

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 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 Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Council for the year ended 30 June 1982.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the State Housing Act 1945-1982 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982

Regulations under—

Mining Titles Freeholding Act 1980-1982

Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979-1982

Stamp Act 1894-1982.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Police Response to Incident concerning Mr Michael Olsen**

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police) (11.2 a.m.): Yesterday, during question-time, the honourable member for Rockhampton North, the Opposition police spokesman, requested that I make available to him details concerning a telephone conversation between a police officer manning the Police Department's emergency assistance telephone and a Mr Michael Olsen.

I believe it timely to move to clear up an incident referred to by the honourable member which occurred last Tuesday week, and which quite obviously is a storm in a teacup. The incident I refer to involved an armed robbery at the Shell Road House at Rochedale and the wounding of a Mr Michael Olsen.

Before I proceed any further, two points need to be strongly emphasised. Firstly, the normal procedures involving a call for assistance on the emergency 000 telephone number were followed to the letter and Mr Olsen received police assistance within minutes of his call being made. Secondly, a police officer has been reprimanded following this incident.

At approximately 3.21 a.m. on Tuesday 16 November, the Police Department's Operations Centre, through the 000 emergency telephone system, received a call from a Mr Michael Olsen claiming that he had been the victim of an armed robbery and that he had been shot.

I have studied a transcript of the conversation that took place between Mr Olsen and the police officer who took the call and it is clear—and quite understandably so—that Mr Olsen, as a result of his wounds, was in a highly emotional state. Parts of Mr Olsen's conversation were indecipherable, and there were frequent screams of pain.

I remind the House that that call was made to the Police Department at 3.21 a.m. A chronology of subsequent events is as follows:—

At 3.22 a.m. the police officer who took Mr Olsen's call contacted Beenleigh Police and asked that a car be dispatched immediately to the Shell Road House at Rochedale.

At 3.24 a.m., a Mrs Cali, the wife of the owner of the road house, telephoned police to report the incident and seek assistance.

One minute later, at 3.25 a.m., Mr Cali made a similar call to Police Headquarters. Both Mr and Mrs Cali were informed that a police car was proceeding to the road house.

At 3.27 a.m.—just six minutes after the initial call from Mr Olsen was made—a general-purpose alert was issued by the Police Department for vehicles on the southside of the city to proceed to the road house.

The first car arrived at 3.29 a.m., eight minutes after Mr Olsen had telephoned Police Headquarters.

Within three minutes of the arrival of the first police vehicle—that is, approximately 10 minutes after Mr Olsen's call—eight police units had arrived at the road house to offer assistance and commence investigations.

Mr Speaker, the simple facts of this matter are that Mr Olsen made his call at 3.21 a.m. and that eight minutes later, a police car was on the scene offering assistance.

I am informed that the police officer who took Mr Olsen's call should have—in the view of senior officers—displayed a more sympathetic and sensitive attitude towards Mr Olsen. The officer concerned has been reprimanded. In his defence, that officer has pointed to Mr Olsen's highly emotional and at times unclear conversation and also to the fact that during the course of the conversation Mr Olsen gave a wrong address when asked for information, which caused the police officer concerned to be suspicious.

As Minister for Police, I take strong exception to suggestions that the Police Department and, in particular, the acting commissioner at the time, Mr Atkinson, had attempted to engage in a cover-up. I want to stress that, despite any circumstances surrounding this particular incident, the normal procedure after receiving a 000 emergency call was followed to the letter by the Police Department. The public can rest assured that the 000 number provides an emergency service with immediate assistance.

Mr Speaker, I am quite happy to make available to the honourable member for Rockhampton North a full transcript of the conversation between Mr Michael Olsen and a police officer. If he is not satisfied with that, he is welcome to hold further discussions with me. I believe that this matter, which quite clearly is a storm in a tea cup, should be put to rest.

Documentary Film "Goodbye Joey"

Hon. J. A. ELLIOTT (Cunningham—Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts) (11.7 a.m.): I make this statement to the House concerning the yet to be released film "Goodbye Joey" and its possible effects on the kangaroo industry in Queensland.

