

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 1982

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

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research for the year ended 30 June 1982.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations under—

Health Act 1937-1981

Physiotherapists Act 1964-1981

Mining Act 1968-1982.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Human Relationships Course

Hon. W. A. M. GUNN (Somerset—Minister for Education) (11.3 a.m.): Yesterday in the House the member for Wynnum spoke about the introduction of a human relationships course into State schools in Queensland. He said, then, as he has said before in other places, that I had indicated that such a course would be introduced into schools next year. I would like to advise him and the public that no decision has been made on whether a human relationships course will be introduced in Queensland State schools next year.

The media has speculated on what the Male Committee report contains, and the speculation has been turned into reality by such people as the member for Wynnum, and others. As the member for Wynnum acknowledged yesterday that I have made no comment on the report, he therefore must also acknowledge that I have not said that a course will be introduced next year. I have purposely refrained from making any statements on the content of the report until it has been discussed by Cabinet, a stance I have made clear and public on a number of occasions.

When Cabinet has considered the report, a decision will then be made on the next step and the public will be informed. Until that time I will not be making any comment, and I suggest that the uninformed critics and political grandstanders follow the same course, bide their time, and make their comments based on fact, not on speculation.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

State Service Superannuation Scheme

From Mrs Nelson (58 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will remove all discrimination from the State Service Superannuation Scheme.

Amendment of Traffic Acts Amendment Bill

From Mr Goleby (68 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.

[A similar petition was received from Mr FitzGerald (17 signatories).]

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

1 & 2. Grants and Allowances to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders

Mr McKechnie asked the Premier—

(1) Is it possible for people with no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestors to receive grants and allowances solely because they claim to be Aborigines or Torres Strait Islanders?

(2) What is the Federal Government's definition of an Aborigine as far as being eligible for Aboriginal grants and concessions is concerned?

(3) What proof is necessary to be produced by the applicant to show he or she is an Aborigine?

Answer:—

(1) My Government provides services on a needs basis to Aboriginal and Islander citizens. I am not responsible for Commonwealth Government actions.

(2) The Commonwealth Government's definition of "Aboriginality" is—
"An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the Community in which he/she lives."

(3) This is a matter for Commonwealth Government authorities.

Mr McKechnie asked the Premier—

(1) What Commonwealth and State grants and allowances are paid to Aborigines in Queensland, which are not paid to people of other races?

(2) Are highly paid Federal Government Aboriginal officials such as Charles Perkins entitled to some of the assistance available under such grants and/or allowances?

Answer:—

(1) The honourable member is referred to a resume of the major benefits available to Aboriginal and Islander people, tabled in this House on 22 September last by the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs.

(2) Yes.

3. Proposed Uranium Enrichment Plant

Mr Frawley asked the Premier—

(1) Has his department or the State Government received any information from the Federal Government regarding the proposed uranium enrichment plant for Queensland, one potential site for which is the Caboolture area where there are many citizens who have contacted me about their concern regarding some of the implications of this plant?

(2) Does uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) in gas form constitute a danger to people and animals or is it completely harmless?

Answer:—

(1) The Commonwealth Government has advised that it has received a report from the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (UEGA), and that it has accepted UEGA's recommendations concerning uranium enrichment technology.

In so far as possible sites are concerned, the Commonwealth Government has accepted UEGA's recommendations that sites near Adelaide and Brisbane be further evaluated, as these centres might best satisfy important infrastructural and technical requirements of the selected Urenco-Centec centrifuge technology. For instance, this technology requires that any plant be located close to a large centre that is able to supply skilled labour and high-level engineering support services.

No specific site near Brisbane has been selected. A number of possible sites (including the Caboolture area) have been considered on a notional basis, in order to test the various site-specific requirements of the centrifuge technology.

(2) Uranium hexafluoride is the uranium compound used in the Urenco-Centec uranium enrichment process. At normal atmospheric temperatures and pressures, uranium hexafluoride is a solid and not a gas. Uranium hexafluoride cannot exist unless contained in a chemically non-reactive vessel. On exposure to water vapour in the atmosphere, uranium hexafluoride instantly converts to the inert solid compound uranyl fluoride (UO₂F₂).

Design procedures in the centrifuge uranium enrichment process ensure that, in the unlikely event of a leakage of uranium hexafluoride, the leakage would be contained within the building. Leakages to the atmosphere are unlikely, since the process operates at pressures lower than atmospheric pressure.

There is no circumstance under which uranium hexafluoride could constitute any danger to people or animals near an enrichment plant. Urenco-Centec plants in the United Kingdom and Holland are located near major urban areas.

4. Accidents on Brisbane-Gold Coast Section of Pacific Highway During Commonwealth Games

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

(1) How many accidents were reported on the Pacific Highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast during the period of the Commonwealth Games?

(2) Of these accidents, how many fatalities were recorded?

Answer:—

Because of the limited time available since the completion of the Games, it has been impossible to research this matter in detail. I undertake to make the necessary inquiries, and I will reply to the honourable member direct.

5. Acquisition and Ownership of Cetaceans

Mr Eaton asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the acquisition by Sea World on the Gold Coast of two false killer whales which were captured in the Gulf of Carpentaria—

(1) From whom is approval obtained for such cetacean ownership?

(2) Are special licences required to obtain these false killer whales or are they already covered by some Queensland legislation and, if so, which legislation?

(3) What are the requirements for obtaining cetaceans in Queensland and what are the particular conditions and terms of ownership and exhibition of same in accordance with Queensland law?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The Minister may issue a special permit to persons under section 58 of the Fisheries Act 1976-1982 to take or have in possession protected species. No other licences apply.

(3) (a) Permits issued for the taking of cetaceans address two issues, the taking of the animal and the care of the animal once in captivity. Permits to take are subject to the following conditions—

(i) No female specimen which is obviously pregnant or lactating shall be taken.

(ii) No unweaned juvenile specimen shall be taken.

(iii) All vessels or vehicles used in taking and/or transporting the animals specified herein shall contain adequate equipment to safeguard the health of the animals taken and ensure their humane treatment.

(iv) The permittee shall within 48 hours of delivery as above, notify the Director, Division of Dairying and Fisheries thereof, in writing or by telegram, stating the species taken, sex, length, and place of capture of each animal.

(v) The permittee shall, if so required by the Minister, carry an officer of the Division of Dairying and Fisheries on the vessel or vehicle when used to take or transport the animals listed, and the permittee shall meet any costs involved.

(vi) This permit is valid in all Queensland waters excepting marine parks, habitat reserves or sanctuaries. The permittee is requested to avoid taking the animals in close proximity to members of the public.

(b) Permits to have in possession for display purposes are subject to the following conditions—

(i) Except during training or medical treatment, the mammals specified shall be kept in a pool or pools totalling in area not less than 32.5 square metres for each dolphin with a minimum pool area of 65.6 square metres and maximum depth requirement of 5 metres, and 92.8 square metres for each whale, with a minimum depth in the central area of such pool or pools equal to the length of the largest mammal in the pool.

(ii) The permittee shall ensure that the quality of the water in which the mammals under permit are held in possession shall meet a standard specified from time to time by the Director, Division of Dairying and Fisheries.

(iii) The permittee shall ensure that the food fed to the mammals shall be wholesome and shall be stored and prepared under hygienic conditions.

(iv) The permittee shall obtain the services of a qualified veterinary surgeon in the event of the illness of any animal.

(v) The permittee shall maintain a permanent register of all dolphins and marine mammals being kept. On this register shall be recorded the species, common name, sex and length of each specimen. The register must be available at all times for viewing if requested by authorised officers.

(vi) The permittee shall not release into the wild any dolphins or marine mammals from his possession except with the permission of the Director, Division of Dairying and Fisheries and subject to any conditions imposed by the said director.

(vii) The permittee shall not dispose of any dolphins or marine mammals by sale, exchange or transfer except with the permission of the Minister for Primary Industries.

(viii) The permittee shall report forthwith to the Director, Division of Dairying and Fisheries if any dolphin or marine mammal in his possession gives birth or dies. Any animal which dies is subject to an autopsy.

(ix) The permittee shall, at least 14 days before expiry of the permit, furnish a report to the Director, Division of Dairying and Fisheries, containing such particulars as the said director specifies based on information contained in the register required in (v) above.

6. Budget Provision for Additional School Transport Arrangements

Mr Row asked the Minister for Education—

What are the details of the provisions which were referred to by the Honourable the Treasurer in his recent Budget speech which will enable a greater number of children to avail themselves of the Queensland schools transport arrangements?

Answer:—

I am not yet in a position to announce the details of the provisions referred to by the honourable member. My officers are, however, presently finalising recommendations regarding those details, and I shall be making a further announcement on this matter at the appropriate time, namely, when the recommendations prepared by my officers have been considered.

7. Effect on Aborigines of Conversion to Freehold of Deeds of Grant in Trust and Repeal of Aborigines Act

Mr Row asked the Premier—

With reference to suggestions made by Aboriginal activists—

What results for Queensland Aborigines now living on reserves held by them under deed of grant in trust would allow (a) the conversion of the deed of grant in trust to freehold, throwing the land open to normal commercial transactions, (b) the repeal of the Aborigines Act and (c) the discontinuation of services presently provided by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement consequent upon such repeal?

Answer:—

Responsible councillors and elders of the reserves have conveyed quite clearly that they want the lands they presently use to remain secure for their needs and benefit. This has been adequately provided for by my Government in the deeds of grant in trust.

The councillors have demonstrated that they value the services and facilities provided and seek continuity. My Government respects their wishes.

My Government does not and will not recognise “professional and psuedo” Aborigines and their more numerous non-Aboriginal supporters who attempt to impose their will on the decent people of Queensland for purely political reasons.

The honourable member is assured the Government will continue to provide for the progressive development and well-being of its Aboriginal citizens as well as it does for all others.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Government's Purchase of Shares in Evans Deakin Industries

Mr D'ARCY: In directing a question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, I refer to the recently announced EDI share rights issue in which shares will be offered on a 1 for 5 basis at \$1 each compared with the current price of \$1.75. I ask: As the Government is the largest shareholder in EDI, does it intend to take up this very favourable offer at \$1 a share? Does the Deputy Premier agree that if the Government does take up the offer it will be able to offset some of the loss that it made on EDI, which currently amounts to \$4m?

Dr EDWARDS: In answer to the last part of the question—the honourable member is referring to a paper loss. A true loss would occur only if the shares were sold. At this stage the Government has decided to hold onto the shares until it considers the time is right for it to sell them. So the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is being unfair in claiming that the Government has incurred a loss of \$4m. The Government has been paid dividends and has now received an offer of shares. The Government will accept that offer.

Construction by A. Goninan and Company Ltd of Locomotives for Queensland Railways

Mr D'ARCY: In directing a question to the Minister for Transport, I refer to the recent Government decision to award a contract for the construction of 13 locomotives to A. Goninan and Company Ltd, and I ask: As the company indicated that the manufacture of the locomotives would be carried out in the Townsville area, has the precise location been identified? Is the Minister aware that the company intends to import traction motors from the United States of America and electrical equipment from South East Asia? Does he realise that the importation of that equipment will fail to generate additional jobs in Queensland—jobs that were promised—and will break the spirit of the company's commitment?

Mr LANE: The answer to the first part of the honourable member's question is "No." In answer to the second part, I inform him that adequate supervision will be exercised over the contract to ensure that the requirements in relation to a percentage of Australian and Queensland workmanship are met. The contractor won the contract on its merits and on the basis of price. The precise figures have been outlined by me previously in answer to a question asked by another honourable member. All honourable members, including those on the Opposition side, should acclaim the fact that the awarding of this contract will lead to the decentralisation of industry in Townsville, together with the creation of job opportunities in North Queensland.

Fires and Vandalism in Schools

Mr SMITH: I ask the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police: In view of the fire on Monday morning which effectively destroyed the administration block of the Pimlico High School in Townsville, causing up to \$300,000 damage, will he undertake to increase the number of police and vehicles to enable more frequent patrols to be undertaken in the Townsville area, as I have requested on a number of occasions? Will he give consideration to attaching a dog unit to the Townsville and Mundingburra Police Stations to assist in combating the high incidence of intrusion and vandalism in and around schools?

Mr HINZE: I undertake to consider the matters to which the honourable member has referred relating to the patrolling of schools of the size of the Pimlico High School. The fire at that school was another one of those acts of futility. It is difficult to understand the reason why that fire was started. Somebody was stupid enough to try to burn down the school, causing \$300,000 worth of damage, as the honourable member said.

I will have the matter investigated by the police and reply directly to the honourable member.

Laws Relating to Bugging Devices and Miniature Cameras

Mr INNES: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Has his attention been directed to a recent television program showing the open sale in California of minute bugging devices and cameras that can be concealed in briefcases, watches and so on? As he has announced a review of the privacy laws of this State, will he consider banning the use of bugging devices or secreted photographic equipment by anyone other than authorised law enforcement agencies? After giving consideration to that, would he be prepared to ban those devices in this State?

Mr DOUMANY: I am aware of the program referred to by the honourable member for Sherwood. Any member who saw that program would have been grossly disturbed by the technology that is abroad in that field, particularly the refinements contained in the devices referred to by the honourable member. In the review of our privacy laws, I will certainly be looking very hard at devices of that type. The Government is currently reviewing the Invasion of Privacy Act itself and considering the introduction of a privacy

committee in Queensland. I give an assurance that, in the revision of the present legislation and the introduction of a new statute, such devices will be very high on my list for action. Frankly, at present I tend to agree with the comments of the honourable member for Sherwood that the use of such equipment merits prohibition other than by authorised law enforcement agencies.

Imprisonment of Aborigines and Islanders

Mrs NELSON: I ask the Minister for Welfare Services: As recent publicity about the Queensland Government's alleged treatment of Aboriginal and Islander people made mention of their high imprisonment rate, will he advise the House, firstly, how Queensland's imprisonment of those people compares with that in other Australian States and, secondly, the rehabilitation programs available to detainees in Queensland prisons?

Mr WHITE: I thank the honourable member for her question. It is rather unfortunate that on this issue the finger has been pointed at Queensland's prison system. The fact is that a lower percentage of Aborigines is imprisoned in Queensland than in other States. The latest figures, which are contained in the 1976 census, show that the Aborigines and Islanders imprisoned in Queensland—

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr WHITE: It seems that the Opposition is very sensitive about this. Members opposite do not want to know the facts. They want to argue their case on emotion and on the basis of allegations made by people from the South. As Queenslanders, we ought to be aware of the facts, which are that per 100 000 Aborigines and Islanders, 614 are imprisoned in Queensland, a figure which compares very favourably with 1 343 in Western Australia, 1 093 in South Australia during the days of the Dunstan Government, and 657 in New South Wales under the Wran Government. Critics from southern States such as New South Wales could well consider the position in their own State instead of pointing a finger of scorn at Queensland. However, there is no question that the Aboriginal population is overrepresented in our prison system.

The fact is that Queensland operates major rehabilitation programs for black people and for white people in the prison system. I am happy to inform the honourable member that recently specific programs have been developed for the Aboriginal population. At the Woodford Prison, the department, in co-operation with the TAFE college, recently began a program for the inmates of the women's prison, 98 per cent of whom are taking part.

Mr Scott: If you think so highly of them, why won't you pay their fares back to their communities?

Mr WHITE: It seems that the Opposition is not interested, as I said earlier, in the real facts of life.

What has to happen in the prison system both for black and for white inmates is the development of adequate educational and, in particular, remedial programs. There is no doubt that the great percentage of people, both black and white, who are in prison, are in need of remedial education. As a consequence, the department is getting on with the job.

I thank the honourable member for the question, because I think that to make allegations that Queensland's system is the worst in Australia, which is far from the truth, is very unfair.

Government Home Loan Scheme

Mr MACKENROTH: In directing a question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, I refer to the answer that he gave in this Parliament that the interest rate of 14.5 per cent under the new Government home loans scheme had been approved by Cabinet. I ask: If that is so, why did he release a statement on 6 July, following Cabinet's approval of the scheme that in fact the interest rate would be 12.5 per cent?

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member has misinterpreted the statement that I made. I said that the interest rate would be compatible with the interest rates charged by building societies.

Mr Mackenroth: 12.5 per cent?

Dr EDWARDS: At that time the interest rates charged by building societies were at that level. At all times the Government has said that it will vary its interest rates according to the rates charged by building societies to borrowers in the community. That practice will be continued in the future.

The scheme has been well accepted by the community. It is having an enormous impact upon the building industry. The honourable member for Chatsworth is embarrassed by the success of the scheme and by the amount of money that is being poured into housing in this State. I suggest that the honourable member should give credit where credit is due. He is well known for misleading the Parliament. The interest rate charged under the scheme will be $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent when the rate charged by building societies is $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. If the building societies are charging $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest, the Government will be charging $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The honourable member cannot read, and I feel sorry for him.

Everyone except the honourable member understands the position in regard to interest rates and housing rental. Sooner or later he will be shown up to be what he is—a political opportunist who does not tell the facts relative to this matter.

Two schemes are operated by the Government. Under the first a subsidy will be paid by the Government to borrowers on low incomes who cannot afford commercial interest rates. Their repayments will be according to a fixed percentage of income during the term of their loan. Unfortunately, at the present time, the building society rate is $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and that is the percentage that will be charged. The commercial scheme has been well explained to the Parliament.

Sprint Racing, Gold Coast and Ipswich Turf Clubs

Mr WARNER: I ask the Minister for Main Roads, Local Government and Police in his capacity as Minister in charge of racing: Has approval been given to the Gold Coast Turf Club to automatically program two sprint races under 800 metres at any meeting if the committee of the club so desires? If so, does this approval include holding sprint races at the Ipswich Turf Club under the same terms and conditions as now apply to all other turf clubs throughout Queensland?

Mr HINZE: Discussions have been held with Sir Edward Williams, the president of the Queensland Turf Club, and agreement has been reached on the running of sprint races at the Gold Coast and Ipswich Turf Clubs, the opinion being that if those clubs wish to program sprint races, there will be no objection from the QTC, which is the controlling authority. I will be having further talks with the chairman of the Gold Coast Turf Club, Alan Hollindale, and the chairman of the Ipswich Turf Club.

Regional Health Study

Mr KATTER: I ask the Minister for Health: Could he advise the people of the mid-west of North Queensland when it would be possible to have some sort of regional health study undertaken to provide the information necessary for future decisions to be made?

Mr AUSTIN: The honourable member would be aware that some time ago my department carried out a regional health study in the north-west of the State, in the electorate of Mt Isa and other areas. In the first instance, it was announced that that would be a pilot study to ascertain the values of such a study to the people in the community. A report was presented to me and action has been taken as a result of it. I have decided to continue along those lines, and I am pleased to advise the honourable member that, at a health seminar that has already been organised, an announcement will be made about a study to be carried out in his electorate and other areas. I have given instructions to departmental officers today to carry out such a survey.

I take this opportunity to advise honourable members, and particularly the member for Mt Isa, that I was delighted with the co-operation of the local people in Mt Isa and the enthusiasm with which they greeted the multi-disciplinary team of a nurse, an administrator and a doctor who visited that area. It may give honourable members some idea of what might flow from such a survey if I indicate that we will appoint a regional health co-ordinator in that area, which will be of great benefit to the honourable member

in any problems that arise. The honourable member for Mt Isa will make announcements in the next day or so about better communications for people in the Outback. As a result of negotiations, an agreement has been reached with the Royal Flying Doctor Service for specialist and diagnostic services to be provided. Diagnostic services have never been available in remote areas. As a result of the survey conducted, it has been found that it is possible to provide such services. It is pleasing that health services in the Far West and the Far North may be able to be provided on a co-ordinated approach.

I am delighted that our first study in the Mt Isa area has been so successful. We are now planning to move into other areas of the State in an attempt to gain greater co-operation between the various health services available—not only those provided by the department but also those provided by hospitals boards. I am therefore pleased to inform the honourable member for Flinders that we will be carrying out a regional health survey in his area. It is hoped to start it within the next month.

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

FUNERAL BENEFIT BUSINESS BILL

Hon. S. S. DOUMANY (Kurilpa—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to funeral benefit businesses and registration thereof; to amend the Friendly Societies Act 1913-1978 in certain particulars; and for connected purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Doumany, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. S. S. DOUMANY (Kurilpa—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (12.6 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

The purpose of the Funeral Benefit Business Bill is to provide legislation in an area which previously did not have a suitable governmental control to protect contributors of funds and to regulate an industry which could be open to abuse by unscrupulous persons.

As honourable members would be aware, there have been numerous families in a situation of grief who, understanding that the deceased had made financial arrangements for a funeral by entering into a prepayment plan, have suddenly been faced with further bills normally presented to them immediately prior to the funeral. In those circumstances, the relatives of the deceased are not in an emotional state to argue the case and more often than not meet the demand to avoid any embarrassment. It is only after the trauma of the funeral has settled that people begin to question these arrangements. By this time very little can be done.

It is to overcome such situations and to protect the interests of the community that the Bill is being presented. This legislation has not been solely a Government exercise. The industry itself seeks governmental control in this area and has co-operated in the drafting of this Bill. In this regard I would take this opportunity to express my thanks to those involved for their assistance and co-operation.

The Bill is basically concerned with two different situations. Firstly, it deals with those companies presently registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1913-1978. Secondly, it deals with those persons or companies who, up to the present time, have not been registered.

At present only two funeral benefit businesses are registered under the Friendly Societies Act. They are conducted by Metropolitan Funeral Services Pty Ltd and Alex Gow Pty Ltd. The funds of these businesses are managed and controlled by a board of trustees established under the Act to administer the Sickness, Medical or Funeral Benefit Trust Fund.

The proprietors of these businesses desire them to continue to be conducted in the same way as they are at present. For this purpose, the concept of those provisions in relation to these businesses have been substantially redrafted and transposed into the Bill. As the sickness and medical benefits shall no longer apply, the fund shall be simply called the Funeral Benefit Trust Fund.

In relation to the other companies which have not registered but which are concerned with pre-need purchase of cremation or burials, the Bill contains a number of regulatory provisions as well as enlarging the definition of "funeral benefit" to ensure that they are subject to the provisions of the Bill.

Presently the Act defines "funeral benefit business" as—

"... the provision for any contributor or other person for whom or on whose behalf a payment or contribution is or are made of funeral and/or burial and/or cremation services (with or without any other services or benefits connected therewith) or of the costs and expenses of such funeral and/or burial and/or cremation services or other such services or benefits connected therewith"

The Bill enlarges that definition as follows—

"Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the term includes the provision for any contributor or other person as aforesaid of any one or more of the following or of the costs and expenses or a part of the costs and expenses thereof, that is to say:—

- (i) the attendance of a funeral services consultant to assist with arrangements for burial or cremation and the preparation of associated documents;
- (ii) the transportation of the body of the deceased by a funeral director;
- (iii) mortuary facilities and the service of a funeral director and his staff;
- (iv) a casket supplied by a funeral director;
- (v) arrangements for burial or cremation including arrangements for the purchase of an interment site or interment rights or an inurnment site or inurnment rights;
- (vi) a mobile graveside chapel;
- (vii) a casket lowering device;
- (viii) the preparation of ashes awaiting inurnment and memorial arrangements;
- (ix) any other service or benefit or thing determined by the Governor-in-Council by Order in Council to be a service or benefit or thing for the purpose of this paragraph (he being hereby thereunto authorised)."

This definition is the linchpin of the Bill. It has been enlarged so as to encompass those persons or companies who are providing funeral services or benefits in any way related to the funeral industry. The definition was settled only after lengthy discussions with the industry.

On commencement of the Bill, only those businesses which incorporate shall be allowed to carry on as a funeral benefit business. The businesses will then have one month in which to register and, if they do not do so or if their application is refused and they continue in business, they shall commit an offence and be liable to a penalty of \$1,000 and a daily penalty of \$500 thereafter if the offence is continued.

On an application being made by an existing funeral benefits business, the applicant will have to lodge a statement supported by an actuary or public accountant setting out existing liabilities, the minimum amount to meet those obligations, the moneys or assets on hand, whether those assets are encumbered or not and the extent of such encumbrance.

On an application by a corporation in respect of a new funeral benefits business, the applicant must lodge a copy of the rules of the funeral benefits business together with a report by an actuary or public accountant that, in his opinion, the scheme for the provision of benefits is such as to provide adequately for the benefits to contributors.

The registrar, after consultation with the State Actuary, may either register the funeral benefits business or refuse registration. The applicant, following a refusal, may appeal to the Supreme Court.

The application will provide the proposed breakdown of the contributions setting out the percentage required for management fees. The balance will then be paid into a funeral benefit fund account. 75 per cent of such moneys may be utilised for investment in a manner prescribed by the Bill, the balance to be maintained in the trust account. The business will not be permitted to borrow moneys without the consent of the registrar.

All moneys held in the funeral benefits fund and investments therefrom shall not be subject to execution at the instance of any creditor of the corporation. The corporation will not be able to mortgage, charge or otherwise encumber or dispose of any property of the funeral benefits fund without the consent of the registrar.

The Bill provides that once in at least every five years or such extended period as determined by the registrar, every corporation registered under the Bill will cause the assets and liabilities of the Funeral Benefits Fund to be valued by the State Actuary having regard to the contracts entered into between the corporation and contributors and the management and operation of the business. An obligation will be placed on the corporation to make the necessary books available to the State Actuary.

As a result of the valuation, following its examination by the State Actuary, the registrar may direct changes in the following:—

- (a) the contributions to be paid to such business;
- (b) the benefits payable by such business;
- (c) the basis on which or the method by which the surrender value of contributions paid to the business is computed;
- (d) the proportion of contributions to be utilised as management expenses in such business;
- (e) the manner of conducting such business; and
- (f) payments to be made out of the Funeral Benefits Fund.

Under the Bill, inspectors will be appointed with powers similar to those of inspectors appointed under the Art Unions and Amusements Act and the Collections Act.

The Bill provides that the corporations will maintain a register of contributors with full particulars as prescribed.

The Bill contains further provisions for cancellation of registration of the corporation, whether on its own volition or on proof of certain matters—for example, fraud, failure to comply with the Act or ceasing to carry on business with support provisions for the sale, assignment or disposal of the business in question.

If a business is wound up, the order will be published in the gazette, and upon such publication all real or personal property and all powers, authorities, immunities, rights, obligations and duties shall vest in the registrar. The registrar will realise such property and, after discharging the debts and obligations of such corporation or person and allowing for the costs of winding up, shall distribute the moneys remaining among contributors according to the amounts of their respective contributions.

In lieu of the above, the registrar may, if in his opinion the interests of the beneficiaries generally would be better served by a sale, assignment or disposal of a funeral benefit business, sell, assign or dispose of the business accordingly.

It has been my aim in the formulation of this Bill to make the Bill one which is workable and practical for all parties concerned. Legislation cannot be so draconian or expensive that businesses cannot operate under its provisions. If that were so, business would simply opt out of this area and a very worthwhile service to the community would be lost. For this reason, various alternatives for businesses have been incorporated in the Bill.

In the first instance, a company seeking registration may apply to the registrar for his approval to use a public accountant rather than an actuary. For smaller funeral benefit businesses, particularly in country areas, this will be a great cost savings.

Secondly, a business may opt to lodge an insurance policy or bank bond as security rather than set aside moneys or nominate property as security to ensure the performance of its obligations.

Finally, it is recognised that there may be some businesses that may not presently be able to comply with the provisions of the Bill but will be able to do so within a certain time in the future. In such circumstances, the registrar may register the corporations subject to such conditions as he thinks fit.

I should like also to make it clear that time will be given to the industry to organise itself to be able to comply with the Bill. Proclamation of the Bill will be withheld for a reasonable time for this purpose.

As honourable members would realise, it is extremely difficult to introduce legislation in an area that, hitherto, has largely been unregulated. It is the aim of this legislation not only to protect the interests of contributors of such benefit schemes but also to ensure a continuity of the industry.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hansen, adjourned.

SUPPLY

Committee—Financial Statement—Resumption of Debate

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

Debate resumed from 12 October (see p. 1281) 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 LESTER (Peak Downs) (12.19 p.m.): I congratulate the Treasurer for introducing, in somewhat difficult times throughout the world, a very sensible Budget designed to assist people in many walks of life. The Queensland Budget appears even better when it is compared with Budgets introduced in other States. For example, in Victoria the price of gas has increased by 18.7 per cent, death duties are in the offing and private schools have been hit to leg. It should always be remembered that private schools offer an alternative form of education and that they assist the State because the Government contributes only part of the cost of running them. Any Government that moves to hurt private schools has a great deal to answer for.

A petrol tax has been introduced in New South Wales. Numerous problems are being experienced at Queanbeyan and other places near Canberra. Because station operators in those fringe areas are finding it impossible to operate, they are going broke. In areas in which electricity is available, charges have been increased. There has been a reduction in subsidies paid to private bus operators, and there has been a reduction in assistance to private schools.

I will not speak at length about what is happening in New South Wales and Victoria and what has happened in South Australia. I will be more positive and deal with the position in Queensland. However, a comparison must be made with the other States so that the people of Queensland are made aware that the Government is running the State very well. Unless comparisons are made, very often the good work done by the Government is taken for granted.

I compliment the Treasurer on his good management of the State. Of course, he has been assisted by the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues. Queensland does not have deficit Budgets; in Queensland, Budgets always balance. That is one very important achievement on which the Government can hang its hat. Quite often deficit Budgets are introduced by Labor Governments. It must be remembered that that money must be paid back before it is possible for the State to progress.

An impossible situation is being created with interest rates being charged at present. Many promises can be made. However, in the end everything must be paid for. Running a Government is like trying to run a good business. Maximum service must be provided with the money available. If too many services are provided at once and the Government has to borrow deeply to do that, ultimately everybody will pay by way of higher taxes. I compliment the Treasurer on maintaining the present style of steady development and steady spending and, at the same time, avoiding the stupidity that is evident in other parts of Australia and the world.

Mr McKechnie: You would make a good economic adviser.

Mr LESTER: I thank the honourable member for that comment.

Queensland has a history of success since the first National-Liberal Government was elected. Over the years Queensland's roads and schools have improved and a stage has been reached at which Queensland, the Commonwealth Games having been staged here, is recognised as one of the greatest places in the world.

Mr Vaughan: Didn't you hear the Minister's report about the state of our roads?

Mr LESTER: I suggest to the honourable member that the Minister was talking about the state of bitumen roads. Before a National-Liberal Government was elected, complaints were made about the state of roads that were not sealed. The Labor Party should not comment on that matter. Difficulty is being experienced now with some bitumen roads only because expansion in this State has been so dramatic that the bitumen roads that replaced the ordinary gravel roads that were commonplace when Labor Governments were in office have had so much traffic on them that it has been almost impossible to keep pace with the maintenance needed. That is the price of progress. At least it provides employment. If people are using the roads and it becomes necessary for the roads to be upgraded, that means money in the bank for everyone. It means more revenue for the Government from taxation; it means fewer pay-outs of unemployment benefits, which break us all.

