunday Mail" continued—

"They can be found in parks and school grounds, on river banks—anywhere offering shelter from the elements and the authorities.

A survey has shown that the numbers are four times higher than they were 18 months ago—and growing."

That was in 1980.

On 8 October 1982, under the heading "Homeless numbers soaring", the following article appeared—

"The numbers of hungry and homeless people in Brisbane are soaring, spokesmen from two welfare agency hostels said today.

The administrator of the Salvation Army's Pindari Hostel, Major Kingsley Pratt, said 136,000 people had sought meals at the hostel from January to September this year, compared with 86,200 for the same period last year.

The number of people seeking free and low-cost accommodation rose from 40,518 to 48,128 in the same corresponding periods."

Major Pratt went on to explain the sad situation that exists in Queensland for so many people in that category.

I have mentioned in this Chamber before that soup kitchens exist for schoolchildren. Groups of people have banded together to feed schoolchildren. That is the situation that exists. On the other hand, millionaires are not paying taxes and not facing up to their responsibilities to the community.

The member for Surfers Paradise referred to the Gold Coast. I wish to refer to another article that also is very pertinent. It is about Mr Brian Maher. The article states—

"The threat of retrospective bottom-of-the-harbour tax laws has caused Gold Coast millionaire Mr Brian Maher to pull out of an \$8 million Gold Coast land deal.

He told the Daily Sun yesterday if the controversial legislation was brought in it would mean a complete collapse of the Gold Coast."

It also contains the following statement—

"Mr Maher said he believed every investor on the Gold Coast 'must be troubled' by the Government's proposed tax laws."

Mr Wright: He is the one whose lawyer told him he should have left Australia retrospectively.

Mr McLEAN: Yes.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Row): Order! I ask the honourable member to return to the debate on the Queensland Budget.

Mr McLEAN: I feel that that is very pertinent to the Budget, because the Queensland Budget hinges on the help that this State receives from the Federal Government. While people are robbing the Federal Government of money that should be coming to Queensland, that will affect the people of Queensland through this State's Budgets. On that basis, I feel that it is very pertinent.

Tax avoidance is estimated to be of the order of \$1,000m. That is a very rough estimate, and I should say that it would be very conservative. That amount is being taken out of the coffers of every State in Australia. The welfare issue to which I referred is affected by it; the housing problem to which I referred is affected by it; and the unemployment problem is most certainly affected by it. If people were paying the taxes that they ought to be paying, Queensland would not have to pay half the bills that it has to pay and many of the workers and battlers in this State would be getting a better go.

Mr Eaton: I am sure that the Treasurer would appreciate an increase in Federal funding for education and health services.

Mr McLEAN: I am sure he would. If he were honest, he would admit it.

In conclusion, I claim once again that the Government must be held responsible for the matters in respect of which it has been criticised. Queensland is a lucky State. It is richly endowed with resources, and Queenslanders are wonderful people. However, at present the State is heading in the wrong direction. Unless the problems to which I have referred are put high on the Government's list of priorities, only a privileged few will benefit from the resources that Queensland possesses.

Mr POWELL (Isis) (8.56 p.m.): Queenslanders are extremely lucky to live under the control of this Government, but anyone who took notice of the previous speaker and those Opposition members who preceded him could be forgiven for believing that we do not live in Queensland. Opposition members have become complacent about the ability of the Queensland Government to bring down each year a Budget that either is almost totally balanced or produces a surplus.

Some people do not believe that that is important. I put it to honourable members that if the Government did not show good stewardship and did not bring down balanced Budgets, Queensland would not be in the sound position that it is in today.

Previous speakers have mentioned some of the things that have occurred in other States. For example, they mentioned the taxes that have been increased and implemented in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. It is interesting to note that, contrary to statements that have been made, Queensland is still the lowest-taxed State in Australia.

Mr Fouras: At the expense of welfare and education.

Mr POWELL: Wait a moment. Individuals in this State pay less tax per head than anyone else in Australia. The honourable member for South Brisbane said that that is at the expense of welfare and education. In my electorate and in others numerous people have arrived from other States. They are voting with their feet. They are coming here to enjoy the delights offered by Queensland.

I must tell members of the Opposition that people who have come to live in my electorate have told me, "You have the best education system in Australia. Make sure you keep it that way. Don't go along with the trendies. Don't go along with what is happening in Victoria and New South Wales."

If the claim made by the honourable member for South Brisbane is correct, why is it that in the Budget the Government has allocated \$838.5m for education? That sum represents the highest single expenditure in the Budget, and education expenditure has been the highest since 1957.

The education record of the National-Liberal Government is second to none in this nation. Although a certain figure does not match up, surely the important thing is the product being put out of the schools. That product is the best in Australia.

Today Opposition members have defended the New South Wales Government. They have told us how wonderful it is to live in New South Wales and, now that the Cain Government has come to power, in Victoria. I ask them, as I have asked many other people who come from the other States, "Why are you leaving? If it is so wonderful in New South Wales and Victoria, why are you coming to live in Queensland?" The quality of life here is better because the Government is better. It is as simple as that.

Recently, during the school vacation in New South Wales, many New South Wales people visited my electorate in their cars. I noticed a car-sticker on the rear bumper bar of one car. I do not know whether many people read those stickers, but I find most of them delightful and I love reading them. This sticker was in brilliant red with black lettering. Until I got close to the sticker the only word that I could see was "Grow" Being an inquisitive person I went a little closer to the sticker to get a better look. On top of the sticker were the words "Help New South Wales Grow" Underneath the word "Grow" were the words "Get rid of Wran" The sticker read, "Help New South Wales Grow. Get rid of Wran." That is what some people in New South Wales think of the Wran Government.

Mr Fouras: Only 30 per cent of the population at the last election.

Mr POWELL: And most of them who have any brains are coming to Queensland.

This afternoon, in his address to this Chamber, the Leader of the Opposition talked about deficit budgeting and deficit funding. I reiterate that Queensland people are complacent about the fact that there is no deficit budgeting in this State, and they really do not appreciate the advantage of not having deficit budgeting.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about many things today, but he did not refer to paying for those things with money. Anybody with brains knows that we can afford to buy only those things for which we can pay. If we recall the period of the Whitlam Labor Government we realise what happens under Labor Governments in this nation. That Government engaged in massive deficit budgeting, and we know what happened in this nation.

Mr Scott: What is Fraser doing now?

Mr POWELL: Introducing balanced Budgets wherever he can. Of course, the reason why he cannot introduce a balanced Budget at the present time is that he is still paying off the debts incurred by Labor.

Mr Scott: How many years ago?

Mr POWELL: How many years ago did we have the Whitlam Government with a \$5,000m deficit, which has taken the Fraser Government at least eight years to pay off? Is the honourable member prepared to pay more taxes so that the Fraser Government can pay off that debt?

I have noticed, as no doubt have people sitting in the public gallery, that when Labor members speak about the conditions in Queensland they shed great tears. They are just great actors. Every one of them should belong to Actors Equity. The pseudo-indignation that they display absolutely disgusts me, and the latest Gallup poll indicates that it also disgusts the people of Queensland.

It is a delight to be back in this Chamber. When some of the bugs in the public address system are ironed out we will be able to present our arguments in a far better way than we were able to do in the temporary Chamber. The seating set-up in this Chamber is far better than it was in the other Chamber. The people who had the opportunity to look over the building last Friday when Her Majesty the Queen was here, and yesterday when the building was officially handed over, could not but be proud of the workmanship of the tradesmen who were employed on restoring this building. It is an excellent example of what Queensland tradesmen can do. Mr Miller, you and I recently visited a number of Parliaments in Canada. Although the buildings were far more palatial, the inside decorations and the accommodation for members and the public were nowhere near as good as those provided in this Parliament.

I congratulate the Works Department and the Minister on the work that has been done in this building during the last few years to restore it to its present grandeur. I hope that people from throughout the State will come to look at it. I also hope that members will appreciate the work that has been done.

In the last fortnight we have been honoured to be hosts of the Commonwealth Games. Many other members, including those who spoke to the motion earlier today, have mentioned that. All I do is add my congratulations to the organisers of the Games. They did a fantastic job. I congratulate the police for the way in which they performed their onerous tasks. They were marvellous in the way they controlled the traffic. I do not know how many members drove in Brisbane during the Games, but I felt that the traffic flowed better during the Games than it does at most other times. That is a tribute to the police.

Although some visitors to the city began to scoff when they came here—as evidenced in some reports in overseas newspapers—by the time they left Brisbane after 10 days at the Games and having seen the clockwork organisation, their scoffs changed to reluctant praise.

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr POWELL: I would love to see the trains run on time. That would be tremendous. All we need, of course, is to have people work 40 hours a week. Then the trains might just happen to run on time.

Mr Scott: You blame the workers, don't you?

Mr POWELL: Who runs the trains? An engine drives the machine, but somebody has to press the buttons. If those people do not work properly to press the buttons, how can the trains run on time? It is as simple as that.

In my opening remarks I mentioned education. I mention once again that the State Government has been able to appropriate to education the largest portion of its Budget—\$838.5m. The Treasurer is to be congratulated on the way he has been able to appropriate such a large amount of money to education. I am heartened by his statement that the recommendations of the parliamentary Select Committee on Education would be implemented over a four-year period. I just hope that the Minister in his directions to the department on the implementation of the four-year program will ensure that it is done progressively and sensibly so that by the end of next year no Year 1 class in this State will have more than 25 pupils. In some instances that will not be possible. We must be sensible about it. It would be ridiculous to suggest that, if a 26th child turned up, there had to be two teachers, with a resultant drop in class size to 13. There must be a sensible implementation of the program. My view, which is a view based on experience, is that we must implement the program progressively. It must be done first in the most important grade in the school.

Mr Prest interjected.

Mr POWELL: The member for Port Curtis probably missed that grade; he has great difficulty in comprehending anything in this Parliament. Year 1 is the most important year in the school. If a student does not get a solid grounding in Year 1, he will have trouble for the rest of his life—not just for his school life, but for the rest of his life. One only has to look at members opposite, especially those noisier ones who shout out all the time, to realise who missed out on Year 1. It is clear that that is the grade where the emphasis must be placed first. If that is done, I am sure that the money will be very well spent.

Education affects every person in the State. That is why it is so important. Some people want to palm off to the Government or to authorities the total responsibility for the education of their children. It is a proven fact that the chief educator of the child is the parent. Parents must be made to realise their responsibility in this matter. If parents think that when their child is 5½ or six years of age they can send it to school and expect the schoolteacher in five hours a day, for roughly 210 days a year, to change attitudes in that child that the parents have inculcated for the first 5½ to six years, they are completely wrong. In my view it is the responsibility of the Education Department, the Government, responsible people and leaders of the community to make sure that every parent realises that the responsibility to the child does not finish the moment the child moves outside the gate and goes to school. The moment parents take the responsibility

of bringing a child into this world is the moment that they start that child's education, and they do not finish until the child leaves the home completely. The sooner that parents universally realise this important fact, the better.