I am deeply disturbed after seeing a pre-released version of the so-called documentary film "Goodbye Joey" produced by Mr Peter Cunningham. I have no hesitation in calling this film a fraud which has been made to deliberately distort and deceive Americans and Australians.

Although the film purports to be representative of Australiawide conditions, a fair proportion is of film said to be shot by an unidentified Queensland organisation and sold to Mr Cunningham for it was "too hot" to be shown here. In "Goodbye Joey", this particular segment of film has been reversed to try to prevent any identification of the people shown, their vehicles or the places. I have never seen so many left-handed shooters and left-hand-drive vehicles outside the USA. In fact, Press reports indicate that the bulk of the film was shot around Queanbeyan in New South Wales.

This segment includes two scenes of extreme cruelty which I am sure no professional shooter, grazer, fauna dealer or wildlife officer would condone for one minute. They are so blatant that they have been done for one purpose—for the cameraman to make gruesome scenes to shock audiences. One, at night, shows a grey kangaroo shot in the leg, then with its skin cut to be propped up on a stick in a grain field. The second, in daylight, shows a grey buck injured and grabbed by the tail. "Get him around in a circle, Jim", is the commentary as a man swings the animal into closer view. Then he teases the roaring kangaroo with his hat.

Cuts of this same film are made again and again into the overall film. The commentary is that the people concerned seem to be authorised Government shooters. The way they operate and methods and scenes make the film eight to ten years old. The scenes of the carcasses being cut up for pet food have a sound track of a kangaroo industry representative in New South Wales talking of the strict controls concerning kangaroo meat that apply in modern abattoirs today.

It is the very essence of this film that disturbs me. It gives a very one-eyed view of the kangaroo industry. There is no compassion with reality. It is as though the maker got into a library and dropped film, interviews, Press cuttings and even Qantas and "Advance Australia" TV promotions on the floor, then stuck them all together. The result is a jumble of often unrelated, unsubstantiated statements by many people accompanying out-of-context scenes, and I am sure that some of these people did not know they were being used by the film-maker, and still do not know.

Some of the disturbing points about the film that I have noted are—

Comments were made before the 1980 lifting of the US ban on kangaroo products.

The AMIEU man who gave so much comment about kangaroo meat is long out of office.

An American women's claims that there is misery and torture each night as drunken orgies of shooters go out, even in national parks, to shoot, were wrong, as were her claims, that there was no-one to enforce any laws, and any cruelty laws did not seem to cover kangaroos.

Other claims how shooters preferred to shoot in the leg and then run over the live 'roos in four-wheel-drive vehicles were also wrong.

A 13-minute segment that was set up to interview eight drunken louts bragging about how they killed kangaroos using dum-dum bullets and their dogs was plain sickening.

One quote was about a man in Queensland who was a de-registered shooter who had been sent to gaol.

Still pictures of so-called cruelty used several times in the film were of a skinning operation near Charleville some time ago, with one kangaroo killed on the road.

One picture was of a joey skinned by dogs in a suburban car-park in Sydney.

And whereas critics are given long uninterrupted statements, the one man defending the professional industry, in this case in New South Wales, has had his comments chopped and changed so much that their value is diminished.

Any ordinary person would see "Goodbye Joey" as an unethical, unrelated amalgamation of sequences, often depicting vandalism, used to damn the kangaroo industry by false association.

If it was not such a farce, the so-called documentary would be laughable. But the seriousness of the situation is that the film was made specifically to shock and horrify its intended American audience.

Cunningham has said publicly that he hopes the reaction by the Americans to the film would make the Australian public sit up and take notice. But all he has succeeded in doing is produce a distorted, deceptive, one-sided view of an industry that has been operating successfully and viably for many years.

Through this devious misuse of technology, Cunningham is trying to create an imaginary situation to line his own pocket.