Dr Edwards: It is all done without a fuel tax.

Mr LESTER: The Treasurer has made a pertinent remark; it is done without a fuel tax.

New South Wales has a population much larger than Queensland's. It was running a race with a 100-yard start. New South Wales had everything going for it, Queensland, with its smaller and scattered population, had to come from behind. It has been necessary for the Government to build more roads. Because of Queensland's favourable economic climate, it has passed New South Wales in the economic field.

This Government's record has been based on common sense. The Government has not gone stark raving mad. Everything that it has done has been planned. Naturally it is not able to provide all the services that it would like to provide. Queensland is far better off with what this Government is doing than New South Wales is. In that State, public servants are being put off because the Government cannot afford to pay them.

Who would have thought that public servants in Australia would be put off? Anyone who entered the Public Service thought that he was assured of a job for life. In New South Wales public servants are being put off and being forced to take jobs as taxi-drivers or go on the dole. They have to do that just to keep the billy boiling. A similar situation will arise in Victoria.

Mr Muntz: Do you think that Mr Wran ought to go on the dole?

Mr LESTER: It is not my intention to comment greatly on Mr Wran. Obviously he is a brilliant legal man, and I give him full credit for that, but he should take a few lessons on economic management.

The Queensland Government's abolition of death duties and reduction in pay-roll tax really started to make Queensland buzz. The abolition of death duties attracted many people from other States to Queensland to retire. That has led to the construction of home units or other accommodation for them. Those people brought their money with them and they have invested it in State Government loans or in Queensland companies. Those investments have generated more employment.

Furthermore, the reduction in pay-roll tax has resulted in the establishment of more businesses in Queensland. A large number of businesses in other States closed down and shifted their operations to Queensland. Several Australian companies have expanded their interests into Queensland because of the reduction in pay-roll tax.

An increase in pay-roll tax inhibits enterprise. "Business" is not a dirty word. Without business expansion people will not be able to find jobs. It is a fact of life that some socialist Governments knock business and would like to see all business controlled by the State. Without private enterprise there would be far fewer jobs. Fewer jobs means more people on the dole. More people on the dole means more social problems.

Mining companies have been encouraged to engage in operations in Queensland. Look at what that has meant for Queensland. The Railway Department has been able to balance its budget and thousands of jobs have been created. Queensland is now the envy of all other States in Australia and of many nations.

Queensland's employment position compares more than favourably with that in other States. Queensland has the lowest level of unemployment in Australia. That state of affairs has been achieved in spite of the fact that every week approximately 1 200 more people come to live in Queensland.

Mr Borbidge: We are creating half of Australia's new jobs.

Mr LESTER: That is so. Jobs have to be found for the 60 000-odd people who come to Queensland each year. In spite of the influx of such a high number of people, Queensland's unemployment rate is the lowest in Australia. Although other States are losing people to Queensland, the unemployment level in those States continues to rise. That does not say much for the management of those States.

The Government has had to provide additional schooling, court services, children's services and Housing Commission houses. However, it has still been able to balance its Budget.

If any economic advisers have knocked the Queensland Budget, I would like to know who they are. Those people have considered the present economic difficulties and said that Queensland has probably the most sensible Budget that could be introduced. That was not what Mr Risstrom and other esteemed people said about the recent Budgets in Victoria and New South Wales. The Victorian Budget will literally devastate that State. I have travelled to Victoria and seen the devastation that has quickly swept across the State since the Labor Government was elected. Under Cain, Victoria is copping a caning. At present, there is a lack of spirit in Victoria. People just do not seem to know where they are going or which business will be the next to close down.

Queensland is continuing to progress very quickly. It has been suggested that there are areas of economic gloom in Queensland; yet recently an esteemed tourist leader in the North said that there is no despair up there, that everything is booming. It is pleasing to read comments such as that. I thank the Treasurer and other Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister for Mines and Energy who is now in the Chamber, for the part that they are playing in assisting all honourable members to represent their electorates better and to make Queensland a better place in which to live.

The progress that has occurred in the Peak Downs electorate during the nearly eight years that I have represented it has been very significant.

Mr McKechnie: Much of that is due to your representation.

Mr LESTER: Much of it is due to the fact that this State has a very good Government that seems to be conscious of the needs of people in country areas.

There has been a sharp uplift, particularly in the provision of educational facilities. Good education centres have been established at Blackwater and Moranbah, and a determined attempt is being made to have similar facilities provided in the booming town of Emerald. Libraries have been built at almost every school in my electorate. The library presently being built at the Blackwater High School is one of the best that could be built in any high school, and it will improve the educational facilities available in that town.

Nearly all towns in my electorate that did not have a pre-school when I became the member for the electorate now have one. That has been a great boon for mothers, particularly those with young children. Young children are able to obtain specialist pre-school education before they begin primary school.

Additional schools have been built at Emerald, Blackwater and Moranbah, and new schools in Clermont and Tieri have almost been completed. Approval has been given for the construction of a new high school at Capella. They are all areas of progress and are giving people a better deal.

Commercial radio has been introduced into the Central Highlands area to supplement the good work that has been done by the Australian Broadcasting Commission over the years. Commercial radio station 4HI in Emerald is now sending its programs right across the Central Highlands; yet some people in the Labor camp wanted some programs from 4RO in Rockhampton to be broadcast in the Blackwater area and some programs from 4MK in Mackay to be broadcast in the Moranbah area. The result would have been a radio station licence for a small area not including Blackwater and Moranbah. It would not have been a goer. It would not have been economically possible.

I actually fought them in the court hearings and we were given one radio licence to cover all of the Central Highlands. That has had a significant effect. It has bonded the Central Highlands together. The Central Highlands radio station is able to give sporting results for all of the Central Highlands and news of everything that happens in that area. That is how we have to go about promoting our area. It should not be done in a disjointed way, with bits and pieces of radio coverage coming from Rockhampton, Mackay and other places.

Mr Davis: What about speaking on the Budget?

Mr LESTER: What I am saying is very significant because it means more development for the Central Highlands. More schooling, better roads and all sorts of other facilities are needed because every time a development of some sort occurs in the area the Government ultimately is involved.

In recent times commercial television has been introduced to Emerald, Springsure and Capella. Soon Clermont will have it. That, too, is a significant step forward, and our services now are almost in line with those expected in the cities. We have benefited from the addition of a specialist health centre in Capella, visits by the flying doctor to Rubyvale, hospital extensions to Blackwater and improved medical care right throughout the Central Highlands. An additional aircraft has been provided for the Rockhampton Aerial Ambulance Service, which takes in the Central Highlands. I will give an example of how important that is. On Saturday afternoon a very good friend of mine—the person who purchased our bakery after I was elected to the Parliament—was unfortunately involved in a very serious accident in Clermont. The aircraft flown out to pick him up was the new pressurised one. Although his condition is still extremely dangerous, he was at least able to be transported to Brisbane for specialist care. Had it been the old aircraft, which is not pressurised, he may not have made it to Brisbane as happened to so many other unfortunate people. Such improvements mean a lot to people in the Central Highlands, making us feel that we are wanted and making us feel secure in times of emergency.

Massive bridges have been built over the Dawson River and the Comet River, on the road linking Emerald with Rockhampton, and over Nebo Creek, on the road linking Moranbah, Dysart and other towns with Mackay. Previously, those areas were cut off during floods. Now, generally speaking, whatever the weather, we can drive to Rockhampton. The relatively new bridge over the swamps is also a big help. Before long, the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police will open a new bridge over Retreat Creek on the gemfields, which will give those people an all-weather link.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr LESTER: I thought the ALP had an interjection. I really never thought that the time would come that one would stop for ALP members to interject after hearing them mumbling, only to find that they had lost the courage to go ahead with it.

I am making a very important speech about the assistance that has been given to the Central Highlands area.

Mr Vaughan: It is boring.

Mr LESTER: I have mentioned somebody who is dangerously ill in hospital. One Opposition member has mentioned "trowel" and "tripe" and another has said, "It is boring." That does not do very much for our friends opposite.

Mr Vaughan: You always pull out the Kleenex tissues on this.

Mr LESTER: I would have thought that speaking about financial assistance to the people of my electorate is very much involved with the Budget. The members of the Labor Party seem to go on like that all the time. However, I am not worried because the people of my electorate know the Labor Party and, because of these types of exhibitions in the Parliament, they do not vote for it any more. However, that is the way it is, and I will not be too nasty about it. They cannot help it; that is just the way they go on.

Mr Davis: Recently I ran into a fellow who asked me if I knew you. I said, "Yes." Do you know what they call you up there—"The village fool."

Mr LESTER: That is the type of interjection that one expects from the honourable member for Brisbane Central. It is totally inaccurate because at the last election I received 62 per cent of the vote. What the honourable member is saying is that 62 per cent of the people of the electorate of Peak Downs are village fools. That is now on record and I will make sure that people know about it. At the next election my vote will not be 62 per cent but much higher. That is the sort of thing that most of the members of the Labor Party go on with—not all of them, Mr Eaton is a pretty good fellow.

I wish to return to the Budget and speak of things that have improved my area. One should never rest on one's laurels; there is always more work to be done. I make a personal appeal to the Treasurer and the Government in general to ensure that funds are made available for the gradual expansion of my electorate. At the moment the electorate has a few problems. One is the drought; another is in the coal industry. But one cannot just lie in the gutter, cry about it and do nothing; one has to be positive, keep trying to get orders for our products, do what can be done to induce rain, make the most of the very excellent irrigation system and try to engender confidence in the people of the fields and the area as a whole.

At times I am concerned when I have to mount such enormous battles for more road funding. The massive campaigns that I have to mount from time to time to get something done to help my area are unreal. Those massive campaigns are needed to gain extensions in services such as education, road-works and health.

But I suppose that is what life is all about and lesser people would not be able to cope with the pressure of trying to gain those services for the area. But when one looks back and sees the culmination of the effort, one has to be thankful for what the Government has done, particularly when that is compared with what was done when the electorate was known as Belyando or, in even earlier days, Barcoo.

In conclusion I ask that all take note of my comments and do what can be done to assist my great area. I say to the Treasurer: it is about time he came out to see us again; we would love to have him there and would give him a big welcome.

Mr KRUGER (Murrumba) (12.44 p.m.): I join this debate to express my concern at the way the State is progressing. The lack-lustre Budget shows no initiative. Because of the Government's boasts, I thought that the Budget would have been a better one. Over and over again the Government speaks of the prosperity of the State, of those who are flocking here from other areas and of the money that is being invested here. Boasting of all those things has not been a realistic approach. It has been a camouflage.

As I go along I want to try to point out some of the problems that this State is facing. Most of these problems should never have arisen in this day and age; the State should be going ahead. The State's progress has been marred by interest rate rises, although admittedly the people in Canberra have allowed that to occur. There has been a small drop in interest rates recently because of the downturn in the economy. I hope that at this stage the State Government will take over and give some assistance to make this State work, even if the other States cannot prosper because of problems caused by the Federal Government.

It is unfortunate that in this so-called State of prosperity the Works Department cannot employ sufficient staff to make sure that repair jobs at schools and other buildings are carried out when they should be. It never ceases to amaze me that with the unemployment problem in this State, with people wanting to work and with work needing to be done, and the Government boasting about prosperity, nothing is happening. That means that somewhere along the line the Government is not doing its job and is not looking at the right way to create jobs.

The honourable member for Peak Downs referred to private enterprise. We are aware that not everything can be done by private enterprise, but this Government tries to do too many things for private enterprise and not enough for the people who ought to benefit from any private enterprise undertakings.

Mr McKechnie: What is your capital gain? How well have you done?

Mr KRUGER: I am like everyone else, I battle on for what I get. Being a good Labor man, I have no desire to climb the financial ladder, as do members opposite, and so long as I live and raise my family to a reasonable standard, I think that is all I am entitled to.

Mr Davis: Apart from that, you are not involved in any harbours.

Mr KRUGER: That is right, I do not have water on the knees like some members opposite who have been down on the bottom of the harbour getting saturated. I just go along and do what I need to do, and I think I am doing a pretty good job for the community, unlike some members opposite who do nothing and get very highly paid for it.

Mr Davis: The member for Carnarvon raves about electricity charges and then uses them as a tax deduction.

Mr KRUGER: That is Mr McKechnie's form; he has been doing that for years.

To return to the housing problem—I am sure that every member realises that even though a lot has been done in the housing field—I have to pay a small compliment to the Government for that—it just has not been sufficient. For some reason or other a lot of people who need housing are not getting it. I suppose Mr Wharton's statement that some Housing Commission tenants are not entitled to the houses they occupy is fair enough, but I think his idea of what the Housing Commission ought to be doing is a very nasty and awkward one. If a tenant has occupied a house for 25 years, and was entitled to it originally, the Government should not just say to him, "Pack your bags and get out."

I realise the problems of the Housing Commission, but I also realise the problems of those people who need housing and cannot get it. There is a need for the Housing Commission to provide even more housing. Quite a bit of money has been set aside in this Budget for expansion—far more than in previous years—and I hope that it is spent in the areas where it is needed most and not just wasted in a coal-mining area or something like that to help those people who very heavily support this Government. I hope that working-class areas are catered for.

Dr Edwards: It is hard to put a house there if there is no application for it.

Mr KRUGER: That is a typically stupid statement for the Treasurer to make.

Dr Edwards: That is what you said.

Mr KRUGER: No, the Treasurer said it. I am saying that there are lots of areas in this State where working-class people who want houses cannot get them.

Dr Edwards: You are saying that the miners are not working class people now.

Mr KRUGER: In some areas the Government is building houses for mining companies and not necessarily for the people who work for them. Of course the Government is assisting the mining companies. The Treasurer knows that.

Dr Edwards: The mining companies build their own.

Mr KRUGER: In some areas they do. But why then is the Land Administration Commission subdividing land on a large scale this financial year in places like Collinsville if it is not to build homes?

Dr Edwards: It is making land available for the Housing Commission.

Mr KRUGER: I will ignore him, Mr Miller, and carry on with my speech, because he is not doing any of us any good. It is very likely that the honourable gentleman will not be the member for Ipswich next year.

Mr Milliner interjected.

Mr KRUGER: The honourable member for Everton hit the nail on the head when he said that the Housing Commission could best be described as a dismal failure.

Statements are often made that many people are migrating to Queensland. However, unemployment is just as high in this State as it is in other Australian States. The best way for me to deal with the unemployment problem is to refer to some recent Press articles, the first of which is headlined—"Teenage job hopes grim." The article was written by Wallace Brown, who is quite well known, and it was in these terms—

"Australia's unemployment has burst through the 500 000 barrier in its worst surge on record since the Great Depression."

I do not blame the State Government entirely for that because much of the trouble can be traced to the Government in Canberra that it supports and trusts. However, the State does have a responsibility to try to reduce unemployment.

The article continued—

“The situation bodes ill for this year’s school leavers—expected to be about 100 000—who will come onto the market in the next three months.

The official end-of-September figure was estimated by the Statistics Bureau yesterday to be 504 800—or 7.4 per cent of the work force.

This represents a rise of 46 300 in the month, and a jump of 113 700 over the last 12 months.”

Mr Davis: He is proud of those figures; he has said that a dozen times.

Mr KRUGER: The Treasurer’s idea of pride is not the same as mine.

It is very easy for Government members to ridicule the Opposition and to be amused when so many people in this great State are unemployed. The lack of initiative in the Budget will make matters worse, but Government members are prepared to sit like schoolchildren and giggle. I am disgusted by the Government’s attitude.

Dr Edwards: They are laughing at you.

Mr KRUGER: That shows how foolish they are. The honourable member for Peak Downs boasted about receiving 62 per cent of the vote in his electorate and later said that an interjector had classed as fools the people comprising that 62 per cent. The people in my area elected me to represent them, and I am doing that exceptionally well. My percentage of the vote continues to rise, but you are prepared to ridicule those people. I will tell you something else, Dr Edwards: they are not all like the people you look down on and generally place in the lower class. Many Liberals in the area believe that I am a very capable and astute gentleman. You should be aware that I am well regarded and respected in the area.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I must remind the honourable member that in this Chamber he must refer to honourable members by their correct title, not by their surname.

Mr KRUGER: I accept that, Mr Miller, but when I am provoked it is sometimes rather difficult to remember the electorates that they represent. I got Dr Edwards’s electorate right, because I said that he would not be the member for Ipswich after the next election.

The Premier was in Melbourne recently. In relation to that visit, I quote from an article headed “My goodness—it’s the Queensland Show”. It said—

“Melbourne—The Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, last night hosted and starred in a gala propaganda spectacular aimed at selling Queensland to the highest southern bidders.”

This part is very interesting—

“Leading Melbourne businessmen gathered to hear and see Mr Bjelke-Petersen expound the virtues of Queensland ‘the private enterprise capital of Australia.’

He told the businessmen they were just the sort of people Queensland needed and wanted, rather than ‘negative people’ such as street marchers and protesters.”

I take the Premier to task for that because not everybody in Queensland is negative or is a marcher. As I have been trying to point out for the last 10 minutes, the most negative people in Queensland are the ones who sit on the Government benches. The article continued—

“Asked if a donation to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation would be a good way for a business to get started in Queensland, he said: ‘Well that’s not necessary—there are so many people who support us already.’”

It may not be necessary, but it certainly makes it a lot easier.

A day or so later in “The Redcliffe Herald” the following report appeared under the heading “Redcliffe firm closes its doors”—

“Despite a State Government campaign to attract industry to Queensland, a well established Redcliffe firm is closing its doors at a cost of about 30 jobs.”

Admittedly, it is only a small industry. The report continued—

“Willett Industries manager, Mr Paul Willett, said yesterday that the firm would close next month.

Willett Industries produces bakehouse ovens, and has been one of the major employers of metalworkers on the Peninsula.

Mr. Willett blamed an economic downturn and subsequent drop in sales for the decision.

He described the decision as 'unfortunate', but expressed confidence that the firm's former employees would find other jobs.

About half of Willett Industries staff have already finished work.

Willett Industries was originally a family business established in 1967 by Alf and Jean Willett. The firm was taken over by Baker Perkins Pty. Ltd. in October 1981."

I trust that all honourable members know from which city Baker Perkins Pty Ltd came. It came from Melbourne. The firm has its headquarters in Melbourne. Like many other companies, it came to Queensland at the invitation of the Premier. It operated on the peninsula for a short time and then closed down, which threw 30 Queenslanders out of work. The company is now producing the ovens in Melbourne. I felt that I had to cite that example because it was so close to home. It is going on in many other areas. This State cannot allow that sort of thing to happen continually. If the Premier is going to go to Melbourne and other places to try to attract industry to Queensland he must first make sure that the people living in Queensland are able to obtain jobs and that the people who are attracted to this State are also able to obtain work. Queenslanders should not be deprived of work. However, that is exactly what has happened, and it will continue to happen.

It is all very well for the Premier to go to Melbourne, attract an industry to Queensland and boast about prosperity in this State. In fact, he is doing no good for this State at all. He should examine the direction in which he is heading. Possibly he has been misled by the Treasurer, because he would jump at the idea of making it look good but would not be capable of producing the goods.

Recently I received a roneo-type letter from a newsagent in Petrie who is very concerned about the proposed hypermarket at Aspley. He said that as a newsagent he was a member of one of Australia's largest chain of retailers.

Dr Edwards: The Labor council approved it.

Mr KRUGER: I am not talking about that; I am talking about the effect on a small businessman.

Time and time again the Government has overruled the decisions of local authorities permitting companies, such as Kern Corporation, to build large supermarkets. The person to whom I have referred is concerned because he believes that small businessmen will be affected. I have repeatedly said that small businessmen have been working with the Liberal Party for a long time, and that they have propped each other up. However, they have suddenly realised that they have been let down badly by the Liberal Party members in this State, and now they are starting to squeal. I do not blame them for squealing because they have been let down badly. If the Government would listen to the ideas offered by the Labor Party, Queenslanders would receive a reasonable living and we could return to the state we had years ago.

The stage has been reached at which the small business people have lost interest. They do not employ the two or three persons that they once employed. Behind the counter the owner of the small corner shop has his wife or 10, 12 or 14-year-old children. Recently when I ran out of milk I went to a store at Strathpine. Behind the counter a very small girl was employed. She was running to and from the refrigerator and checking prices. That problem has been brought about by a Government that does not want to assist small business. A large number of unemployed people in this State want to be gainfully employed, but they cannot obtain employment.

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

Mr KRUGER: Before the luncheon recess I was dealing with the Government's approach to business, particularly small business. I want to deal now with Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd at Petrie. It is an Australiawide concern and various people in the Petrie area have made certain statements about the company. I am neither greatly in love with nor opposed to that company. However, the State Government has been

involved in quite a lot of bungling in relation to the company. It was given an opportunity to plant pine forests with the intention of felling the timber for processing in a pulp mill. However, that plan has now been shelved.

APM has been planting timber in Queensland for 26 years. The Government has not tried to stop it. On the contrary, it has encouraged the company to plant timber. At that time there was a good deal of controversy as to whether its operations were good or bad for the area. The valuations of the company's land were a lot lower than those of other land in the area. Generally speaking, there have been for and againsts since APM established operations in Petrie.

Not long ago the Government swapped areas of land with APM so that it could be near the railway at Beerburrum. The company desired that land for the purpose of establishing a pulp mill. More recently, the Government called for submissions on the establishment of a pulp mill. The Premier seemed to favour the establishment of such a mill by other developers, so APM was in all sorts of difficulty in trying to prove itself.

A battle arose over the location of the proposed mill. APM decided upon Bribie Island. However, it was not prepared to carry out a full impact study. The people of Bribie Island and adjacent areas were not very pleased with the company's attitude. The whole project was left up in the air. APM claimed that it would cost an extra half a million dollars to establish a mill in the Gympie/Maryborough area, as the Government suggested. As spokesman for the Labor Party, I suggested that the establishment of the mill in that area would lead to decentralisation. The area is close to large areas of timber. I believe that a good deal of waste from forests could be processed in a pulp mill.

APM commenced milling operations in Australia in 1908 and in Queensland in 1957. The company states that it started planting in Queensland in 1956 and each year since then until recently spent approximately \$2m a year on its planting program.

As I said, the State Government swapped land with the company. It was reported that the State Government would swap 180 ha in the Beerburrum State Forest with APM Forests Pty Ltd in a move that could lead to the establishment of a pulp mill in the area. Both the Government and the company were looking at the prospect of establishing a pulp mill. However, since then there has been a change of heart. Perhaps the company fell out with certain people or some of the usual things that are done by companies in Queensland were not done.

In a recent article by Don Peterson in "The Courier-Mail" it was reported that the so-called battle of the Glasshouse Mountains would seem to be over, although no formal end to hostilities had yet been declared. The article referred to a decision by Cabinet to force APM to establish its mill in the Gympie/Maryborough area. As the article stated, the North Coast, with its peaks and fine beaches, is a very popular resort area and is rapidly becoming a dormitory suburb of Brisbane. The article stated that it was hoped that the area would be spared the intrusion of what was described as one of the world's most noxious industries.

Although problems have arisen with pulp mills in the past, it is not quite fair to say that a pulp mill is one of the world's most noxious industries. I can think of other industries that would be more noxious. Any bad side-effects from such an industry could be controlled stringently by legislation. The Government can exercise control over the discharge of effluent and air pollution and over noise. If Government legislation is strong enough, surely those things can be controlled. Modern industry realises that it is much easier to install anti-pollution equipment during the construction stages rather than later. Any modern mill would have to meet the guide-lines laid down by the Government; there would be something wrong if it didn't.

An article which refers to the Bribie Island situation states—

"It would discharge around 30 million litres of this each day, impregnated with brown lignum which is non-toxic but, discharged into the sea off Bribie, would turn white beaches as far north as Caloundra into coastlines the color of billy tea."

The complaint that I have received from APM is that it has not been given the opportunity to carry out an impact study, and I suppose that that complaint is justified. It would be stupid to go ahead and build a pulp mill on Bribie Island. The people on

Bribie Island do not want the mill built in their area. For the life of me, I cannot see why discussions cannot be held with a view to establishing a mill somewhere between Gympie and Maryborough.

To my knowledge, the last Press article about APM is to be found in the "Business and Finance" section of "The Courier-Mail" of 13 September last. It refers to the possibility of the paper mill plan being axed. APM pointed out the problems that it would face in constructing a mill. It pointed out that two years ago it would have borrowed funds at 7 per cent interest but that it would now be lucky to borrow funds at 17 per cent. That is an indication of the increase that has occurred in interest rates over the period and how it has affected industry.

There has been a bit of flak about the Bribie Island proposal, but if APM had started to build a mill some 18 months ago and run into the downturn in world markets and prices and also the increased interest rates, it could have been worse off. The mill could have been half completed. However, I honestly believe that the Government has not gone all out to encourage business, as it has said it has done on other occasions.

I was surprised recently to read a short article in the Press, which I do not think that many people would have seen. Under the heading, "Pulp mill study", the article stated—

"A Finnish consortium will study the feasibility of establishing a pulp and paper mill in the Gympie-Maryborough region.

State Cabinet has approved the Finnish application and the Forestry Minister, Mr Glasson, said the consortium, led by the company, Ekono Oy, had 18 months to complete the study.

Mr Glasson said the study would be based on the use of 300 000 cubic metres of pulp wood a year from the Tuan, Toolara and Wongi state forests with a proposed thermo-mechanical pulp mill to produce 180 000 tonnes of pulp a year for the manufacture of newsprint."

It seems odd to me that the Government can suddenly look at overseas companies when it has done nothing to help locally based firms.

I now turn to some of the other problems that have occurred recently in the sale of State forestry thinnings. It makes sense that something should be done in this area. Over the years, APM has done a great deal of planning with a view to using thinnings for pulp purposes.

Mr Davis: They have a fair bit of land on Bribie Island.

Mr KRUGER: The company sure has.

I now branch off and refer to the Toowoomba Showgrounds. Mr Akers, I think that you were in the chair recently when we had a look at that question. I still believe that the Government is lacking in the initiatives that it has taken in regard to the Toowoomba Showgrounds. At that time, it was inferred that I was saying that the people of Toowoomba would not get new showgrounds. That was not the case at all. I believe that the present showgrounds in Toowoomba could be used to provide greater benefit to the people of that city.

Notwithstanding the cultural development on the other side of the Brisbane River, areas could be held in trust so that the people of Queensland are able to benefit from them in the future. In years to come, people will encounter difficulty in locating such facilities in prime positions. I raise that point briefly to show that the Government lacks initiative in some of these fields. In this day and age money should be put aside to cater for the future needs of our people.

Dr Edwards: It is all very well to say that the Government must do that, but somebody has to pay for it.

Mr KRUGER: I quite agree. However, I was thinking more of using the money that the Government wastes in other fields.

Dr Edwards: For example?

Mr KRUGER: Buying a plane for the Premier. There are all sorts of things. The Treasurer knows exactly what I am talking about, but he does not want to admit to it.

Mr White: Would you like a lot fewer teachers in Murrumba?

Mr KRUGER: I will ignore those members on the other side who are trying to provoke me. They are being light-hearted and foolish today. However, I am not. I am deadly serious about the state of affairs in this country. Government members should realise that we on this side of the Chamber are serious in our comments and that a great deal of research goes into the content of our speeches. We should be listened to and a note should be taken of the points we make.

I refer now to the proposed by-pass road for the Kallangur/Petrie area, which is becoming a real bottle-neck. It is one of the few instances of a business community believing that a by-pass road would be of advantage. Generally when an announcement is made that a road is to be built round an existing centre, the business people cry that they will go broke. However, the businessmen in Kallangur and Petrie do not think that will happen. The problem in that area is of significant proportions and the situation is becoming very dangerous. I would like the Government to seriously consider a by-pass road.

It was felt for some years that, after the railway was sorted out a by-pass road could be built somewhere near the entrance to the paper mill. Of course, there would be objections from APM, and I can appreciate their point of view. However, that should not prevent us from coming forward with an alternative route for a by-pass road. Compared with other works that are done in the State, it would not be a costly project. I have in mind particularly the four-lane highway to the Gold Coast. A few kilometres of road in the Kallangur area would be much appreciated and well worth while.

A by-pass road has always been proposed in conjunction with the rail to Redcliffe. Recently in the Press I read comments by the member for Redcliffe, who was interjecting earlier. The headline read "Budget allows for rail funds". The member for Redcliffe went on at length about that. However, it is a little difficult to discover just what those funds are for. Items are specified in major contracts but there is a bulk item of \$32m for rail works. No-one outside the Cabinet is sure where these funds will be spent.

The article indicates that there will be a release of \$2m over the next couple of years for land resumptions to facilitate a rail link to Redcliffe. I see that as reasonable. As I have said all along, the track must be designated so that other development can take place in the normal way. I feel sure that at this stage the intent is to resume the land in time for the next election, thus making a good talking point for the member for Redcliffe. I can never get any information from the Minister. After the next election, if the Government wished, it could consider commencing construction for the following election, thus dangling a carrot again in front of the electors and giving the appearance of doing something. The link has been held up for some years and should have been constructed much earlier than this. That is typical of the Government's actions, and it is a worry to me.

Recently I read that there has been quite a deal of progress in the provision of police stations. I would not be doing my job for the electorate of Murrumba if I did not again raise the matter of the police station and court-house at Petrie. I see a need to extend the police station over the land that is now occupied by the present police station and the court-house and to build a new court-house elsewhere. That would be the simplest and cheapest way to approach the problem. The police could then be housed in reasonable surroundings and would do their job more effectively.

Mr White: The tender for the police station has been let.

Mr KRUGER: That is not spelt out anywhere in the Budget.

Mr White: The member for Redcliffe will be making the announcement.

Mr KRUGER: Does the Minister mean the one at Petrie or the one at Redcliffe?

Mr White: Redcliffe.

Mr KRUGER: Petrie is under the Redcliffe area. I am speaking about the court-house and police station at Petrie.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order! There is far too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr KRUGER: Thank you, Mr Akers. I was just about to mention that.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr KRUGER: Mr Akers, I am making a reasonable contribution to the debate and I do not want to listen to the tripe being dished out in other parts of the Chamber. It is simply ridiculous. If honourable members do not want to listen to some of the parochial matters—they have referred to parochial matters themselves—then I will turn to some of the problems confronting the State.

I refer to the Iwasaki franchise, the property deals, the Japanese interests, Hamilton Island and other deals. Most of them involved donors to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation. Mr Akers, if I used the word "corrupt", you would say it was unparliamentary, and I believe that would be a correct ruling. If I said that they were "rotting" the system, you would make the same ruling.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! That trick cannot be used to get around the rulings of the Chair. The words should not be used in any manner.

Mr KRUGER: Mr Akers, I am aware of that.

What I am worried about is the manipulation that occurs with monotonous regularity in Queensland. That is not in the best interests of the State. Perhaps one day a word will be coined that will describe all those types of things without its being unparliamentary. If it is, I guarantee that it will be used regularly in this Chamber.