Mr Prest: Come on, get on with it.

Mr POWELL: The member for Port Curtis continues to denigrate worthwhile organisations of this State. There is no doubt that that is his strong point in the Parliament. He cannot stand it when a member tries to make a reasoned contribution.

As in all electorates, within my electorate education has many continuing needs. I point to the way in which the coastline between Hervey Bay and Bundaberg is being developed very quickly. We witnessed the boom on the Gold Coast, which has now levelled out. We have seen the boom on the Sunshine Coast, which is now levelling out, but in the Hervey Bay/Bundaberg area the boom is continuing. People who have been disillusioned by property prices and development in the southern parts of the State are moving further north into that area. As a result there is a tremendous upsurge in school numbers.

A group of people in some of the older areas of the State seem to think that Hervey Bay is a retirement village. I point out that in the football season that has just ended the Hervey Bay Australian Football team won the Bundaberg district competition; the Rugby League team won the Maryborough district competition; and the soccer team came second in the Maryborough district competition. So the area either has very active geriatrics or has many young people.

I now return to more serious matters. My point about school numbers at Hervey Bay is that there is now a desperate need for the Education Department to purchase more land for a fourth primary school at Hervey Bay. The Pialba school is nearly 100 years old—it is 98 years old this year—and has just had a new wing added to it. Members who travel around the State—and some do like to educate themselves—are invited to come to Pialba to inspect the new school wing. I understand it is a prototype, and the architects of the Works Department are to be congratulated on building the best school block I have ever seen. Because of my profession, I have taken a considerable interest in school buildings, and it is the best I have ever seen anywhere in the world. Any member who is interested in the type of buildings being built by the Education Department and the Works Department should let me know if he is interested in seeing it. It is an excellent example of what a Government can do in building schools.

Mr Eaton interjected.

Mr POWELL: The honourable member for Mourilyan is interjecting. If he wants to come and have a look, he is welcome. I recommend that school as the prototype that should become the stereotype—

Mr Scott: When will you do that?

Mr POWELL: We will do that as time goes by and money becomes available. Certainly it is ideal for the type of climate in Innisfail, Cooktown and a number of other places in Queensland. It is very good indeed and the people responsible are to be congratulated. The schoolground is the problem; it is not big enough.

I am totally opposed to the single-storey buildings that were and are still being built in some areas. They take up ground space unnecessarily. They do not provide wet weather accommodation for children and in some parts of our State it rains continually in the wet season. I hope that a wet season is coming up very shortly. But the important point is that we should have double-storey buildings so that the underneath section can be used in wet weather as well as for activities within the school. I hope that that sort of direction can be given by the Education Department to the Works Department's architects.

There is a need for an extra primary school at Hervey Bay. Fortunately in Bundaberg the Department of Education was far-sighted enough to purchase land at Avoca for a fourth secondary school, and planning should now be proceeding for the building of that school. Bundaberg has suffered a few setbacks in the last couple of months, and that fact has been given great prominence in the media. The media never ever tell us the good news; they are always happy to dwell on the bad news. So when someone gets sacked it hits the headlines on page one whereas, when somebody is put on, it is reported in the

bottom right-hand corner of page 10 where nobody will read it. That is the way the media work, and it is a shame that they do not give prominence to the good things and give people a bit of a lift.

Bundaberg is growing, make no mistake about that, and I am sure that the member for Bundaberg will agree with me that there is an air of optimism in the city. Just because there is an economic downturn in the sugar industry there is no cause for alarm. Those who have been involved with that industry over a great many years know that there are highs and lows and that every low is followed by a high. That will occur as surely as night follows day.

There is a need for a fourth high school in Bundaberg. The Education Department needs to look very seriously at a proposition that was put forward about 10 years ago for a junior and senior high school system. Bundaberg lends itself admirably to that proposal. If the fourth high school is built at Avoca, the Bundaberg North, Avoca and Kepnock High Schools can be kept as junior schools and the Bundaberg State High School can be used as a senior school. In that way the majority of students in Bundaberg could be kept out of the centre of the city. In provincial cities such as Bundaberg, Maryborough, Mackay and Cairns students should be kept out of the centre of the city where all the traffic is and all the problems occur. If the high schools and other primary schools were built on the periphery of the cities we would see a better traffic flow.

The Education Department, with its large Vote, also has an eye on special education, and the need is there. I do not think anybody here would argue with that proposition. There is a need for special education units to be set up in small towns which do not have the numbers for special education schools. They need not necessarily take full-time students but rather give students specialised remedial treatment and send them back into the ordinary class-room. Of course, it is ideal to have special schools attached to primary schools so that there is absolutely no stigma at all attached to them. Such a situation exists at the Bundaberg Norville and Special school. They share the same playgrounds and many other facilities. Initially, it was an experiment, but it has worked well and a similar system should be implemented throughout the State.

This State has a very proud record in early education. I am pleased that the pre-school system has continued to advance. The relationship between the Education Department and the Creche and Kindergarten Association is good. I am delighted that the level of support for kindergartens affiliated with the Creche and Kindergarten Association remains at 80 per cent. I am sure that many honourable members would like to see that level increased, but 80 per cent is a significant level of funding and the community itself, which must be involved with the kindergartens if they are to succeed, has to contribute the other 20 per cent.

Before the Budget is presented, and when an election is in the offing, one hears a lot of hullabaloo from some members of the Opposition—not the more astute ones—about the Government's intention to axe the free hospital system. If anyone looked at news clippings round about election time and at the time of the presentation of the Budget over the past 25 years, he would see that Labor has always trotted out this hardy annual. This year, the Budget has again maintained the free hospital system. Queensland is the only State in Australia to maintain such a system, and it does so against the advice of the Federal Government. If ever a Government had an excuse to axe its free hospital system, the Queensland Government had it last year and this year when the Federal Government said, "If you want a free hospital system in Queensland, you fund it." The Minister for Health and the Treasurer have an extremely difficult row to hoe because of the Federal Government's funding system.

Long-serving members of Parliament will remember that I have spoken on a number of occasions about the hospital facilities at Hervey Bay. It is a growing centre, and people who have not been there for a long time cannot comprehend the growth that has taken place. I invite them to look at the area. Even if they look only at the electoral roll, they may get some idea of what has happened. They will find that the population now exceeds 16 000. The present hospital is inadequate. It was built many years ago to serve a population of about 4 000.

Mr Goleby: You are getting a new one.

Mr POWELL: That is true. Cabinet has decided that a new hospital will be built at Hervey Bay, but I should like to know when. I should like to see the plans advance a little faster.

One of the problems lies in the way in which the briefs go to architects and so on. The Bundaberg Hospitals Board has passed through a very time-consuming, frustrating period in trying to get the new maternity ward built at the Bundaberg Hospital. The problems experienced by the board have been incredible. The bureaucratic red tape confounds me. The same thing is happening between the Maryborough Hospitals Board and the Health Department relative to Hervey Bay. I would love to be able to cut through all the red tape, get to the bottom of the matter and see something really happen.

Mr Blake: Particularly in the planning department.

Mr POWELL: The honourable member is completely correct. I cannot understand how the hospitals board suffers it. We appoint members to do a job for the Government on behalf of the people, but they seem to be mucked about by experts. I never seem to be able to find out who is responsible for slowing the process down. When I ring one person he says, "I will do that provided I can get it from somebody else," and I get run round and round.

The limitations by the Loan Council—and admittedly, they are not the fault of this Government—mean that a ceiling of \$1.5m is imposed on each authority for each year. With the escalation in building costs, that is totally unrealistic. The Health Department says, "You must have most of the money before you start." Money must be borrowed and put into interest-bearing deposits; it does virtually nothing. That money could be used to start the hospital. That policy is incredible. I cannot understand it. It does not add up. It seems to be the only area of government in which there is that stodgy attitude which goes round and round in circles.

One of the problems in my area is that in the Maryborough Base Hospital there is a great need for advancement and a lot of money needs to be spent. It is an extremely old hospital and needs upgrading. Some members of the hospitals board see that as a greater priority than a new hospital at Hervey Bay. I have suggested in a few places, and I will suggest it again tonight, that the Hervey Bay area should be taken out of the control of the Maryborough Hospitals Board entirely and that a hospital board should be set up for Hervey Bay itself. That is not uncommon; other places smaller than Hervey Bay have one. I do not see any logical reason why a separate hospital board cannot be created for Hervey Bay. I have been saying that since 1975.

I recognise that the Government has some problems. The honourable member for Landsborough smiles because he has been trying to do the same thing for Caloundra. He is probably in a more influential position than I am to do something about it but cannot, so I will not complain too much.

If the Government cannot see its way clear to establish a separate hospital board at Hervey Bay, the Isis District Hospital Board at Childers could quite easily take over the control of the Hervey Bay hospital. Because the amount expended at Childers is small, that board could take over the running of the Hervey Bay hospital and get the whole project moving more quickly. That is perhaps the most expedient move that the Government could make.

I make that suggestion once again tonight in the hope that the Minister for Health might read my speech. I will certainly send him this part of it to jog his memory. I hope that some action takes place as a result because it is a necessity. There is no way in the wide world that it is something we do not need; we need it all right. It is not a case of a want, it is a case of need. The sooner that need is realised, the better.

There has been some controversy about laundries in hospital facilities. I was heartened to learn that three or four weeks ago Cabinet decided that, in the new Gladstone Hospital complex, laundry would be put out to private tender. I cannot see why that cannot be done everywhere. I know that it is done in some hospitals in Queensland. I would like to see it done in many more. When building new hospitals there is no need to provide laundry facilities when in that town there already exists a private enterprise to handle that laundry. That is a waste of facilities. For instance, a laundry at Hervey Bay could quite capably cope with the laundry from the new Hervey Bay hospital. In fact, there are five or six of them within a 60-mile radius. That

is far more sensible from the Government's point of view. If the contract for the laundry was becoming too expensive, a contract could be let in another area. That is a financial control that could be applied in hospitals in that area.

I was pleased with the Treasurer's remarks about the railway system in this State. The more efficient is the railway service, the more efficient will be the transportation of goods. I do not know whether my experience is unique—I suspect it is not—but I receive many complaints from people about the slowness of delivery of goods. During the recent strike over the 38-hour working week, people were quite irate that goods were sitting in goods sheds in the town and they were not able to collect them. Somehow that problem has to be solved. The railway system will serve us well provided it is efficient. At the moment, it is not efficient.

Certainly some changes have occurred and many of those changes have been for the better. The Minister for Transport is presently undertaking a survey of the Railway Department. The sooner recommendations are brought forward for examination, the better. I warn the Government not to do something simply because some "expert" comes along and says that it should be done. Committees of inquiry should be appointed and experts should be called upon to look at all operations of the Railway Department. A report should be presented to the Government so that it can decide what should occur. I do not believe that the Government should accept recommendations from commissions of inquiry in toto, without question. I never have believed that and I never will believe it. Commissions of inquiry are set up for a particular purpose. The Government should examine the evidence that is presented to it, and it should make its decisions in the light of that evidence.