I challenge Cunningham to identify people and places and prove that the scenes in "Goodbye Joey" are an honest interpretation of the kangaroo-culling industry in Queensland.

I have every confidence in the common sense of the American and Australian public and I believe that the film will be taken for what it really is—a cheap and nasty attempt to downgrade an important and strictly controlled industry.

I thank those back-benchers who are on my advisory committee for their support in relation to this incident. Next week I will have more to say about it.

Highway Patrol

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police) (11.11 a.m.): Page 3 of today's "Telegraph" carries an article containing a statement purported to be made on behalf of the Queensland Police Union by the president of the union, Mr Colin Chant. He claims that the Highway Patrol is a con trick.

As today is Thursday, and to forestall any member who might give notice of a question to me today on the matter so that it will remain unanswered over the week-end, I make it very clear that the Government's intention concerning the Highway Patrol is certainly not a con trick.

Mr DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. The Minister simply rose to his feet and began to speak. He did not seek leave.

Mr HINZE: I wish to make a ministerial statement of some importance.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr HINZE: I know that it hurts Opposition members to learn that the Government will really take the road toll problem by the scruff of the neck and do something about it.

The article reports that members of the Queensland Police Union will be coming to see me. I tell the union that there is no need for it to come and see me about the matter. It should go and see the senior police officers who have been issued with instructions as to what they should do. They should carry out those instructions. I will provide the funds, the cars and the motor bikes, and the police will patrol the roads. That is what the people of Queensland want them to do.

Yesterday, while I was driving up from the Gold Coast, I noticed one of the newly painted Highway Patrol cars on the side of the road. I asked, "What is that vehicle doing there?" It should have been patrolling the road, and I told the officer that. If police take offence at that, all I can say is, "Too bad."

Removal of Paint Containing Lead

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health) (11.14 a.m.): Concern has been expressed recently that there was a need to make the community aware of safe methods of removal of paint containing lead. It has been suggested that a statement outlining measures adopted in relation to lead-based paints would be in the public interest.

The potential hazard of paint containing lead depends on the condition of the paint. Powdery oxidized paint and flaking paint containing lead can be extremely hazardous for young children, as evidenced by the spate of deaths in the early part of the century from chronic absorption of lead in paint.

An amendment to the Health Act in 1937 reduced the soluble lead content in paint to no more than 5 per cent and restricted the areas of homes and buildings in which lead-based paint was permitted. A further amendment in 1955 prohibited the use of paint containing any lead on any part of a house, any fence, wall, post or gate or any furniture.

If a home is found to have paint containing lead, the owner is advised and requested to take action to remove the offending paint. Reinspections are carried out by departmental officers to check the progress of the removal of the offending paint. My department's Division of Industrial Medicine is happy to advise on the safe removal of lead-based paint.

Generally, the following procedure should be adopted: If children are present in the home, they should be excluded from the room or part of the house from which paint is being removed. Doors should be sealed with tape, sandbags or other secure means, particularly if toddlers are present, to exclude dust and flake spread into the house.

The removal of lead paint, particularly inside the house, is best done by using chemical paint stripper. This is the only method which can be safely used without protective clothing or a respirator. Final sanding, even with this method, requires protection. Both burning and sanding can be hazardous since they produce lead fume and dust which can be readily absorbed directly through the lungs.

If either of these methods is chosen for speed or economy, then a respirator suitably designed for lead dust and fume must be worn. Handkerchiefs and local hardware shop respirators are useless. Advice on specific brands is available from the Division of Industrial Medicine. As lead is not absorbed through the skin, other protection is not required. However, the dust from sanding can be carried on the hands or in the clothing and become a hazard if carried out of the area being treated.

Clothes worn should be put in a plastic bag until they are washed, which should be done separately. Hands should be washed carefully before eating. Smoking should be ceased until hands are cleaned as lead dust on a cigarette can vaporise and be inhaled. All dust and flakes of paint should be vacuumed up at the end of each dust. Sweeping should be done only while wearing a respirator as fine dust clouds are generated. Dust collected should be placed in a plastic bag and taken to a tip for burial. Burning must be avoided.