I wish to bring to the attention of the Chamber a type of Miran-Khan land deal in which the Government sold land to a developer for a mere \$4,428, and now that land is being offered back to the public for \$2m. The land had previously been leased, but now under the new scheme it has been purchased and put straight onto the market. To me, that is the wrong way to handle things. Time and time again I have said that the land laws of the State are not doing the job they were intended to do. Too many people who can afford to freehold land under the new, easy freeholding system, are doing so and then trading it off. Until such time as Queensland has a land register so that the overseas companies can be kept track of, things in the State will become worse.

I now refer the Committee to a question I asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General about the number of property transfers registered in the Rockhampton District Titles Office since May 1981 covering land of an area of 100 ha or more. As that is a fair sort of a transaction, I thought that would be a reasonable area to look at. I also asked for the names and addresses of the new landholders, the value and area of the properties transferred and, where possible, the real property descriptions. The answer was—

"The Registrar of Titles does not keep statistics of this nature. To extract the information sought from all the transfer documents registered in his Rockhampton Office since May 1981 would require the deployment of staff already fully occupied with normal duties. It is estimated that this would take at least eight man-weeks, thus depriving the general public of the normal standard of service to which they are entitled."

I say, "So what!" If extra staff have to be appointed to do something of that nature, then why not appoint them?

As I pointed out, a great many people are out of work and the Government is boasting about the State's prosperity, so why can we not obtain that information? The answer continued—

"However, this information is open to public search, upon payment of the prescribed fee, by anyone caring to expend the time necessary for such an exercise. In any event, the place of living of purchasers is never shown in transfer documents."

We are all aware that it is not shown, but I say that it ought to be shown. There should be enough staff to supply this information, and if sufficient staff cannot be appointed the records ought to be computerised. However, I know that the Estimates of the Department of Lands are to be discussed in the near future, so I will not go any deeper into that subject now other than to say that the Government ought to be looking very seriously at the problem. I have manipulated the Minister to the extent that over the past few months I have put a series of questions to him and finally got him to admit exactly what I was looking for: that there are problems, that information cannot be supplied and that certain information is not kept. The Minister has admitted that he cannot supply the place of living of purchasers of land. I caused him to make that admission, and if members want to call that a trick, I am pleased to have pulled it off because it has certainly shown the problems that exist.

I now want to make a few points about Hamilton Island. I have some photographs with me. They will not be going on public display but I will show them to any member who wishes to see them. They were taken in February 1982. Strangely, the lease on Hamilton Island was not signed until 1 April, a few months later. It would be odd for a person to be able to change a Crown lease after he had already built a few condominiums. The photographs prove it. They show that I am not kidding when I say how far the leaseholder has gone. The person building those condominiums said on television that he was able to go ahead with the construction because he already had a lease on the property.

Mr Moore: What is a condominium?

Mr KRUGER: There is an honourable member who does not even know what a condominium is. That is how stupid he is.

Mr Tenni: Tell us what it is.

Mr Moore: Do you know?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order!

Mr KRUGER: It is just as well that I do not allow myself to be rude to people, Mr Akers, or I would have taken them to task for those interjections.

The person who built the condominiums said on television that he had an existing lease, but it was a grazing lease only and should not have been used for resort development. He did not have a lease, but he went on television and said so. He said some rude things about me, but that did not worry me in the least. Indeed, if he had not said those things it would have worried me more because I had deliberately set out to upset him.

I would not be doing my duty if I did not raise the Iwasaki affair again. It is connected with the Budget to the extent that the State of Queensland has given to Mr Iwasaki a large amount of Crown land for the establishment of a resort. To my knowledge the resort is not being established, and I believe that the State Government—

Mr Tenni: Of course it is being established. The second tenders have been called.

Mr KRUGER: Mr Iwasaki's property is not now being developed in the manner it was previously, and he will not meet the timetable laid down in the franchise agreement. Time and time again when I have asked questions about it the Premier has denied that Mr Iwasaki is behind schedule. How the Premier can twist the figures to show that Mr Iwasaki is not behind schedule surprises me.

Mr Tenni: You told us about that before. You are not on to him again, are you?

Mr KRUGER: Why not? I will be dealing with someone else shortly. These problems that I have highlighted are among the many that the Government has failed to deal with. It is simply not concerned about them.

For the benefit of anyone who has not read about this matter, I bring it to the attention of the Committee.

Mr Tenni: You cannot read!

Mr KRUGER: Mr Akers, what a dill the honourable member is! To call him a Cheshire cat would be to describe him fully.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order!

Mr KRUGER: I am concerned about a recent scandal in the Boonah area and I believe that it should be brought to the attention of the House. Although some honourable members may think it funny and chack me, I am deadly serious about the problem. People have been selling from an old plan land that they are not entitled to sell. The Government has a responsibility to prevent that. When I rang the shire clerk recently, he convinced me that the zonings were in order. They provide for 8 ha, 16 ha or 40 ha subdivisions for rural purposes, with a minimum of 2 ha for rural residential development. That land was subdivided in about 1880.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Wolston will either address the Chair or direct his remarks to the member on his feet.

Mr KRUGER: Blocks of about 1 rood in area are being sold to people who, under the town plan, are unable to build houses on them. People will be fleeced time and again until action is taken to prevent the sale of that land. A lady told me that she and her husband had spent a great deal of their savings on a piece of land expecting to be able to build a house on it and keep a pony. The people selling the land are so dishonest that they do not advise the buyers that they will not be able to build on it. I will not name the sellers today because I believe that they will eventually be taken to task.

Mr Tenni: Do you believe that the Government is guilty because rural land is being sold to people who want to build houses? How do you blame the Government for that?

Mr KRUGER: Not everyone understands town planning, and many of them do not know what local authority land-zoning is all about.

Mr Tenni: Do they have a solicitor, or do they act on their own behalf?

Mr KRUGER: A solicitor was acting for the couple to whom I referred. When I checked with the local authority recently, I discovered that the solicitor selling the land for the vendor was recommending solicitors to the purchaser.

Mr FitzGerald: Can't the solicitor be sued for malpractice?

Mr KRUGER: Of course he can. I have advised my constituents to take the solicitor to court. However, not everyone is prepared to undergo the trauma of a court case, and many people do not have sufficient money to take a case to court. It would be very simple to outlaw such sales.

Mr FitzGerald: Is legal aid available? You are blaming the Government for everything.

Mr KRUGER: I am sure that all other honourable members are aware of what I am getting at. It is unfortunate that the honourable member for Lockyer does not grasp the point that I am making.

Some time ago I spoke in some detail about a new by-law passed by councillors of the Pine Rivers Shire to indemnify themselves against court proceedings. Basically, the councillors and staff of the Pine Rivers Shire Council who make defamatory statements either inside or outside the council will have their court costs paid by the ratepayers. As a ratepayer, I do not want to pay for their court cases. As I said at the time, a member of Parliament has certain privileges. If he exceeds them he has to appear before the Parliamentary Privileges Committee.

In the Pine Rivers Shire, a councillor can step outside his office, say the wrong thing and the council and the ratepayers will pay his legal costs. I have in my possession a copy of a writ that has been issued. I understand that another two writs are pending against a councillor in that area. He is continually saying things that ought not be said. If three writs are issued against that councillor, it could cost the council a large sum of money. As a ratepayer of that shire, I am not pleased about that. I wrote to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police and asked for his opinion about that matter. The reply I received was as follows—

“With further reference to your letter of the 19th August last, relative to the question of action taken by the Pine Rivers Shire Council in respect of the indemnity of members and officers of the Council who may be the subject of legal proceedings in respect of actions taken by them, I wish to inform you that it has been suggested to the Council that it should consider obtaining the advice of Senior Counsel in respect of the matter in question.”

It appears from that letter that the Director of Local Government feels that the councillor has acted improperly. I am sure that that is so because a legal opinion exists to the effect that he has acted improperly. The Local Government Act does not provide for insurance cover in such circumstances. I raised the matter with the council concerned. A notice of motion indicated that the council could be adopting an incorrect practice. However, the council went ahead and voted for it. Luckily enough, there was a division, and it cleared some of the councillors. Some councillors are not sure what they should be doing in such circumstances. They need some assistance because it is not always easy to obtain the required information at the right time.

Since that time I have received other complaints. Without getting too involved, I feel that it is necessary to name the councillor involved. I am referring to Councillor Burke. I have received two or three complaints about him. Time will tell whether the

complaints are genuine. I raise that matter to make sure that the ratepayers are protected and to ensure that their money is not continually paid out in legal costs because a councillor may be doing or saying the wrong thing. Whether it was done intentionally is another matter. The council's insurance will cover the costs to a certain extent. However, there are additional expenses involved.

A Government Member: This is like "Blue Hills".

Mr White: Give us a break.

Mr KRUGER: The honourable member is known as "Terry of the Tidal Flow" at Redcliffe. However, I am very pleased that the people of Redcliffe are happy with the tidal flow system. It is good to think that it is working. It is the first successful thing with which the Minister has been associated.

The Government should take note of the matters that I have raised. If at any time Government members wish to discuss any matters that I have not raised, I will be pleased to do so. I agree with the member for Redcliffe that there is a desperate need for extra high-school accommodation in his electorate. He suggested that a suitable site would be in the Rothwell area. That would be acceptable to me because it takes in a great deal of my electorate and the sprawling areas of Redcliffe. There is very good access to that area.

The special school at Petrie requires additional accommodation. For some time it has been accepted that that school would be shifted to Lawnton. I have received correspondence from the Minister stating that that is the intention of the Government. I would ask the Minister to examine the position with a view to having the school shifted in the near future. Accommodation problems will soon be experienced at the State school. The alternative is to construct a new school at French's Forest. I understand that suitable land has been set aside for that purpose.

The shifting of the special school would kill two birds with one stone. The situation at the special school would be improved and accommodation at the Petrie State School would also be improved.

I have received complaints from some people at Kippa-Ring who cannot understand why, when the school was painted, some areas were left unpainted. Surely when the Works Department painted the school it would have painted the whole school. Instead, two wings at the Kippa-Ring State School were left unpainted. One of those wings was in the worst condition of all. The people of Kippa-Ring appreciate the work that was done, but they cannot understand why two wings were not done.

Somewhere along the line someone in the Works Department is not organising things correctly. There is a lack of communication between those at the top and the men on the job. The men would say, "We could do that job in a couple of days," but because of red tape and the actions of those at the top they are not given an opportunity to express an opinion.

The painting of the whole school in one day would have effected some saving in future costs. Money saved in that area could be spent in other areas.

Mr TENNI (Barron River) (2.51 p.m.): I only hope that I can put up a better performance than the member for Murrumba, who mumbled for the past three-quarters of an hour. Firstly, I congratulate the Treasurer on presenting once again a wonderful Budget. I am very pleased, proud and honoured to be a member of the Treasurer's committee. Queensland is fortunate to have a man of his calibre.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr TENNI: It is obvious that it hurts Opposition members to know that the Government has done the right thing by the people of this State. Opposition members can interject as much as they like. I will lap up their interjections and knock them down.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr TENNI: The honourable member for Brisbane Central is not worth listening to. He should go back to driving taxi-cabs.

A Government Member: He used to touch people in his cabs.

Mr TENNI: That is right.

The Budget is a first-class Budget. It is a sound and well-balanced Budget. It is typical of the way in which this coalition Government has governed the State since it came to power 25 years ago.

I am not the only person who is proud of the Budget. It has been acclaimed by all sensible people in Queensland—not by those who follow the red flag, red rag, or whatever; the Communist sympathisers and the Communist thinkers, to whom the members of the Australian Labor Party give their full support. Members of the Labor Party belong to the socialist Left. There is no difference between socialism and Communism. Anyone who is a Left-wing socialist is a radical Communist.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr TENNI: The honourable member for Wolston may laugh. He is one of them. What I am saying hurts. That is my idea; I hope it hurts so much that the honourable member will not sleep tonight.

I shall deal with the Budget piece by piece. As to education—the Budget provides for an increase in the number of teachers in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Ahern report. However, I do not know whether the Government has done the right thing. I hope that it has not bowed to the pressures of the Left-wing socialists in the Queensland Teachers Union. They are a minority group.

Mr Wilson interjected.

Mr TENNI: Everyone knows that the honourable member for Townsville South is a Left-wing socialist; he does not have to tell us.

As I was saying, I do not know whether, by providing for more teachers, the Government has done the right thing. If the Government intends to appoint new teachers as and when the taxpayers of this State can afford to pay for them, in terms of the Ahern report, it will be doing the right thing. I believe that the Government has adopted a sensible attitude, not the attitude of the Queensland Teachers Union and the few Left-wing radical Communists in that union who, unfortunately, bamboozled the teachers of Queensland when they held their first strike. However, on the next occasion when the union tried to call a strike, the teachers woke up to them. They saw the Communist flag flown by the rabble in the Queensland Teachers Union.

Mr FitzGerald: The union threatened to campaign against us if we did not give in to them.

Mr TENNI: That did not worry me at all. There is no way in the world that I would ever be threatened by that union or by anybody else.

Mr Wilson interjected.

Mr TENNI: If the honourable member is involved in marijuana, that is his business. He can stay with it. I stay right out of it. If I get any evidence against him, I will do what I do with other people—report him to the proper authorities.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr TENNI: The honourable member for Wolston has some comments to make. He knows as well as I do that he gave up boxing because he was punch-drunk and full of marijuana.

I shall return to the Budget. I was rudely interrupted by the socialists on my right and I had no option but to try to correct the inaccurate statements that they made.

I hope that the decision to appoint an additional 1 545 teachers will not result in the children of Port Douglas, which is in my electorate, having to do without a school for longer than is necessary. Additional money will have to be found to pay for the extra teachers and accommodation that will be necessary to allow for smaller class sizes. I hope that the appointment of those additional teachers will not have a detrimental effect on the education of the children of Port Douglas, Holloway Beach, Mareeba and Whitfield where new schools are required urgently. If that happens, the Left-wing socialists in the Teachers Union will have something to account for. I assure honourable members that I will be watching this matter very closely, because there is no way in the world that any Left-wing socialists will stand in the way of children in my area receiving a better education.

I see that the Minister for Education is in the Chamber.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You mean "Mr Elocution".

Mr TENNI: That is typical of the honourable member. He is usually nasty. I respect the Minister for Education. I think that he is doing an extremely good job. I know that he will take note of what I am about to say and will act upon it.

I acknowledge that the Budget did not make provision for some schools in my area that are needed urgently. I am prepared to wear that, but I will not wear it next year. I want provision to be made in next year's Budget for another one or two schools in my area.

It is essential to construct a new primary school at Port Douglas, which is a growth area. When the Minister is planning his budget for the next financial year, he should look at the possibility of building a primary school in the Port Douglas area. It would not be long before the amount saved on the transportation of schoolchildren from Port Douglas to Mossman every day covered the cost of a new school. It is fairly costly to transport children 14 miles each way every day. A new school at Port Douglas is the first priority in the electorate of Barron River.

Because of the increased enrolment figures in the Edge Hill area, a new school is needed at Whitfield. I hope that a decision has been reached on resuming a block of land for that school, and that it will be the right block. Another school is needed in that area to take the overflow of children from the Edge Hill/Whitfield area.

If the school is built in the Whitfield area it will cater for the huge development in Freshwater Valley just to the rear of the proposed site. It is most important that priority be given to those two schools.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: He's not listening to you.

Mr TENNI: And I am not listening to the member for Wolston. He is not worth listening to.

A school is required as a matter of urgency at Holloway Beach—the land has already been obtained for it—and a second primary school is required urgently on the land that has been purchased at Mareeba. The special education school will have to be shifted from its existing site to the new land. If the Barron River electorate were to receive that support from the Education Department and the Works Department through the next Budget, most of its problems associated with schooling facilities would be overcome. I certainly look forward to provision being made for them in the next Budget.

Mr Lee: How is the Mossman school now?

Mr TENNI: Thanks to the member for Yeronga, who was then the Minister for Works, it is going extremely well. There are no two ways about it: I received a great deal of support from him.

Mr Hartwig: He was a good Minister.

Mr TENNI: He was indeed.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Why did they axe him?

Mr TENNI: I do not know. Perhaps the member for Wolston might be able to tell us. I know that I was sorry to see him go. He did an extremely good job.

I shall deal now with police stations in the Barron River electorate. I will not bother to listen to the Left-wing socialists on my right. Really, they are not worth taking much notice of. The Budget allows for increased staffing of 154 and makes provision for the appointment of a further 78 police officers to make up for the number by which the force was under strength at 30 June. I hope that in any consideration of "full strength" the needs of the whole of the State; not just Brisbane and the Gold Coast, will be considered. With that in mind and remembering that provision has been made for 232 additional police, I hope that a detective and an extra police officer will be stationed at Mossman. That is something we have been advocating for a long time.

In the distribution of manpower, decisions are made on the basis of one police officer to a certain number of people. However, special attention should be given to the areas that have problems. One of the problems in the Barron River electorate is associated with Aborigines, particularly their drinking. It is absolutely necessary to have extra police staff

in Mossman because of the high percentage of Aboriginal people in that area. I am not saying that all Aborigines are bad people; but unfortunately a referendum some years ago gave Aborigines the right to go into hotels. That has led to their downfall.

Not so long ago I spoke about the problems of cane farmers in the Mossman area in having to clear large quantities of stubbies, cans and wine flasks from the headlands of cane paddocks before harvesting could commence. Aboriginal drinking is a problem in that region. I advocate the appointment of two police in Mossman because of the problems with Aborigines. Could I suggest, therefore, that a detective and at least one additional constable be stationed at Mossman?

The other part of my electorate that requires an increase in police strength is Kuranda. The requirement has existed there for many years. Once again, the cause is the Aboriginal population. I hope that, out of those extra police, one will be stationed at the Kuranda Police Station to provide exactly what the Budget says—a full-strength Police Force. To me, a full-strength Police Force throughout the State means two extra policemen in Mossman and one extra policeman at Kuranda.

I congratulate the Minister on the placement of, I think, 18 extra policemen at Cairns over the last couple of years, following the large influx of people who originally came to Queensland to get away from the New South Wales Wran Government. Now they are coming to escape the new Victorian socialist Government. The increase in population has been fantastic because the people are getting out of those States as quickly as they can. Because of that influx, for some time the Cairns Police Station has been under staffed, so the police strength in the Cairns area needs to be increased even further. I hope that the Commissioner of Police (Mr Terry Lewis) recommends a further increase in the strength of the Cairns Police Station.

The Northern Beaches area, which is a very rapidly developing area, has a permanent population—including those who live in permanent mobile homes, caravan parks, motels, and such like—of between 16 000 and 18 000, but no police are stationed in that area. As one travels the State one comes upon towns of 400 or 500 people that have a police station, one policeman and a police vehicle. Some towns with a population of 1 000 or 1 200 have two policemen and a police vehicle. With a population between 16 000 and 18 000, the Northern Beaches area has no police station and no policeman.

Mr Lee: Where is the closest police station?

Mr TENNI: At Cairns.

Mr Lee: How many miles away is that?

Mr TENNI: From the furthest beach, which is Palm Cove, it would be 23 or 24 miles.

Mr Hartwig interjected.

Mr TENNI: I am sure that if we had a northern member in Cabinet these sorts of things would not happen. It is most important that a member from the north be appointed to Cabinet to keep a closer watch on what is happening in that part of the State and to keep Cabinet informed.

Mr Frawley interjected.

Mr TENNI: We have the Minister for Northern Development but a Minister who represents a far northern electorate is needed.

The Government is in the process of purchasing one acre of land in the Northern Beaches area in a good central position on the Cook Highway. A new police station must be built from funds provided in the next Budget. It is not a case of "if" or "when", it is a must. Although I do not say that Edmonton should not have a police station and a policeman—it should—that township south of Cairns has a much smaller population than the Northern Beaches area and is much closer to Cairns, yet it has its own police station. I do not know how many policemen are stationed there, but there is at least one, and it may be two or even three. A little further south, Gordonvale, which is closer to Cairns than Palm Cove or Ellis Beach, has a police station with a sergeant and two constables. Yet I cannot get a police station at the Northern Beaches area. That is unreal and unthinkable. So from funds provided in the next Budget, a police station must be provided in that area and manned 24 hours a day. The Northern Beaches area is a

popular beach resort for the people of Cairns, so on Saturday afternoons and Sundays the population triples. That gives added need for the construction of a police station in that area.

I do not say that it should be done immediately but plans should be drawn up for the construction within the next five years of a new police station and court-house—either a combined complex as is there at the moment or two separate buildings—for the Mossman township. I have mentioned this on many occasions in the past. A great deal of money has been spent on ridding the present buildings of white ants and trying to hold them together. It is beyond a joke. After the next cyclone, a new building will have to be built very quickly. The existing structure is white-ant eaten, much too small and not air-conditioned. It has been allowed to remain in that condition for too many years, and with the area of land that is available—

Mr Lee: It was patched up when I was Minister.

Mr TENNI: That is right, and I am sick and tired of it being patched up. There is a large area of land in front of the police station and court-house complex, and construction of a new building in front of the complex could be started without the acquisition of more land and without hindering the efficient working of the police station and court-house. So there are no problems about land or having to obtain temporary accommodation while a new building is constructed.

I hope that the Treasurer, the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police will give serious consideration to the construction of a new court-house and police station for Mossman. I will not give up. I have brought the matter forward on many occasions previously, and I intend to continue to do so.

I now turn to hospitals. I am very proud of the hospital facilities made available by the Government. An air-conditioned hospital has been built at Mareeba at a cost of \$12m. It is a marvellous set-up and the staff are very good. I am very proud of that hospital, as are the people of the area.

Further development is taking place at the Cairns hospital. It services the southern part of my electorate, the electorate of Cairns and parts of the electorates of Mulgrave and Mourilyan. I forget the exact figure, but in excess of \$22m has been spent there. It is very pleasing to see so much money being spent in North Queensland.

I have always said that the hospital at Mossman should be turned into an infirmary and aged persons' home and that a new hospital should be constructed. I mentioned that not very long ago, and I thank the Minister for Health for writing to me about it. He said that he had not received any information from the hospitals board concerning the requirement for a new hospital, and that would be correct because it was quite some years ago that the board made the recommendation. At that time I met the board and helped them draft the recommendation. The Minister is relatively new to the job, so he would probably not have seen it. I passed his letter on to the hospitals board, with a covering letter of my own, about a week and a half ago, and I hope that in the not too distant future the Minister will receive a submission direct from the board requesting that a new hospital be built in Mossman and that the old one be turned into an aged persons' infirmary.

I turn now to the roads in my area. On 1 November I will have the great pleasure of accompanying the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police to a number of official openings. In the Mareeba Shire, the State Government subsidised very heavily the cost of a new bridge over the Barron River at Bibbohra. After opening that bridge, we will officially open the completion of the Rex Range Highway. Since the war the road has been very dusty in dry weather and so greasy in the wet that one could not travel over it. The bitumen road from Mareeba to Mossman via the Rex Range Highway has now been completed. Not only people from the Mareeba/Mt Carbine/Mt Molloy area but people from the whole of the Tablelands area will be able to go to the beach at week-ends and relax. In addition, people from Mossman and Port Douglas will have a comfortable and scenic drive up the Rex Range Highway to the Tablelands.

Many bus companies have been waiting for the completion of the bitumen road over the range so that they can arrange bus trips from Cairns along the beautiful, scenic Cook Highway. It is one of the best drives in the world. From there, they will go to Mossman.

The tourists can then take a trip on the Bally Hooley train, go back up the Rex Range to Mareeba, over the Tablelands, and back down again. That will be a wonderful road for the tourists and local people.

An official opening ceremony will be held when the bitumen road to Daintree is completed. Many years ago Daintree had its own butter factory. In those days, people travelled over rough, red, greasy, slippery roads. On many occasions whilst I have been the member for the district the children could not get to the school in Mossman because the road was too greasy. It was a four-wheel-drive track and, at times, even those vehicles could not get through. The bitumen laying will be finished in a few days' time and the official opening will take place on 4 November. Wonderful things are happening in Far North Queensland thanks to the kindness of the Treasury, the thoughtfulness of Ministers—

Mr Lee: And good representation.

Mr TENNI: That is right.

The bitumen road to Daintree—

Mr Lee: It was not like that when you became the member for the area.

Mr TENNI: When I became the member I had to buy a four-wheel-drive vehicle to cover the area. I am thinking about trading it in. After the next 12 months or so I will not require it, because I will be able to travel throughout most of my area in a conventional car.

Mr Frawley: What sort of four-wheel-drive is it?

Mr TENNI: It is a Datsun four-wheel-drive.

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr TENNI: Wujal Wujal would not be too bad because the Cook Highway, which runs into the Cook electorate, has been bituminised as far as the Disraeli Range. I am sure the the honourable member for Cook and his constituents appreciate that. I am working with the member for Cook to get further bitumen work done on the road. The widening to two-lane standard of the road between my electorate and Cooktown has been of benefit to both of us. I use that road to visit Wujal Wujal Mission and some people north of the Bloomfield River and south of Granite Creek whom I represent.

Many people do not realise that to travel from my home to the top section of my electorate by four-wheel-drive takes seven to eight hours. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of the Government, the day is not distant when even that section will be suitable for conventional vehicles at all times.

Some people say, "Gee, the Government is doing a lot of work and spending a lot of money on those small areas which contain only a few voters." To my mind, there is no difference between one vote and a thousand votes. All people are entitled to the same comforts, rights and privileges. I represent all people of all colours, irrespective of their political views.

I did some door-knocking between the time of my election in 1974 and the time that I actually entered Parliament. The first door I knocked on in Mossman was opened by a lady. When I introduced myself as the member for Barron River, she said, "But you are a member of the National Party." I said, "That is right." She said, "But we are Labor." I said, "I am sorry, lady, but you will have to put up with me for the next three years as your elected member. I will look after your problems." Many other people said much the same. They and I are now the best of friends. They support me. They changed their colour because they saw the red in the Labor Party.

An Honourable Member: Do they vote for you?

Mr TENNI: I win at every polling booth in the Douglas Shire. I am very proud of that.

Mr Davis: Enjoy your term.

Mr TENNI: I have been here for eight years. Unlike the honourable member, I will not be kicked out for three years. He was lucky to be returned and he will be back driving taxis after the next election.

I compliment the Treasurer and the Government on raising the pay-roll tax exemption from \$180,000 to \$204,000. I look forward to the day when we can abolish pay-roll tax just as we abolished road taxes, gift taxes and death duties. Pay-roll tax penalises employers.

If I remember rightly, the Whitlam Government very cleverly handed pay-roll tax over to the States and reduced its direct contribution to the States. The Queensland Government is now burdened with pay-roll tax. If we wish this State to continue to progress faster than the other States, we must rid ourselves of that terrible tax. If the exemption level is increased in each future Budget, one day it will eventually be abolished.

The Budget provides for the expenditure of \$4.5m on the Young Farmer Assistance Scheme. Last year approximately \$1.7m was provided for that scheme. At the last election the Government promised to increase the amount provided for that scheme, and the Government has honoured its promise.

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr TENNI: \$50,000 is not a lot of money today.

There is no way in the world that I can agree with the way freight rates are determined. Increased costs are caused by strikes and other problems, so I accept that there must be an increase in rail fares and freights. However, I cannot see any equity in the present system. If an article weighing one kilogram is consigned to Bundaberg, the increase of 15 per cent in the freight rate will not be large but if that same article is sent to Cairns, Mareeba or Mossman, an alarming increase is involved. I have said before and I say again that the percentage should reduce as the distance increases. The people furthest from the cities should not be penalised. They are decentralising and developing the outlying areas. If an increase of 15 per cent is to apply on freight to Cairns, the increase should be 30 per cent to Bundaberg and 25 per cent to Mackay. There should be a higher increase in freight rates for short distances and it should reduce over longer distances so that a balance is created. If the Government is fair dinkum about decentralisation it must alter the freight rate system. The Treasurer should stop introducing flat increases and introduce graduated increases so that the people I represent, who live a long distance from Brisbane, are not penalised. This year the sugar industry was not affected by the 15 per cent increase. At the moment the sugar industry is in a very bad position, without the prospect of increased rail freights.

From time to time problems arise in the area of water resources.

Mr Scott: When do you think we will get a new Minister for that portfolio?

Mr TENNI: I am not the Premier. One day I probably will be Premier. Then I would be able to provide an answer. However, at this stage I cannot answer the honourable member's question.

Today I had discussions with the Minister for Water Resources (Mr Tomkins) and the Commissioner of Water Resources (Mr Don Beattie). I am pleased with the outcome of those discussions. That does not mean that I have not had blues with them. However, I have never been critical of them. I always say what I think about everyone. Sometimes when I talk about the Premier I am critical. I am critical of anyone who steps out of line and does not support the views of the majority of the people whom I represent.

I was very happy with my discussion today with the Minister for Water Resources and the Commissioner of Water Resources. I only hope that our fruitful discussion will, in the long run, benefit the area that I represent. I suggest to anyone who has any water resources problem that he do exactly what I did today, that is, discuss that problem with the Minister and the commissioner.

As the honourable member for Cook interjected, perhaps he might like to interject again when he hears what I have to say. A big problem concerning water resources is that Queensland does not get sufficient funding from the Commonwealth for water resources. Water resources seem to be the poor relation. Surely, water is the most important commodity of all; it is vital to the existence of this State and nation.

Lack of water presents a very serious problem, but so, too, does too much water. North Queensland experiences severe drainage problems during the wet season. Just as it is important to have good catchment areas and distribution systems, it is important to have

good drainage schemes. If more of Queensland's taxation revenue was returned to it by the Commonwealth, it could be spent on draining the flood-prone areas and also on constructing larger water storage areas.

I am absolutely amazed at one aspect of the Federal Budget. Whereas it provides \$45m for water throughout the whole of the nation, it allocates the sum of \$51m to the department controlled by Charles Perkins. Someone has obviously got the priorities out of order. Someone has rocks in his head. Fancy the department controlled by Charles Perkins receiving \$51m when water resources throughout the whole of Australia receive only \$45m! I say to the Federal Treasurer, "Wake up to yourself. Use some common sense in the future."

I know that vast numbers of the Federal Government's supporters in Queensland and particularly in my electorate are deeply concerned at that type of distribution of Commonwealth taxation revenue. It is not sensible or logical; it simply will not be tolerated by the voters of this country. I say to the Federal Treasurer, to the Prime Minister and to Doug Anthony, "Use some common sense in the distribution of your funds in the next Budget. If you don't, the people will not continue to support you as they do at present."

I turn now to housing. I have listened to the cries and whinges of members of the Opposition concerning the new Housing Commission rental scheme. I congratulate the Government, the Treasurer and the Minister for Works and Housing on the wonderful contribution that they are making towards the provision of housing in Queensland. They have helped a lot of people in my electorate and they will help many more in the future. The new Housing Commission rental system is a wonderful system. Certainly it has its bugs, but each one will be ironed out. I have had people tell me that they are paying only \$49 a week rental for a Housing Commission house whilst admitting that their weekly family income is more than \$300. One family openly admitted that their weekly income was \$379 a week. That is just not on. Housing Commission housing is designed to help the needy, not the greedy. I will not support the greedy.