The Railway Department seems to have a callous disregard for long-distance passengers. It looks after passengers in Brisbane very well. The electric trains in Brisbane are equal to any in the world. Recently I was told by a person who is well up in railway matters and is involved in rail transport in other parts of the world that the railway cars built at Maryborough are equal to any in the world. Honourable members may consider it worth while to have a look through Walkers yards in Maryborough and at how the cars are built. It is an education indeed. As I say, the Railway Department looks after the Brisbane commuter very well, but it is sadly lacking when it comes to long-distance passengers.

For some obscure reason, it is always in the dead of night that one has to go to the railway station where I live to catch a train that is going either north or south. One waits there often without any information from a railway employee about when the train is coming. Fairly frequently—not invariably—the train is late. An intending passenger simply has to wait and hope that the train will turn up.

If the Railway Department is looking for passenger traffic—I know the answer is, "No, we are not looking for it", because that has been told to me previously not officially but certainly off the cuff—it must provide respectable terminals at railway stations. It must provide comfortable waiting-rooms in which travellers can sit and have a cup of tea or coffee, or even a drink of water, while waiting for their train, with some expectation that someone will tell them whether the train will be late or on time.

Mr Eaton: That is what is done in New South Wales.

Mr POWELL: It is done in other parts of the world as well. The honourable member for Mourilyan may have an opportunity to visit Japan and travel on the Bullet Train.

In Japan, a traveller purchases a ticket like an airline ticket and is given a seat allocation. At the station he finds numbers marked on posts. He stands at the appropriate post. Precisely at the appointed minute, the train pulls up and right in front of the traveller is the doorway through which he must enter to locate his seat. It is an absolutely amazing system and technologically it is perfect. I have visited Japan only once, for a week, and on both occasions that I caught the train the system worked perfectly. But perhaps I was lucky. The point I make is that it can be done. All it needs is the will to do it.

My electorate has a large cane-growing industry. Most of the cane in the Isis mill area and the Bundaberg mill area is taken to the mills by cane train along the little 2-ft gauge railway system. A warning device is installed wherever the cane train crosses a road. That seems to be a requirement of the Main Roads Department, and certainly the millers go to the expense of installing warning devices.

But the Railway Department does not install a warning device on every road that a railway line crosses, unless extreme pressure is exerted on the department or there is a certain traffic flow. The railway line crosses Main Street in Pialba, which is right in the centre of Hervey Bay. One train a day crosses that road and there is an accident about every three months—perhaps because there is only one train a day. I have no idea why a warning device has not been installed at that crossing. There is a warning device where the railway line crosses the road just around the corner, but there is no greater amount of traffic on that road than there is on Main Street. It is totally illogical not to install a warning device at that crossing. Through successive Transport Ministers, I have asked that a warning device be installed at that crossing, but I have been given some story about a set of points being too close.

Mr Scott: Is this a filibuster, or are you enjoying it?

Mr POWELL: I hope that the honourable member is enjoying it. I am not being extreme, so I guess that he is having difficulty in listening to my speech.

The Railway Department needs to be far more sympathetic when requests are made to install warning devices at railway crossings. Such devices should be installed at all crossings, particularly those in the more densely populated areas. But even in areas that are not densely populated, surely there is a need for devices to warn motorists that a train is approaching. Whenever a train and a car collide, the car always comes off second best, and the driver and passengers are usually seriously injured. The Railway Department should install warning devices at the crossing that I have mentioned and also at four other crossings in Hervey Bay and at two crossings in Bundaberg that spring immediately to mind. It should do that as a matter of course, just as the millers are required to install warning devices at crossings used by cane trains.

During this debate some members have talked about housing and at times have castigated the Government's housing policy. In my view, its housing policy is one of the most enlightened policies in Australia.

There was a lot of noise about the rental policy announced recently by the Minister for Works and Housing. Some people and some reports were not very honest in what they said about that policy. Surely it must be realised that each person in this State ought to be responsible for providing his own housing. I do not want to see the situation develop in this State or nation where people are prepared to sit back and say, "The Government owes me a living. It should provide me with a house and food." The civilisations that have survived have been those that used their initiative to provide their own food and housing.

The Government has attempted to assist people to purchase their own home. Time does not allow me to refer to all the ramifications or intricacies of the scheme, but a booklet on it has been published and anybody who can read can find out what the scheme is all about. So there is almost no excuse for people in this State not purchasing their own home.

The rental for people below a certain income level is decreased to a minimum of \$10 a week. What seems to have been misconstrued is the way in which wage earners within a family are asked to contribute towards the rental of the house. I see nothing immoral about that; in fact, I think it is a wise move.

I spoke earlier about parents. Some parents are too soft on their children and do not make sure that their children recognise their responsibilities. In my opinion, wage-earning children within a home ought to be contributing towards the running of that home. It does not matter how much it is, but they ought to be contributing. The amount that the Housing Commission asks young people between 16 and 19 to pay is, I think, \$7.60 per week. In my view, a working person between 16 and 19 can well afford to pay \$7.60 towards the weekly rental of a home. I do not believe that that is immoral; in fact, it is desirable that they learn that they ought to be contributing towards the cost of maintaining a roof over their heads. Some people have written to me saying that it will split up their family. Where are those young people going to find a house that they can rent for \$7.60 a week? I suggest that they will not find one. When they sit down and think about it, they will realise that what the Government is doing is correct. In my opinion, the whole rental proposition has been misconstrued purposely by people who are determined to misrepresent the Government's policy. I contend that the housing policy

of this Government is a good one, a positive one, because it imposes on people the responsibility that they ought to have. It allows most people who want to own their own home to begin paying it off.

The Treasurer mentioned the National Parks and Wildlife Service. That service, the Department of Harbours and Marine and the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation are three groups closely interwoven under the total umbrella of tourism.

Fraser Island is within my electorate and is part of my electoral responsibility. Over the period of my incumbency as member for Isis, Fraser Island has certainly been the centre of controversy. When everything quietens down, somebody stirs up a bit of mud somewhere along the line and controversy begins again. The latest controversy is over the question whether there may be too many visitors to Fraser Island. At a conservative estimate, I should say that, based on the number of tourist vessels that leave the area, 50 000 people a year visit Fraser Island from Hervey Bay. The number of people who visit the island by four-wheel-drive vehicles from Hervey Bay is reasonably well known. The number who go there by Gordon Elmer's barge or the "Tom Welsby", which is owned by Riverside Coal, is probably unknown. Perhaps the barge owners know, but it is difficult to get the numbers out of them.

Mr Burns: Ask the Taxation Department.

Mr POWELL: The Taxation Department might know. The number of people going by four-wheel-drive vehicles from that end would be fewer than the 50 000 going from Urangan.

The number of visitors going to the island is certainly increasing. I hope it continues to increase. Fraser Island is unique. However, the management of the island worries me very much.

Members may have noted that, just before the parliamentary recess for the Commonwealth Games, I asked a question of the Minister for Lands about some rubbish that had been left near the wreck of the "Maheno". Just north of there, some bright sparks decided to establish a rubbish dump. People will never learn. Those lazy—I had better leave a dash there; I had better not use the word—would not drive over the dune and dump the rubbish behind it. As a result, the rubbish spread down further and further along the dune and it was an absolute eyesore. It was cleaned up by the Hervey Bay Town Council and the Forestry Department. They bulldozed the rubbish in and kept it out of sight.

As I said, some lazy people on Fraser Island—I can think of other terms to describe them—decided to establish a rubbish dump just near the wreck of the "Maheno" and left their rubbish there. I asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry a question about it and he was correct in saying that it was not his responsibility because it is a mining lease. On the Thursday before the schools broke up, I spoke to the Minister for National Parks about it and explained to him the problem. On his initiative, his department shifted that rubbish, and I want to place on record my thanks to Mr Elliott for doing that. Nobody has dumped any more rubbish in that area.

People who camp on beaches anywhere on our coastline create serious problems in disposing of their toilets and their garbage. It is important that we face that fact. I do not want to see people prevented from camping on the foredunes of Fraser Island, Moreton Island, Stradbroke Island or anywhere else, because that is something that they ought to be able to do. Our children ought to be able to experience that. But I do not want to see good camping areas desecrated, as has happened on Fraser Island and as has happened on the beach north of Baffle Creek to Round Hill Head. People need to be educated. However, there also needs to be management, and there is an extremely good and easy way to manage Fraser Island. All that is needed is a bit of common sense.

Earlier I spoke about the red tape involved with the Health Department. A number of departments are responsible for areas of Fraser Island. Local authorities have responsibility only for the freehold areas; they do not have any responsibility for the Forestry areas, the National Parks areas or the vacant Crown land. At my insistence, on the 26th of this month the Ministers for Mines and Energy, National Parks and Lands and Forestry will sit down with me and try to work out a reasonable plan. All that

those departments have to decide is that there needs to be on Fraser Island approximately four people with jurisdiction in each one of those areas who can watch what goes on in camping and advise campers. It is as simple as that. When people are shown their responsibility, they will react to it.

Mr Burns: Wouldn't you have camping areas set aside and then continually move them?

Mr POWELL: One of the things that I have been trying to get down, in answer to the honourable member for Lytton—

An Honourable Member: He wouldn't have a clue.

Mr POWELL: He does have a clue. He knows what he is talking about. One of the things that the member for Lytton knows something about is coastal management because, just as I have, for most of his life he has lived near the coast.

On Fraser Island, from Eurong north to Indian Head, or what is now the national park boundary, there is an area of vacant Crown land 400 metres wide. Ever since I have been a member of this Assembly, I have proposed that that vacant Crown land be rededicated as camping and recreation reserve so that the local authorities will have some chance of controlling it. But the local authorities concerned do not want to do that; so my proposal now is that the Government, through some management authority, take over that vacant Crown land and do exactly as the member for Lytton and I have been suggesting for years, that is, establish a camping area at one place for one Christmas holiday and then move it so that nobody camps on that spot for three or four months. That is the only way in which the areas will revegetate and the only way in which people such as the member for Lytton and me and other members of the community will be able to camp successfully in those areas.

I would hate to see on Fraser Island the regulation and the regimentation that occurs in other areas, but that will come if people are not educated. The barge operators on that island will have to help to educate people. There are three ways of getting to Fraser Island with a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Surely it is reasonable to hope that the education of the people who are going to the island can be resolved through that meeting. I hope that the meeting set down for 26 October will go a long way down the track to solving the problem, which is an increasing one. Interestingly enough, the Hervey Bay and Maryborough councils, which have the responsibility for the island are quite correct in saying, "We don't get any money out of it." I am a ratepayer of the Hervey Bay Town Council. People in Maryborough are also ratepayers. We go to the island once a year, and that is all. The majority of the people who visit the island come from other local authority areas, chiefly Brisbane and further south.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr POWELL: It is very good business, and the businesses on the island are very successful. But a co-ordinated, sensible management area must be set up, and it must be set up under the authority of this Government.