On exterior paint, every effort should be made to collect flakes of old paint and dust. It is advisable to use large sheets or tarpaulins for this purpose. Paint flakes on the ground should be picked up, if at all possible, particularly if there are toddlers in the house.

I hope that this information is of assistance to the honourable member for Maryborough and any other honourable members who receive queries about lead-based paints.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

1. Compulsory Third-party Motor Vehicle Insurance

Mr Wright asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Does FAI Insurance now have approximately 30 per cent of Queensland's compulsory third-party insurance market?

(2) Is this southern insurance entrepreneur taking mainly the cream of the State's compulsory third-party premiums, leaving the State Government Insurance Office to carry the residue of business, in particular, the bad risks?

(3) Will he explain why one private insurer is able to command such a high percentage of this special insurance area in Queensland, and yet is said to have no CTP involvement in the other States?

(4) Is he aware of claims that FAI restricts its business in the main to new car owners, and to motorists 25-years and over, thus substantially reducing the pay-out potential of premiums?

(5) If so, are such restrictive trading practices allowed under Queensland or Federal law?

(6) Is he able to state what FAI's share of the CTP market is worth in (a) gross dollars earned and (b) in net profits?

(7) Have any other Queensland insurance companies indicated interest in entering into the compulsory third-party field?

Answer:—

(1) The actual figure is less than 30 per cent, but of that order.

(2) It is true the company does not underwrite the whole range of classifications, meaning in practice that it is selective in the risks accepted. The State Government Insurance Office does cover the whole range of classifications, accepts the full ambit of risks and, consequently, commands the major share of the market.

(3) I do not accept that less than 30 per cent can be said to constitute a high percentage of a market in which only two insurers operate. As to the second part of the question—I am unaware of the philosophy on which the company bases its underwriting policies here or elsewhere.

(4) This question would seem to indicate a lack of appreciation of the difference between compulsory third-party insurance and comprehensive motor vehicle insurance. The question relates more to the latter. In underwriting comprehensive insurance the FAI Group has two companies:—

Fire and All Risk Insurance—operating on a similar basis to other companies;
and

Car Owners Mutual—operating on a preferred basis for drivers 23 years and over.

(5) See (4). There are no legislative restrictions to this method of operation.

(6) I regard this information as confidential unless the company is prepared to disclose it to the honourable member.

(7) No. In fact, there were previously approximately 70 insurers in a field, in which now only two remain.

2. Shopping Centre, Inala Civic Centre

Mr Wright asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

With reference to the shopping centre known as Inala Civic Centre—

(1) Has his department or any other Government department made available leasehold land for further development of the existing centre?

(2) Has the Inala Civic Centre any buildings owned by a number of individual property-holders who have sub-let their premises to retain tenancies?

(3) Has his department granted, or is it intending to grant, additional leasehold land adjacent to, as part of, or as an extension to, the Inala Civic Centre for further shopping complex development?

(4) If additional leasehold land is being made available, what is the period of the lease and are the conditions consistent with those contained in the original lease held by the existing lessors?

(5) What are the names of the companies involved in the proposed extension of the shopping centre in question?

(6) Is it the intention of his department or the Government to provide the new developer with a head-lease over the existing lessors, between the Queensland Housing Commission and the existing lessors?

(7) What protection will the existing lessors have should a new head-lease be provided, and is it possible that eviction and termination of tenancies could take place because of the new leasing arrangement, as the old leases fall due?

(8) If so, what protection is the Government prepared to give to existing lessors to ensure that they are not unduly or unfairly treated in any new leasing arrangement?

Answer:—

(1) Applications by tender were invited from prospective lessees for the development of the northern end of the Inala Civic Centre. One tender was received. It is anticipated that a perpetual lease will issue from 1 January 1983.

(2) Yes.

(3) See (1).

(4) Perpetual lease will issue on same conditions as leases held by existing lessees at centre.