If Opposition members want to continue to support the greedy, well and good, but I will support the needy at all times. There are problems with the new housing system, but on every occasion on which I have run into a problem the Minister has assured me that it will be solved, and that is all I ask. I ask that the needy be looked after and that, as I and most honourable members have done, the greedy find their own homes.

Mr Hansen: Where?

Mr TENNI: If people have never owned a home, they can borrow money through the Housing Commission at a low rate of interest. With the amount of money available, they will not be able to build a palace, but they can make a start. I started with a partly built home and finished it myself. I sold that home and built another one and another one until I got the home that I wanted. If Opposition members cannot work that out for themselves, they should not be here.

Mr Milliner: Will you, on behalf of the Government, give us a commitment that you will remove the age barrier that stops people borrowing money?

Mr TENNI: The honourable member knows that I cannot give a commitment, but I agree that that matter could be considered. I do not see any problems. I shall certainly make a recommendation and support it. Regardless of age, if people are needy they should be looked after. The new housing system is a good one, and once the bugs are ironed out it will go from strength to strength. The needy will be looked after.

I shall now deal with national parks. In the beginning, I was behind national parks; I supported them 100 per cent. However, the Government has gone completely overboard with some of them. With so many Aboriginal reserves and national parks, if we are not careful there will not be enough land left on which to build a dance-hall. In the future, there must be very careful consideration before any land is made available for national parks. There are enough national parks now, and hundreds of millions of dollars are needed to develop them.

I am also sick and tired of listening to Ms Hills from Cape Tribulation, who says that a road cannot be built through the Cape Tribulation National Park to Cooktown because a few trees will have to be destroyed. Ms Hills is only looking after the people in her own age bracket. I represent people in all age brackets. The walking track through the Cape

Tribulation National Park would not be suitable for my mother or for the mothers of most honourable members. A road must be built so that tourist buses can take people there and let them wander off the main road to see some of that so-called national park.

I do not want to be greedy like Ms Hills, who has something to do with the conservationists up there. She goes overboard on conservation matters. I understand that she has a forest sawmill licence herself, which is not too bad. Roads should be constructed so that everyone—from babies up to people of 80 or 90 years of age—can visit national parks.

Because I was becoming rather browned off with what was happening to national parks in Queensland, last year—I think in March—I spent a little time in New Zealand. I made a bus tour through many of the national parks in the South Island and the North Island. There is some wonderful development there. Some trees have been cut down because roads had to be built, and areas had to be cleared to build toilet and other facilities.

Mr Booth: Access to them.

Mr TENNI: Access must be provided so that people can picnic in them. A bit of sunlight has to get thorough so that lawns will grow. People are able to sit on the lawns and enjoy the fauna and flora. I do not want what the silly people are trying to force on this State and this nation. I am not interested in those greenies; I am interested in the sensible greenies.

The road from Cape Tribulation to Cooktown is important not only for those wanting to see the national parks but also as a future defence road. Our Army should be put in there to build the bridges and properly construct the road. It would give it some practical experience and would mean the expenditure of money in this country, which is where it should be spent. That road should have been put through years ago instead of being merely talked about now.

Mr Scott: I asked the former Minister for Defence about that and he simply refused point blank. He is a Queenslander, but he is not interested in the place.

Mr TENNI: I suggested that some seven years ago, and I was told bluntly by the Minister that he was terrified to do that because the unions would get onto him. The unions? It is a defence road. It has nothing to do with the unions. We should go ahead with it and tell the unions to go to hell.

Mr Scott: That is not the reason.

Mr TENNI: That is the excuse I was given. As far as I am concerned, that road should go through. The people of Bloomfield, Rossville, Helenvale and Cooktown would save about 100 miles on that trip. If that road was put through, they would do what the Federal Government has been urging us all to do—save fuel. We would save a fortune in fuel if that road went through to make the area accessible. What a wonderful tourist attraction it would be. How much money would flow into North Queensland because of it? Imagine the development through restaurants, tea houses and so on along the highway. The Federal Government would gain from it through taxation. It is important that that road be put through.

Insufficient money is allocated to national parks. The only man I have much time for in the National Parks and Wildlife Service is its director in Brisbane. The co-operation from the rest of them—not all of them, but many of them—throughout the State is almost nil. A member of Parliament finds out most of the things that are going on in national parks by reading the local newspaper. That is totally wrong and must change. No more land is required for national parks until all the land already taken up by them is completely developed and fully utilised. Look at the effect national parks are having on the shire rates in Mossman. So much land has been taken out of the Douglas Shire for that purpose that any future chances of increasing the rate income of the shire are nil. The Grants Commission should consider that when making a grant to the Douglas Shire and other shires in a similar position. So much of that shire's area is made up of national parks and forestry reserves that the Grants Commission should say, "Here is another \$100,000 because we know that the Government has stopped you expanding and developing any further." That is another important facet in the effect of national parks on small communities.

I pay a tribute to the Minister for Tourism and particularly to the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. I refer particularly to Frank Moore and Pat King, two men who are doing a wonderful job for the corporation and the State. Nothing is too much trouble for them. I have received wonderful co-operation and assistance from them and Mick Borzi. The development that has taken place through that representation has been tremendous for the electorate of Barron River. In the not-too-distant future we will be making an announcement about a wonderful development through Frank Moore and the Minister for Lands (Mr Glasson). It will be a combined effort, and it will make history in Queensland. It is something that will occur at Port Douglas. It will be a wonderful achievement and something we have been trying to get off the ground for many years. It has just about reached the stage where we will be able to make an announcement. The whole of North Queensland—and particularly the electorate of Barron River—will be proud and pleased to see the development taking place.

On the matter of sporting subsidies, the Government should be a little more concerned with providing funds for improvements rather than coaching. Mr Row, as a northern member, you would know the high cost of building materials in that part of the State, so consideration should be given to increasing the subsidies for improvements to sporting facilities. I subscribe to the present policy of providing sporting facilities mainly for the young people of the State. The bowls and golf clubs seem to be surviving without assistance. The Government should be looking after the needy, not the greedy. I ask that a little more money be given in that area.

I pay my respects to Stan Wilcox, the Director of Sport, for the co-operation I have received since he has been in that position. The sporting people of Cairns and my electorate are very pleased with him, to such an extent that he constantly receives invitations to open sporting fields in the area. Because they have been very happy at the way he handles his position, in a couple of weeks, at the request of the organisation, he will open a \$133,000 sporting complex.

Although I realise that the Budget provides a considerably increased amount to assist school bus operators, which is appreciated by those operators, I am a little concerned about school bus transport. As the Treasurer is now in the Chamber, I ask him to consider putting aside a sum of money to help school bus operators purchase new buses. These days new buses cost approximately \$80,000. I notice that at present Opposition members are not interjecting. They would not want to, because in its Budget New South Wales cut out all subsidies to school bus operators and school transport. The Government wiped the kids of New South Wales; it gave them the big A, as the saying goes. New South Wales no longer provides money for school transport. As well as that, 4 000 public servants in that State were sacked.

Mr McKechnie: It was so bad, the Government got frightened and gave some back. The Government weakened, but it is still bad.

Mr TENNI: I did not know about that. That the country areas of New South Wales could be told to go to billy-o, is unreal. I suppose that is typical of a socialist Government. Also unbelievable is the fact that the New South Wales Government sacked 4 000 public servants. Forty per cent of those people would have voted for the Labor Government. One can imagine what will happen to it at the next election.

Mr McKechnie: When the money was given back, it was given to the cities but not to the country areas.

Mr TENNI: Is that what happened? Any Labor member who represents a country area might as well give the game away. We will tell the people that the policy of the New South Wales Government is to kick the country areas in the backside—particularly the little kids, and that is typical.

I simply ask the Treasurer to give consideration to providing a pool of approximately \$3m or \$4m in the next Budget so that finance can be made available at a low rate of interest of approximately 8 per cent to bus proprietors to purchase new buses. That is absolutely necessary if we are to have safe, new school buses every five or six years.

I now wish to speak about the Forestry Department and a couple of Opposition members who went to Mt Windsor and then made irrational statements in the northern Press. I went to Mt Windsor with the Minister for Lands and Forestry, and I pay the highest possible compliment to the Forestry Department and the men involved in the

protection of our timber industry. In all my life I have never seen such wonderful timber protection and harvesting. It is an excellent example of how to maintain a natural resource in the State for ever: by sensible management, which is exactly what the Forestry Department practises.

I will not mention their names, but I know it is embarrassing to the socialists on my right who went up to Mt Windsor and then made the alarming statements that they did—statements that one would expect from a socialist dictator. They were unreal and untrue. They came back and said that it was mass murder of our forests. That is unbelievable. When the officers of the Forestry Department were driving the Minister and me along the road, we both asked, "Haven't you harvested this area?" They said, "Yes." We said, "We cannot see any signs of it." They said, "No, you won't. First of all, we do not harvest within a chain of each side of our timber tracks."

Mr Scott: What is the distance away from creeks and valleys? You don't know that.

Mr TENNI: Yes, I do. If the honourable member listens, he might learn. He is only a relatively new member and he will learn eventually. Till now he was not doing too bad a job; I will teach him a bit more.

These men said, "We do not touch a chain each side of the road. We do the rest of it, and we harvest it sensibly. We look at all the trees and say that such a tree is a seed tree and that we will not touch it." We were shown an area five years after it had been harvested and I could not tell that it had been harvested, neither in the gullies, on the slopes nor on the crests. As far as I am concerned, the Forestry Department has done a wonderful job.

The Minister and I went right through each section. In the section that had been harvested five years previously, if one looked hard one could see the odd butt of a tree in amongst the scrub that had grown up around it. In the section that had been harvested three years previously, one could see a bit more; in the two-year section it was not very good; in the one-year section it was fairly bad; and the section that had just been cut looked terrible. Of course, that is only to be expected. The scrub must have a chance to grow up.

But what did members of the Labor Party do? Perhaps I should refer to them as the socialists, because their party is no longer the Labor Party; it should be called the Left-wing Socialist Party. Hayden and his mates are led by the Left-wing socialists. Everyone knows that, so it is no good pulling punches. The Labor Party is gone, finished, out the window, down the drain, down the septic trench—that is where it has gone. Opposition members went to Mt Windsor and picked out areas that had been cut only two weeks previously and 12 months previously. They took photographs of those areas and said all sorts of things about them. They did not photograph the acres and acres of scrub that the Forestry Department has decided never to remove. It has decided to leave the trees as seed-bearing trees. That was not mentioned by honourable members opposite. I pay my respects to the Forestry Department for the way in which it manages the State's forests.

I now turn to subsidies to councils. I know that that is a touchy point, but I make a special plea to the Treasurer to consider areas such as the Barron River area. Because of the tremendous growth that has occurred in the Northern Beaches area, in Port Douglas and in other areas, sewerage is needed urgently. They have needed it for years but have not been able to afford it. The population is there—

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr TENNI: I am not talking to the honourable member; he is not the Treasurer.

A special subsidy should be given so that the Northern Beaches area can be sewered and so that water can be supplied urgently to Port Douglas. There has been vast development in those areas, mainly because the Government has managed the State properly and urged people to develop tourism. I will make a special submission to the Treasurer on behalf of the people in those areas; if necessary I will weep in front of him. It is vitally important that sewerage be supplied to the whole of the Northern Beaches area and that water be supplied to Port Douglas. I have in mind a couple of other special cases such as the filtration of the Kuranda water supply.

I am grateful for the opportunity of speaking in the Budget debate. I hope that I have covered every part of my electorate. I have brought forward the problems that I see in the electorate of Barron River and throughout the State. I again compliment the Treasurer and say how pleased and proud I am to be a member of his committee. As long as we have a man of his calibre as Treasurer this State has nothing to worry about and has a tremendously exciting future.

Mr HARTWIG (Callide) (3.50 p.m.): It is a pleasure to stand here and admire this wonderful Chamber and its appointments, and to be associated with a Government that has presented 25 Budgets. This is the eleventh Budget that I have had the pleasure of speaking to.

I congratulate the Treasurer on introducing a basically sound Budget. The Treasurer and I entered Parliament in 1972. I commend his party for recognising his ability and elevating him to the position of Deputy Premier and Treasurer, and I give him full credit for the way in which he has carried out his duties.

It is rather strange, Mr Row, that when we came here in 1972 with Mr Neal, Mr Frawley and Mr Gunn—

Mr McKechnie: One would not say that you were the best crop of the season.

Mr HARTWIG: That is the honourable member's opinion. When the honourable member has been here as long as I have, he may know more about this Assembly.

Of the Government members who were elected in 1972, only one has been elevated to Cabinet. When I think of the talent in that group, I remember that Mr Hinzé, Mr Wharton, Mr Bird, Mr Ahern, Mr Tomkins and Mr Newbery were back-benchers at the time. They were later elevated to Cabinet, but seniority was forgotten after that.

As a Queenslander, I join with the Government in congratulating all concerned with the recent Commonwealth Games. The coverage given by the ABC and the other media outlets throughout the Games was outstanding.

When I came here in 1972, the Government budgeted for about \$840m, of which about \$90m was allocated to education. That was only 10 years ago. Today, Queensland, with a population of 2 250 000, has a budget of \$3,668.7m. It is significant that, in a decade, the State's population has increased from a little less than 2 000 000 to well over 2 250 000. It is interesting to note that the Commonwealth has reimbursed Queensland some \$38.2m by way of tax-sharing grants, that pay-roll tax last year exceeded the estimated revenue by some \$20.7m, and that stamp duty was up by \$35.8m. That can be attributed to the higher than usual activity in real estate transactions.

In June 1982, the State finished with a deficit of \$150,000. One could travel the length and breadth of this nation or go anywhere in the world without finding many countries, counties or states so close to balancing their budgets.

I pay tribute to the Treasurer and his departmental officers for their assistance. Through no fault of my own, I have had to battle along. I assure honourable members that the assistance I have received and the friendships that I have established with members of this Assembly is something that I value. That attitude has led to good administration by the Government.

The Budget provides for an allocation of \$1.2m for investigation and survey work to be carried out on the Callide pipeline. My electorate is the only electorate in Queensland that has 38 primary schools. It is the only electorate in Queensland, if not Australia, that will be able to boast three powerhouses.

Mr Lee: I see that you are going to have a new member in your electorate.

Mr HARTWIG: Somebody said that a field officer was to be appointed to look after my electorate.

I need not remind members of this Assembly that, because of my representation, very little is needed in the electorate of Callide. If there are any things that the electorate does not have, it is only a matter of time before they are obtained. Mr Caridge has advocated that if the people of Callide have any problems, they should take them to branch meetings rather than to their member of Parliament. That is a reflection on me and on the people who have supported me for the 11 years that I have been a member of this House.

The pipeline to which I have referred will supply water to the Callide B Power Station, which is now under construction. A 700 MW power-station is proposed. It will be situated very close to Callide A. A conveyor belt will transfer coal from the mine to the power-station. An assured water supply from the Callide Dam is only a few hundred metres away. I did my utmost to influence the QEGB and the Cabinet Minister of the day to site the power-station at Callide.

The Thiess coal-mine at Callide has developed. A new mine has been opened at Boundary Hill. This year, the Transport Department has allocated \$3.1m to upgrade the rail link between Gladstone and the Callide coal-mine. The Callide mine supplies much of the coal required for the major power-station at Gladstone.

I remind Cabinet Ministers that in 1979, when Cabinet met in Yeppoon, the then Minister for Justice and Attorney-General (Mr Lickiss) promised a new court-house for that town. However, in the last three years nothing has been done about a new court-house.

The Budget provides for an allocation of \$28.44m for the finalisation of the section of the Bruce Highway between Marlborough and Sarina. I suppose that between Cairns and Melbourne no more important section of road has been constructed for many years. The new link will bypass Funnel Creek, which was notorious as a bottle-neck and was the scene of many fatalities. The road was always cut there during the wet season. Next Friday week the Premier will be opening the new link between Marlborough and Sarina. The honourable member for Mirani and I will be attending the ceremony, and we hope to have schools in our electorates well represented, because it will be an important occasion. The Ogmoo and Marlborough State schools are in my electorate.

I never cease to be amazed at the fact that main roads and highways are constructed to a width of only 7 metres. In a country such as Japan, where land is so valuable, that is understandable; but in Australia, a country that places great emphasis on road transport and communication, there is no excuse for building roads only 7 metres wide. I constantly press the district engineer and ask why roads are not constructed to a width of 8 metres. His answer is always the same—"That would be considered a luxury." I am sure that I echo the sentiments of everyone here and thousands of people outside when I say that on a highway 7 metres wide, with a transport thundering along in the opposite direction at 60 miles an hour, there is not much room left.

Mr Lee: You get sucked in by the wind.

Mr HARTWIG: That is right.

I am pleased to note that the Budget allocates \$500,000 for the development of an industrial site at Gracemere. I remind the Government that in last year's Budget it promised the establishment of an industrial estate at Yeppoon. That has not eventuated. When something appears in print in the Treasurer's Financial Statement, it is the duty of the Government to honour its promise. Therefore I appeal to the Treasurer to ensure that an industrial estate is established at Yeppoon.

Some years ago Parliament sat all night debating the Iwasaki project at Yeppoon. It was claimed that it would be a wonderful project for Yeppoon and Central Queensland. I shall not debate that now. However, I want to have something to say about the brickworks at Yeppoon. It is a very important local industry. Apart from employing labour it supplies bricks for the construction of houses and buildings. An industrial estate should be opened up at Yeppoon. A magnificent site is available and it should be provided with water and electric power.

Plans are in hand to spend a considerable sum on the Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour. Quite a few of the boats that moor in the harbour become grounded at low tide as the result of silting. The boat harbour is used by fishermen, commercial operators and pleasure craft. Sometimes boats cannot enter the harbour at low water because of silting. So I appeal to the Minister for Maritime Services to allocate finance to the dredging of the Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour.

Biloela and Yeppoon are the two main centres in the Callide electorate. Many miners who work at the Moura, Boundary Hill and Callide mines live in Biloela. There are two power-stations in the electorate. There is a meatworks which, unfortunately, has closed temporarily, and 350 employees have been stood down. That has greatly affected the local population. The QEGB is erecting more than 100 houses for power-station employees. The

Minister for Works and Housing is not present in the Chamber, but I know that he is aware that there are 74 people on the waiting-list for houses and units at Biloela. Although 11 units are under construction, many more applicants are on the waiting-list for homes in Biloela. This demand for housing has resulted from the prosperity that is occurring in that area.

I thank the Transport Department for the new trucking yards at Biloela. I am sure that the Railway Department will be richer annually by many thousands of dollars because cattle will be able to be trucked without their jumping over the top of the yards.

I am sorry to say that nothing has been done about the construction of a new railway station at Biloela, which was promised in 1977. The Biloela Railway Station would be the most derelict building in the town. The Government earns a profit from that line, yet it cannot give the railway station a coat of paint. The station is dirty and filthy. The employees are working under substandard conditions, and they continue to work under such conditions only because they are pretty good supporters of mine. I ask that something be done to improve that station.

I now turn to the road system. Of course, road-works is an ongoing thing in any electorate in Queensland. Road building is never finished. Once one section of a road is built, another section needs rebuilding. That applies particularly to the Burnett-Callide highway between Thangool and Biloela, and to the section around Jambin/Dululu. I also urge that there should be a connecting road between Dululu, Wowan and Westwood. If that link was built, cattle trucks would not need to use the road over Mt Morgan Range, which is dangerous. In my opinion, that road is a blot on the road system in this State.

It has been suggested that the infrastructure costs of the new power-station at Biloela will include the cost of certain road-works. I cannot agree with that, I believe that the Main Roads Department should look after main roads and power-stations should finance their own affairs. If the Queensland Electricity Generating Board has to meet the costs of road-works, ultimately those costs will be reflected in consumers' accounts. In my opinion, costs for road-works should not be associated with infrastructure costs for power-stations. Road construction is a matter for the Main Roads Department.

The Thangool airport has once again been upgraded to Fokker Friendship standard. Thangool has one of the most modern country race clubs in Queensland. Recently I had the pleasure, in the absence of the Minister in charge of racing, to open the new facilities there. I pay a tribute to the Minister and the Government for the great job that has been done for the racing industry in Queensland. The money that is allocated to race clubs in country areas will do much for country racing. Country race clubs help to fill a vacuum by providing a venue for those horses that cannot win in the metropolitan area. The result will be a promotion of breeding and of country ownership. Country people are given the opportunity to attend a racecourse and enjoy good facilities.

Mr Lee: It is one of the biggest industries there is.

Mr HARTWIG: It is. Racing is a major industry. I must say that the Minister for racing has done a good job.

The member for Barron River referred to water resources. I could not agree more with what he said. The Callide Valley is one area where there should be a major dam. I strongly suggest that the Water Resources Commission consider siting a major dam in the Callide basin, which is one of the richest areas in Queensland. The only thing that does not grow in that region is something that has not been planted, but we are battling continually because of a shortage of water. A young farmer in the area has been prosecuted because he put down a bore. His neighbour on the top side has four bores and the fellow on the bottom side has three bores. That young fellow put a bore down and now he has to go to court, just because he is using a little bit of water. That is regrettable. We should make sure that there is an adequate water supply. Queensland will be looking for wheat and lucerne. The Callide Valley is a major lucerne-growing area. The irrigated areas supplied lucerne to all parts of Queensland in the recent drought. I would like to thank Mr Keating of the Railway Department in Central Queensland who agreed to release to road transport a train load of lucerne that was going bad during the recent strike. He did that on request within a quarter of an hour, and I place on record my appreciation for the assistance I received from him.

Mr Scott: Are there problems with salt intrusion in the irrigation schemes in your area?

Mr HARTWIG: Yes. That is caused by lack of water.

This year the Main Roads Department will spend \$405.2m, an increase of \$66.1m, or 19.5 per cent, on the previous year. In addition, extra funds are expected from the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program. In the last two years I have received more road funds than I have ever received, and I am very grateful to the Main Roads Department for that. When we talk about roads, we think about road carnage and the importance of road transport and communications. The Government is trying to come to grips with the road toll. The discos are a popular attraction in my area. Young men and women under the age of 18 years cannot go into a public bar, but it worries me that if they have \$3 on them they can buy their way into a disco. They get paralytic drunk, go out onto the street and climb into motor cars. I have seen that happening. The Government has done much to relax the drinking laws by providing licensed restaurants, etc.

However, something should be done about discos because they make drink available to under-age drinkers. When one sees 15 and 16-year-olds drunk and falling over on the footpath, one can only hope that they will not get into motor cars, but unfortunately many of them do. I urge the Government to look at that sort of thing.

Apart from those at Cannon Hill and Dalby, the saleyards at Gracemere in the Fitzroy Shire are the major cattle-selling centre in Queensland. They provide a very good outlet for fat and store cattle. At the present time the annual bull sale is being held. Gracemere is a rapidly developing area, and it will be in the midst of the development of the Stanwell Power Station. I urge the Minister for Education to take a look at the school, which is very good. On the 23rd of this month the Premier will open a new pre-school at Gracemere, with which I am very proud to be associated.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Why are they giving you all these things? You are an Independent now; they cannot buy favours.

Mr HARTWIG: If the honourable member had listened to me he would have heard that in the first instance I said the Callide electorate wanted very little.

Dr Edwards: Good representation!

Mr HARTWIG: Yes. I saw a Press article to the effect that a field officer will stand against me. That's laughable. It was not the Premier nor the National Party members who expelled me; it was the faceless people on "Capital Hill".

At the present time the Rockhampton-Ridgeland road is receiving some attention, and I hope for a continuity of road-works in that area. A peculiar thing is that most of the bad roads in the electorate are within 10 or 15 miles of Rockhampton. For instance, the Yeppen crossing and the Bouldercombe road are very bad. Until the last few years, the coast road was also very bad. Since I became the member, with the expenditure of \$3m and a new bridge over Fig Tree Creek and a new entrance to Yeppoon, the road to Yeppoon has improved from a goat track to one of the nicest approaches to any seaside resort in Queensland. From a mile and a-half away one can see the very good sea views.

The Agricultural Bank always seems to be struggling for funds. Because of high fuel costs and the tax on diesel fuel, high interest rates, the cost of spare parts and the terrible drought, many primary producers are taking a very hard look at their overdrafts. They deserve all the consideration that the Government can give them.

I wish to refer to tourism. In some places much has been said about Central Queensland and in other places much has not been said about Central Queensland. Some maps do not even show the area. I implore the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation to ensure that any future maps of Queensland show the Central Queensland area. When I was on an aircraft between Hobart and Melbourne I saw a map that showed the Sunshine Coast, but the next northern place that was shown was Townsville. That left a fair gap in between in which is located some glorious country. It is up to the Tourist and Travel Corporation to make sure that any magazine printed in this nation well and truly covers the tourist potential of all parts of Queensland. TAA do a pretty good job with Great Keppel Island—

Mr Lee: They own it, that's why.

Mr HARTWIG: Naturally, but they are doing a good job of developing the island. It is up to the Tourist and Travel Corporation to make sure that Central Queensland appears on every map that is produced for the tourist industry.

I am happy to announce that a new pre-school has been built at Emu Park. Operations commenced in a very nice building a few weeks ago, and there were 25 children in attendance.

It amazes me that the National Party is talking about sending a field officer into my electorate to ascertain the requirements of the people. I do not want anybody impeding my progress, Mr Warburton. He has no authority to act on my behalf or make representations on my behalf, and I can assure members that skin and hair will be flying if he turns up.

I also represent a very important fishing industry. Members would remember that just recently a tremendously important Bill relating to the fishing industry was passed through this Assembly. The fishing industry at Yeppoon is worth between \$2m and \$3m a year.

The pineapple growers at Yeppoon use the railway to market their produce. The industry has succeeded over the years, but it is fairly tight and there is not much difference between costs and sale prices. I hope that recent increases in rail freights do not affect my pineapple growers to any great extent because they are sailing pretty close to the wind following increases in the cost of the fertilisers and sprays that are required to grow pineapples.

The police stations at Yeppoon and Biloela are not 24-hour stations. With the influx of people into Biloela following the construction of more housing a new police station is required, and it should be upgraded to a 24-hour station. It is not good enough that people cannot seek police help after 11 or 12 o'clock at night. The sergeant has a telephone in his quarters, but he is not always available.

I now want to discuss the electricity supply industry, and in doing so I want to draw the attention of members to the anomalies that exist in the reticulation of electricity. The other day I asked the Minister for Mines and Energy why people in remote areas have to contribute up to \$10,000 or \$20,000, which is non-refundable, to have electricity connected to their properties. I think it is extortion of the worst kind. These days nobody gives anything away free, and we realise that, but there are no vacations in the grazing industry and people on the land are having a hell of a battle with the elements and receiving low prices for their products. But if they want to reticulate power to their properties the electricity boards say, "Right, you donate \$10,000, or \$12,000 or \$15,000 and we will look at the reticulation of power." A number of people have paid amounts of that size. One group of six families paid \$65,000 last July, but as yet they have no power. \$65,000 at 17 or 18 per cent would earn a lot of interest, but those people had to pay the money before the board would even consider supplying them with power.

That matter should be looked into. If I were in charge of electricity reticulation that would not happen. The money should be advanced by way of loan. It is fair enough that people who live in remote areas should contribute—I am not opposed to that—but let them contribute by way of interest-bearing loans, even if they are at only 6 or 7 per cent.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer has decided that action should be taken to improve school bus runs. I hope that he looks closely at what is happening north of Dingo, in the electorate of the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs. As I said on another occasion, my daughter has to drive her son 70 miles a day to attend school. In all, eight to ten children on that run could well be catered for by a mini bus. If the Government wants to keep people on the land it behoves it to do something to improve that situation, which must not be allowed to continue. People who love the land are finding it necessary to give up their life on the land to educate their children. I ask the Treasurer to do everything he can to assist those people. I emphasise that it is very important to keep people in the remote areas of the State.

Queensland has led the way in many fields; it will continue to lead the way. When Queensland abolished death duties, it gave the lead to the nation.

The Budget provides for the expenditure of over \$3,500m. I do not profess to be an economist, but I cannot understand why the Treasurer has to go to Japanese bankers to raise money.

Dr Edwards: And to London.

Mr HARTWIG: I cannot understand why he has to go to other parts of the world to borrow money against the State's resources. When the Government borrows overseas it is virtually mortgaging the resources of the State. I do not say that the purpose of the borrowing is wrong. The Treasurer is borrowing money because he knows that Queensland's needs are great. Finance is needed for the construction of major power stations, major dams and so on. But why cannot those projects be financed from Queensland's own resources? Why cannot Queensland's resources and prosperity be used to create money, jobs and industry? I do not propose that the Government should enter into competition with the private banks. Although many people feel that my proposal would mean that, it would not. I am speaking about the public sector and about money being made available for semi-Government departments and semi-Government projects.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr HARTWIG: This State is not receiving a fair return from Canberra from fuel tax. It is receiving only a tenth, a sixth or a twentieth.

I see nothing wrong with Queensland's taking the lead in that respect. The State's Constitution provides for the setting up of a State bank. If the Government of the State drafts the laws and does not administer finance properly, a big gap is left in the proper running of the country.

Many people are losing jobs not because of the Government's policies but because of the policies of monetary operators who do not even live in this country. Money is being manipulated by the World Bank operators. They bring frustration, hunger, unemployment and wars on the people. That is what the monetary giants of the world are doing today. Unlike this Government, they are not interested in the welfare of people. They are interested in seeing that the funds available are insufficient and in creating depressions. They are deliberately manipulating the monetary system of the world.

As a Government, we sit and take that. We should not have to sit and take it, because Queensland has tremendous resources available to it. If a State bank was established, \$3,500m in revenue would be available in one year. It could lend four times its revenue. One can imagine what could be done for Queensland with that money.

Money is needed for roads and power-stations. The Treasurer had to go overseas because he could not raise the money in Australia. Money is needed for all sorts of things, including hospitals and bridges. Within 15 to 20 miles of Brisbane one-lane bridges are encountered. A person does not need to be a Rhodes scholar to know that if war broke out tomorrow there would be no shortage of money.

Why should the Government stand by and watch people going into soup-kitchens and walking past windows unable to afford the goods that are displayed in them? The Government is powerless to do anything about that. It is time that it took action, put on a bold front and said, "To hell with the Rothschilds, the Neuendorfs and the World Bank manipulators." The Government should create its own funds. It need not interfere with the public sector. The private banks are quite capable of handling that.

Mr Lee: Are you suggesting that we should secede?

Mr HARTWIG: No; I am suggesting that, as a Government, we should be bold.

Rothschild, a World Bank manager, said, "I care not who maketh the laws of the land. Just allow me to provide the finance." In other words, he does not care about the laws. If he controls the money market, he controls the land. If the Government is silly enough to put up with that, it deserves what it gets.