I spoke earlier about industry and some of the things that have occurred through the policies of this Government. Numerous companies and businesses have been attracted to Queensland to the great advantage of this State. Too many of them, of course, have just set up branches in Queensland, whereas we need their head offices here. We need to get them out of the southern States, and that may occur in the future.

I am proud to say that Koppers Pty Ltd, a company based in Grafton and Sydney, will very soon be opening a timber treatment plant at Takura near Hervey Bay. It has a contract with the Queensland Railway Department to treat wooden sleepers so that they will last a lot longer. That company has been attracted to Queensland because of the policies of this Government. It is coming into my electorate and will eventually employ about 200 people. I am not sure how big the headlines will be on that, but that is a success story. I realise that some businesses are not proceeding and some are having their problems, but this is one that has come into the State. It is a new business and will create more employment in the area.

In today's "Daily Sun" we saw the headline, "Paper mill gets nod from Cabinet". It was suggested that a Finnish company will be establishing a paper mill between Gunalda and Tiaro just west of Maryborough, and again I think that is a success story. I know that the honourable member for Gympie has worked very hard to have a paper mill established in his electorate, and I am supporting him fully because I believe that it will benefit the entire area. A paper mill needs to be based on the vast Toolara and Tuan forestry areas. That would also increase employment in the area. So I am hoping for approval from Cabinet, as was suggested in the newspaper.

Finally, I wish to place on record my thanks to the Government for continuing its commitment to the Bundaberg/Isis Irrigation Scheme. Over the period of my incumbency in the Isis electorate, there have been, year by year, negotiations and fights about money for that scheme. Last year \$10m was appropriated for the scheme, and this year a similar amount has been appropriated. I know that the honourable member for Burnett, who is the Minister for Works and Housing, and the honourable member for Bundaberg would agree with me that the amount should have been indexed. I will not stop my fight with the Federal Government, because the State Government will index its contribution provided the Federal Government does the same.

I was led to believe that that would happen. However, \$10m is better than nothing. It is great to see that massive irrigation system proceeding as rapidly as it is. Perhaps I would agree with some who say that progress is a little slow, but it is really great to see the project proceeding. It will not be too long before water comes to the Isis area to irrigate the dry farms.

For that reason alone, the Government should be congratulated on the Budget brought down this year. It is a Budget of progress and a Budget that will serve the State well for 12 months and into the future. It is a continuation of wise stewardship, typical of the way in which the Government, in the last 25 years, has worked for the progress of this State so that every resident has an equal opportunity to enjoy prosperity. The Government should be congratulated for what it has done rather than receive brickbats for the niggling things that some people pick on. It is a progressive Budget that will serve the State well in the future.

Progress reported.

TRAFFIC ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 16 September (see p. 962) on Mr Lane's motion—

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

Mr WILSON (Townsville South) (9.57 p.m.): I read the Minister's second-reading speech and, although I agree with other honourable members that we should be vitally concerned about accidents involving drink drivers causing death and injury, I point out that drink drivers are not the only drivers involved in accidents causing death.

I do not think that the Minister believes the lowering of the blood alcohol level from .08 to .05 will have any marked effect on the number of accidents, fatal or otherwise. If the Government was really concerned about the road carnage it would be dealing with all the causes of road accidents instead of just one aspect. The Government is merely grandstanding and playing politics with a very emotional problem. I call on the Government to set up an all-party parliamentary committee to inquire into, research and collect all available evidence, and to receive advice from all the different bodies concerned with transport, including the persons who attend accident victims. Although the Government is doing something, it is falling far short of what is required.

According to the Minister's figures only 6 out of 322 drivers killed had a blood alcohol level between .05 and .08. I agree that six deaths are six too many, but the Minister did not state whether any of the six drivers caused the accident. In fact, he did not state the number of drivers under the influence of alcohol who caused the accidents.

If we were to get those statistics we would have a clear picture that there were many causes of the accidents. Surely if we are trying to legislate to eliminate death on the roads we should be researching all of the causes of accidents that result in death or permanent injury rather than just one facet of the problem.

The Government is playing politics because the problem of road accidents causing deaths and permanent disability has become very emotional. The Government is not fair dinkum. If it were, it would go about solving the road accident problem in a proper manner and not introduce ad hoc legislation. Firstly, it would set up an all-party parliamentary committee to inquire and research the causes of road accidents and to report back to the Parliament. Then it would set about eliminating as far as practicable all those causes. Yes, Mr Speaker, all the causes, including those that would cost the Government money, and not merely deal with some in such a way that it will bring in revenue for the Government.

The Opposition agrees with the provisions that provide for persons convicted of careless and dangerous driving offences to be ordered to attend defensive driving courses to be conducted by the Road Safety Council. I make the point that the persons concerned will have to pass the defensive driving course and be present at the screening of films showing bad and fatal accidents and victims who have become paraplegics or quadriplegics. That will make them aware of the possible result of traffic accidents, whatever the cause.

It is interesting to note that persons attending the course will be provided with comprehensive information to give them a better knowledge and understanding of the numerous traffic regulations. If a person requires comprehensive information to understand the traffic regulations, then the regulations must be complex. The fact that they are so numerous in itself makes them a traffic hazard. An all-party committee could investigate and make recommendations to reduce and simplify the traffic rules and regulations and liaise with other State and Federal Governments to bring about one set of traffic rules and regulations for the whole of Australia. They could be simplified to the extent that even politicians could understand them.

In his second-reading speech the Minister stated that the Bill further provides for amendments to sections 9 and 10 of the Traffic Act Amendment Act 1974-1977. Those sections which relate to the compulsory taking of blood samples from road accident victims by medical practitioners for laboratory tests have not been proclaimed to come into force as some difficulties in the practical implementation of the provisions of the sections have been experienced. The Minister stated that he was re-examining those matters at the present time. I would like the Minister to explain to the Parliament the reason why those sections 9 and 10 have not been proclaimed. What difficulties were experienced in the implementation of the provisions of the two sections? Did the medical practitioner refuse to comply? Are the laboratories short of equipment or are they short of skilled staff? Or was it because, if it was mandatory, some of the Government's friends would not be able to use political influence to avoid prosecution? It is unusual to amend sections of an Act that have not been proclaimed.

Although we on this side of the House will not oppose the Bill which provides for the lowering of the blood alcohol content from the level of .08 to .05, which will mean uniform legislation in the eastern States, and although we believe that no-one should be in control of a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol or a drug, we call on the Government to set up an all-party parliamentary committee to inquire into road safety and to examine all of the causes of road accidents so that we will be able to eliminate the cause of most accidents. Accidents are caused by many factors, and the influence of alcohol is but one.

The Labor Party safety committee found this out in research conducted with various recognised bodies such as the Police Departments in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, the Traffic Department in New South Wales, the RACQ, St John Ambulance and the Drug Arm, just to name a few.

Alcohol is a very important factor, but it is only one cause of road accidents. The reduction of the blood alcohol level from .08 to .05 will not in itself reduce the road toll to any marked degree. As evidence put before our committee clearly showed, in cases in which alcohol was the cause of fatal accidents the blood alcohol level was in the .15 and above bracket. However, that in itself does not mean that we consider that the blood alcohol level should not be reduced to .05. If the reduction results in saving one life per year and in fewer accidents, it will have been worth while.

Because of the carnage on the road, with its accompanying tragic loss of life and maiming of people, causing some to become paraplegics or quadriplegics, an emotional set of circumstances has arisen. It has become very easy to say that alcohol alone is the cause of the carnage on the road, when in fact it is not.

We are not here to become emotional and to be blinded to the many factors that cause accidents, whether they be fatal or not. It would be wrong for us to disillusion the people of Queensland by having them believe that the lowering of the permissible blood alcohol level from .08 to .05 will lower the accident rate to any great extent. It will help to act as a deterrent, and possibly it will only change the place of drinking from the hotel to the home.

Mr Wright: And become a revenue raiser.

Mr WILSON: One wonders whether that is what it is all about.

I have said that many factors cause accidents. Some are excessive speed, bad roads, dangerous corners and intersections, narrow bridges, the human element involving aggressiveness and skylarking, falling asleep after long hours at work or at the wheel, the position of the sun especially in the early morning and late afternoon, when it can be blinding, two-way roads that give rise to overtaking, side-swiping and head-on collisions.

It has been pointed out to the Labor Party's committee that many fatal accidents could have been avoided if dual one-way roads extending over a few kilometres had been constructed. I ask the Minister for Main Roads and the Minister for Transport to investigate that aspect.

The areas that were mentioned particularly are the area just outside Mt Isa, the one outside Ipswich and the one just north of Brisbane on the Bruce Highway. I am sure that there are many other areas in which dual roads would help to eliminate accidents. The ideal would be to have dual highways such as the one from Brisbane to the Gold Coast. It must have resulted in a considerable reduction in the road toll in that area. Dual highways are a pleasure to drive on and relieve a driver of the worry about oncoming traffic.

Education could also play an important part in reducing the accident rate. Defensive-driving courses should be made mandatory and they should be funded by the Government. The Government has a very important role to play in road safety. Safety is, of course, the main ingredient. It should build adequate roads. The education of the driving public will reduce the number of accidents resulting from human error.

Drugs other than alcohol are another factor to be considered. I am advised that the smoking of marijuana and the taking of alcohol simultaneously produces the proverbial bomb. There are other drugs, some prescribed and some that can be bought over the counter without a prescription, and it should be mandatory to clearly mark on the label that it is unsafe to drive while taking the drugs. That fact should be drawn to the purchaser's attention by the chemist or other person selling that drug.

If a drug is not dangerous on its own but becomes dangerous when mixed with alcohol or any other drug, that should be clearly marked on the label and the fact should be drawn to the purchaser's attention. All doctors prescribing drugs should be duty bound under threat of penalty to notify their patients of the danger of driving while taking any drugs prescribed by them. That should be followed up with a further warning from the chemist, who should also be responsible for marking it clearly on the label.

I do not think that this matter should be left to chance. I call to mind the case of a building worker in Cairns, who was not feeling well. He knocked off work and went to a doctor who prescribed a drug for him. This man had the drug prepared by a chemist, and returned to working on the scaffolding. His workmates noticed that he was not with it and they made him get off the scaffolding and go to the chemist to find out what was in the drug. The chemist was amazed to find that the doctor had not put him off work or warned him not to drive while taking the drug. That is an instance of a man's life being at stake. But for the action of his workmates, he and his workmates could have lost their lives. But for the advice of the chemist, he could have been involved in a car accident resulting in the loss of other people's lives. I ask the Minister for Transport to take this matter up with his colleague the Minister for Health to ensure that this aspect of road safety is also explored.

Part of the defensive-driving courses should be to educate people to ask doctors and/or chemists when they receive a prescription or have one made up, or simply buy drugs across the counter that do not require a doctor's prescription, whether they can drive while taking the medicine. As an extra precaution, the label should be clearly marked to inform people whether they can drive while taking the mixture, tablets or capsules.