(5) Maembe Pty Ltd.

(6) No.

(7 & 8) Not applicable. See (6).

3. Overloading of School Charter Buses

Mr Wright asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What are the legally acceptable passenger loads for children on bus charters?

(2) Is there any formula for determining a child loading based on the certified adult capacity of a vehicle?

(3) Is he aware that some bus operators are missing out on charter jobs because they insist on carrying only the authorised adult capacity of their vehicles?

(4) Is it possible for an insurer to escape paying damages if a claim is made involving an overloaded bus, despite passenger load recommendations set by his department, or the Government?

(5) If so, will he meet with insurers to alleviate any risk to bus operators and will he also warn school parent bodies and school authorities of the risks they run by insisting on cramming children into a bus, to keep the per passenger charter cost down?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) The number of schoolchildren permitted to be carried on charter bus journeys is restricted to the approved adult seated capacity having regard to the exclusive hire nature of charter operations and the need for additional safety and comfort of passengers, particularly on longer journeys. Under the charter operations, the responsibility rests with the charterer to ensure that sufficient vehicles are chartered to move the number of passengers involved.

There is a formula for determining child loadings on service runs (not charter journeys) based on the approved adult seated capacity. The formula is—

Secondary School Students

The registered seating capacity of the bus plus a maximum of 50 per cent of that number as standing passengers.

Primary School Students

(a) Three children may be seated per two adult seats; and

(b) Maximum number of standing passengers who may be carried is not to exceed the figure equivalent to 50 per cent of the approved adult seated capacity.

Under no circumstances is the number of children to be carried on any bus to exceed 90. If the distance the children are to be transported is further than 32 km, no standing passengers are permitted.

I am not aware that some bus operators are missing out on charter work because of their insistence on carrying only the authorised adult capacity of their vehicles. No insurer can avoid liability.

4. **Committee Investigating Special Education Provisions for Gifted and Talented Children**

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his answer to my question on 16 November in which he stated that a departmental committee is reviewing provisions for gifted and talented children—

- (1) When was the committee appointed?
- (2) Who are the members of the committee?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of the committee?
- (4) Did the committee invite submissions and, if so, from whom and on what date?
- (5) Has the committee made any interim reports or recommendations and, if so, what was the substance of those reports or recommendations?
- (6) When is the committee expected to present its final report?
- (7) Will he table that report in this House when it is received?

Answer:—

(1) The committee was appointed in March 1982 and had its first meeting on 31 March.

(2) The members of the committee are—

Mr J. Christiansen—Retired Principal (Chairman); Mr G. F. Berkeley—Assistant Director-General of Education (Schools); Mr K. P. Robertson—Regional Director of Education, Brisbane North Region; Mr J. Lawson—Inspector of Secondary Schools; Mr G. Swan—Inspector of Special Schools; Mr C. Crain—Principal, Gabbinbar State School; Mr R. Boxall—Senior Research Officer, Curriculum Branch.

(3) The committee's terms of reference are—

"1. To review the existing Departmental policies on provision for the Gifted and to produce if it should be necessary a new policy guideline statement.

2. To consider the means of making specific provisions for those with special gifts and talents within our schools including desirable organisations within the schools.

3. To make recommendations to the Director-General concerning the need for any additional resources in schools to enable programs for the gifted to be successfully implemented.

4. To consider the need for in-service education for teachers interested in this area.

5. To recommend on the need for a Standing Committee to consider continually developing policy in regard to the Gifted and Talented."

(4) The committee has not publicly advertised for submissions but has invited and received submissions from a number of interested bodies and individuals including the Queensland Association for the Gifted and Talented.

(5) No.

(6) The committee expects to make its report to the Director-General by 31 May 1983.

(7) The committee was set up by the Director-General as an internal departmental committee. It would not be normal practice to table such a report in this House.

5. School Book Lists

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Education—

(1) What is the practice of the Education Department regarding school book lists in State primary and high schools?

(2) Who is entitled to obtain a book list from a school?