Unemployment is being experienced in Queensland and other Australian States. Members of Parliament receive very good salaries. Tonight, when we go across to the dining room, we can enjoy a meal. We get up in the morning and we have no worries about money. I was brought up in very poor circumstances. My father took me on a trip to Sydney. He gave me ten shillings. Two days after I arrived in Sydney, I had no money. I assure honourable members that that has left an indelible mark on my memory. Honourable members may laugh, but families are placed in a very serious position when they do not have any money.

The Government must be bold; it must be game. Queensland is one of the richest States in the world. Members of this Assembly refer to people coming to Queensland

from other States and countries. Some people who have visited my office have neither jobs to go to nor roofs over their heads. Two families in that situation visited me during the last week. One came from South Australia, the other from Victoria.

Queensland has the power under the Constitution to set up a State bank. It should be game enough to do it. The Queensland Government has proved its ability to administer. It has made this State. Yet, on financial matters, Queensland is at the mercy of the whims of Canberra and World Bank manipulators. To relieve the situation that presently exists in Queensland, the Government should establish a State bank.

Admittedly, it would not be the be-all and end-all; it would not hand out money willy-nilly. It would, however, provide funds for roads that are falling to pieces. All country members would agree that our roads are falling to pieces. The State is up for millions of dollars for the reconstruction of roads and bridges, and it must find the money.

The establishment of a State bank was killed by the National Party. Sir Robert Sparkes postponed the issue or did something else. The whole matter gets back to the question: who is running the country?

Dr Edwards: There are five other State banks in Australia, and they have not been successful.

Mr HARTWIG: The other States do not have the resources that Queensland has. Queensland is the richest State in Australia. Look at the minerals Queensland has. It has coal seams 40 feet thick and only 50 yards apart running from the New South Wales border to the Gulf. It has uranium, bauxite and copper. I would not be frightened to mortgage the resources of Queensland to finance semi-governmental work on roads, hospitals and so on. I am a man who likes a punt, and I would punt on that one. Too often have I seen people lined up at the soup-kitchen down the road. That indicates that all is not well in the economy.

This Government makes laws to do this and that. It makes a law to reduce the alcohol content of beer, but it is powerless to do anything about the economic situation. I have sufficient faith in the administrators of this State to suggest that they give it a go.

Recently I spoke about local government and stated that many good men who enter local government sit around the council table without knowing much about local government. I suggested that local government seminars be held throughout Queensland. My remarks could apply also to politicians.

Whenever a new member enters this place the members who have been here for quite some time take enjoyment from seeing him make mistakes. They like to see him fall over himself, go down the wrong corridor and do the wrong thing. It is a case of "Find out for yourself."

I suggest that Mr Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, the Premier or the Deputy Premier speak to new members and tell them what the procedures are. If a new member is struggling in this place, it may mean that his electorate is struggling to have good representation. I suggest that that be printed in the Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin" so that the people of Callide can read it. They might think that they had better stick to someone they know. I would take a pretty dim view of the appointment of field officers to do my job.

Not many towns can boast about having a good band, but Biloela has one. However, the instruments used are very expensive. The Government boasts about the subsidies that it provides for sport, and I agree with them, but it does not give one cent to bands to enable the musicians to buy their very expensive instruments. The fellows in the band at Biloela practise three or four times a week. They perform at show-time, on Anzac Day and on other occasions, yet for some reason the Government does not assist them to buy their expensive instruments. I appeal to the responsible Minister to do something to help those young people.

Over the last few years the Government has introduced the Town Planning Act for local authorities. It more or less provides guide-lines. In my opinion, it has created a huge bureaucratic set-up. There is a lot of paperwork. Recently, I was pleased to read that the Government is trying to expedite the granting of approvals for subdivisions.

Young people put their last cent into buying a block of land; but then, having bought it, they have not one iota of say in what they can do with it. Immediately they want to erect a building, they have to submit an application to a fellow behind a desk.

Recently, a chap came to me with a thick report. He wants to build a home on 7 acres of land. He has already spent more than \$400 on council charges. He is trying to get

approval to build a septic system and there is trouble with the absorption tank. The town planner comes to his property and bores holes and goes away. Every so often this man receives a bill from the council for \$140 or \$200. This has been going on for 12 months and a solution to the problem has still not been found. On a 7-acre block, he could install a 10 000 gallon septic tank. If I had not seen the file, I would not have believed the story.

Why do we put up with so much red tape? A building must comply with the local government by-laws. A person subdividing a block of land has to provide streets and other services, and I have no argument with that.

I know of a council that asked a baker to contribute \$6,000 towards the cost of constructing a footpath and road outside his property before it would give him approval to build on his land. That is extortion. Roads do not belong to anybody; they are public thoroughfares.

I cannot understand why the Minister stands by and allows local government people to extort money. In many instances they will not put anything in writing. If a person wants to subdivide, he has to contribute so much. I have given the Director of Local Government dozens of instances of that type of conduct.

I recall one instance of a lady wanting to give her daughter a block of land. She made application to the council, which said, "You give us \$2,000." She wrote in and asked why. The council said, "We want to fix that gully up." However, the gully was not between her block and the main road. It was two miles further on. It was on the road to another property. What the hell did that have to do with the subdivision? People have to put the money up first. It might be 12 months or two years before they get any result. In my opinion, the extortion racket that has evolved under the Town Planning Act requires very close attention by the Minister for Local Government.

Mr SCOTT (Cook) (4.46 p.m.): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to take part in the debate this afternoon, particularly as I follow in the footsteps of our Leader (Mr Casey), our Deputy Leader (Mr D'Arcy), the spokesman on Local Government and Main Roads (Mr Prest) and our spokesman on Lands and Forestry (Mr Kruger). They are very competent people.

I am pleased that Mr Casey is out in the State telling the people of Queensland that there is an alternative to the shocking Government that has ruled this State—and not just for the past year. We are debating a year's worth of Budget, it might be said. Mr Casey is telling the people that we have had this type of Government for so many years in Queensland. The people are ground down under the heel of the Queensland Government. They are ground down by this type of Budget.

I would like to be able to say something in praise of it. I do not like to stand here and criticise the Budget. However, it is my duty as a member of the Opposition to delicately take it apart and show the people of Queensland what is wrong with it. As I say, I am following in the very competent footsteps of my Leader and Deputy Leader, who have already attacked the Budget on very good grounds, on humanitarian grounds and on very technical grounds.

I do not intend to take a fine-tooth comb or a calculator to the Budget. I would need something better than a fine-tooth comb to dredge out anything that might be hidden away in the small print that would benefit the people in country areas. All that a calculator would show is that expenditures have been increased by very small amounts.

We are not debating a balanced Budget. We are debating a Budget in which there is great imbalance between that which goes to the haves and that which goes to the have-nots. It is a Budget of great imbalance which is supported by totally incompetent members. We have just heard a rather interesting diatribe from the member for Callide, who said that there should be a seminar to show people how to go about their job as members of Parliament. The National Party and the Liberal Party might need such a mini-school, but certainly people on the Labor side do not. In my short time in this place I have seen new Labor members who knew how to do their job. Not one of them would countenance such an insult.

The member for Callide has had to tell the Committee that the National Party has a stand-in in his electorate to do the job that the honourable member is not doing. That is because the member is out of his electorate too much. That is what is happening on the Government side. The Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services (Mr Bird)

is in Brisbane all the time. The member for Mt Isa is in Brisbane all the time. I know that it is a Brisbane-centred Government, but why do members of the National Party and the Liberal Party have to congregate down here? Why are they unlike members of the Labor Party, not out in the country areas talking to the people who support them? Unfortunately, the member for Caboolture has left the Chamber. He told me that when he was an electrician down here he had to guide members of the Country Party, as it then was, to the various rooms in this building.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Last Saturday morning I walked through the Jindalee shopping centre and saw Mr Bertoni serving in his own chemist shop.

Mr SCOTT: Goodness me! What a terrible state of affairs! He certainly will not be in this place after the next election. He will be replaced by a competent Labor member, who will stay in the electorate and come here only when Parliament is sitting. He will spend the rest of the time travelling round the electorate and will certainly not sell out and come to Brisbane, as the present member has done.

Two years ago the Queensland Government tried to tell the people of Queensland to get behind and support the Fraser Government. Elect the Fraser Government! What a shocking thing to do to the people of Australia! I have a classic example in my area of the Federal member for Leichhardt, who has the National Party itch to be elsewhere. He is never in that electorate. In the Cook electorate, not only do I deal with State problems but also I am inundated with Federal problems. Somebody has to try to solve them, so I telephone the people who can handle these things—Labor senators such as Senator Gerry Jones, Senator Keeffe and Senator Colston. It is all very well for the Treasurer to laugh. One does not hear too much of the Liberals, either.

Recently when I was in Burketown a Liberal was kowtowing to Mr Fraser and now I find that that person was, if not one of the architects, one of the supporters of the bottom of the harbour schemes and taxation avoidance. The Treasurer can take a point of order or do what he likes, but he knows that it is true. He knows the very senator to whom I refer.

In the North we have the problem of the Minister for Science and whatever it is—the term escapes me because up there we never hear of him. He is letting down the people of the Leichhardt electorate. At the last election he promised a sealed road to Weipa. Fortunately the people knew that that was a ridiculous promise, that he certainly would not get funding for it from the Commonwealth Government, but that is the sort of promise that he made. The Leichhardt electorate receives absolutely no benefit not only from having a National Party member but also a man who is a Cabinet Minister.

Mr BERTONI: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member said that I live in Brisbane. That is not true and I ask him to withdraw it.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Warburton): Order! I ask the honourable member to accept the explanation of the honourable member for Mt Isa on that matter.

Mr SCOTT: Yes, I will accept the explanation, but the honourable member was not in the Chamber at the time.

Mr Bertoni: Why say it?

Mr SCOTT: I said that the honourable member for Mt Isa spends too much time in Brisbane.

Mr BERTONI: Once again, that is not true.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Mt Isa has not taken a point of order.

Mr BERTONI: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member continues with remarks that are offensive to me. He has repeated the statement that he was asked to withdraw. I ask him to make an unqualified withdrawal of the statements.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Mt Isa has asked that the offensive words be withdrawn.

Mr SCOTT: I will withdraw the remarks that the member finds offensive.

The member for Wolston interjected that the member for Mt Isa was seen working in a chemist shop in Brisbane. I cannot withdraw those remarks. I simply make the point about National Party members who spend too little time in their electorates. How does the honourable member for Mt Isa like that? I will not withdraw those remarks.

Mr BERTONI: Explain what you mean—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member wishes to take a point of order, at the outset he should indicate that he wishes to do so.

Mr BERTONI: I rise to another point of order. I ask the honourable member for Cook to explain what "too little time" is.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr SCOTT: I will be very happy to let the people of the Mt Isa electorate decide how much time the honourable member spends in his electorate and whether or not he is worthy of support. The honourable member may think that he is doing a good job up there, but let us wait and see.

My point is still valid: National Party members do not remain in their electorates and I have given numerous examples of that. That is what the State is suffering from. They are not out talking of the needs of the State or impressing them upon the Government.

We had a classic example from the member for Callide of the sort of thing that is going on. I will not refer too much to the people on the "Melbidir" in the Torres Strait, but I make the point that they are up there and they know what is lacking in the area, but they do not come down here and put that experience to good use. National Party members are doing the same thing. If the cap fits, they can wear it.

We heard a tirade from the member for Callide on all the nonsense going on about a State bank. In supporting his argument he bore out the very things that we have been saying about what is needed in this State and the things that the Government is not doing. That is the most pertinent point I can make in my contribution to this debate. I am trying to be constructive, but it is extremely difficult when I am talking about such an incompetent Government.

I know the speeches of National Party members so well that I have worked them out to the last point. They begin with some words of praise for the Government and its Budget and then have a couple of jabs at the Victorian and New South Wales Governments. Their attack on those Governments rises in a crescendo, but they reach the nadir in praising their own Government. Then the truth comes out and they begin talking about what is lacking in the country areas of this State and, I might add, the cities. Both the country people and the city people are suffering. Like the Fraser Government, this Government is in a state of disarray. The public opinion polls in Victoria and New South Wales show that the stocks of the Governments in those States are high because they are Governments of the people, for the people.

I want to pose the question again: Why are people not doing better under this Government? We are told that this is a resource-rich State and that there are funds to go round. I say that the funds are misdirected and that they are going to the wrong parts of the State. As Mr Casey said, there is pork-barrelling in this State. He said it, so it must be true, and it must be going on in National Party electorates. That will have to cease. This Government acts against the small people and the country people, and there is no doubt that they will rise up in due course. They will simply toss this Government out. I predict that that will happen very quickly.

I recall speaking to a lady on Thursday Island. I am not sure of her party affiliation, but she told me that what she liked about the Premier when he first came into power was his statement that he would decentralise the Government and look after people in remote areas. He said that to justify the purchase of the Government aeroplane and, to start with, he used it. He used to fly round the State occasionally. Even before I represented the Cook electorate, I saw him in the area. He very occasionally came up to Cooktown. But then he realised that the problems in country areas were beyond his capacity as Premier and he no longer flies round the State. He is talking about getting a rear-engined aeroplane. I know where the engine needs to be put, and I will not make it any plainer than that. But that is what is needed—a little push along from behind to get him on

the tracks. It might be useful if Government members remember my suggestion about the rear-engined aeroplane. The aeroplane has not yet arrived but, when it does, it will be used only for the Premier's jaunts. Other Ministers will not even be allowed in it. Will it land up in the Torres Strait area? Will Mr Tomkins be allowed to get round in a rear-engined aeroplane up there instead of misusing and abusing the poor old "Melbidir"?

Mr Bertoni: Will Mr Casey use it?

Mr SCOTT: I referred to the remarks of Mr Casey. He is a very competent leader. He is out telling the people what the alternative Government would provide.

In his speech on the Budget the Leader of the Opposition referred to the careless way this Government conducts its affairs. He said—

"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."

I could not put it better myself. He went on to say—

"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."

Those are pertinent words. As my leader said, the ordinary people are being disadvantaged both financially and politically. By that, he meant that the ordinary people are paying their taxes and the tax avoiders are not meeting their share, but they are reaping the benefits. That is the sort of Government that has been foisted on this State for too long. It was put there, and it is being held there, by a gerrymander. It shocks me to hear National Party members say, in most innocent terms, "There is no gerrymander in this State." They expect people to believe that if they say it often enough.

When the president of the Labor Party (Denis Murphy) attended a seminar he told the Liberals and Nationals just how the gerrymander was organised. It has been organised for so long that Government members have almost forgotten how it works. Because the Government has not a decent numbers man in its ranks to continue the gerrymander, I do not think it could manage a similar redistribution. Dr Murhpy certainly put the Government right on a few very pertinent points.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr SCOTT: The skids are under a few of them. I feel sorry for the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island affairs. Without doubt he is a very decent man. When he speaks, he speaks from his heart, but that does not affect his attitude. As I said last night, if I could have helped him and pointed him in the right direction he would have been better off, but he would not let me within a bull's roar of him. The trouble is that he is under the tutelage of a would-be member of Parliament, that is, Mr Killoran. The Minister does not know that he harbours parliamentary aspirations. He has been shooting National Party members down one after the other because he wants to get his feet into the shoes of one of them. The Minister must feel terrible about that.

If the Minister could only adopt a better attitude, inform himself better, and forget his grazier approach (which I spoke to him about when he assumed his portfolio), he would be better off. At the time, he told me his views on the Aboriginal people. He holds his views honestly, but he cannot possibly be a Minister of the Crown and hold them. I do not call on him to resign; he has been called upon often enough to do that. He calls on me to resign, and it is like a little tit-for-tat session. I intend to show him how magnanimous I am by letting him off the hook. I know that the Government is pondering what it can do about him.

It is often asked throughout the State why more money is not available, and Government members sit there with grins on their faces and say that Queensland is the lowest-taxed State. That is a lot of nonsense.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Warburton): Order! There is far too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr SCOTT: The Government has surplus funds available to it. I will again quote from the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition—

“In fact, it has surplus funds available to it all the year round, which are used to pork-barrel in National Party electorates while the very real problems of unemployment, housing, welfare services and honesty in Government are thrown out of the window.”

I know that Mr Casey was very sad when he uttered those words, because the people of Queensland are uppermost in his thoughts. It is a shame that these things are foisted onto the people.

My analysis of the Budget will not be a fine-tooth comb, calculated one. I would like to make such an analysis but I would reveal too many Achilles heels. I intend to look at the Budget simply from the point of view of a Cook elector. In doing so I will show that there is no way in the world that the people in the North will ever vote for a member of the National Party, whether they bring on Killoran or anyone else.

Before speaking about the Cook electorate, I will deal with the red herrings drawn across the trail about the influx of people from the southern States. I will put that to rest straight away. In doing so, I will refer once again to the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition.

A man who is on top of his job knows what he is doing and what he is talking about. He made the point that in Queensland the total number of businesses fell slightly during the year. I have said before that Queensland is an agency State. There are no head offices in Queensland; they are in the South where those Governments, which we are told are so dreadful, are located. The Tory Governments were replaced because of their incompetence. If anything came to Queensland, it came to Queensland during that period. One has to dredge up the names of the Tory leaders of those States and the dreadful job they did in those States—the Bolte and Askin Governments. I do not think that the population drift to Queensland is occurring to the extent that Government members would try to kid us.

Mr Lee: You're joking.

Mr SCOTT: I am not joking.

If there are people coming to Queensland, they are the wrong sort of people. I would like to do a demographic study—

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr SCOTT: I can hear the baaing of the sheep. If I could mix my metaphors, Government members have their heads between their legs. They do not know what they are looking at.

I would like to see some demographic studies done of the vast population influx. Elderly people wish to live on the Gold Coast because it has a favourable climate and because there are no death duties in Queensland. That is what brought them here initially. The people of Queensland are being deprived of legitimate income. In Queensland there are elderly people who are not a great deal of use to this State. They are non-productive people. They are still investing their money in the South because they know that Queensland is only an agency State.

A large group of people are attracted to Queensland by the propaganda distributed by the Government in endless reams. The Government should have pity for the trees of Australia, because it is wasting paper in an effort to tell the rest of Australia how well off we are. If it is said often enough, people will believe it. The people who are coming to this State are those who have swallowed that propaganda. They think that there is nothing untroubled in this State. They come here in the belief that their future is in safe hands. They will learn the hard way that with the present type of Government in Queensland their future is in very dangerous and very slippery hands. They will leave as quickly as they came here. Already a large number of people are leaving the State because the promises that were made to them have not been fulfilled.

The third group of people coming to Queensland are the unemployed. They are coming here because of Queensland's climate. During the period when the Whitlam Government was in office, Government members said that the Labor Party would give the dole to glass-blowers and other persons. Large numbers of people attend at Commonwealth Employment Service offices. They are told that there is little employment to be

offered in this State. They are told that they might as well return to the South. There is extremely high unemployment in Queensland. The job prospects are not what Government members would have the people believe. The Government keeps churning out propaganda. It should not forget that its overkill will have its effect. Fewer and fewer people will believe the Government's propaganda.

One of the demand factors that affect 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. That was a relatively modest increase in population. There has been a drop in consumer spending per head of population. Capital expenditure also showed a marked deceleration as the year progressed. That is the sad history of this State under the mismanagement of the present Government.

Housing is an extremely effective barometer. I will quote from the statements made by someone who is dear to the hearts of Government members. The Deputy Premier said that building construction was dead in this State. That is a barometer. The Treasurer knows that that is so. He knows that things are not as rosy as he would have us believe. The Leader of the Opposition said that, to use a better metaphor, the building industry was being "squashed".

In Queensland there is very little real economic activity. The inactivity is highlighted by extremely high unemployment figures both in Queensland and throughout Australia. I accept that the unemployment figures in the southern States also are high. However, they are manufacturing States. Very few manufacturing companies have seen fit to establish themselves in Queensland. If a downturn occurs in the overseas economy, the results will be felt in Australia. People who support Mr Fraser are crying, "There is a world-wide economic downturn, so what can we expect?" We certainly cannot expect much from the Fraser Government. Mr Whitlam was never defended in the way in which Mr Fraser is defended.

Under a Hayden Labor Government the Australian economy will pick up. The ways in which that will be achieved have been clearly stated. There are established economic procedures for lifting an economy. Those procedures can be followed in Australia, which contains a mixture of private and public sectors. Australia is a very fertile area for proper economic management.

Results can be achieved by the Keynesian theory of economic management. That is what Australia wants. I will speak out loudly for deficit budgeting. We do not want the nonsense that the member for Callide spoke about, that results can be achieved only through the banks. There are banks galore in Queensland. Deficit budgeting will achieve results, as long as it is applied carefully. With the present state of the world economy, confidence in Australia has to be built up. That is what we want. We are concerned with Australia. I will say this for the member for Callide: at least he was concerned for the people of Queensland and the people of Australia. He meant well, but economically things cannot be done as he said. Results can be achieved in Australia by deficit budgeting.

Mr Lee: You have been listening to Whitlam for too long.

Mr SCOTT: Yes, I am pleased to admit that I have been listening to Whitlam. I will state some of the other good things that were done under the Whitlam Government. They are not being done under the uncaring Fraser Government.

Whitlam showed that Governments can soften the impact of the vagaries of a purely free enterprise system. I would not want to live in America at present unless I had exceptional ability and skills that would enable me to be employed. Look at the unemployment figures in that purely free enterprise, capitalistic nation. They are creeping up to approximately 11 per cent. That is a dreadful state of affairs.

A similar situation exists in Britain under Mrs Thatcher. The economic policies of Britain and America are the ones that the Queensland Government would foist on to us. Life would be intolerable. All I can say about the ordinary intelligent people in Britain and America is that they must be sustained by their love of country. That is all that would keep people in those countries under their dreadful administrations. The President of the United States, Mr Reagan, has no idea how the other two-thirds of the American people live.

There is an obsession about balancing budgets and reducing taxation. There has to be a level of taxation that allows services to be provided. I am not going to cry out that taxation should be increased. I know that in the very near future when Labor is in

government it will not be the Labor Party's aim to increase taxation. It will use the revenue that comes in from taxation more sensibly and more fairly than it is being used now. That is what I ask for. The Government should turn its attention towards doing that.

In America there is this obsession about reducing taxation paid by the friends of the Government. At least the United States Government is prepared to do that honestly; it simply reduces the taxation paid by the rich. In Australia, however, we have accountants who devise bottom of the harbour schemes for the rich. It is much more difficult to get at tax evasion in Australia. I just wish that I could stiffen Mr Fraser's resolve and, in spite of the deep rifts and schisms that exist within the Liberal Party, have him get some money back for the benefit of the honest Australian taxpayers. In America the Government simply reduces the taxation paid by its friends and it strives for a balanced budget. Who suffers? The people who suffer are those on social security and the unemployed. In America, people simply don't care. At least in Australia, the members of the National Party and Liberal Party shed crocodile tears; but they do not really care.

I heard on the radio today that an American visitor to Australia is advocating a 10 per cent cut in wages. That is all that is being done in America. Wages are being cut by 10 per cent. I remind Government members of a man who would be dear to their lovely little Tory hearts, Sir Otto Niemeyer. The younger members will not remember him—I do not remember him because I was too young at the time—but he came to Australia during the Depression and told Australia how to rid itself of the ills of a world-wide depression. He was the instigator of that incredible thing called the Premiers Plan, which was designed to reduce wages. He said, "Let everyone take a salary cut, but don't hit the profits."

The New South Wales Premier of the day said, "We should not pay dividends to the British investors." That was the right tack. But, of course, he was taken to task by the then New South Wales Governor and good Tory, Sir Philip Game, and he brought down the Government in New South Wales. As I say, the Labor Government was on the right tack. It was against any reduction in wages. A country cannot be dragged out of a monetary depression by reducing the real money that people have to spend.

That brings me back to the fact that I urge the Premier to adopt deficit budgeting in this State. It is badly needed. Sir Otto Niemeyer was an agent of the Bank of England and was out here to destroy the Australian economy. We have read about the solutions that were tried in those days. They did not work then, and they will not work now. Let us send back to America this fellow who talks about reducing wages by 10 per cent. That is a dreadful misunderstanding of real economic philosophy. It is simply not the way to do things. Tory Governments do not know how to handle difficult economic situations. The only way in which they handle such situations is to make the ordinary people suffer.

I refer members back to the days of Roosevelt and his New Deal. He was a Democratic President of the United States of America, and I give him credit. It is exhilarating to read that Roosevelt did to get America back from the very depths of the Depression. As I say, he was a Democrat, and if he had lived in Australia he would certainly have espoused Labor principles. He certainly knew the Keynesian economic philosophies. He spent Government money. He made sure that people were employed. He woke up to the fact that if people spend money in a free enterprise system, the economy will grow. That is what Roosevelt did in America. He was able to drag America up by the bootstraps and put it on a higher economic plane. Under subsequent Presidents, the American economy has slipped again.

Mr Davis: Those people over there used to support another champion of the time, Adolf Hitler.

Mr SCOTT: I would not doubt that at all. I know that they do not like reference being made to Fascist philosophies, but when one looks at the operations of this State and the laws that the Government has introduced—the Commonwealth Games Bill and the Essential Services Bill will go down in history—one sees that Queensland came closer to Fascism than any State in Australia. Even the Premier, with the terrible approach that he adopts towards the people of Queensland, could not quite tip the State over into total Fascism; but I believe that he tried hard. I urge members to read history to find out what happened in the world not so long ago.

Bigoted people oppose enlightened policies. They do not care about the ordinary working men and women. Whitlam was a man who appreciated the Keynesian approach. The RED scheme, which he introduced between 1972 and 1975, was a classic example of constructive thinking in the economic field. It was written down a great deal by Tory councils, which just could not be bothered applying themselves to getting people working in their shires. Instead, they whinged, complained and attacked Whitlam. In my area, however, even the National Party councils benefited from the RED scheme.

In North Queensland there are many monuments to the constructive thinking of the Whitlam era. I have enumerated them before in the Chamber. I notice that the Treasurer is taking an increased interest in what I am saying. Employment schemes are needed in this State. There are monuments in Far North Queensland to the constructive approach of Mr Whitlam.

The cry goes up, "Why don't we put the unemployed to work?" I pose that question and I will allow Government members to interject so that they can provide me with the answers. Let them begin enumerating them, but let there be one interjection at a time. I can handle them all. Why do they not do what all their supporters urge—put the unemployed to work? I hesitate to use the term "dole bludger", which was coined by the likes of Government members—by those who like to denigrate people who are unable to get a job. I want to know why the Government does not put those people to work. They could be employed by councils. There is a CDEP scheme.

Why does the Government not use the schemes that are available and put the people to work? I know the real answer. People are often asked why it is not done. It is a legitimate question. The answer is that the Governments of the day—the National Governments and the Liberal Governments—are not prepared to spend the little extra money needed to support those people by buying the material, hiring the equipment, providing the supervision and doing the bookwork involved in employing them. That is the answer. It is the answer once and for all to the question that is often asked.

Dr Lockwood: Do you know that it costs ten times as much as the dole to provide constructive work for the unemployed?

Mr SCOTT: That is utter nonsense. Where did the honourable member dredge those figures up? Where are the studies being carried out? Let him document his statement with some facts. Ten times as much? That is the cry of—and I repeat my earlier expression—the bigot of the day. The honourable member has just qualified for that appellation.

There should be more CDEP schemes to employ people, particularly in country areas. How can young people get by on \$36 a fortnight, which is the dole level for the single unemployed? When they do get a job, if they are in a Queensland Housing Commission house, the Government puts the rent up. If they are lucky enough to get a job, up goes the rent to a prohibitive level. So the young people are required to leave home or the parents are required to leave. It is a dreadful way to govern a country. I simply do not know how young people are able to get by on that level of payment. Look at the lack of employment prospects held out by this Government, even under this very Budget.

As I said before, Government members are only damning the Budget with faint praise. They do not analyse the Budget at length and say how good it is; they merely say a few words in passing.

Mr McKechnie: Wait for my speech.

Mr SCOTT: The member for Carnarvon will not do much better. I will be looking for the fine print of his speech, if I might use that term, when he begins to tell the House how little has been done in his electorate.

The system that Government members praise is incredibly destructive of people's will to work. They are creating a generation of unemployed, a generation of very substantial numbers. That is a shame. The Government is trying to break their will to work. I know that young Australian people, in particular, are good people and that even Tory Governments will not in the end succeed in breaking them and their will to work. It will be the love of their country that lifts them up when the economic situation improves, or when a Labor Government comes to power. The economy will improve then and they will then go back to work. They want to work, but the Government is destroying their desire to work.

Honourable members opposite claim to belong to a Government that is motivated by Christian principles. They certainly do not put those Christian principles into practice. They blame the people who are unemployed. I know that they say that. They do not say it very loudly, because the unemployed are voters and members opposite do not want to get too far off side with them. However, they do say that it is the fault of the unemployed. The Christian morality of members opposite is, "I'm all right, Jack. I am not on this earth to concern myself about other people." Really, when one looks into it, that is the free enterprise principle.

Honourable members opposite are not on this earth to be concerned about the general mass of human beings. As long as Government members are doing all right, it is bad luck for those who are not in their favoured position. For example, they do not care about the unemployed. That is their interpretation of Christianity. They have an I'm-all-right philosophy.

Mr Wilson interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I point out to honourable members that the Committee is listening to the honourable member for Cook. If the honourable member for Townsville South wishes to address the Chamber, he can do so at a later date. While the honourable member for Cook is on his feet, I would like to be able to hear what he has to say.

Mr SCOTT: Because I have seen them in action, I know that my views about the Christian attitude of honourable members opposite are right. When one sits in this Chamber and listens to honourable members opposite, their views impress themselves on one's mind. As people, they are all right—I accept that—but the heartless political philosophy that they have allowed to sink upon them has knocked the humanity out of them.

I return to the comment of the member for Callide that Queensland is a rich State. The Budget should be based on that assumption. I am quite happy to speak about deficit budgeting, which would give some additional funds to the State. The Government has the credit: it is a rich State. The Government will not be putting the State into hock.

Dr Edwards interjected.

Mr SCOTT: I am sure that, although he may be incompetent, the Treasurer is not going deaf. He knows what I am saying. I will repeat it, but I will not waste my allotted time by repeating it endlessly.

Dr Edwards interjected.

Mr SCOTT: When it is the Treasurer's turn, he may criticise me.

Deficit funding is a legitimate economic tactic, and now is the time that the Government should use it. By not using it, it is showing that it has no confidence in the assets or the people of the State. I am perturbed about the people more than anything else. The Government is writing down the people of the State and saying that they will not work. The fact is that they cannot work and the Government will not give them the opportunity to do so. We on this side of the Chamber say, "Give them the opportunity and the people will work." People want to work. Whether they are black or white, Torres Strait Islanders or Aborigines, people will certainly work when given the opportunity and the incentive to work. I ask the Government not to be continually negative and pessimistic and, in the process, prop up unemployment. I repeat what I have said so many times; it is a destructive philosophy.