Although we on this side of the House will not oppose the Bill, we believe that an all-party committee should be set up to inquire into all factors that cause traffic accidents, fatal or otherwise. We are concerned, however, about how such a committee will be set up. We hope that this measure, which is designed to cut down on the road toll, will be accompanied by a great deal of publicity and education. The full co-operation of the general public is needed so that they will feel that any breathalyser testing will be in their interests and not an invasion of their civil liberties.

In Victoria, a special unit is set up in an area in full view of the public. The drivers of a number of vehicles are waved to the side of the road. The number depends on the facilities available to the breathalyser unit. We witnessed such an operation and saw the bag put on 80 drivers, with only three positive results. Those three people were taken to the breathalyser unit and put on a breathalyser for a further test. One had a reading of .09, one had a reading of .05 and the third had a reading of .02. That operation showed that, out of 80 drivers tested, 77 had not taken alcohol, one was under the limit, one was on the limit and one was over the limit.

Although that was significant, the most important aspect was that all of the 80 drivers tested were in favour of the test and thought that it was a good idea. That is the sort of public co-operation that is required. People were happy and willing to co-operate of their own free will. They were not bludgeoned into taking a breathalyser test by a police-State set of circumstances.

We believe that the .05 legislation should be used as a deterrent against driving after consuming alcohol. People will not drive after they have taken alcohol simply because it is not the right thing to do; they will not accept the challenge of driving because the "bulls" may be hiding down the road.

It is necessary to get full co-operation from the public, but the public should receive full co-operation from the police, too. The lowering of the blood alcohol level should be seen by the police as an instrument to cut down the road toll and not seen, as it could be by some over-zealous copper trying to impress his superior, as a way of getting more kills and collecting more revenue in an attempt to obtain quick promotion.

We also visited the Traffic Branch of the police in Sydney. Because of some breakdown in communications members of that branch were not aware of our visit, but we received their full co-operation. We inspected their breathalyser unit, which was basically the same as the one we saw in Melbourne. It had a power-generating plant attached to it so that it could be used over long periods in country areas, and was not totally dependant on battery life. Another interesting feature was that a medical doctor was employed full time and attached to the Traffic Branch.

We also visited the Transport Department where we saw safety tests being carried out in an effort to minimise the death toll in traffic accidents by making the car a safer place. Statistics have shown that many crash victims die through the head striking hard objects within the car such as the front and side staunchions and the hood above the windscreen. That has resulted from the person's not wearing a seat-belt or having a seat-belt so loose that the body was able to travel forward or sideways, allowing the head to strike a solid object.

We are well aware that the front of a car is made to crumble on impact. That has a cushioning effect and acts as a shock absorber. It requires the front end to be made of light material. That aspect of a car's construction should be thoroughly investigated before the fitting of a solid bull-bar is permitted. A bull-bar could very well negate the very thing that the front of a car is designed to do in a head-on collision. A bull-bar would destroy the shock-absorber effect.

While we were at the Transport Department in Sydney we saw the testing of safety helmets worn by motor-cyclists. They were subjected to a test equivalent to hitting the ground at 50 km/h. It was interesting to learn that they were experimenting with safety helmets for children riding bicycles. Another aspect we were vitally interested in was that drivers who had been booked for drink driving but who had not been involved in an accident were taken to the police station to be tested on the breathalyser and from there to the watch-house, where they had to spend the day or night should they not be able to obtain the necessary bail money. That had the two-fold effect of wasting the time of the police officers involved and causing a hatred of the police not only by the

drink driver but also by the community at large. The Minister for Police and the Minister for Transport should give serious consideration to setting up a section within the police Traffic Branch to handle that aspect of police work and providing it with a van fully set up with the equipment necessary for breathalyser testing, as is provided in Victoria and New South Wales. That would allow a policeman who had positively tested someone on the bag to simply radio the breathalyser unit, which would then take over. That would release that policeman to return to his other duties. Mobile units would be able to operate anywhere in Queensland, independent of the police area in which they were operating. That would remove the need to take the driver to the police station, subject him to a breathalyser test and then, if necessary, have him charged and taken to the watch-house.

When a person is charged with driving with blood alcohol above the prescribed level and he has not been involved in an accident that has caused death or serious injury, he should be charged on summons and not locked up either until his bail is paid or until he faces the Magistrates Court. That is the sort of thing that helps to breed hatred of the police.

What happens in Victoria when a person is apprehended and found to have a higher-than-legal blood alcohol level is that he is charged on summons; his motor vehicle is locked up in a garage in a safe place, as is the case with motor cycles; a taxi is then called to take him to his place of residence; and if no taxis are available, he is driven home by the police. That is not as humiliating as being locked up because he may have had five glasses of beer instead of four.

I wish to cite a case in which a person was apprehended by the police and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol or a drug. The two policemen concerned knew that he was drinking in the hotel, so they hid in a lane behind his residence, knowing that he had to drive up that lane in order to get his car into his yard. After allowing him to drive some distance from the hotel, they apprehended him at his back gate. They then put him on the bag and the crystals turned green. He was then taken to the police station, where his blood alcohol level was found to be over the legal limit. He was formally charged and taken to the watch-house.

When he was unable to furnish the necessary bail, he was placed in a cell, but not before his shoes, socks and belt were taken from him. That was bad enough, but the next day he had to front up to the court and face the magistrate unshaven, without shoes or socks and with his hands in his pockets holding up his trousers, just like some alcoholic derelict. What a great display of public relations that was on the part of the police!

The magistrate cannot be exonerated, either, because it must have been clear to him that here was a chap who was not an alcoholic derelict, and he should have asked the defendant why he was barefooted and holding up his trousers. Having done that, he should have adjourned the case and ordered the police to give the defendant his shoes, socks and belt, thus allowing the defendant to look respectable and uphold the dignity of the court. My point is that it is not only the general public who need educating.

I turn now to penalties for drink-driving offences starting from .06 and upwards for which offenders will receive the same penalty. We continually see in the Press reports indicating that what is happening today is that different people are fined differing amounts for similar breathalyser readings. Quite often the person with the higher reading receives a smaller fine than the person with a lower reading. That might be all right if the person with the lower reading is in a better position to pay than the person with the higher reading, which would tend to level out the effective penalty on the persons fined. For instance, a fine of \$50 on a person earning \$200 per week would have the same effect as a fine of \$100 on a person earning \$300 per week, or as a fine of \$2,000 would have on a person receiving the same salary as the Premier.

The period of loss of licence should rise with the increase in the breathalyser reading and should be mandatory. Here again, there have been many instances in which a person with a higher reading has received a lesser penalty of loss of licence than a person with a lower reading. The Opposition believes that this is ad hoc legislation.

We firmly believe that sensible road safety legislation can only arise from full fact-finding researches carried out by an all-party parliamentary committee. It could research all facts available to it after receiving evidence from the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, the Queensland Road Safety Council, the police, the Transport Workers Union, the Australian Railways Union, the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen,

the Railway Department, long haulage transport companies, car manufacturers, the Drug Arm, the Main Roads Department, local government, the Australian Workers' Union, the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemens Association, the medical profession, including the St John's Ambulance, bus companies and the general public. It could also liaise with the other Governments, both State and Federal.

I repeat that apart from alcohol there are many causes of road accidents resulting in a high accident rate on our roads causing death and permanent injury. I refer to other causes such as bad roads, dangerous corners and intersections, narrow roads, narrow bridges, the human element such as high speed, aggressiveness, skylarking, falling asleep at the wheel because of long hours of work or driving, the position of the sun, which can be blinding, especially in the early morning and late afternoon, two-lane roads where safety demands four-lane roads, apart from education and training.

Other members of the Australian Labor Party's road safety task force will raise points of recommendation and elaborate on them. We of the Australian Labor Party view the carnage on our roads with the greatest concern and firmly believe that our roads will only become safe to drive on when legislation is introduced into this Parliament after a full and exhaustive research is carried out into education and training and the many hazards that face the driving public. I again call on the Government to set up an all-party parliamentary committee to inquire into road safety, and to make its findings available to enable legislation to be brought down that will provide for the maximum safety on our roads. Although we believe that the legislation is inadequate, as it does not deal with all the causes of road accidents, it is a step in the right direction and we will support the Bill.

Mr INNES (Sherwood) (10.26 p.m.): I rise to support the legislation. It makes an important attempt to further increase the armoury available to the Government and the law enforcement agencies to attempt to decrease the tragic road toll.

Mr Vaughan: You are dodging the issue.

Mr INNES: I will take that interjection. If ever I have heard of people dodging the issue it was the speech made by the member leading for the Opposition in this debate. To talk about calling for a further inquiry, an exhaustive inquiry and an all-party committee is merely trying to get the Labor Party off the hook its members know it is on or think it is on. Members opposite believe that this legislation will be unpopular with the people who vote for them. That is the reason why they are putting off the decision and are calling for further inquiries.

I will tell Opposition members something about the people they think they are placating. If they go into the public bar of the pub or down to the football club they will find that people are quite ambivalent about this legislation. They will find that people do not want their own life-styles affected, but if they are asked about the road toll they will say, "Well, you've got to do something." They will also accept that alcohol is related to the responsibility of a driver, that alcohol diminishes that responsibility, and that alcohol is related to many of the deaths on the roads which they wish to prevent. The average fellow in the public bar recognises that alcohol debilitates the driver and that it is involved in many of the serious road accidents in this State.

Why is it that the majority of Australian States, including the States which Opposition members so often rely on for any of their initiatives—in fact without those States they have no initiatives—have introduced or supported the retention of a low blood alcohol level and yet Opposition members are calling for yet further inquiries? The reality is that Opposition members do not want to be politically embarrassed by being seen to support this legislation because they think it will be unpopular in the public bar of the Colmslie Hotel. That is what the honourable member is worried about.

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Burns: I have not heard so much rubbish in all my life.

Mr INNES: The honourable member has not the guts to go into the bar and say, "Drinking and driving is wrong. The Government is going to do something about it and we will support it wholeheartedly."

Mr Fouras: The Labor Party supports random breath tests. What is the Government doing about it?

Mr Burns: What is the Government doing about it?

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr INNES: I will tell the honourable member.

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will not permit persistent interjections.

Mr Burns interjected.

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

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Lytton to withdraw from the Chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for Lytton withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr INNES: I was asked where the Government stands. Members of the Opposition can deduce where the Government stands by the legislation that is introduced. The honourable member wants to know where I stand on random tests. At some future stage in this Parliament, I will be standing up and supporting the introduction of random breath tests, because I believe it will come to that. At this point in time I support the introduction of random breath tests.

It is proposed to reduce the blood alcohol level and to take certain other consequential and supportive steps. There can be absolutely no doubt that alcohol is associated with the majority of serious road accidents. Without doubt alcohol plays a major part in the road accidents that take a toll of lives in the younger age bracket. Over 1 000 male Australians between the ages of 17 and 29 years are killed each year. As I have said before, that is the equivalent of a battalion of men being taken every year. This State provides the greatest number of road fatalities.