(3) Are schools obliged to provide a copy of their book lists to parents on request?

(4) Are schools obliged to provide a copy of their book lists to booksellers, distributors and/or printers on request?

Answer:—

It is assumed that the school book lists referred to are the lists of textbooks which students require for their studies in various subjects. Such lists relate to high schools rather than primary schools.

(1) The practice of the Department of Education is to allow each school to draw up its own list on condition that books on the list are approved by the parents and citizens association of the school.

(2) That list, having been approved by the parents and citizens association, is then available to any person within the community served by the school who has a genuine interest in such information.

(3) Parents whose children are enrolled or who intend to enrol at a school are provided with the school's textbook list on their request.

(4) Booksellers, distributors and/or printers who have a bona fide interest in a school's textbook list are provided with that information on request.

Should there be any problems in this regard, contact should be made with the appropriate regional director.

6. Attack by Member for Wolston on Australian Servicemen

Mr Gygar asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

With reference to the fact that the honourable member for Wolston still occupies an Opposition front-bench position in this House a week after he made his vicious attack on Australian servicemen—

Would any of his Ministers have been publicly reprimanded or dismissed for such disgraceful behaviour under the code of ethics which he has announced for Liberal Ministers?

Answer:—

The position of Mr Gibbs is one for the Leader of the Opposition. If such an unwarranted and irresponsible attack on Australian servicemen had been made by a Liberal member, the Leader of the Liberal Party would have dissociated himself from the statement and apologised to every serviceman and woman and as well called for the resignation from the front bench of the offending member.

As I advised the House on Tuesday, 23 November, the disgraceful slurs of the honourable member for Wolston (Mr Gibbs) when, in reference to the honourable member for Stafford, he said, "What about the people you slaughtered in Vietnam? Tell us about them. You are a professional murderer", and when he later used the words, "paid killer", would never be tolerated by the Liberal Party.

We all believe in freedom of speech and thought—indeed, those freedoms are the very things that so many Australian servicemen have died defending—but some views are so disgusting, so despicable, that those who hold them should be excluded from the company of respectable and decent people.

I can assure the people of Queensland that if a member of the parliamentary Liberal Party publicly associated himself with such disgraceful slurs on Australian servicemen there would be no compromise on my part; either that person would leave the Liberal Party or I would; and I am sure the Premier would take the same position in the National Party.

But the ALP has now had a full week to consider its position and has done nothing to discipline or reprimand the member for Wolston (Mr Gibbs), nor has it disassociated itself from his offensive views. The Leader of the Opposition in this Parliament has kept the member for Wolston on the ALP front bench and thereby earmarked him as a future Cabinet Minister in any ALP Government, which will not happen before the 21st century. The people of Queensland are therefore entitled to presume that the ALP and the Leader of the Opposition endorse these slurs on Australian servicemen and support his vicious attack on the honour and integrity of every man and woman who has ever worn the Australian uniform.

The only way the ALP can refute this logical assumption is to publicly dissociate itself from the honourable member for Wolston and his despicable statements. The people of Queensland can never be convinced that the ALP does not endorse these disgraceful slurs while the honourable member for Wolston remains on the Opposition front bench.

I assure all those men and women who have served Australia in the armed forces that the Liberal Party does not support this shameful abuse of their honour and integrity and I invite the people of Queensland to judge the attitude of the Australian Labor Party and the Leader of the Opposition by whether or not the member for Wolston remains on the Opposition front bench in this Parliament.

7. Cloudland Investments Pty Ltd

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

- (1) Will he table the names of directors of Cloudland Investments Pty Ltd?
- (2) Has that company presented its annual return each year?

Answer:—

(1) The records held in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs show that the directors of Cloudland Investments Pty Ltd are—

Peter Patrick Kurts of 57 Fitzwilliam Road, Vaucluse
 Peter Frank Wadley of Pullenvale Road, Kenmore
 Edmund John Edwards of 48 Eldernell Avenue, Hamilton
 Peter Charles Joseph of 6 Bayview Street, Northwood, N.S.W.
 Keith William Berry of Ziegenfusz Road, Thornlands
 Douglas Mervyn Merritt of Lot 55, Janita Drive, Browns Plains
 Ian Edward Joye of 3 Attunga Street, Woolahra.