Deficit funding can be implemented without increasing the rate of inflation. I know that the Treasurer will say that it will immediately lead to tearaway inflation, which is the expression used by Tory economists. That is not so. It is quite possible to balance a Budget to achieve an inflation rate that the people will accept.

I am aware that inflation has its greatest effect on people on fixed incomes. However, that can be taken care of by what is known as indexation. It is a pity that I have to stand here and give the Treasurer a lecture in economics. We both learnt the one trade, the electrical trade, and I thought that we should have something in common. Perhaps I ought to be a little bit kinder to him, but I must say that, on the way from being an electrician to becoming the Treasurer of the State, he has not absorbed very much

real economic theory. If he cannot find the answers from the advisers that he has, I suggest that he look for new advisers. The people of Queensland will have the answer. They will simply vote for a Labor Government. •

Anybody can produce a balanced Budget, even though it is a Budget of imbalance. I am aware that that is a paradox, but I explained it earlier in my speech. Simply by tightening the belt, anybody can produce a balanced Budget. What I continue to abhor is the Government's tightening of the belts of the people for whom it does not care. Of course, the affluent can send their children to the best schools; they have access to the best doctors; they are the ones who can afford flash motor cars. They do not feel the pinch as much as the workers of the State.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr SCOTT: Yes, they love their accountants. They probably do not pay them very highly, but they love them to look after their affairs.

I now want to come back to the speeches of National Party members. The member for Isis called for a new initiative from his own Government. He can see that it is running down. Because he is a back-bencher he probably feels that he can say what he did. The member for Callide called for greater expenditure in country areas. I just wish I could quote his precise words, but they are in "Hansard" and will bear me out. The member for Carnarvon will, I know, stand up and say the same things. I have told members the type of speeches they are and how they follow the same pattern.

Expenditure in remote areas is not growing. The other evening I was talking about the condition of the roads in country areas, and I was pleased to hear National Party members bear me out this afternoon. They said that the State's roads are breaking down. Of course, they are probably referring to sealed bitumen roads and saying that the shoulders are caving in, and getting rougher and steeper. But in my area I am talking about unsealed roads, corrugated and pot-holed roads.

I spoke about the trip my wife and I made to Lockhart River, and last year I recall the Leader of the Opposition referring to his drive to Weipa. Once one leaves the turn-off of the main Peninsula Developmental Road one sees the type of road it is. Just over a year ago that road wound amongst the trees. Just a few weeks ago I travelled along the road to Lockhart River, and it was in the same condition. They are roads to important communities. There are 700 or 800 people living at Lockhart River, and they deserve some recognition by the Government. There are 3 000 people living in Weipa and producing for export. We are told that those people are high on the Government's category of producers—an exporter is way up the list—and they should be treated that way. There are a number of them in the Cook electorate. I do not need to remind members of the export-oriented prawn production in Karumba.

But I will stick to the road to Weipa, rough as it is. Insufficient money is being spent on it. I have already referred to the problem caused by the build-up of tourist traffic. Today I asked a question aimed at finding out whether the Main Roads Department can differentiate between tourist traffic and the traditional users of the road. The answer could be significant, because if we can distinguish between the two that would provide a clear argument straight away for extra spending on that road. I see the Minister for Mines and Energy nodding his head in response to my argument about the road to Weipa. He is not a bad bloke in his way but he does not do much for the people who live up my way. I do not think he has been there. I suggest that one day instead of travelling by air he should drive to Weipa and have a look at the roads. He should also turn his attention to some of the mining roads and allocate a little more money to the poor old miners so that they can get to their leases. Money is very badly needed for that purpose.

Getting back to my previous theme—if we can distinguish between tourist traffic and traditional users there will be a strong case for extra expenditure. I can give some examples of the cost of maintaining roads in my electorate. I will deal first with the road into Lockhart River, that important community up in the Cape that has been ignored for so long by an uncaring Government. The Cook Shire was given totally inadequate flood relief money to spend on that road. I have been told that it spent to the order of \$60,000 on it. The DAIA allocated \$20,000 for a particular purpose, and the other night I told the Assembly what that was. \$80,000 is not enough to construct a road from the Weipa turn-off into Lockhart River. We travelled over endless kilometres of bulldust and churned-up road. The only

term that comes to mind is a churned-up mess of dust. When the rain comes it will turn to mud and people will not be able to get out. \$60,000 is simply a drop in the bucket. A much greater level of funding will have to be applied to the road or it will end up in a complete mess.

The road into Weipa has received some attention because Comalco provided the money and did some work on it. The Government is good at falling back on the private companies and getting them to do the job that it should be doing.

The Peninsula Developmental Road should run from Cairns to Bamaga, and not to Weipa. The road from the Weipa turn-off to Bamaga is used by many hundreds and hundreds of tourists whose aim is to see Cape York. Because they are damaging the road, money will have to be spent on it.

The Cook Shire believes that it is not wise to call the road beyond the Weipa turn-off a developmental road. It is frightened that, if it is a developmental road it will receive even less funding for it than it gets now. I understand the fear because it is an administered shire. It is much more in the Government's hands than it would be if it was an elected shire. The road between the Weipa turn-off and Bamaga should be named the Peninsula Developmental Road.

I checked with the Main Roads Department on the level of spending on the Peninsula Development Road, in the Mareeba and Cook Shires, not taking into account the smaller amounts spent on the Bamaga end of it. I was told that in the past year \$2,832,000 was spent. I am fairly happy with that level of funding, which is attributable to the squeaky-wheel principle. In the end, Ministers weaken if a member talks enough and writes enough letters to them. The work done includes permanent works and maintenance. The magnitude of the problem can be gauged from the fact that only \$350,000 was spent on maintenance. The remaining \$2,400,000 was used on bridges, concrete culverts and other permanent work so badly needed. Because the area has been neglected for so long, the costs are very high. The Government must become fair dinkum about road-funding.

The Chillagoe Road is in the same state. Many bridges, culverts and bitumen sealing are needed.

Dr Edwards interjected.

Mr SCOTT: The Deputy Premier and Treasurer may be sarcastic about the people who live in these areas. They know what he is like. They do not care very much for him, either. They told me that he would not even go to Normanton. Whether that is true or not, I think that he should swallow his pride and go there soon to have a look.

Dr Edwards: I have been there more times than you have.

Mr SCOTT: That is not quite true. The Treasurer is drawing the long bow a little. Government members are fairly good at that.

The people become upset when the Main Roads Department constructs a road only to the stage where it is ready for bitumen. Quote a few kilometres have been done from the end of the Koorboora bitumen stretch on the Chillagoe Road. Travellers think it is great to travel over the short bitumen section and then hit the road that has been upgraded. They cover a lot of ground in a short time, but they then wonder why the Main Roads Department does not finish the job. I cannot understand why the Government will not spend a little extra money in these areas of the Peninsula and the Gulf that are productive. I have often spoken of the mining, grazing and fishing activities in that area. Tourism, which is a free-enterprise tertiary industry, is productive for the people of Cook and provides the services. I admire the grand job that is being done. The public servants are also trying to do their job properly under difficult circumstances.

The road beyond Chillagoe and Mungana leads to numerous cattle stations and a centre that has over 1 000 people. The Treasurer should not be grinning. I know that, in his mind, a thousand is not a great number: he is oriented towards Ipswich and the south-east corner of the State.

About 1 000 people live at Kowanyama. That is quite a substantial community. Surely they deserve something done to their road, which is in another productive area. The most significant road in that area is the Gulf Developmental Road. If the Government is to continue with its balanced Budget approach, it should redirect to this area some of the money that is allocated to the south-east corner of the State. Government members stand

on the balconies of Parliament House and look along the Brisbane River as far as the eye can see and admire the underpasses and overpasses that have been built to service this part of the city.

Mr Davis: You were going well.

Mr SCOTT: I knew that I was going well. However, I must say that those facilities have been provided as a result of the good representation of people like the member for Brisbane Central. A thorn in the heel of the Government caused it to spend money in that area. However, money is also needed in the North.

I wish to refer to some other matters that are pertinent to the Cook electorate. The glossy pages of the Budget do not spell out what is being done in the Cook electorate. I wonder why? The Treasurer does not want to tell the people of Queensland what has been achieved in the Cook electorate as a result of my strong representation. Some things are being done.

Dr Edwards: The worst representation they have ever had.

Mr SCOTT: I wonder why it is so effective.

A hospital will be built at Cooktown in the next financial year. A hospital will also be built at Normanton. The Treasurer does not know where those centres are. I will give him a geography lesson. They are in the Cook electorate. The people in that electorate are quite happy with the representation that they are receiving. A new police station will be constructed at Thursday Island. However, the progress that is being made must be balanced with the work that is not being done. I am pleased that the Minister for Education is in the Chamber. It is regrettable that a high school will not be built on Thursday Island this year.

Mr Gunn: There are certain problems.

Mr SCOTT: I accept that.

I will have to direct my request to the Minister for Works. I am sure that I will receive an honest answer from him. I understand that the problem is associated with the design of the building. I know that the Minister for Education has travelled round the Torres Strait area and has spoken to people about education. He is aware of the concerns expressed by those people. I ask him whether he can give me an undertaking on when his department will take over education in the Torres Strait area. Is that any closer?

Mr Gunn: Every day is another day closer.

Mr SCOTT: That is one way of putting it. Unfortunately, it typifies the Government's attitude—let the people in the country areas suffer.

The Minister discovered the hard way a little about education in the Torres Strait area. Despite the Minister's jokes, he is well aware of the problems in the area. The point was made very strongly to him by the people in the area. I have also written to him on numerous occasions. I would ask the Minister not to delay the matter for another year. The Torres Strait Islanders are greatly concerned about education. The high school teachers have to teach primary students coming in from the island schools which are run by DAIA. The Islanders presently receive substandard education. The Minister knows that very well. The Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs does not know it, but it is substandard. It is a shame that that is so. The white teachers and the black teachers try very hard. However, the black teachers are not adequately trained.

In the time available to me tonight I wish to outline the Government's shortcomings. I have handed out enough praise. I will return to my constructive criticism of the Government. Work is needed on schools at Weipa and Dimbulah and the police station at Normanton. I will be like National Party members and get down to the nitty-gritty of spelling out in detail what is needed.

Mr Gunn: Which school are you talking about?

Mr SCOTT: The Jessica Point and Weipa North schools.

Mr Gunn: They are good in some ways.

Mr SCOTT: They are good in some ways, but does not the Minister think that the town of Weipa warrants a full high school? It does warrant one. I thought the Minister would agree with me on that. I have said that those areas are productive areas and that the people who live in them deserve more than they are given.

I have taken the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services to task. He was given a great deal of publicity in my area. He needs it because he lives in Brisbane and he is on a slippery wicket in trying to hold his seat of Burdekin.

He went to great lengths to try to tell us what he achieved in terms of price equalisation. He would not introduce a real freight equalisation scheme. He would not look at freights. National Party members have talked about excessive freight charges in North Queensland. The Government will not listen to them. Perhaps it will take notice of a more outspoken member on this side of the Chamber. Mr Bird has been totally unsuccessful in his almost puerile efforts to induce manufacturers in the South to adopt some sort of price equalisation scheme.

There are areas of Government expenditure that I have not been able to cover this afternoon. During the Estimates debate I will deal with them. I promise that I shall speak in the same constructive manner as this afternoon, and I promise that I will be giving Mr Bird a pounding, because he simply has not done the job. He has been hot air and nothing else.

(Time expired.)

Mr McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (5.46 p.m.): I rise to support the Treasurer in the presentation of his Budget. In framing the Budget the Government had to contend with five major problems that either did not exist a year ago or have become more serious this year.

Those problems are: the severe recession in the national economy, a 17 per cent increase in public sector wage costs, a sharp increase in interest rates, the worst drought in living memory, and arbitrary changes in traditional Commonwealth/State financial arrangements.

Mr Scott: Did they train you to try to shore up your side of the Chamber?

Mr McKECHNIE: The honourable member for Cook regards himself as an economic wizard. I will give him the chance to prove himself. Does he agree that the five major problems that I have listed face the Government?

Mr Scott: I know you are in a mess in trying to make your speech, but I am not going to help you make it.

Mr McKECHNIE: I am sure that the honourable member for Brisbane Central would.

Mr Davis: What's the question?

Mr McKECHNIE: The question is: Are there five major economic factors that have influenced the Budget, namely: the severe recession in the national economy, a 17 per cent increase in public sector wage costs, a sharp increase in interest rates, the worst drought in living memory, and arbitrary changes in traditional Commonwealth/State financial arrangements?

Mr Davis: The answer to those five questions is no, no, no, no, no.

Mr McKECHNIE: That is very interesting, because those words were not mine; they were the words of the Labor Treasurer in New South Wales. I thought the honourable member for Brisbane Central might come in. That is why I went to some pains to highlight the hypocritical attitude adopted by some members of the Opposition when they debate economics.

The simple fact of the matter is that the words that I used were used by the Labor Treasurer of New South Wales and they are very similar to the words used by the Queensland Treasurer in bringing down his Budget.

The State Governments recognise the five major problems that confront them. However, those Governments handle those problems in different ways. I shall come back to that aspect in a moment, but first I want to comment on something that the honourable member for Cook said and is an insult to members on the Government side of the Chamber.

I am proud of the fact that I go to church whenever I can. Most members on the Government side take pride in going to church. However, I would never arrive at a judgment on whether any member of Parliament or any person outside has a Christian attitude. The honourable member for Cook did that. Nothing could be lower than making a judgment on whether or not someone else has a Christian attitude. I think that is absolutely shocking, and he should be ashamed of himself. I would like to think that at some future time, when he has the opportunity, he might apologise to Government members.

The honourable member for Cook went to great pains to try to convince this Chamber that he believes in deficit budgeting, and that Gough Whitlam was the great white god in economics. After praising that man, who brought economic disaster to this country, he went on to draw some parallels with Conservative Governments in other countries and to refer to the problems with inflation and high interest rates in those countries. But he carefully avoided mentioning those Left-wing countries, such as Poland, that are closer to his philosophy. Is it unionism in Poland that is causing the problems, or is it the socialist economy?

There is very little difference between Left-wing socialist philosophy and Communism. I am not making any judgments as to which members of the Opposition are Left-wing, centre or Right-wing, but the simple fact is that there is significant Left-wing influence in the ALP, which works hand in glove with the Communist leaders of some unions in Australia. They believe that they should do everything to bring down the Australian economy. If they bring down the economy, they then have an excuse for changing the system. That will not work.

I shall look at the effectiveness of the Budget that the Treasurer has introduced. I have already established the fact that the problems that this Government faces, according to our Treasurer, are similar to the problems that the Labor Treasurer in New South Wales says are facing that State. We have to understand the different ways in which to handle the problems.

The population of Queensland is approximately 44 per cent of the population of New South Wales. However, our total Budget outlays are only 37 per cent of the total Budget outlays in New South Wales. To me, that proves fairly conclusively that the Queensland Government is interested in keeping Budget expenditure down, which will encourage industry to come to this low-tax State and help create employment, and surely that is what all members should be interested in.

Pay-roll tax is a good example of what the Government is doing to try to keep Budget expenditure down. The present maximum pay-roll tax exemption of \$180,000 will be increased to \$204,000. Businesses in New South Wales with very small pay-rolls have to submit pay-roll tax forms. Some exemptions are provided but they are nowhere near as generous as the exemptions in Queensland, and the New South Wales Government did not do much in its last Budget to increase the exemptions. In future, the minimum exemption of \$36,000 in Queensland will apply to annual pay-rolls above \$316,000, instead of \$237,600 as at present. So, because of the Budget, pay-roll tax will be reduced for a significant number of employers. This new concession will apply from 1 January 1983.

An additional incentive is being given to employers. They will receive rebates for first-year apprentices.

It should be remembered that Queensland's population is only 44 per cent of that in New South Wales. The New South Wales Government collects \$1,345m in pay-roll tax, 44 per cent of which is \$538m. If the philosophy of this National-Liberal Government was similar to that of the socialist Government in New South Wales, it could be expected that the Queensland pay-roll tax collection would be in the vicinity of \$538m. The fact is, however, that this year pay-roll tax in Queensland is expected to be only \$408m.

Mr Vaughan: How much was it last year? \$349m.

Mr McKECHNIE: I am pleased that the member for Nudgee asks that question. I do not have it written down, but I will say that the rise in pay-roll tax in Queensland will be a lower percentage than the rise in New South Wales, which is the only fair way to judge it.

I move now to another form of State revenue—stamp duty. Stamp duty exemption on loans for family homes is to rise from \$25,000 to \$35,000 from 1 November. That is a move in the right direction. There is to be a review of stamp duty legislation with a view

to encouraging investors to locate in Queensland. Such a review should be carried out in view of the tremendous investment that flowed to this State and the nation through the abolition of death duties. If we can do something after the review of stamp duty to encourage more development in this State—more development in Australia—I am right on side with that.

Mr Vaughan: What would be the attitude of your Government if the Fraser Government were to implement death duty in next year's Budget after the next election?

Mr McKECHNIE: I do not think that that question is worth answering. I do not think the Fraser Government would do it. It is as simple as that. What the Fraser Government does—and the same comment applies to the actions of any Commonwealth Government—does not influence the thinking of the Queensland Government on the taxes introduced in this Parliament.

This year New South Wales will raise \$672m from stamp duty. As they do not have much development down there, their stamp duty should be proportionately less than Queensland's. However, ours this year will be only \$291m.

The key difference between the philosophy of this State and that of New South Wales can be seen in land tax. This year Queensland will receive only \$31m in land tax. However, because of a despicable act of changing the system in New South Wales—and that is what he did—Mr Wran will reap \$145m this year. I will develop that point after the dinner recess.

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

Mr McKECHNIE: Before the recess for dinner I was speaking about the different ways in which Governments with differing philosophies handle obvious problems. I mentioned that charges and taxes in Queensland are much lower than those in the Labor States. For example, land tax collections in Queensland this year are estimated to be \$31m. The New South Wales Budget papers indicate that land tax revenue is expected to be \$145m.

The Queensland Budget gives one further exemption to land tax, and I am very pleased that it goes to primary producers. Although individual primary producers do not usually pay land tax, companies do. It has always been unfair that family companies, ones that are virtually wholly engaged in primary production, are treated differently from, say, primary producers who have not incorporated into a small family company. Because of the Budget, those small family companies, as well as the traditional primary producers, will be exempted from land tax. That is the way in which the State Government is moving. In each State Budget it is trying to grant some more worthwhile tax concessions.

In the case of land tax, it is not just the increasing real value of property that is forcing up land tax in New South Wales. The Government of that State has changed the system of valuation so that people who previously did not pay any land tax now pay a considerable amount in land tax. That is taxation by stealth, which is particularly obnoxious.

I turn now to education. The Parliament appointed a Select Committee on Education and you, Mr Miller, served on that committee, which has become known as the Ahern select committee. It made various recommendations, one of which was a reduction in class sizes. Prior to this year and earlier this year the executive of the Queensland Teachers Union tried to provoke teachers and parents into demonstrating against the Government. The Government has always said that it believes in a reduction in class sizes, but it wants to make the reduction in a responsible manner when it feels that the taxpayer can afford it. Now, in its wisdom, the Government has decided to implement over the next four years the class-size recommendation in the report, with a worthwhile beginning in this Budget.

I am concerned about some aspects of that report because, although class sizes are to be reduced, I wonder whether people such as remedial teachers and others affected by many of the ancillary recommendations in the report will receive any assistance. Quite frankly, I think there is a greater need to implement some of the other recommendations of the report, such as more remedial teachers, than there is to reduce class sizes at this time. Because the Government is acting on only one section of the report, a section that, to me, is not the most important section in it, I hope that the union will not win and parents and students lose.

School transport services in Queensland should be increased. I would be the first to admit that. I agree with the honourable members for Callide and Cook that it would be great to be able to provide school transport services throughout the State. But the

Government is managing taxpayers' money, and sometimes it is not possible to be as generous as it would like to be. It has increased the fees paid to school transport operators by 15 per cent, and the Queensland Government is not generally in the business of reducing school transport services. As a matter of fact, it is increasing the number of children carried, because in this Budget it is adopting a scheme that will assist considerably the parents of children attending independent schools. Some children who were not previously entitled to travel on school buses will now be able to do so.

To turn again to the difference between a socialist Government and this Government in the handling of problems—all honourable members know what happened recently in New South Wales. The Government of that State planned to cut drastically school transport services. I am told that there was a public outcry and that quite a few services were restored. The simple fact is that the Government of New South Wales is rationalising school transport services, and, for the uninitiated, I point out that in New South Wales Government terms "rationalisation" means the reduction of services. That is a shocking thing to do to people in country areas.

Mr Davis: Are you a member of the Queensland Parliament or of the New South Wales Parliament?

Mr McKECHNIE: I am a member of the Queensland Parliament, and proud of it. The reason why I have such an interest in pointing out what is going on in the New South Wales Parliament is that my electorate is bordered on three sides by New South Wales. Half my electorate receives electricity from New South Wales because of a long-standing agreement—

Mr Mackenroth: It is cheaper than Queensland electricity—tell the truth.

Mr McKECHNIE: The honourable member for Chatsworth is one Opposition member whom I like. He only interjects in a sensible manner, so I will take his interjection seriously. Historically—

Mr Mackenroth: Don't worry about history; I am talking about cost.

Mr McKECHNIE: Historically, New South Wales's electricity has been much cheaper than Queensland's; and so it should be, because it has a far greater number of people living in a relatively small area. I do not have the exact figures, but only 12 months ago electricity in New South Wales was something like 30 per cent cheaper than electricity in Queensland; it is now 30 per cent dearer. When the price of electricity in Queensland has gone up by 22 per cent and in New South Wales it has gone from being 30 per cent cheaper to 30 per cent dearer in 12 months, that is a serious matter.

One of the reasons why electricity was cheaper in New South Wales was that when people were offered electricity they were not given any allowance for the electricity they used. Tariffs have now been increased so that they are dearer than Queensland's, but when it comes to putting on electricity extensions consumers are still not given any allowance for the electricity they use. The honourable member may have heard me ask a question about the cost of a 4 km extension to a reasonably-sized irrigation motor in a Queensland supply area. I was informed that it would cost a farmer nothing in capital contributions.

Mr Mackenroth: Another subsidy.

Mr McKECHNIE: No; I will explain it. The same policy is applied to people in a town. If that person lived in a New South Wales supply area, the extension would cost somewhere between \$20,000 and \$40,000. I have asked the North-West County Council about that, but it has not yet provided the answer. My homework says that the figure is \$36,000, but I want to verify it; it may be a little bit less. That is the difference in cost.

Let us talk about an ordinary working person in a town. If he wanted power connected to a vacant lot in a populated area of Brisbane—not an area on the outskirts—it would cost him nothing by way of capital contribution. But if he lived in Wallangarra, in my electorate, which is supplied by the Tenterfield Shire Council, it would cost him \$250 and, in addition, he would have to pay a higher tariff. If he lived in Goondiwindi and was supplied by the North-West County Council—and I remind honourable members that I am speaking about an ordinary worker in this State, a man whom Opposition members claim to represent—it would cost \$350, whereas it would cost nothing in Brisbane, Stanthorpe or Dalby.

As with many other industries controlled by the New South Wales Government, the electricity industry is suffering because the Government played around and let maintenance run down. Big problems arise when that happens in the electricity industry. The county councils do not want to increase electricity charges, but the New South Wales State Electricity Commission is forcing them to do that. The blame can be sheeted home to the Government.

Mr Mackenroth: Can you justify that?

Mr McKECHNIE: I can justify it.

Mr Mackenroth: You may do that next week. I do not believe it.

Mr McKECHNIE: I can justify the statement.

Next Monday night a protest meeting is to be held in one of the towns to which I referred. I did not organise it.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr McKECHNIE: I am fairly certain that the majority of the people on the executive of the organisation arranging the meeting are members of the Labor Party. I was informed recently by a woman that the meeting was to be held. I do not know her politics. She rang me to see whether there was anything I could do about the problem. I told her that I had introduced a deputation to the Minister for Mines and Energy that day. Included in the deputation were the member for Balonne and representatives of the Inglewood, Wagamba and Goondiwindi local authorities. They attended the deputation because of the public concern of the local residents about the dramatically escalating cost of electricity supplied from New South Wales.

The Queensland State Electricity Commission has agreed to do further research into the problem. It supplies power in bulk to the Tweed area. The Government will be considering whether it should ask the New South Wales Commission whether it will continue to supply power in bulk to my area, and whether a Queensland distributing authority should be set up, which is what the Labor Government of New South Wales has done in the Tweed area.

The distribution system should be left as it is. I have a lot of time for the employees of the North-West County Council who work in my area. They are quite efficient. They could well be left in their jobs and Queensland tariffs could be charged. A third alternative would be to build a Queensland line into that area and take back the franchise area permanently. There are probably many other ways to tackle the problem.

People in my electorate are saying that they have taxation without elected representation in the New South Wales Government. They are in a catch-22 situation. Historically, New South Wales should be able to supply cheaper power than Queensland; but because of the ineptitude of the New South Wales Labor Government, costs have escalated tremendously in the past 12 months. If the Queensland Government were to take back the franchise almost immediately, my electorate would certainly be advantaged. However, a change of Government, or even a change of faces in the New South Wales Government, might provide more responsible leadership and the traditional advantage might return. My constituents would then be stuck with a Queensland electrical authority that should not be able to provide power as cheaply as the New South Wales authority.

Mr Mackenroth interjected.

Mr McKECHNIE: Because of the vast areas that the system has to cover. This is a very serious problem. Anyone would be inclined to think that the honourable member for Chatsworth had asked a Dorothy Dix question, but I am sure that the people who read this debate will not believe that an Opposition member would ask such a question.

I referred to education and said that the number of children eligible to travel on school buses in Queensland will increase. Under the Labor Government in New South Wales, the number of children who can travel on school buses in country areas is being reduced.

In Queensland the per capita grants to non-Government schools will rise in the third term from \$261 to \$303 per year for primary schoolchildren and from \$420 to \$486 per year for secondary students. I can never understand the cries and wails that come from certain educationists, particularly some of the State executives of the various teachers'

unions, about the help given to independent schools. Surely to goodness it is in the interests of the Government to encourage people to help themselves. If the parents of children attending independent schools wish their children to receive a private education, it is cheaper for the taxpayer to help them to provide their own education than for the taxpayer to pay for it. It represents a saving in taxpayers' funds. It also gives parents a greater say in the education of their children. As far as the church schools are concerned, most people, even those who do not believe in the Bible, should at least acknowledge that it is great that children are receiving that extra religious education.

Mr Davis: Did the Bible tell you so?

Mr McKECHNIE: I could not hear the honourable member for Brisbane Central; he is mumbling.

I suggest to the honourable member for Cook that he should read the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 7, verse 1. That is all I am prepared to say. However, if Opposition members wish to know what that says in relation to remarks I made in response to the comments made by the honourable member for Cook, it says, "Judge not, then be ye judged, lest what judgment ye mete shall be meted out to you." As I said before, I do not think it behoves anyone in this Parliament to make religious judgments on other people. I commend that verse to the honourable member for Cook.

Another very important problem faced by the Government is the strength of the Queensland Police Force. Queensland has an expanding population. Unfortunately there are problems with crime throughout the world, including the State of Queensland. The drug problem in Australia needs greater surveillance and more police officers to carry out that work. Provision is made in the Budget for some worthwhile improvements, including an increase in the number of police officers to be employed in the Police Force. I make a plea to the Minister for Police to appoint another officer to the Inglewood Police Station. I have spoken to the Minister and to the Commissioner of Police about that matter. The two police officers in that town have too much work to do.

The cost of operating hospitals and health care services in Queensland is escalating, as it is escalating in other States. I am very pleased that the Budget makes provision for the construction of the first stage of a 60-bed hospital in Goondiwindi. A new hospital has been on the drawing board for some time. The existing hospital is quite old.

The Government should be proud of the hospital facilities that it is providing throughout the State. Recently I had the pleasure of having Dr Mark O'Brien and his wife accompany my wife and me to dinner. He told me that each year a thousand open heart operations are done at the Prince Charles Hospital at Chermiside. It is wonderful that people in Queensland have excellent facilities at country and city hospitals and also large hospitals that specialise in rather complicated surgery, such as heart surgery, to such an extent that they offer a service that is as good as any available in the world.

Opposition members do not like my talking about New South Wales. The problems that confront Queensland have been spelled out by the Treasurer. His words were almost exactly the same as those used by the Labor Treasurer of New South Wales. The different ways in which Queensland and New South Wales cope with those problems need to be highlighted.

While Queensland builds hospitals in Goondiwindi and other parts of the State and expands specialist services in the cities and the provincial cities, New South Wales rationalises its hospital system. It is always this word "rationalises". New South Wales rationalises its school transport services. That is nothing more than a nice way of saying that the New South Wales Government will close some hospitals and cut out some school transport services.

As to helping the poor and underprivileged—what about the Queensland free hospital system? If ever the Government had an excuse for abandoning it, it was when the Fraser Government changed the funding of hospitals. The great white knight of the Labor Party, Mr Wran, deserted the poor and underprivileged in New South Wales. He did not keep that State's free hospital system. He simply blamed Mr Fraser. The Queensland Government, too, blamed Mr Fraser, but it picked up the bill. That shows the difference between the Queensland National-Liberal Government and the New South Wales socialist Government.

It is all very well for Opposition members to accuse this Government of not doing this or that and of not spending enough money. The best way anyone can help an underprivileged person who is fit and healthy is to give him a job. The Queensland Government is doing that. It is creating employment. In contrast, socialist Governments are destroying incentives to businesses to create jobs. The socialist States have abandoned the free hospital system. The Queensland Government is the only Government that has maintained the free hospital system.

Mr Fouras: Why does the Queensland Government spend \$100 per head less on health, education and welfare?

Mr McKECHNIE: The Opposition makes great play of cost per pupil at school and cost per bed in hospital. The simple fact is that the Queensland Government manages its hospitals better than socialist Governments manage theirs. The honourable member for South Brisbane knows that. All of us should be proud of our free hospital system. Sure it should be better, but it should be better in the other States as well.

People who live in New South Wales and shop in Stanthorpe, and who cannot be given free hospitalisation in Stanthorpe, know the difference between living in New South Wales under a socialist Government and living in Queensland under this Government.

The Budget is not all good. No Budget brought down by a responsible Government is. The 15 per cent increase in rail fares and rates will cause hardship to some people, but some industries have insulated themselves against that increase. They were wise and prudent and negotiated contract rail freights. If this Government gives in on the 35-hour week, which Opposition members are encouraging it to do, then rail fares will rise even further. That is one reason why this Government is determined to resist the pressure for a shorter working week in this State.

It is all very well to be generous with someone else's money, but the simple fact is that we in the Government have to realise that it is not our money, it is the taxpayers' money, and we have to guard it jealously and spend it as wisely as possible within a bureaucracy.