A visit to the spinal injuries unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital reveals that 80 per cent of patients are between the ages of 17 and 26 years. People in that ward are confined to wheelchairs for life. Their lives have been devastated and ruined. They are permanently crippled below the waist and sometimes below the neck. Some of them wear basketball club T-shirts and the football club shirts. About 80 per cent of them are young men in the prime of life who have been paralysed by serious road accidents. Unfortunately, many of them have been involved in motor cycle accidents.

The reality is that that is also the age-group with the highest incidence of positive blood alcohol readings. It is also the age at which people are most likely to be affected by the lower levels of alcohol. The reaction of a small amount of alcohol on a 17, 18 or 19 year-old person is often quite different from the effect of the same amount of alcohol on a person aged between 35 and 40 years. Every one of us passed through that age and drank at that age. We know that, owing to the effects of alcohol, people of that age are more likely to try to impress and to lose their inhibitions. It is that loss of inhibition, as opposed to the serious effects of alcohol, that causes accidents. These young people drive too fast with less care and attention. They drive with bravado. They do not see the other vehicle coming, they lose control of their vehicle, they roll it or they stack it into a tree or post. That tends to be a feature of road accidents caused by people in the younger age group.

I spoke to the person in charge of the Victorian Drug and Alcohol Unit at the time of the introduction of the .05 blood alcohol level in Victoria. I asked him why that was done. In the days when the permissible level was .08, I practised in the courts and I was usually on the defence side. I was trying to get people off drink-driving charges. From the evidence tendered in the courts, I knew that usually a person is not visibly affected in his control of a motor vehicle unless his blood alcohol level is above .08. On that ground I asked the person in charge of the unit why he supported .05 and why it was introduced. In the light of later experience, I found his answer persuasive. He said

that it was introduced because it was found that, in the younger age group where there was a higher risk and more serious consequences of road accidents, lower levels of alcohol caused a lack of control or failure to pay due attention, which led to tragic consequences for that age group in terms of motor vehicle accidents. Their rate of accidents is twice that of older males.

He pointed out also that, with each glass of alcohol that is consumed, a person is depriving himself of the will-power to say, "No, I will have no more." He is also depriving himself of the ability to count and to recollect how many drinks he has had. The offer, "Let's have one for the road.", or "Just another round", is more likely to be acceded to by a person who has had four or five beers than by a person who has had one or two beers and knows that he will be driving. Therefore, at a lower level a person has maximum self-control. He is therefore more likely to say "No" and to fulfil his obligations, thus avoiding trouble as a result of the consumption of alcohol. Because of the incontrovertible statistics on the effects of alcohol on the road toll in relation to the younger age groups, and because of the realistic commonsense explanation that I was given, which I pass on to the members of this House, that alcohol reduces a person's ability to say "No" and to count how many drinks he has had, the lower level is more sensible.

The proof of the pudding is that the reduction of the blood alcohol level to .05, together with publicity, which the Minister has promised for Queensland, effective policing and the advent of random breath tests has quite clearly and dramatically reduced the road toll in Victoria. The effect of an ongoing sequence of actions taken by the road safety authorities—the introduction of seat belts, the reduction of the blood alcohol level and the introduction of random breath tests—has been a lower mortality rate on the roads than there was 12 years ago in the State of Victoria, despite a significant increase in population. In fact, the introduction of those positive measures in all States has been effective in reducing the road toll.

Wide publicity must be given to this proposal. As I said recently in the Matters of Public Interest debate and on television, in many ways a lot of Queenslanders have to go into training for the advent of this legislation. They have to work out for themselves just how little alcohol will lead to their exceeding the .05 level. Four 7-oz beers in an hour, four glasses of wine, four half nips of spirits or slightly fewer glasses of bubbly will give them a reading of .05. After they have had four drinks in an hour they dissipate alcohol at the rate of only one glass an hour. That means they can have only one more glass an hour to keep to the same level.

If drinkers turn to low alcohol beer they can double their consumption. They can have seven or eight glasses of low alcohol beer. These figures have been confirmed by tests conducted by the Queensland police, the Victorian police and Carlton & United Breweries. Low alcohol beer can be consumed in twice the volume for the same reading.

The drinkers of Queensland—I am one of them—have to do a number of things in the next couple of months. Firstly, they have to heed the Government's publicity campaign. They have to realise that four drinks in an hour will put them into the danger area. If they have any sense, they will change over to low alcohol beer. If they have any sense, they will try to avoid drinking and driving at any time and they will make sure that somebody in their number is on duty, as it were, for driving. If they have any sense, they will drink at a pub that provides a courtesy vehicle. An increasing number of pubs do that. If they have any sense, they will try to persuade their football club or other club to provide a courtesy vehicle to take them home if they propose to continue to drink. People do not have to cease drinking at hotels or clubs. However, it is perfectly clear that the driver has to modify his behaviour.

Mr D'Arcy: Now who wants two bob each way?

Mr INNES: I am not having two bob each way.

Mr D'Arcy: Of course you are.

Mr INNES: The honourable member for Woodridge does nothing more than reveal his impeded understanding of the legislation. Perhaps it would be safer for him to have a Claytons, whether he is mounting a coup or having a drink. I am afraid that I cannot convert the alcohol figures to imported lager and champagne, which are the honourable member's favourite drinks.

Nobody should be put in a situation in which he is breaking the law without fair warning. The Minister's proposal to embark upon a significant publicity campaign before this Bill is proclaimed is well founded. The public must be informed before they are put in the line of breaking the law. The .05 must come. When it does come, it must be policed and enforced.

The other area in which steps must be taken is education in the schools. As I have said before in this House, I find it a matter of regret and dismay—even amazement—that although the community shows concern for toddlers in their first week at school—we are all very careful to ensure that they learn the elementary rules of the road, such as crossing at the lights, looking right, left and right again—nobody bothers about teenagers. Nobody bothers to inform, prepare or educate in any intense or total way secondary school students as to the consequences of drinking and driving.

Mr Vaughan: You are in the Government.

Mr INNES: I am part of the Government and I am calling on the Government.

Mr Vaughan: How long have you been in Parliament?

Mr INNES: Has the member for Nudgee been to his local school to attempt in any personal way to improve road safety among students?

Mr Vaughan: Yes.

Mr INNES: What has the honourable member done?

Mr Vaughan interjected.

Mr INNES: The honourable member should not point at the Minister. What has the honourable member done?

At least I have attempted to promote and personally take part in cycle safety courses in schools in my electorate, as has the member for Peak Downs in schools in his electorate. Together, we have been involved in publicity for those campaigns. I am prepared to support an organised endeavour by the Government to persuade the secondary school students of this State that they cannot drink and drive. I have said before in this House—I have certainly said it in other places—that if we were to persuade all the girls in the State to refuse to drive with boys who have consumed liquor, we would not have a problem, because the boys would have the biggest incentive in the world not to drink. We have to tell these young people just how little alcohol they can consume before they endanger their own lives and the lives of their friends and others on the road.

Mr Vaughan: Do you think we should stop advertising alcohol?

Mr INNES: I do not think that is necessary.

The other matter that should be emphasised—I forgot to deal with it when I was dealing with alcohol and blood alcohol—is that women are more at risk than men. As I said before, alcohol is a sexist drug and, because of the lower blood volume in women, the blood alcohol reading in women is inevitably higher than that of males of the same size and weight. No matter what the blood alcohol level is, women are more at risk. Of course, at the lower levels, they have to be very careful, and that is a point that should be made in education programs and other publicity programs.

I believe that the proposal to order offenders to attend defensive driving courses—anything that reinforces responsibility on the road—is timely.

Mr Vaughan: What about pubs building large car-parks?

Mr INNES: I have spoken about that previously.

Mr Vaughan: Tonight?

Mr INNES: I have spoken about it in this House within the last two months.

I refer to the proposal to build a tavern in my electorate. Because of the way in which the Liquor Act is framed at present, the consequence of applying for a liquor licence is that the developers have to tack on so many bars, lounges and other facilities. They will have to convert the bottle department, which is really all they want to build, into a \$1.5m, \$2m or \$2.5m facility.

This group really wants to build a bottle department, because that is where the money is, but it will have to build a tavern that will include a car-park catering for 200 vehicles and at least three bars. In one case someone has proposed the construction of a convention centre, which will directly encourage people to drive to the facility, consume a considerable amount of alcohol and then take to the roads afterwards. The reality is that all that the developers really want is a bottle department, because the area that I represent is a take-away type of area. Most of the people are beyond the pub-going years. They normally entertain at home, and all they want to do is buy a dozen bottles of beer or a couple of bottles of wine, go home and consume them with friends.

So there is this stupidity where the developers, who really want only a bottle department, are being forced by the legislation to include everything else. The local population really does not oppose the construction of a bottle department, but it opposes everything else that goes with it—the congregation of large numbers of cars, a great deal of activity late at night, and the noise created by the banging of car doors and by people in vehicles at 10 and 11 o'clock at night. I have said before that I believe that the liquor legislation in this State has not kept up with the times and has to be reviewed. We want to remove the nonsense which provides that although a developer wants to build only a bottle shop and the locals want only a bottle department, he has to build a multi-million dollar facility.

Mr Vaughan: What about the sale of alcohol in grocery stores?

Mr INNES: I shall look at that situation. I have said before that evolution is better than revolution. Because of the Liquor Act, people have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars—in fact millions of dollars—in buying existing licensed premises. They have done that because of the small number of liquor outlets in this State. In those circumstances they can rightly say, "You, the Government"—and it was the Labor Party that set up the mechanism—

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr INNES: A Labor Government set up the original licensing laws restricting the number of licensed premises. We have maintained that. I do not walk away from that. The result is that the people can rightly say, "You set up the mechanism which limited the number of outlets and for that reason we have had to pay a very high premium to buy into those licensed premises. We are obliged to provide rooms and accommodation, extensive facilities and hot food at all bars. Therefore, we are entitled to some consideration when you come to modify the laws." Perhaps, in the evolution of it, we give preference. If there is in the near vicinity a competitor who has provided all of those facilities—who has bought in to those expensive facilities—he is given preference in the allocation of the new facility. There is no problem in that. That is evolutionary.

I am saying that in a practical way we have to make changes to that Act to stop the stupidity of creating enormous drink-driving facilities when nobody really wants them—neither the publican nor the public—and do something constructive to reduce the road toll. However, that is not the responsibility of this Minister. He has acted in the area for which he is responsible, and I applaud the initiative. I hope it is successful. I hope it is successful enough not to lead to a further review and the introduction of random breath tests. I suspect that it will not be totally successful, but I applaud these steps and I am sure that they will help to reduce the road toll in this State.

Mr DAVIS: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Brisbane Central.