(2) An annual return has not yet been lodged by this company. The time for the lodgment of its first annual return has not yet expired.

8. Escalators, Central Railway Station Complex

Mr Davis asked the Minister for Transport—

Is it proposed to incorporate escalators to and from platforms in the rebuilt Central Railway Station complex?

Answer:—

Yes.

9. Exclusion of Wool and Livestock Transport from Railway By-law No. 1129

Mr Davis asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware that in the November issue of "The Grazier" the United Graziers Association seeks the exclusion of wool and livestock transports from rail by-law No. 1129?

(2) Does he support the UGA on this issue?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Railway by-law No. 1129 was introduced strictly for safety reasons to regulate the movement of high vehicles over level crossings in the Brisbane suburban electrified area and other areas where height limitations apply, and also very heavy vehicles over lightly constructed road-over-rail bridges.

I understand the concern which this has caused to those associated with the movement of wool and livestock. I believe there may be some confusion in regard to the application of this regulation and I have arranged for urgent inquiries to be made to clarify the position.

10. Christmas-New Year Public Holidays

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

As there seems to be some confusion regarding public holidays, trading hours and rates of pay during the Christmas-New Year holiday period, will he provide details of holidays and other relevant information so that misunderstandings can be removed?

Answer:—

As 25 and 26 December fall on a Saturday and Sunday respectively, in terms of the Holidays Act approval has been granted for public holidays to be observed on Monday, 27 and Tuesday, 28 December 1982. Likewise as 1 January 1983 falls on the Saturday, Monday, 3 January has also been declared a public holiday.

Throughout the State different trading hours apply for non-exempted shops. With the exception of the Gold Coast area, the near north coast area and the tourist and/or seaside resorts, non-exempted shops in the eastern portion of the State will be closed on Monday, 27 December 1982, Tuesday, 28 December 1982, and Monday, 3 January 1983.

Non-exempted shops in the Gold Coast area, the near north coast area and the tourist and/or seaside resort area may trade on Saturday, 25 December 1982, Monday, 27 December 1982, Saturday, 1 January 1983, and Monday, 3 January 1983, but not on Tuesday, 28 December 1982.

"Small shops" are permitted by the trading hours order to trade on each day of the Christmas-New Year period with the exception of Saturday, 25 December 1982, when they are required to remain closed.

As Monday, 27 December 1982, Tuesday, 28 December 1982, and Monday, 3 January 1983, are public holidays, any work performed on these days by employees covered by awards of the Queensland Industrial Commission attracts the penalty payable for work undertaken on a statutory holiday. Work carried out on Saturday, 25 December 1982, and Saturday, 1 January 1983, will not attract the penalty for work performed on a statutory holiday.

I am informed that most awards that come within the ambit of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission of Queensland prescribe that for time worked on a statutory holiday or a day appointed in lieu of such a holiday, payment is calculated at the rate of double time and a half with a minimum payment of four hours for all time worked.

If any honourable member is in doubt about trading hours in his or her electorate then he or she should contact the local district industrial inspector for advice.

11. Townsville Hospital Development Scheme

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to my question of 27 October concerning stage two of the development of the Townsville General Hospital—

(1) Is he aware that patients are being denied admission and are being subjected to long delays for operations, which are causing great concern to the consulting staff as they consider that the facilities presently existing at the Townsville General Hospital are inadequate for the growing Townsville area?

(2) Is he aware that fears are being expressed that Stage II development of the Townsville General Hospital has been relegated to a position below Southport and Nambour, areas which are within easy commuting distance of the Brisbane General Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital and the QEII Hospital as well as the Queensland Radium Institute?

(3) Will he hold a conference with the consulting staff of the Townsville General Hospital to discuss their problems?