All members would like to see an improvement in the standard of roads. A member would not be worth his salt if he did not get up in this Chamber and say that he would like to see an improvement in the standard of Queensland's roads. The simple fact is that this year there will be a 19.5 per cent increase in road funding in Queensland, and some of that is Commonwealth money.

Again, it is interesting to note that across the border—I stress that the only way to compare this Budget is to look at what other State Governments are doing in the present economic climate—the New South Wales Government is increasing road funding by 18.2 per cent, and that is in spite of the fact that it is raising millions of dollars in fuel taxes, which the Queensland Government has not seen fit to introduce. With the additional money that the New South Wales Government is getting from fuel taxes, there should be a fantastic increase in expenditure on roads over the border, but that is not the case. The New South Wales Government has not even been able to match the percentage rise in Queensland, and I think that that Government should hang its head in shame. If people have listened to the figures that I have given, I cannot understand how they can continue to support Labor Party policies. Never in my life have I seen such a dramatic difference in the policies of two State Governments.

One of the five problems facing the economy at present is drought. I am pleased that during last week all parts of my electorate have received worthwhile rain. But it is too late for some people who have not planted wheat and for some fruit growers who had other problems last year. Rain comes either too soon or too late; seldom does it come when people need it.

Recently, when I was talking outside the Chamber to the honourable member for Callide he commented that the Australian economy cannot improve to the extent that we would like until rural industries have a few good seasons. The International Harvester company has got into financial difficulties. The small business people in country towns who service farmers are in trouble, and that situation flows through to the cities. Over the last three or four years, rural industry has copped a real hiding with the weather.

With the present high interest rates, it is very difficult to survive in business. We hope that there will soon be a change in the seasons. We hope that something can be done about improving world export prices.

I would encourage the Government to become more active in helping industry find markets overseas for our products, whether they be primary or secondary. Australia is a young, developing nation and Queensland is a vibrant part of that nation. We should try even harder to get out into the world and compete for imposed export markets. However, it will be very difficult, even if we overcome problems of drought, interest rates and so on, if we do not recover our name as a reliable exporter. I invite honourable members to compare the salaries and working conditions of workers on the wharves in Australia with those overseas and then to consider the industrial record on our waterfront. It is a great shame that the country allows industrial disruption to destroy our name as a reliable exporter.

I am not putting all the blame on the waterside labour. Quite frankly, problems are sometimes caused on the other side of the fence. However, there is no escaping the fact that the majority of problems on the waterfront are caused by the unions and not by the employers. It is time that the union movement faced up to its responsibilities to Australia as well as to its members.

I want to say how delighted I was to spend quite a considerable time at a recent industrial relations conference with people from the Shop Assistants Union. I enjoyed their company immensely. We spoke about numerous problems. That is a responsible union, and I say so in this Chamber. We have a number of responsible unions in Australia. However, at times the position on the waterfront is nothing short of industrial anarchy. It is a worrying problem. The Labor Party should do more to persuade the union movement to exercise a moderating influence instead of trying to tell us that we do not know what we are talking about.

Road safety is another matter on everybody's lips. I am pleased that special funding has been provided for five specific road safety projects: heavy vehicle road safety, community responsibility in road safety, the role of parents in road safety education for children, an increased volunteer defensive driving program and an enhanced schools advisory service. These are matters that I hope will have some effect on road safety. The slogan "Road Safety Starts with You" is the key. We all have to be more responsible, and that includes me. At times on the road we just do not concentrate as much as we should. Most drivers could improve their driving habits immensely. If that program of education is to work, the drunken driver has to be taught some responsibility. I am aware that the Parliament has just reduced the permissible blood alcohol level to .05. I understand that that brings us into line with other States.

Mr Lee: Not all.

Mr McKECHNIE: It is in line with most other States, anyway, and it is desirable to have uniformity throughout the country.

I would like to see heavier penalties imposed on those with a blood alcohol level above .15—the ones who are really hopelessly drunk. No penalty could be too heavy for them. In the policing of the new law I would sooner see the emphasis put on those who are really drunk than on those who are just over .05.

If random breath-testing was to be introduced, the Budget would have to provide extra funds, because Queensland is a big State, much different to Victoria. It would be much more expensive to introduce it in Queensland. The Police Force is some deterrent, and I am not yet convinced that random breath-testing should be introduced.

The Young Farmer Establishment Scheme has received some funding in the Budget. I am proud to be one of those who brought a New South Wales Country Party pledge to the attention of the Premier, who referred it to the lands committee of the National Party. Many people have had a hand in trying to mould that pledge into something that could be implemented here. Not enough money is available for it, but Queensland does have the scheme. If the Country-Liberal Party had been elected in New South Wales, that State would also have it. That is another difference between the philosophy of a National-Liberal Government and a socialist Government.

Assistance to drought victims is provided under the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme. Frankly, we could never have a scheme as good as I or anyone else would like, because that would be just too expensive. But the current scheme

is an improvement on previous schemes, and I am informed that the Queensland Government is the most generous of all the State Governments. It is not only the Commonwealth that puts in money; a great deal is put in by the States. For example, I was pleased to read that the responsible Federal Minister was imploring other States to follow Queensland's lead in helping the Commonwealth to fund assistance to small business. Queensland was the first. It is not only the farmer who is affected, it is the town businessman, his employees and farm employees as well.

Water resources form another very important section of the Budget. We can never spend enough on water. I would like to see the Mole River Dam constructed just over the border in New South Wales. The Queensland Government has an agreement with that Government in that we give it half of our water from Glenlyon. One day we will help them to build the Mole River Dam so that we can get half the water from that. With the state of the economy over the border, when the time comes for the Queensland Government to want to go ahead with that project, I do not know whether the New South Wales Government will be able to afford its share. I have a similar worry about the building of a bridge over the river at Goondiwindi. At the moment a new bridge is urgently needed, but the last time I checked on the matter, which was a few weeks ago when I asked a question in Parliament, I was informed that consideration is still bogged down in New South Wales. I hope that when we are ready to proceed on that project we will be able to get that State's share of the money, but that will be very difficult.

The Queensland Housing Commission received additional funds this year. Criticism has been directed at the increase in rents to high-income families. Those increased rentals are designed to encourage high-income families either to move out of those homes, to buy the home or to buy another home with Housing Commission funds. It is a difficult problem to solve. The Labor Party would solve it by taxing more people and building more houses. The Government has adopted the attitude of trying to encourage people who can afford it to borrow money to build or buy their own home.

I acknowledge that there is a problem with older people who have felt secure in their Housing Commission homes but who are now on high incomes. There may have to be some revision of the scheme to enable them to buy their houses.

Much was said earlier by the Opposition spokesman on local government. I admire shire councillors, aldermen and town councillors immensely for the time and work that they give to the community. But the simple fact of life is that over the years this Government has been much more generous to local government than has any other State Government. The chairman of the Local Government Association, Councillor Fred Rogers, OBE, lives in my electorate. From time to time he has been critical of the Government because certain subsidies have not been restored. I have taken the trouble to go over the border into New South Wales to talk to a New South Wales councillor and pore over his budget to see whether another State treats local government any more generously than we do. Certainly that council was not treated nearly as well as we treat local government in Queensland. I suggested to Councillor Rogers that if the Local Government Association wanted to sell its story to this Government, it should look for precedents interstate. We say that the Queensland Government is still more generous to local authorities than any other State Government in Australia. Surely it is not beyond the capabilities of the Local Government Association to find out whether we are wrong. We do not think we are, but it would not hurt the association to do that. I wish it would, and if it then had anything to add to its case, let it put it forward. If it does I will certainly get behind it and support it.

I would like to see us give the local authorities even more money, and I would urge the Government to do so, but I would also urge the Government to spend more money on education, roads and water. But there is a limit to how much the taxpayers can afford to pay. So there is no easy answer to that problem.

Mr Lee: Did you give Mr Scott a serve, because he deserved it.

Mr McKECHNIE: I did give the honourable member for Cook some advice, but one of the things he spoke about at great length was the need for deficit budgeting at certain times. Of course, that is nothing new. He praised Gough Whitlam. I thought most Labor Party members would want to forget him. At one stage they were dissociating themselves from him, but now they want him back because they feel they have a chance of winning the next Federal election. But people need reminding that the Gough Whitlam

philosophy is still accepted by the Labor Party. They forget that he was the beginning of the end as far as Australia was concerned; he was printing money, borrowing money to excess and letting the deficit go. At State Government level, the New South Wales Government has a deficit of \$39.5m. The Victorian Government, which has been in office only a short time, already has a deficit of \$97.7m. In 12 short months Victoria looks like passing New South Wales as the highest-taxed State.

Some time ago Opposition members were talking about unemployment. We all feel sympathy for the unemployed, and obviously the best way to help them is to give them a job. The simple fact is that in the past 12 months employment in Queensland has increased by 2.3 per cent, by only .7 per cent in New South Wales and in Victoria it has decreased by .3 per cent. The number of people in employment throughout Australia has decreased. Queensland is the only State that is increasing employment to a significant degree.

Opposition members spoke about new arrivals in this State. The honourable member for Cook said, "If any people are coming to Queensland, they are the wrong type of people." Some people seem to have been brainwashed by the Opposition into believing that the only persons coming to Queensland are the elderly ones trying to escape death duties. It is a fact that in 1981 two-thirds of interstate arrivals were aged between 20 and 44 years. It is about time that that was shouted from the rooftops. The public should be told the truth. People from all walks of life are coming to Queensland in greater numbers.

I do not say that everything in Queensland is rosy. I said at the outset that Australia and the world face problems. However, I am saying that the method of dealing with the problems in Queensland is more beneficial to the people of Queensland than the action taken in socialist States.

A typical example of how money is wasted in socialist States can be found in the New South Wales Budget, which discloses that \$3,400,000 has been allocated to the Ethnic Affairs Commission. It also reveals that \$664,000 has been allocated to the Anti-discrimination Board and Equal Opportunity Tribunal.

Mrs Nelson: They are all worthwhile.

Mr McKECHNIE: The New South Wales Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment receives \$206,000.

Mrs Nelson interjected.

Mr McKECHNIE: Even some members on the Government side of the Chamber advocate such expenditure, but I emphasise that we cannot try to please everyone. Any woman who wants to get ahead, who has the ability to get ahead, and who tries hard enough will get the job she is looking for if she is a better prospective employee than the male applicant.

When speaking about ethnic affairs, I should say that the Italian and other ethnic groups in Stanthorpe are well integrated into our community. We are one community. The sooner we forget all of the talk about racial inequality among ethnic groups, the better it will be. We should be developing one Australia for Australians, wherever they come from—whether they be black, white, brindle, Italian or English. Whatever nationality, religion or colour they be, we should be happy to encourage them to be proud of our wonderful State of Queensland.

I congratulate the Treasurer on an excellent Budget.

Mr BOOTH (Warwick) (8.3 p.m.): In speaking for the first time since our return to this Chamber, I will first pay tribute to the standard of the restoration workmanship. This Chamber gives the lie to the statements made by some people that the Government is not interested in restoring vintage buildings. The Government is interested. It will restore any building that it thinks can be restored adequately. Although it may not be Government policy, I would want to know that the building could be used and that we could get some of our money back. We cannot afford to waste money on restoration. We must make sure that our dollar goes as far as possible. For that reason, I am pleased to note that the workmanship on this building is top class.

The honourable member for Windsor is not in the Chamber at the moment but I pay tribute to the part he played in ensuring that the work was carried out properly and that the building would be functional upon our return to it. It is essential that restored buildings should be functional. I am sure that this building will be functional for entertainment and other uses.

I congratulate the Treasurer on introducing a very good Budget. He has put a lot of work into it. It is not all that I would like it to be, but it is an excellent Budget. When we have had time to reflect on the Budget, I am sure that we will pay a tribute to the Treasurer and say that it was an excellent Budget. Because of the manner in which the Treasurer has been able to gauge the economy, he has been able to balance his Budget. It reflects his accountability and the Government's excellent housekeeping.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: When are you going to get the road over The Head fixed up?

Mr BOOTH: I might get to that later. I am glad to have an ally. That is about the only road that needs a lot of work, so my electorate is doing very well.

It is very important to balance the Budget. During the last few minutes of his speech, the member for Carnarvon referred to the wastage of money. Mr Whitlam came in for some justified criticism. It was not only the innovations that the Whitlam Government tried to introduce that got it into trouble. We probably could have gone along with some of the innovations and said, "Yes, you tried hard." However, that Government had no idea about good housekeeping. In criticising the Whitlam Government a Queensland senator said, "When the Whitlam Government came to power, they jumped on their horses and galloped off in all directions." It frightens me to think that some day we might have Government members in Queensland who jump on their horses and gallop off in all directions.

Mr Simpson: Who was the Treasurer in Mr Whitlam's time?

Mr BOOTH: I will not go into that. The Treasurers were changed so often. It is not my intention to speak at length about the Whitlam Government.

I pay tribute to the good housekeeping of the Queensland Government. In his Budget Speech the Treasurer said that one of the things he was trying to do was maintain confidence. That is a very important aspect of the Budget. It took the Fraser Federal Government a long time to restore confidence after the misdeeds of the Whitlam Government.

In his speech, the Treasurer said that he was trying to maintain growth and development. He has done that without the imposition of any new taxes. That is another important aspect of the Budget. When he was told to bring in a Budget for the coming year, he could quite easily have found some new taxing opportunities. Everyone seems to think that fuel is the easiest item on which to impose a tax, because everyone uses it. I was pleased that the Treasurer was able to introduce a Budget without any new taxes. However, it was necessary to impose small increases in a few areas. Compared with the Budgets of New South Wales and probably Victoria, that is a plus.

The Budget sets out to attack several areas in which the Government needed to do more. One is education; another is communications, particularly road-works. The member for Wolston asked, "What about the road over The Head?" That would be a good tourist road. I pay tribute to the Glengallan Shire Council for the results it has achieved with Main Roads support.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: I think you should pay a tribute to me for bringing it to your attention.

Mr BOOTH: I might even do that.

With the support of the Main Roads Department, an excellent road has been provided as far as Queen Mary Falls, which is an excellent tourist area. When the road was first constructed people suggested that the number of vehicles using it would increase very slowly, but there has been a tremendous increase in the number of people travelling on that road and visiting the falls. The facilities that are provided are not able to cope with the demand so I hope that the facilities will be upgraded.

This year the Main Roads Department will spend \$405m. That sum is sufficient to enable the department to maintain the present rate of road-works and perhaps to improve on that rate. However, that sum has not allowed for much more than the rate of inflation, so not a great deal of new work will be carried out. Nevertheless, as I say, the current rate of road-works will be maintained.

Mr Lee: That is a pretty good effort.

Mr BOOTH: It is not a bad effort at all.

It is only over the past 25 years that any great extension of roads in Queensland has occurred. Furthermore, most of the roads that have been constructed are sealed roads. Years ago it was stated that the Queensland Government would never be able to seal all the roads in the State. However, the stage has been reached at which nearly all important roads are being sealed. In my electorate alone very few people are forced to drive more than a couple of kilometres to a sealed road. The Government has achieved something of which it can be justly proud. I am not saying that with any political bias, because throughout the history of Queensland, no matter which Government was in power, people have acknowledged that if Queensland was to develop something had to be done to improve communications, particularly roads. All Queenslanders can be proud of the increase in road construction that has been achieved and of the type of roads that have been constructed. Over the past 25 years, possibly because of improved methods of construction and better machinery, good progress has been made.

One aspect of road construction that concerns me is that very often tenders are called for the construction of only a short strip of road. If the Main Roads Department is the constructing authority, it might construct only 3 or 4 km of road at a time. That is a waste of money. When equipment and gear are moved to a particular area in which road construction is to be commenced, longer stretches of road should be constructed. I would suggest that at least 8 to 10 km of road be constructed at one time. Although the initial cost would be higher, in the long run a great saving would be made. Once the equipment is in position, it is foolish not to use it to full advantage by constructing long stretches of road.

My electorate is fairly well served with roads and highways. Warwick is a road junction. The New England Highway and the Newell Highway have to be maintained to cope with the heavy transports that use them.

The Treasurer mentioned the mounting road toll and funding for five specific road safety projects. Some people might think that the Treasurer should not have commented on that aspect. I believe he should have. He mentioned five main thrusts of a road safety program that he and the Minister for Transport will be mounting. Some aspects of road safety should be examined more closely than they are.

There is no way that heavy transport can be kept off the road; we have to live with it. However, the Government should be firm in its imposition of speed limits on heavy transport vehicles. Because of the heavy loads that they carry, their braking systems, no matter how good they are, will not enable them to pull up quickly. Heavy vehicles need distance to pull up. The concept of monitoring heavy vehicles is an excellent one.

The community has a responsibility in road safety. I do not think that we can start too soon in teaching children about the dangers on the roads. I do not know at what age we should start, but I think that we could start when they are eight or nine years of age.

Mr Davis: They do now.

Mr BOOTH: Yes, I agree that some teachers do start to teach children about road safety at that age, but I do not think that sufficient emphasis is placed on it.

Young people want a driver's licence the day after they turn 17 years. There must be a sense of exhilaration in getting a driver's licence and getting behind the wheel of a car. As I say, I think that we should start to teach children road safety at a very early age. The greatest heartbreak for parents occurs when one of their children is killed or injured in a road accident.

Mr Shaw: If you upgraded the ambulance and medical services in country areas, you would save a lot of lives.

Mr BOOTH: I have not heard many complaints about the ambulance service.

Mr Shaw: It is the time taken to get help.

Mr BOOTH: I thought that our ambulance service was excellent.

Mr Simpson: It is the distances in Queensland.

Mr BOOTH: Yes, distances are a problem, but I have never heard a complaint that an ambulance did not get to the scene of an accident quickly. If that is wrong, I stand to be corrected.

The Treasurer referred to the role of parents in educating their children in road safety matters. We have to try to make parents realise that it is not only the teachers' job to educate children in road safety matters; they also have a part to play. Parents have to start teaching their children about road safety matters at an early age. They have to say to their children, "Yes, you will get a driver's licence some day. You will be able to drive a car, but you will have a dangerous weapon in your hands and you will have to learn to handle it."

Youngsters used to be given a gun at an earlier age than they are given guns today, yet I do not think that there were as many accidents with guns then as there are now, and the reason for that is that when a youngster was given a gun his father would take him out into a paddock and say, "Right, you have a gun and I am going to teach you how to use it." The father would take his son into a paddock many times to teach him how to use the gun.

Mr Davis: That is not exactly a good illustration.

Mr BOOTH: I am sorry, I disagree with the honourable member for Brisbane Central. I think that it is an excellent illustration. Youngsters were able to handle those weapons because they were taught how to handle them. They were told that the weapons were very dangerous and that they had to be careful.

Tonight, I have tried to support the Treasurer in his move to get greater road safety education. Every night when my children have gone out in a car I have said to them, "Be careful." People have said to me, "You should not waste your time telling them to be careful." If only about 5 per cent of what I say sinks in, then I think that they have a better chance of surviving on the road than if I were to say nothing to them.

I believe that we should persevere with road safety education. Some people who look at the road toll statistics might say that we are losing the battle, but I do not think so. I think that if we maintain our present approach, we will succeed.

The total allocation for education is \$838.5m, which is an increase over the previous year of 19.4 per cent. Nobody could say that the Government has been miserly in its allocation for education. However, everybody in the field of education has to play his part if we are to achieve the results that we expect from the injection of that extra money. The Government is committed to a reduction in class sizes over a four-year period. That is a wise decision. If we are to spend such large sums of money, they should not be wasted. We should tackle the problem steadily and not put too great a strain on manpower—on those asked to implement the policy. The additional 1 350 State schoolteachers should certainly be sufficient to cover the first year's implementation.

I commend the Treasurer for saying in his Budget Speech that an effort will be made to put the additional teachers on class-room duties. When we appoint extra teachers, they must be put in front of the students. The Government has to insist that that policy is adhered to.

Provision is made for an additional 150 teachers for technical and further education. I now touch on a local matter. Some two years ago a TAFE college was mooted for Warwick by the Federal authorities. I am bitterly disappointed that there still has been no definite announcement about when the college will be functioning. If the Government intends to establish a college, the sooner there is something definite about it the better. On several occasions we have been visited by officers of the State department who have carried out inspections. Local co-operation with them has been excellent. A strong committee has assessed likely attendance and possible courses. It has prepared and presented to the Minister a well-documented submission. Therefore, it can be said that the Warwick people have played their part. People with expertise in the district have put our ideas to the Minister. It would be foolish if we did not receive some definite information about a TAFE college before too long.

It is a relatively new idea to establish TAFE colleges in smaller centres. Most of us feel that it is essential to have such colleges in smaller cities and towns.

Mr Davis: Do you think there would be enough support in that area?

Mr BOOTH: On the basis of population, it certainly seems to be one of the largest centres not already served by a TAFE college in Queensland. On the figures we have taken out for our submission, it looks promising.

Mr Davis: I was a resident of an area adjoining Warwick a few years ago.

Mr BOOTH: The member for Brisbane Central raises an important point. Unless there were sufficient students in the area it would be wrong to build it. However, all of the investigations carried out so far appear to support our submission. We are perhaps on firmer ground than some of the smaller areas that have been considered.

The reason why a TAFE college is so important is that in the current era of technological development many people in their late 30s or early 40s are made redundant and it is imperative that they be retrained. The person with training always has a better chance for a job than the person without training. The Government, through the provision of educational facilities, has to play its part in retraining people. It will not be easy, but it is a problem that has to be tackled.

The Budget provides for a liberalisation of the policy on school transport. As yet, the Minister has not been able to tell us exactly what that means. I understand that he is in the course of preparing it.

School bus operators received a 15 per cent increase in subsidy and the subsidy for private vehicle student conveyance was increased by 12 per cent. Because school buses play an important part in my area, that is what I am more interested in. The shire of Allora has only one State school with a high school top and one church school. All of the children are conveyed by bus and that seems to work particularly well. The school transport system has been a great success with the only problem being to get sufficient money so that the operators can continue. I am sure they will be very happy with the increase.

The rates of allowance paid to apprentices attending block-release training are to be increased by 16.5 per cent, which was a much needed increase. Even a little more could have been given. I would have liked a larger increase because when apprentices have to attend block-release training, the money does not go very far and they usually have to spend a fair bit of their own money. If it is too much, it makes them unhappy.

From the third term of 1982, per capita grants to non-Government schools will be increased by 16 per cent in primary schools and from \$420 to \$486 per annum for secondary schools. My electorate has a number of non-Government schools and I believe that the independent schools have played a great part in education in the State. I would hate to return to an era in which we did not have independent schools. In saying that, I in no way denigrate State schools, because I attended a State school, as did many other people, and am very proud of it. I was about to speak of "competition" between Government and non-Government schools, but that is not the correct word. What I do say is that, when there is a different aspect of education, the contribution made by non-Government schools is to the benefit of the State and the general welfare of the community.

Mr Davis: Wouldn't you say you are being very parochial?

Mr BOOTH: I am not particularly parochial. I am glad the honourable member reminded me. For the benefit of those people who have become colour conscious, I point out that about 70 per cent of the children who attend the Slade School are not of European descent.

Mr Moore: Aborigines.

Mr BOOTH: No, they are not all Aborigines, but they are non-Europeans. Also in my electorate is Scots College. Its reputation spreads far and wide. Over many years an extensive Catholic education has been set up and the School of Total Education, which is promoted by the Helen Vale Foundation, has a different approach to education altogether. It does not expect that it will ever have more than five children per teacher, some of whom are very well qualified. So some very exciting things in education are happening in my area. If the member for Brisbane Central thinks that is parochial, I plead guilty. Certainly I am proud of the schools and I would like to do anything and everything to help them.

I congratulate the Treasurer for recognising the real worth of State schools and pre-schools. In his Budget he has made a great contribution to education. I thank the Minister for Education for the new pre-school at Glennie Heights which, for the moment at least, should provide sufficient pre-school facilities.

The Budget provides extra money for tourism. It might be thought that because mine is an inland electorate I would not be interested in tourism. However, in the next 10 years I feel that there will be an upsurge of tourism in inland areas.

Mr Davis: I have heard that for the last 20 years.

Mr BOOTH: I was just about to tell the honourable member of some of the exciting things that are happening in Warwick now. The inland tourist resort of Cherribah might be the best in Australia; it is certainly the best in Queensland. The promoters have invested a great deal of money and the Glengallan Shire has played its part by improving the access road. I believe that Cherribah is going ahead quite well. Its promotional advertising has been stepped up. Each night the "Telegraph" carries a large advertisement for Cherribah.

The promoters of that resort certainly need encouragement because it provides another worthwhile avenue of employment, particularly for younger people who want to learn about the tourist industry. In addition, an average of one new motel a year has been built in the city of Warwick in the last five years, and although the honourable member for Brisbane Central might have heard a lot of this idea that tourism will go ahead in the Inland in the next 10 years, in the last four or five years there has been a substantial improvement and we can look forward to even more improvement in the future.

It would be only fair to say that the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has been a success. One of its successes has been in helping regional tourist promotion. This has been greatly appreciated by hotel and motel proprietors. That is why they are showing confidence and why a number of new motels are being built and hotels are upgrading their facilities.

I now turn to water resources. Like a lot of other speakers, I would like a lot more money spent on water conservation, particularly during a drought such as the one we are experiencing. I intend to refer to drought later, so at the moment I will confine myself to the extra \$2.2m to complete the balance of civil works associated with the Leslie Dam.

Mr Davis: I have been pushing for that over the years.

Mr BOOTH: Every little helps, so the honourable member should keep it up.

I sincerely believe, and I have said it before, that the Leslie Dam will provide the cheapest water on the Condamine River. The Government is spending \$2.2m to raise the monoliths on which to swing the gates, and I am hoping that the tenders for the gates will be called early in 1983 so that the dam will be finished and we can get on with the business of impounding water when we get sufficient rain. We have had rain in the last week or so and I hope we get even more.

I want to say something about primary industry because it is still the industry of major importance to this State. This has been recognised in the Budget with the Vote up 24 per cent.

Drought is still one of our greatest problems. My electorate and many of the adjoining electorates have suffered from it this winter. We are facing up to our worst ever winter crop, and the cash flow of a lot of people will be very seriously curtailed and in most cases put back by at least six months. This is a serious situation. Many ideas have been put forward to try to overcome the effects of drought. I do not think that they can be completely overcome by water storage, but improved water conservation would play a big part. But I think we should be looking more at the storage of fodder, grain, hay and silage. We should be providing low-interest money to encourage the provision of haysheds and silos. We should also be promoting long-term research into the storage of fodder and grain so that it can be kept for longer periods. No matter how hay is stored, the mice and rats take their toll of it. I do not know how many years it can be held, but it starts to deteriorate fairly rapidly after about five years. We seem to have most difficulty holding grain any longer than about 12 months, or perhaps a little longer in the big bulk storages that some of the bigger farmers have.

The ordinary farmer, with the storage available to him, seems to get into trouble before 12 months elapse. More research is needed to improve storage. American farm magazines indicate that American farmers are doing much more than we are and that they are able to store grain underground for longer periods. It may be that our conditions are different or that we are not doing the right things.

Some electorates are worse affected by drought than mine. People who were expecting a cash flow in November from winter crops now realise that the earliest they will get a cash flow will be late March or early April next year. They face a serious situation. It seems that calls will have to be made on the Rural Reconstruction Board to tide them over desperate times. I hope that that does not happen but, if it does, an approach will have to be made to the Government for more assistance.

The benefits of water storage are not realised, especially by city growers and, unfortunately, by some country people who have sufficient water for their requirements. I wonder why we cannot get more help in this field. If we could educate the people to understand how essential water storage is, I am sure that many more water storages would be built.

Mr Vaughan: Who do you educate?

Mr BOOTH: I think everyone has to be educated to understand that water storage is essential. When that is done we will get somewhere. The honourable member asked a good question. I suppose I am guilty because I should be telling people how necessary it is to store water.

Mr Scott: How many National Party Ministers are there, and where do they live?

Mr BOOTH: Most of them have a very good idea of what is needed. They are probably doing as much as they can with the money that is available. I forecast that if the honourable member were able to return to this Chamber in 100 years' time he would find that virtually every stream in Queensland was dammed, or was used for some type of water storage. It seems that we cannot act quickly enough, but we should be trying a little harder. I am sure that many people realise the need, but it is hard to get the money to do it.

Mr Lee: It is like subsidising the whole industry, or introducing orderly marketing.

Mr BOOTH: It subsidises the whole State.

When we think about unemployment in Queensland we must realise that the State's population is increasing. I will not argue whether the people are coming from Victoria or New South Wales, but our population is certainly increasing. To find employment for them we have to do things in a different way.

Anyone who visits the Gold Coast, the Redlands or the Lockyer area will see that many of the areas used for agriculture only 10 years ago are now used for housing. The salad bowl area will have to be shifted. I forecast that it may be shifted to my area.

Some years ago, the farms in my area were considered to be broad-acre farms. That is no longer so. The tendency is to grow small crops. The only thing preventing farmers from small-cropping on a large scale is shortage of water.

We must do everything we can to provide water storages on the smallest streams. People love huge schemes like the Burdekin River scheme. They think they are marvellous because they cost hundreds of millions of dollars, but do we get the same return from the money invested in the huge schemes as we would from a large number of small ones? Initially, the small ones may seem more expensive, but when the water is used to grow vegetables, the big cities will receive a bonus by way of cheaper vegetables and other food.

When I was in Asia, I was told that 44 per cent of the food consumed in Japan has to be imported. One wonders how they ever obtain a meal. In most towns in Australia the food does not have to be imported; it is available in the district. Usually it is available very close to where we live. Until now we have been lucky. Australia's population is increasing faster than we think. At first glance the increase might seem to be small, but in my lifetime the increase in population has been terrific. We must look carefully into the future to see what we can do.

The Treasurer pointed out in his Budget Speech that he had to allow for a large increase in wages and salaries and population growth. That should bring to the minds of all members, as it brings to my mind, the problems faced by private enterprise because of escalation of costs. It is all very well to say that the price of the commodity that is sold increases every year and that the increase in costs will be returned to the producer. At the moment, because of the drought in my electorate, grain growers are receiving

an inflated price for barley, grain sorghum and maize. Just over six months ago people were selling coarse grains at a price much lower than the price they were receiving 8 months before. It is a no-win situation, and many people get hurt.

The Government has striven very hard to encourage as many people as possible to purchase their own homes. I support the Treasurer's remarks on housing. However, I sound a note of warning. Some people in the older age group are not in a position to purchase a house. The Government should construct more houses for rental. I do not know how many houses should be constructed, but protection should be given to those people who are finding it very difficult to obtain accommodation. If rental charges are very high, some support should be given to the person who has a limited income. Although the Government has constructed rental housing and has done a fairly good job in that field, a watchful eye should be kept on the situation.

The exemption from stamp duty on the principal place of residence has increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000. It is excellent that the Treasurer has seen fit to increase that exemption. It is well above the inflation rate for the year.

The member for Barron River (Mr Tenni) referred to national parks and access to them. He said that a national park is of benefit only if it has an area of lawn, a place at which to obtain refreshments, parking facilities and other amenities.