Mr HARTWIG: I rise to a point of order. At 10.25 p.m. I approached you, Mr Speaker, and asked if I could speak on this Bill, which I consider to be one of the most important pieces of legislation to come before the Parliament. You said that you would not permit me to speak.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member for Callide to resume his seat. He came to me at 10.25 p.m. and I informed him that the debate would be adjourned at a later stage. I have called the member for Brisbane Central and there is no point of order.

Mr DAVIS (Brisbane Central) (10.52 p.m.): Apart from that, Mr Speaker, I am the local member.

This is a very important Bill and not one that the Labor Party wants to play party politics with. We on this side of the House would prefer to see road safety kept away from political debate. As this is the only State that does not have an all-party parliamentary committee on road safety, we felt that it was necessary to ensure that we benefited from the views of all the people in Queensland, so we set up our own committee. We have received a number of submissions—of the order of 500—on all aspects of the matter, Statewide, from the trade union movement to the RACQ. We have discussed not only .05 but also road safety itself with the Road Safety Council and all others who, we felt, could assist us in our deliberations.

It is interesting to consider the introduction of legislation dealing with a blood alcohol level of .05. Early in 1980 the Minister for Transport (Mr Tomkins) and the Minister for Police (Mr Camm) took a proposal to Cabinet for the lowering of the blood alcohol level to .05, and it was rejected out of hand.

Just prior to the last election the Police Assistant Commissioner for Traffic (Mr J. Purcell) said that Queensland would not follow New South Wales in lowering the blood alcohol level for drivers from .08 to .05. So the Government has a long history of rejection of a reduction from .08 to .05. Even the National Party itself, obviously protecting its country supporters—I see the Minister for Primary Industries bows his head in acknowledgment—in July 1981 rejected its transport committee's recommendation that Queensland lower the allowable blood alcohol level for drink-driving offences. The committee urged a reduction to .05 and then a later reduction to .03. The committee's chairman, Mr J. Price, told the party's State conference that the change had the backing of police in Queensland and road safety organisations, but the National Party conference dismissed it out of hand.

The present Minister for Transport (Mr Lane) was the subject of an article by Erica Parker in the "Telegraph" of 21 October 1981 which stated—

"Despite alcohol having been irrefutably pinpointed as one of the main causes of fatality and injury, there is to be no lowering of the permissible blood alcohol level.

Here, permissibility is to remain at .08 per cent as the Transport Minister has made plain, and that's regardless of the fact that both New South Wales and Victoria have dropped permissibility to .05.

There is to be no directive to police, either, to put a check on motorists at the point of leaving hotel parking lots when patently those who have overimbibed and still choose to drive, put other road-users at risk of maiming and death.

On the matter of reducing the permissible blood alcohol level he has said simply that it won't be on—because 'the public doesn't want it.'

Mr Lane: We are flexible.

Mr DAVIS: Flexible—the Minister is like the original rubber ball.

As I said on a recent amendment to the traffic regulations, time and time again the Minister reads the editorial in "The Courier-Mail" and says to his advisers, "What will we do today, boys? There have been a few road deaths."

Mr LANE: I rise to a point of order. That statement is totally untrue. If I were to read an article in "The Courier-Mail" and act on it, I would be voting Labor, and I certainly do not do that.

Mr DAVIS: That is a facetious point of order if I ever heard one.

If the Minister had the courage he would admit publicly that what he does whenever there is a build-up of traffic fatalities is to make sure that he is seen to be all caring. He is the greatest publicity hound that we have ever seen in this House.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Brisbane Central that that might be refreshing information but it has nothing to do with the Bill.

Mr DAVIS: I make the point of the way the Government changes its mind and the way the Minister changes regulations. He sees that there is a growing public opinion so he feels that he must be seen to be doing something. Since the Minister took over his portfolio he has changed regulations and amended Acts purely and simply because of articles that appear in the Press. That is why the present legislation is before us. I have already presented evidence that 12 months ago the Minister said that he would not have a bar of a reduction from .08 to .05. But 12 months later, because there has been an increase in the number of fatalities, the Minister has decided to introduce this legislation—I would not be surprised if he has changed his mind.

I think it was the member for Flinders who asked what was the Opposition's view of the legislation. I think it has been explained very fully by our spokesman. We support the legislation. As I said, I would not like to see this become a party-political issue. Members can rest assured that when it comes to road safety I do not try to score political points. I notice that it is 11 o'clock. Perhaps it might be a good time to adjourn.

Debate, on motion of Mr Lane, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House): I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

Parliament House Flag

Mr HANSEN (Maryborough) (11 p.m.): I have a question: Which flag should fly over Parliament House? Since the week-end, I have been asked by a number of people why the Union Jack is flying over Parliament House. I raise this matter not out of my disrespect for or resentment against the Union Jack, or the people of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales whose flag it is. Many of them have been our guests in recent weeks. Perhaps it has been the thrill of the Games, especially seeing our own flag flying, that has prompted me to ask this question. Where is it indicated that the Union Jack should take precedence over the Australian national flag? A booklet provided by the Premier's Department acknowledges that where two or more flags are flown, the Australian national flag has priority over State flags and those of other nations. The document that I have illustrates the Australian national flag and shows that it should be flown from the highest pole or, if all poles are of a similar height, from the pole on the left of a person facing the flag. I think most honourable members have seen the booklet.

I sought further information on the subject and found a book in the Parliamentary Library. The second chapter is headed, “Which flag to fly—our own or the Union Jack?” I understand that it is a matter of protocol. The book states—

“On land there is only one answer to that query: The correct flag to fly is the blue Australian National flag.”

It states further—

“The Union Jack (more correctly termed the Union Flag) is the national flag of the United Kingdom—and that is all. Strictly speaking it has no more significance in Australia than has any other national flag—such as the flags of say Japan or Russia.

Many Australians probably fly the Union Jack out of a sense of loyalty to Great Britain, but if they fly the Union Flag in preference to, or instead of, their own Australian National Flag are they not being disloyal to their own nation, Australia?”

The book goes a little further and says—

“Surely national honour dictates that we at all times fly our own National Flag in preference to any other flag, where there is a single flagstaff.”

The same book raises the question of whether the Union Jack should fly over Government House, the residence of the Queen's representative, since the Queen is Queen of Australia.

I feel that the matter is of some concern judging by the questions that I have been asked. I understand that before handing over this building the Works Department flew the Queensland flag, and I can understand that. There may be some reason why Parliament House is different from other Government-owned buildings in Queensland.

The matter should be cleared up, and certainly we should not have the flag of another nation flying from Parliament House. If there is a reason for it, Mr Speaker, I would ask you to make inquiries about it and perhaps advise members why the Union Jack has been flying over Parliament House since the week-end.

Mr Scott: Why isn't the flag taken down from the Annexe at night-time?

Mr HANSEN: I do not know; perhaps there are rules.

Diabetes Week

Dr LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (11.5 p.m.): Diabetes Week is from 17 to 23 October throughout Queensland. It was postponed to one week later than in the southern States because of the Commonwealth Games.

The National Diabetic Association's theme for Diabetes Week is "four every hour". The theme points to the alarming fact that four new diabetics are discovered in Australia every hour.

Sugar diabetes or diabetes melitis is the major health and nutrition problem facing Australia today. Diabetes Week is promoted with the help of the Government, health authorities and doctors and nurses, with the aim of creating greater awareness of diabetes.

The Toowoomba group has the following aims:—

1. To promote community awareness of diabetes.
2. To screen the community for undiagnosed diabetes.
3. To improve community welfare for diabetics.
4. To increase independence of diabetics.

Awareness is promoted by Diabetes Week, books and articles.

The diabetic associations have an invaluable role in counselling new diabetics and their families in the art of balancing diets, exercise and work with the medication. If this balance is not achieved blood glucose levels can be either too high or too low for normal function.

Diabetics want help in securing blood glucose meters and disposable insulin syringes free of sales tax and at minimal mark-up. In Diabetes Week they hope to confront each person with a challenge to do something for himself in the interests of his health, life-style and longevity. The local diabetic association wants people to stop and answer three questions for themselves. They are—

1. Are you diabetes prone?
2. Does your diet predispose you to diabetes?
3. Do you have unrecognised diabetes?

Although four new diabetics are discovered every hour there are still far too many diabetics who are unrecognised and untreated. The diabetic associations are also concerned that the percentage of diabetics suffering needlessly within the community is increasing alarmingly.

Let us consider the questions.

1. Are you diabetes prone? A person runs an increased risk of developing diabetes if he has descended from a family of obese people, has blood relations with diabetes, was a very large baby with a birth weight of over 5 kg (11 lbs) or is the mother of very large babies. All adult people in this group owe it to Australia, their families and themselves to have a regular diabetes check.

2. Does your diet predispose you to diabetes? The answer here is that it certainly does if a person eats excessive amounts of refined, starchy carbohydrate foods such as white flour, cereals, pastries, cakes and biscuits, but it is even worse if large amounts of sugar, sweets, jams, lollies and sugary drinks are added. Put bluntly, these foods taken in excess can exhaust the pancreas by middle age so that the regulation of sugar by insulin fails and diabetes results. These "carboholics" as they are nicknamed then become diabetics. Diabetic associations want every man, woman and child in Australia to know

that this type of diabetes is on the increase, but it is preventable with sensible diet. People who have this type of diabetes are helped greatly by diet alone or by diet and medication such as tablets.

3. Do you already have unrecognised diabetes? Diabetes could be the problem if a person has excessive thirst, a huge volume of urine, unexplained weight loss or sores, rashes and chaffs that recur or will not go away. These problems are all caused by a very high blood glucose level.

During Diabetes Week, diabetic associations are conducting awareness campaigns in Brisbane at the City Hall, Toowoomba at Myers Store, Kingaroy at all pharmacies and also at Maryborough, Mackay and Townsville.

Between 17 and 23 October everyone can have an on-the-spot blood test for diabetes at any one of the above venues. Each person tested will be given a card with the result. Those with abnormal or diabetic results will be advised to see their doctor. The test takes only 60 seconds so nobody can plead that he is too busy. Be warned that late diagnosis allows diabetes to affect the heart, eyes and legs in particular. But be assured that early diagnosis can help maintain a person's health and life-style.

Finally, I appeal to Australians to take more interest in their families' diet, not to eat too much sugar and starch and to have a check up if they have any doubts.

Child Welfare

Dr SCOTT-YOUNG (Townsville) (11.10 p.m.): I wish to raise a matter that is of interest to most people in this State. It concerns the welfare of children and their care.

I draw the attention of the House to a situation that exists in respect to some children in our community and the institutions of our community. The chief executive officer of the North Queensland Society for Crippled Children wrote to me in the following terms—

"I will relate the circumstances in respect to one child, but the circumstances are certainly not limited to one.

Troy is a multiple handicapped boy of 12 years, he is chairfast and incontinent and almost totally dependent for all activities of daily living. Troy has been cared for by this Society since 25th July, 1972 and has not been home nor has he been discharged from the nursing home since 1973.

His parents never visit Troy, he did have two devoted grandparents (or perhaps they were great grandparents) who visited him quite regularly and took him on outings, however, time took its toll and for two to three years now Troy has had no one from 'outside' who is to the slightest degree interested in Troy's welfare.