In the Scenic Rim in my electorate there is an extensive area of national park. I do not blame anybody for this, but the council does not have the wherewithal to build access roads. I am annoyed when people in the conservation lobby say, "Yes, we want national parks but we do not want anybody to go in there unless he is capable of walking seven miles with a pack on his back and he wants to go on an adventure for a couple of days." I have nothing against people who want to do that.

Mr Scott: You have no idea what a national park is all about.

Mr BOOTH: I have visited many national parks in other countries. I have seen areas in which it is possible to gain access to national parks. For instance, in Japan, New Zealand—

Mr Scott: Have you been to Lakefield?

Mr BOOTH: No, I have not; but I would like to visit that national park.

No matter where national parks are located, ready access to them should be provided. People should be able to visit a national park even for a couple of hours. There is no need for them to be in a national park for a week. They should be able to utilise the facilities in a national park for as short a period as they wish. I support the comments of the honourable member for Barron River in that regard. All the usual facilities that people find in parks, whether they be small parks in the city or larger parks elsewhere, should be available in a national park.

If the best is to be obtained from a national park, easy access should be provided to it. If the best is to be obtained from the Scenic Rim, car-parking areas, a caravan park and perhaps a motel need to be provided. The area along the Scenic Rim on the range close to Brisbane could become a great area of relaxation for the people of Brisbane. Of course, they must be provided with the means of getting there. The Government should be spending more time and money on providing access to the area.

I am not opposed to acquiring land for national park purposes. I am opposed to the adoption of the dog-in-the-manger attitude that a national park should be kept in its rough state and fenced off so that no-one can get in.

A Government Member: What about dingoes?

Mr BOOTH: That is an aspect that I had forgotten. Dingoes certainly are not wanted in national parks.

A Government Member: Wild pigs?

Mr BOOTH: My area contains some wild pigs, but not in large numbers. It is, however, probably the best area for dingoes in Queensland.

I turn now to free hospitals because many people are fearful that the free hospital scheme will be done away with. The Treasurer has shouted loud and clear that it will be maintained. The concept of free hospitalisation originated in Queensland. I am pleased that it is to be maintained.

Before I conclude, I return to agriculture and in particular to the beef industry. Something is needed to restore confidence in the industry. It does not seem to be able to attain stability; it does not seem to know quite where it is going.

There have been many reports recently about the meat inspection service and the quality controls that can be expected in Queensland in the future. I will be pleased when the Minister for Primary Industries spells out exactly what will be done in that regard. No-one wants a scandal like the "roo in the stew" scandal of some time ago. I do not think that such a scandal will be seen again. However, no-one wants to see a situation in which meatworks are closed for months at a time because of Australian controls.

There has to be liaison with Federal authorities, because no matter what standards are prescribed in Queensland for meat for export and local consumption, those standards have to be in line with standards in other States. For that reason, I should like to see Queensland's meat inspection and quality controls tied in with a scheme that would give the Queensland Government maximum control and at the same time provide for uniform quality standards throughout Australia.

Anyone who travels overseas hears people in other countries complain, "Yes, we can buy Australian meat, but we cannot rely on its quality." Stricter control of meat for export is the only aspect of the Sir William Gunn scheme that I would go along with. I do not agree with his proposal to do away with saleyards, but I go along with his suggestion that the export of meat from this State should be controlled to a greater extent.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr BOOTH: I am not here to defend auctioneers, but the auction system for meat has worked quite well. With the auction system, the people in the city get fair quality meat. Unless the producer takes beasts of fair quality to the auction sale, he will not get a premium price.

We must be careful when we begin to close down saleyards. Firstly, the small producers will be inconvenienced. They will find it difficult to sell their cattle by computer. If the number of people who sit in the grandstand of a saleyard is reduced from 20 to two, three or four, there will not be much competition. A person might sell only 30 or 40 head of cattle a year, and he should be given the opportunity to dispose of those cattle in whatever way he desires. In my opinion, the auction system is the best way to do it.

Tonight, I make a plea to Governments and to everybody in the meat industry throughout Australia, and particularly in Queensland, to try to induce confidence into the industry. Inducing confidence in the industry is the only thing to do to make people breed cattle of better quality and give them better quality feed.

In the early days of dairy farming in Queensland, the Government—I think it was a Labor Government—tried to upgrade the dairy herds in this State. It arranged an exhibit at the local shows. The exhibit contained some good quality milkers and one or two bad milkers. There was a sign over the top of the cattle stating, "It pays to breed". The person in charge was giving the cattle the same feed. After he had been on the road for two months he found that the cattle that were supposed to be bad milkers were milking better than the cattle that were supposed to be good milkers. He sent an urgent telegram to the Minister for Agriculture at that time. Even though the Minister belonged to the Labor Party, he must have had some ability, because he said, "Keep going. Don't stop. All you need do is change the sign from 'It pays to breed' to 'It pays to feed'." So feeding is very important in the livestock industry. People should not think that they can just breed cattle and not look after them. Cattle husbandry is important. If we want people to improve cattle breeding and cattle husbandry, we must give them the incentive and confidence to do so.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: If I bought a few acres up at Killarney, would that entitle me to become a member of the National Party?

Mr BOOTH: Certainly. After the honourable member is defeated at the next election and leaves this Parliament, we will do anything for him up there. It is a very friendly place. If he came up and lived in that area, he would find that it is one of the great places in the world.

The only other point that I wish to make concerns Agricultural Bank finance. Throughout Queensland's history, the Agricultural Bank has been one of the most successful institutions in this State. Probably it has done more than any other organisation to encourage agriculture and the development of this State. However, in the last few years it has been short of money. I know that nothing can be done in this Budget, but I make a plea to the Treasurer to provide more money in the next Budget for the Agricultural Bank so that it can assist the agricultural industry, which is so important to my electorate and which I love very much.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order! Before I call the honourable member for Wynnum, I ask honourable members to desist from audible conversations. Members 30 feet apart are conducting conversations and I ask them to cease.

Mr SHAW (Wynnum) (8.55 p.m.): It is very difficult to comment critically on Budget documents because, of their very nature, they are difficult to understand. They do not make light reading by any means. There is often a need for them to be flexible. It has often been necessary for Treasurers to adapt their Budgets as the year progresses. Unfortunately, Treasurers are often deliberately confusing in the way they produce their documents. They know that people will not understand what is in the documents, which gives them the opportunity to prepare a brief for the media. After having presented the Budget, they call the media to one side and say, "This is what it really all means." I suppose that is not bad politics. For the time being, therefore, we must take all the statements in the Budget at their face value and hope that they are an accurate prediction of what will happen during the year.

That being so, I very much welcome the State Government's commitment to adopt the principles set out in the report of the Select Committee on Education in regard to class sizes. It is a very positive move. The Opposition has sought that for some considerable time. It might be unkind to remind the Treasurer that in March last year, when we were asking that this very thing be done he said in a public statement that it was impossible to make such a commitment. At the time I was misquoted as saying that I had agreed in the media that it was impossible. It was necessary for me to make a personal explanation to the Parliament that that was not my statement. In fact, I thought that it was quite reasonable for the Government to announce a program for the introduction of reduced class sizes.

The history of the issue is very interesting. The report from that committee was tabled in the Parliament in 1979. For years afterwards we saw no action whatsoever by the Government for its implementation. Many Government spokesmen, and even Ministers for Education, argued that there was every reason why it should not be adopted. One can only speculate that the intense campaign waged by the Queensland Teachers Union and, most importantly, by parents must, to a large degree, have influenced the Government's change of mind.

The parliamentary committee's reports were debated in the Parliament in 1980. At that stage members opposite were suggesting that what to our minds was a very necessary recommendation was not important at all. It was necessary then for the Opposition to give notice of a motion. On at least one occasion we were prevented from proceeding with that. It was not until the motion had been on the Business Paper for 12 months that it was agreed to debate it. It would be foolish to suggest that the change of heart on the part of the Government was not as a result of the intense campaign in the community.

It is interesting to note that the debate followed the parent/teacher campaign. The Government very seriously misread the concern in the community, particularly by parents, about what was happening. It was not so much that the circumstances that existed were bad—and they still do exist—but that class sizes were increasing. That was the main concern of parents.

The Government considered it necessary to amend the motion moved by the Opposition. Members will recall that the amendment sought to delete the requirement that the Treasurer table a program for the implementation of the reduction in class sizes. That amendment was moved because Government members said it was impossible to lay down a program for its implementation. Last financial year the Government said that it was impossible to lay down a program but now the Treasurer's Financial Statement makes provision for

full implementation of the recommendation over a four-year period commencing this year. I welcome that statement. It could have been made last year or two years ago, even if the date of commencement had been this year. If last year the Treasurer had said that it could not be implemented immediately but in 1982-83 the Government would commence the program, then it would not have been necessary for parents to take their children out of schools.

Mr Scott: It demonstrates very clearly that it is a Government of confrontation. It thrives on that sort of approach.

Mr SHAW: That point can hardly be disputed. It certainly demonstrates that the Government has the attitude that it knows best and is not interested in listening to the wishes of the community.

What was promised by the Treasurer in the Budget is the very thing for which the Opposition has pushed for four years. It could have been done much sooner than this. Some doubt has been expressed that the Treasurer's promise can be kept. People have tried to assess the amount of money allocated and have indicated their fears that the suggested timetable cannot be met. I certainly share some of those fears, at least to the extent that I believe it will be necessary for the Government to review its policy on the employment of teachers if the manpower is to be available. I hope that later on we will not hear the excuse that the promise has not been able to be met because of a shortage of teachers. If the Government was prepared to review its present policy on the employment of teachers, more would be available.

Another suggestion has been that to find sufficient funds it will be necessary to cut back many of the services that are presently regarded as essential. Another suggestion is that the funds for capital works to provide the class-rooms are not available. I acknowledge that sometimes it is very difficult to find out what Treasurers are up to when funds are allocated, and I have already dealt with the reasons why that might be so. Perhaps we should adopt a wait-and-see attitude and presently accept the Treasurer's expressed good intentions. At least at long last we have seen adopted what should have been adopted when the first report of the Select Committee on Education was tabled. At long last the Government has said, "We think this is a good thing. We adopt the principle and move towards it." That is something that the Opposition has sought for a very long time.

The four-year period that the Treasurer has decided upon is a reasonable time. Some may criticise that time span but I do not think it is unreasonable. If the goal is reached at the end of the four years, then credit should be given, and I will be the first to give it.

I am concerned about some statements made by the Minister for Education about, and the policy that the Queensland Government has adopted towards, the acceptance of the Australian Children's Television Foundation. The Queensland Government has given no support to that organisation. Many members might not know what it is. I believe it was first suggested by a Victorian Minister for Education. It has been recognised that television has a tremendous impact in education. Many of the programs shown to children come from overseas, and they are not really appropriate. They do not portray Australian conditions and do not encourage an interest in and an understanding of our own country, which I think is a great pity.

I believe that the Australian Children's Television Foundation is a very worthwhile attempt to do something about the standard of television for children in this country. It has been supported by every other State in Australia. The only State which has rejected it is Queensland, and that is a great pity. The Queensland Education Department's policy is not to support this very worthwhile cause. The reason given is that we cannot be sure it will succeed. Although there may be no certainty of success, it has every chance of succeeding, and it is so important that I think it should be supported. Even the very miserly Federal Government, with its attitude to education, has allocated \$1.5m over the next three years in support of the foundation. New South Wales has allocated something like half a million dollars a year, as has Victoria, to try to promote something worth while and to ensure that we do have educational programs available for children in Australia.

Because Queensland is the only State that is not supporting the foundation in any way, either financially, by giving it an input or making resources available to it, the effect will be that when these programs are used in Queensland, as I believe they will be in the future, they will have a background of States other than Queensland and in many instances will not be appropriate for the Queensland scene. Certainly the opportunity for promoting Queensland in much of this programming will be lost.

We are not talking purely academic programming; in many instances we are talking about light entertainment programs which still have a positive education background but may have a theme which portrays and encourages a knowledge of the local countryside. We will be losing that opportunity here in Queensland. We may even be losing the opportunity to show the programs at all. Certainly we could hardly blame the other States if they adopted the same dog-in-the-manger attitude that the Queensland Government has adopted on other occasions and said, "We have paid for the thing. If you want it, you pay for it or it will be available only in our State." It may well be that it will not be available in this State at all. That threat has been made.

The important point to remember is that children today spend more time watching television than they spend in the class-room. The impact on learning is marked. It is very difficult to expect teachers to teach what we believe they should teach. For instance, it is very difficult for teachers to explain to children that they should spell the word "tyre" correctly when it is spelt "tire" on TV. I could give a dozen similar examples of things being taught properly in schools and improperly on TV when TV has far greater impact. Queensland has a very important role to play. It is a great pity that the Education Department, the Minister for Education and the Queensland Government are completely ignoring this worthwhile project.

Government members keep telling us that Queensland is the wealthiest State in the Commonwealth. In the circumstances, I might well ask why Queensland is the only State that cannot find funds to support this scheme and why it is prepared to condemn the children of Queensland to watch overseas rubbish on TV. If it is suggested that it is a matter of cost and of saying that we are fully committed to all the other schemes that we support, I could cite a few instances in which the Government is wasting funds.

A classic example was referred to by the honourable member for Carnarvon, who spoke of the increase in the conveyance allowance for transporting children to and from school.

Mr McKechnie: I was talking about school buses.

Mr SHAW: I am talking about almost the same thing. I think the Chamber will be interested in the remarks that I intend to make.

I refer to the case of a mother in a country area who has to drive her child three miles each way to catch a school bus. Each morning she has to put her child in the car and drive three miles to the bus stop. She has to place the child on the bus and drive behind it over the same three miles on the return trip to her home. The bus continues on to the school. When the bus passes her home, it is no longer a primary school bus and her child is a primary school student. The bus goes on to the school and she goes about her business. In the afternoon, she drives three miles to the bus stop, waits for the bus to transport the child three miles past her home to the stop, and she drives the child back three miles to get home again. How ridiculous a situation is that!

Mr McKechnie: Has she been to her local member?

Mr SHAW: She has.

Mr Scott: He must be a crook member.

Mr SHAW: That may be but, strangely enough, he is the Minister for Education.

That is a waste of funds. I hope that the Minister for Education will take this matter up. The public is paying this woman to engage in this nonsense. It is a waste of funds and a great waste of her time to go through this process. It is not unique, however; it is happening in several places.

Mr McKechnie: Is there room on the bus when it goes past the home?

Mr SHAW: There is plenty of room. I know of other instances in which that happens because the distance of the home from the school does not fall within the guide-lines. The school bus goes past and ignores the kids or it is not allowed to take them to certain schools. The honourable member knows the story and I will not repeat it at this stage.

Something should be done to stop this tremendous waste of money and resources. Every time a bus goes past schoolchildren at the side of the road and does not pick them up, it is a waste of money and resources. It is a crazy situation. Some members might remember Colonel Blimp, the cartoon character who was responsible for making all sorts of ridiculous decisions. If ever there was one, this certainly is a Colonel Blimp blunder.

I refer to a problem that has arisen in my electorate. Until recently three schools—two private schools and one State school—were served by a school bus. The San Sisto Convent and St Martins are the two independent schools. The other school is the Belmont State school. They were being serviced by Bayside Bus Services. Recently, that company experienced difficulties in maintaining services. There has been some doubt as to whether it can continue operations. It has received a considerable amount of help from the Government to maintain its viability. This service has now been abolished because Bayside Bus Services has refused to provide a service. It says that it is losing money and that it cannot provide a service. The service could be provided by the Brisbane City Council, but it cannot be given the franchise because of what I would term the socialist policies of this Government that wants to control these things. It is hardly free enterprise. Children must now rely on their parents and other means of transport to get to the schools.

The story worsens. The Government does not want to allow the Brisbane City Council to operate the service, but if it did, the council would have some difficulty in providing buses owing to the recent upsurge in patronage of council buses because of the excellent service that it provides. It has a shortage of rolling-stock. Nevertheless, although there would be some problems, it could provide the service.

Another private-enterprise company, Burbank Busways, has offered to provide the service. That company has said, "It might not be completely profitable at this stage, but we believe that if we build up the service, within 12 months' time it will be profitable." The present free-enterprise Government says, "No way. We will give you a permit to run it for 12 months, but we will not give you the franchise because we want to retain the right for the present company to come back later if the service becomes profitable." That is absolutely crazy. That gives the lie to the way the Government keeps telling us that it is a free-enterprise Government. That is a lot of nonsense.

Mr McKechnie: Limited free enterprise.

Mr SHAW: That is right.

A service could be provided for the public. A company is prepared to work up the business and make it a going concern. The Government is not prepared to give that company the opportunity to do so. The company should be allowed to build up the service. Although Bayside Bus Services is a local company, if another company from another area is prepared to offer a service, it should be given that opportunity.

Most members would agree that opportunities to raise matters in Parliament are not as frequent as they should be. As the Minister for Education is in the Chamber, I take this opportunity to comment briefly on his ministerial statement this morning concerning my statements relative to remarks attributed to him in the Press. The Minister implied that it was wrong of me to take as gospel statements that were attributed to him in the Press. I think he said that I should not believe the statements that I read.

If Ministers do not want us to take notice of what is in the Press—

Mr Gunn: You took it as gospel.

Mr SHAW: Wait a moment. As I was saying, if Ministers do not want us to take statements attributed to them in the Press at their face value, they should place more importance on making statements in the House on what is going on in the departments under their control. Usually, remarks attributed to Ministers in the Press are in direct quotes.

What should have happened in this instance is that a statement of information should have been made saying that the report had been received, whether or not it would be considered and, if so, when. Such a report was not given in the House.

Mr Gunn: It was given in the Press.

Mr SHAW: The Minister is illustrating exactly what I am complaining about. The point has been made time and time again. When Opposition members say, "We do not know about such-and-such," Ministers say exactly what the Minister said just then—"I told the Press." However, when Opposition members take notice of what appears in the Press, we are told that we should not believe what is in the Press. What about a fair go?

Mr Gunn: You could have got the information you wanted.

Mr SHAW: I shall not go into that. However, there have been occasions on which I have asked Ministers to give information and they have not done so.

If Ministers are concerned that they are being misquoted in the Press, the solution is in their hands. They should come into the House more often and state what is going on in their departments. As a matter of common courtesy, whenever a Minister makes an important statement to the Press about things that are happening in his department, he should make a similar statement to the House. We have no alternative to accepting what appears in the Press. In this instance, the Minister has said that one statement is true and the other statement is not true. How are Opposition members expected to arrive at a sound judgment on that?

Opposition members must take Press statements at their face value. We have to accept that whenever a Minister is quoted in the Press as saying something that is what was actually said.

I can well understand that there are occasions on which Ministers are not happy with reports attributed to them in the Press. However, as I have said, the solution is in their hands. They should come into the House and tell us what is going on. It is unfair to suggest that the Opposition should know what is correct and what is incorrect in Press reports.

I know that there could be occasions when a Minister might go to the Press afterwards and say, "That is not what I said", and his denial might not be printed in the Press. That is why I say that the Minister should come into this Chamber and say what he has to say. It is then recorded in "Hansard" and honourable members do not have to rely on the Press to find out what is right and what is wrong.

While I am speaking about accountability to Parliament, I indicate that I believe that, as a matter of course, and perhaps as a matter of courtesy, Mr Speaker should adopt the ruling that the Speaker of the House of Representatives has adopted, that is, that when a question is asked in this Parliament, a Minister need not answer the question; but if he does, he must relate the answer to the question. Politics are played in this Chamber, and if a member asks a political question he deserves to receive a political answer. I do not think that anyone could argue against that.

There needs to be some relation between the question that is asked and the answer that is given. At the very least, the question and the answer should be on the same subject. On many occasions, answers do not appear to have the slightest relevance to the question that has been asked. If Ministers intend to answer questions in that way, they should be honest and say, "I am not going to answer the question", which they have the right to do; otherwise, they make a joke of question-time.

Previously, other members have referred to the rush of people to become justices of the peace in Queensland. The situation is being reached when nearly every second person is a JP. There are too many of them in Queensland, and I don't know the reason for that. I try to be a little bit selective about the people whom I nominate, but I do not think that many other members adopt a similar attitude.

Although literally hundreds of people are becoming JPs in this State, I know of a very respected businessman in the community who had a legitimate reason for becoming a justice of the peace but whose application was rejected. At present, he cannot be accepted as a justice of the peace.

Mr Borbidge: Why did they reject him?

Mr SHAW: Because he has a criminal record.

Mr Gunn: A good reason.

Mr SHAW: A good enough reason? I will tell the Minister what his criminal record is. When he was 18 years of age, he went with a party of young fellows to a country dance. On the way home—I imagine that they were very cheerful by that stage—they

passed the property of one of their friends and they stole a water-melon. This fellow to whom I am referring did not even eat any of the water-melon, but he was there and he was charged with the theft of a water-melon worth less than \$2.

Mr Borbidge: How long ago was that?

Mr SHAW: He would now be in his early thirties; he might even be nudging 40. I am not certain of his age.

Mr Gunn: Hardly a criminal offence.

Mr SHAW: But he is on the books as a criminal. He has a criminal conviction against him. Although I cannot verify this, I am told that the owner of the water-melon, who was actually a family friend, as so often happens in country areas, said, "He can have the water-melon. They can have a water-melon any time they like." However, the prosecution was already under way and it was not withdrawn. I am not condemning the police for proceeding; but how ridiculous it is that a respected businessman who has a legitimate need to be a justice of the peace is precluded from being one. That man could eventually become Premier of this State—there would be nothing to stop him—but he cannot be a justice of the peace. It is ridiculous.

This debate gives honourable members the opportunity to canvass any number of subjects. I wish to discuss the plight of people who have applied for Queensland Housing Commission housing. The problems have been well documented in the Parliament, particularly by the honourable member for Chatsworth, who is Opposition spokesman on housing. He has given many instances of people in great need. In my area, a woman was sleeping in a car but was told when she went to the counter at the Housing Commission that she was regarded as being adequately housed. What has been exposed by such cases is that those who have to deal with applications for housing need to be transferred fairly often. They have a very difficult job and it is easy to understand that, over a period, their sympathy becomes strained and they become hardened to the plight of applicants. Once that happens, they should be transferred and other people who can listen sympathetically should be moved in.

Mr Scott: The criteria are very clearly laid down by the Minister. The officers will not budge from them. There is no room for humanity.

Mr SHAW: That also is true. The criteria are difficult. Not enough attention has been given to the problem. Adequate facilities do not exist to cope with the problem, which has exploded. There needs to be a crash program, if I might put it that way. Certainly that will not happen until there is a greater sympathy for applicants and an appreciation of their needs. A major campaign needs to be undertaken—and with a great deal of urgency—to overcome the problem.

I am sorry that the Minister for Works and Housing is not in the Chamber. He once told me that I had given him perhaps the greatest number of cases. It may be because I see the need more than any other member. I could not bring myself to say to people who come into my office, "There's nothing available. You'll just have to do something else." The least one can do is bring their case to the department's notice, although before I do so I tell them that the position is hopeless.

Although they may seem to be exaggerated, the facts that I am now about to outline are, unfortunately, not atypical of what is happening. I was approached by an elderly couple. The gentleman is a diabetic and, as a result of that complaint, has lost both legs. As a result of his deteriorating condition, he has ulcers on the stumps of his legs and, consequently, cannot use his wooden leg. His wife is also a diabetic and recently underwent a serious operation on her bowel. In addition, she is going blind. I assure honourable members that I am not making this up; it is a documented case of the plight some people are in.

Those people live in a very old home which is set on high stumps. The only toilet is at ground level, in the yard. That is serious enough for any elderly people, but imagine the plight of these two who are both in need of care, are in very, very serious ill-health and one of whom has no legs and is immobile. Imagine that gentleman, in the middle of the night, trying to find his way down a flight of stairs to get to the toilet. Their plight is terrible. Even in the daytime they exist only with the aid of help from a voluntary organisation in the area.

I outlined their plight to the department. Those people reside in Wynnum, where help is available to them. Although they do not have any relatives, they receive help from an organisation known as Aid and Recreational Assistance for the Disabled, which does a very fine job and looks after people in such circumstances. The only accommodation that could be made available to that couple was on the other side of Ipswich. They had no option but to refuse it, because to go there would have meant that they would have received no support. Somebody in the department—the member for Cook suggested that it is only because the criteria are laid down—lowered the priority of the couple to the bottom of the list. They are no longer in the running, which is a shocking state of affairs.

It is time that somebody took a very sympathetic look at the problems faced by a number of people. As I said at the beginning, I do not think that it is possible to wave a magic wand and solve all problems overnight. However, some concern must be expressed and a very sympathetic hearing must be given to many of these problems. Not all of them are insoluble, but I admit some are. What is the situation of people who, because they know that, under the present system, if they do not accept what is offered to them they will lose their priority and go to the bottom of the list, take accommodation that is offered to them in an area remote from friends and relatives who can give them some form of support?

For some unknown and inexplicable reason, the Housing Commission seems to place all lone parents and single mothers in an area at Woodridge. That is a bad system, because it puts those people in a situation in which they are at risk from undesirables and in which they cannot get support. Surely it would be better to mix people up and place a few age pensioners near young single mothers who might get some sort of support from them. Retired families could be placed in the area to lend their support.

I know of cases in which people have accepted homes in an area remote from where they need to be and then found that a home had become available in the area that they recently left. For instance, somebody from Wynnum with friends and relatives there has accepted accommodation at Beenleigh, Ipswich, or Woodridge, because that is all that is available, and has then found that a residence has become available in Wynnum. If persons in that situation were to shift at their own expense from the home in which they were living to the area from which they initially came, they could get some sort of help and support there and no loss to the Housing Commission would be involved.

There would still be a place available for somebody waiting on the list, so nobody would be disadvantaged. Somebody would receive a very distinct advantage, but no loss whatsoever would be incurred. So I do not see why in those circumstances the Housing Commission will not give a sympathetic hearing to such applications, but as a matter of policy it will not. I believe, particularly in the case of single mothers, that there is a very good case to be made out to say that urgent reconsideration should be given to that very hard-hearted policy.

I should also add that in many cases the Housing Commission seems to be all too prompt in closing files. I know of more than one instance where a letter has been sent to somebody asking for information, and the information has been supplied but apparently it was lost in the system. No effort was made on the part of anybody in the commission—no doubt because of the tremendous backlog—to contact the person concerned to say, "You haven't replied to us and told us whether you still want a house." The name of the person has just been taken off the list. A woman pensioner waited very patiently for eight years and eventually came to me and said, "I have been waiting a long time. People are telling me the waiting-time shouldn't be any more than two years and I have been waiting for eight years." I was able to verify that she had been incorrectly taken off the list, and she was put back on and given some priority so that she got a home within about six months. But she should never have been taken off the list in the first place. That is happening in too many instances. Applications are cancelled without a proper check being made—

Mr Lee: Accidents happen to the best of families, don't they?

Mr SHAW: Certainly accidents do happen, and I have said so. I have said that I sympathise with the fact that the commission is over-worked and that the staff have difficulties. People have to deal with the same sort of problems over and over again, and they eventually say, "Oh, no, I've had my leg pulled too many times. I have had it put over me too often." So the next time they say that somebody is trying to put

it over them and do not bother. I can understand that attitude, and I am not criticising it, but when it does happen the commission should, as a matter of policy, rotate the staff so that applicants are not treated unfairly by not being listened to.

We have come to the end of the Commonwealth Games during which we had a lot of visitors.

Mr Lee: What do you think about the "Shine on Brisbane" effort?

Mr SHAW: It must have been fairly good because it was the only thing that the Premier saw fit to give credit to the council for in his speech the other day.

At the time we were talking about inviting visitors to this city for the Games we expressed a fear that some business people might take the opportunity to increase their charges and make a few quick rip-offs. One Minister even expressed a fear that people would not know how to address the visitors. I heard the statement that the Minister actually made on radio, and I must say that he was treated rather unfairly by the media. In my opinion he was misquoted unmercifully. But be that as it may, we were concerned that some business people in Brisbane would not offer the sort of hospitality that visitors were entitled to expect. Perhaps I should say now that at the time we made the bid for the Games a lot of promises were made by other countries. At that time Edmonton had submitted a very well-documented and well-presented program to the federation outlining what it would provide for its Games.

Suggestions were made that better facilities could be provided in other parts of the world. At the time I said, "You can be certain that you will receive a warm welcome and hospitality in Brisbane." Restaurants in Brisbane have improved out of sight in recent years. We have a long way to go to reach the standard in some places such as Montreal, but I hope that we do reach it some day. A great improvement has taken place in our restaurants and quite a few of them provide world-class service and hospitality.

I had a very unpleasant experience—

Mr White: At the Milano Restaurant.

Mr SHAW: Yes, it was at the Milano. Perhaps I should not have named the restaurant. Did the Minister hear about it?

When anyone is with overseas people and wants to make an impression by taking them to what is considered to be a first-class restaurant, he does not expect them to be treated rudely. I was very embarrassed. I regret that the place was named.

Mr Scott: You will not go there again for a while.

Mr SHAW: I will not go there again.

What happened was unforgivable. It was very embarrassing to take my guests to a place where I expected they would receive at least reasonable treatment and for them to say, "We want to leave. We have never been treated so rudely before. We want to leave." That was the situation that confronted me. The attitude of the staff—I am not referring to the waiters, who were quite polite—whom one would expect to be properly trained, was very disturbing. I thought that someone would see what was happening and come to bail me out. I did not know what to do. I expected that a hostess would say, "Have you a problem? Can we do something to overcome it?" When I told the hostess that there was a problem she said, "Oh, well, that is unfortunate."

Mr Prentice: You make these allegations in the Chamber after having been there on one occasion. What you should have done was take it up with the management rather than attempt to blacken somebody's name here.

Mr SHAW: The honourable member is forcing me to be more specific than I wanted to be.

The fact is that, although I am not a well-known customer at that restaurant, I have been there at least three times a year over the past four to five years, so I am not altogether a stranger there. I have taken my wife to that restaurant on quite a number of occasions. I expected something better.

My guests walked out and I was walking round saying, "Who am I going to pay? What am I going to do?" A professional person then said to me, "Have you got a problem?" I said, "Yes, I have. I am afraid my guests are very dissatisfied. They said that they

have never received worse service anywhere in their lives or been treated so rudely. After all that, I did not expect her to say, "Oh, well, that is unfortunate. Here is the bill." But that is what happened. I hope that this city rapidly comes of age.

I think I can be forgiven for saying that it was a great pity that that sort of thing could happen when this city was on show. I wanted to show people that what I had said in Montreal was true, that they would receive a warm welcome and hospitality in Brisbane and Queensland. It was a great pity that sort of thing happened.

Mr Borbidge: It would have been very isolated.

Mr SHAW: I hope that it was an isolated event. I certainly will not be returning to that place. I hope that the matter is brought to the attention of the proprietor and that he ensures that it never happens again.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 9.52 p.m.