This situation has been of concern to me for the last six years and I have on a number of occasions instructed the Society's Social Worker to have the Department of Childrens Services involved in Troy's circumstances.

Two years ago (or perhaps three) I took the matter up personally with an officer from the Department, who investigated the case in respect to Troy.

Eventually the officer turned up at my office with Troy's parents who signed an application for an Isolated Students Allowance for Troy and at the same time signed a form directing the allowance to be paid to the Society.

The Nursing Home Matron asked the couple to see Troy and speak to him, the Father (Husband) said 'no thanks' and went. I have seen nothing of either of them since.

Subsequent to the above described visit, the Department of Childrens Services Officer said that since the parents had shown some interest in Troy and had contacted the Society he was not in fact an abandoned child and could not be taken into care of the State.

During the past three to six months the Society's Social Worker has again taken up the matter of Troy's legal representation with an officer of the Department of Children's Services. He (the officer) replied eventually, stating that the community must accept the responsibility for its children, having delivered himself of his edict, he vanished from the scene, having, so I heard, gone to University to finish his degree.

My opinion, and I stress that it is mine, and does not purport to be a Society opinion, is that for the past ten years the Department of Childrens Services has been administered by 'twits'.

The future of children is decided by and large by some middle class boy or girl, given credibility by a baccalaureate degree obtained on the basis of examination of knowledge of untestable, unproven sociological theories which change every time some peanut carries out an experiment with a set of tame white rats.

What really is at the nub of this whole question—of a handicapped child disowned by its parents—is who guards the child's rights?

A child within a family setting has its rights jealously guarded by its parents. Delinquent children have a whole plethora of advocates, such as social workers and solicitors to protect their rights. A closed court carefully guards their right to privacy and secrecy.

Who is Troy's advocate? He is in our care; so far as Troy's welfare and future is concerned our decisions and attitudes are unquestioned. What if someone gives to Troy some money and goods of value, who sees to its proper use? Who audits Troy's education, his rehabilitation treatment? Who legally cares about Troy? No one—he is denied the most elementary right—the right to be an individual. The chance to exercise his legal rights.

Since he is totally unable to do this for himself, then someone must be his attorney. When Troy is 16 years of age and gets his pension and is no longer a child and certainly beyond the ken or caring of the Department of Childrens Services, shall we then, his keepers and care-ers farm him out to whoever? Without any arm of the law asking whether 'whatever' is in the best interests of Troy."

Mr Speaker, I hand the matter over to you and to honourable members. Troy and others like him need an advocate, someone who is responsible for them, someone who makes decisions in the best interests of each of them.

Troy is in the care of the North Queensland Society for Crippled Children, the society is kind and caring and paternalistic, but that is not the point of the argument. Troy is a child; he has no advocate; he is legally in limbo. The State must care about these children and these children must have rights. There has to be a system of checks and balances for children of this type who have been disadvantaged from the day they were born.

(Time expired.)

Roads in Far North Queensland

Mr SCOTT (Cook) (11.16 p.m.): I rise to again bring to the attention of the Government a matter that I have raised frequently in this House. In spite of that, the Government does not seem to care. I refer to road funding in remote areas, particularly in the Cook electorate, which in this regard is typical yet different.

The Cook electorate is typical of the northern and western electorates and other areas with low populations. They have been ignored by both State and Federal Governments in road funding. Yet it is different because it embraces that rather pointed area of Queensland that is shown on maps as Cape York Peninsula.

The roads to which I refer go to a wide variety of interesting places. They go to Weipa, Lockhart River, Cooktown, Chillagoe and Normanton, to name just a few. Those places are served by unsealed, rough roads. Numerous other places are served by similar roads, but the places I have mentioned are the significant ones.

Up to the present, an average amount of funding has been allocated to roads in that area. In other words, something like half a million dollars is allocated each year or each two years, depending on the road. That is simply not enough. All it does on the Cooktown road, for example, is extend the bitumen surface by a few hard-won kilometres each year or every second year. At the present rate of progress, it will be many years before the sealed road reaches Cooktown.

I have said the towns at the end of these roads are important towns. Up to the present time, the traffic on the roads has, generally speaking, been what I would term

the traditional traffic—cattle trucks from grazing areas, mineral trucks from mining areas, refrigerated transports from fishing areas and so on. That traffic has not been very dense. However, the importance of those areas warranted far more funding for road-works than has been the case up to the present.

Over the past couple of years, however, a sudden change has occurred in the nature of the traffic using those roads. The area has seen a vast influx of tourists. Recently my wife and I drove to Lockhart River and back to Cairns via Cooktown, where we attended a function. The drive each way was approximately 800 kilometres over extremely rough roads. What impressed me particularly was the number of tourist vehicles on the road. Even in the little township of Coen, 10 vehicles were parked in the streets.

Cape York Peninsula and other northern remote areas are acting like magnets in attracting southern people who can afford to pay inflated fuel prices and to run four-wheel-drive vehicles. They are going up there in droves.

Up to the present, the funding has been related more or less to the usage of the particular road. That is not good enough; but in view of the attitude adopted by the Government to remote areas, that is all that can be expected. Almost overnight the situation has changed. Whole groups of vehicles are entering the area and causing serious damage to the roads. The number of corrugations and pot-holes is increasing. That means that, in addition to depriving tourists of any semblance of comfort, the bad roads prevent the traditional users from exercising their right to use them. It simply means that the funding situation has to change. The amount that has been provided could not cope with the old situation, and it certainly cannot cope with the present situation.

The State Government has not recognised that these remote areas need additional funds. I do not think that it is aware of the situation, because whenever Government members visit remote areas—the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police (Mr Hinze) does so every now and again—they travel by air. What the funding hinges on is something called the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program. If ever there was a nebulous promise, that is it. At some unspecified time, fairly large amounts of money will be provided through that program. We cannot wait. We cannot leave it to the Federal Government; it may not provide the funds. Therefore, it must come back to being a State Government responsibility.

(Time expired.)

Self-help Projects

Mr LESTER (Peak Downs) (11.21 p.m.): I rise to call on all Queenslanders to try to foster self-help projects. It is not healthy for the Government to totally fund all projects. To some extent, that concept was tried during the term of the Whitlam Government, and I am not knocking it. That Government tried to foster the concept of outward Government help and, as a result, people depended entirely on the Government for help and did not appreciate what they received.

Mr Scott: That is not true. There was a lot of work in that program. A lot of good people got together and put forward the programs that went to the Whitlam Government.

Mr LESTER: There was only one problem: generally speaking, the programs did not work, and that is what I am on about tonight.

It is clear that people have to get together with a view to trying to get things done in this State. I am talking about programs involving amusements for children and arts for large numbers of people. People can improve themselves and then use their expertise to help other people. That point came to the fore very much during the recent Festival '82 and the Commonwealth Games.

In the park across the other side of the Brisbane River we saw people with expertise teaching children and others art and other crafts. We saw parents playing with children. There was mass involvement. That is the new type of culture that we must foster in Queensland. Cultural training should not be available only to those children whose parents have sufficient money to give them the training that is needed. Cultural training should

be provided for the masses. With such a program, the experts will get a chance to improve upon their expertise and the ordinary people without expertise will at least have the opportunity to learn a little about the arts.

People with expertise in music have turned up at parks and taught children the elementary aspects of learning to play musical instruments. From such humble beginnings will spring many musicians in the future and many talented artists. Quite clearly there are people who have not had the opportunity to learn art or music who might have gone on to really great things. It is a fact of life that many of our champions would have been regarded as second-stringers if others more talented had been given the opportunity to participate.

Over the next few years Queensland will witness many areas of endeavour. It is to be hoped that the Brisbane festival continues and will have a spin-off effect on country areas. Most country towns do have some type of festival. Even in the town of Moranbah, on the opening day of the Commonwealth Games we ran our own Commonwealth mini-Games. Clermont has its own beef and beer festival. Throughout the length and breadth of Queensland, towns get together and pool their resources for their mutual benefit.

(Time expired.)

Heavy Transport Overloading Breaches

Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (11.27 p.m.): I draw to the attention of the House the need for a change in the procedure of dealing with overloading breaches. Courts dealing with those breaches are being clogged up with what is virtually a mechanical procedure of imposing fines on drivers who have overloaded their vehicles. I point out that I do not support the overloading of vehicles. All operators must be made aware of the danger to the general public and other road users as well as the serious damage being caused to our roads. Because of the number of heavy trucks and semi-trailers on the road, breaches for overloading will continue to be recorded. Most trucks leaving Brisbane have to pass one of three weighbridges.

I realise that the Magistrates Court at Inala is being overworked. Something should be done to improve the system. When a ticket for a speeding offence is issued by a police officer, the person can automatically pay the fine. If the breach is for less than 15 km/h above the speed limit, the automatic fine is \$20. Two demerit points are recorded. If the offence is between 15 and 29 km/h above the speed limit, the fine is \$40. If the speed limit is exceeded by more than 29 km/h, the fine is \$60. If all of those offenders had to go through the courts, the courts would be continually clogged up.

There should be a scale of fees for overloading breaches. That scale should take into consideration not only the percentage by which a vehicle is overweight but also the distance the vehicle has travelled before being apprehended. I give as an instance a person who is hauling grain out of a paddock. If a header wants to get another couple of dumps onto the vehicle to finish the paddock because it is going to rain and the driver then crawls down the road to the wheat dump, that is a serious offence because he is wrecking our roads. However, it is only a short distance. If, on the other hand, an operator loads up just outside Brisbane and decides he will get through to the Central Queensland coalfields, and his load exceeds the limit by the same amount as the load of wheat I first referred to, the offence should be treated much more seriously because of the distance involved. Therefore, any scale of fees should take into consideration the excess weight and also the distance travelled. Drivers have to keep logs, so the distance could be easily calculated.

I was interested to note that during the year ended June 1981, 10 756 overloading breaches were established and, of these, 6 505 were detected at fixed weighbridges at Gailles, Coomera and Burpengary and 4 251 by mobile teams of inspectors throughout the State. Most of those breaches—9 280 of them—were for an overload of under 20 per cent. Overloading between 20 per cent and 50 per cent accounted for 1 368 and overloads of more than 50 per cent accounted for 108 of the breaches.

It is generally considered that an overload of 10 per cent causes 1.46 times the damage to the road that a legal load does. A 20 per cent overload causes 2.07 times the damage and a 50 per cent overload causes 4.06 times the damage that a legally fully loaded

vehicle does. In the interests of safety and in the interests of protecting our roads, it is important that we should inflict very severe penalties on those who grossly overload. It should be made extremely unprofitable for those who cart excessive loads so that they will not be able to carry them over these long distances.

Mr Scott: Use the railways.

Mr FITZGERALD: Honourable members should realise that it is impossible to use the railways in all circumstances. Wheat must be hauled from the paddock to the rail head.
(Time expired.)

Motion (Mr Wharton) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.31 p.m.