Answer:—

(1) I have been advised by the Townsville Hospitals Board that no patient is denied admission to the Townsville General Hospital. However, some patients who require elective surgery do experience delays owing to the heavy demand made on beds by emergency admissions.

I am further advised that there is no waiting-list for general surgery at the Townsville General Hospital although some delays are being experienced for orthopaedic surgery. Admission procedures and operating lists are currently under review by the Hospitals Board in an endeavour to overcome these delays.

Because of electrical rewiring being undertaken at the hospital, there has been a reduction in available beds which contributes to the present situation.

(2) With regard to Stage II development of the Townsville Hospital, the board has been advised that for the foreseeable future, the work program for Townsville Hospital will have to be related to a funding availability of \$1.5m per year. The board has been requested to consider its priorities and the options available to it so that the areas of greatest need can be catered for as soon as possible with the present financial constraints.

(3) I do not consider it appropriate to meet with the consulting staff of the Townsville General Hospital at this time. However, I will arrange for officers of my department to meet with the board following receipt of further proposals from the board.

Mr HOOPER: I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention, Mr Speaker, to the presence in the Distinguished Visitors' Gallery of the Acting Prime Minister, Mr Howard, the architect of Australia's economic disaster.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The honourable member will resume his seat.

12. Racing Service for Mid-week Race Meetings, North Queensland

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

With reference to his answer to my question of 16 November concerning the lack of service by the media to the punters of North Queensland—

Will he consider the suggestion that the TAB finance the cost of the service as it appears that the media has difficulty in obtaining sponsors for such a service?

Answer:—

The suggestion that the TAB subsidise radio stations in an effort to achieve broadcasts of racing information has been considered in the past. I am informed that some radio stations, particularly those in North Queensland, consider that a very limited number of their audiences want race broadcasts and that the majority prefer music. Negotiations with these stations over the last 12 months have revealed that sponsorship is not the answer.

The TAB with my full support will continue its efforts to achieve race broadcasting on as wide a front as possible and has, in fact, achieved a measure of success in Central Queensland. I can only reiterate that residents in those areas not receiving an acceptable service should pressure radio station management to show that, in fact, there are many listeners who want such a service.

13. Housing Commission Houses, Bundaberg District

Mr Powell asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many people are awaiting Queensland Housing Commission homes in (a) Bundaberg, (b) Howard/Torbanlea, (c) Hervey Bay and (d) Maryborough?

(2) In view of the demand for Queensland Housing Commission houses in the Bundaberg district, does the QHC have any plans to build or purchase homes to relieve the problem?

Answer:—

(1)—

With Priority	Without Priority	Pensioner	Total
(a) 63	115	34	212
(b) ..	2	..	2
(c) 26	23	24	73
(d) 43	41	16	100

(2) Twelve houses have been completed in Bundaberg in 1982-83, and a further five are planned.

14. Funding of Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade

Mr Powell asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How much money is it anticipated that the Queensland Government will pay to various QATB branches in Queensland?

(2) What is the basis for funding of ambulance brigades in Queensland and how does this compare with other States?

Answer:—

(1) It is anticipated that an amount approximating \$14,237,000 will be paid to Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade committees in Queensland during 1982-83.

(2) The basis of funding by the State Government is at the rate of dollar for dollar on endowable collections. No figures are readily available on comparisons with other States. I shall seek the information which the honourable member has requested and make it available to him.

15. Overloading of Logging Trucks

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

(1) How many checks of the weight of logging trucks travelling from Mt Windsor have been made during 1982?

(2) How many cases of overloading of trucks were recorded?

(3) What were the penalties placed on the drivers of trucks or their companies?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The statistics prepared by the Main Roads Department give a readily retrievable history of individual drivers for the department to breach and prosecute drivers of overloaded vehicles. However, information on weigh checks, breaches and penalties imposed for overloading at a particular location for a particular type of commodity carried cannot be extracted from these statistics and would involve extensive searches of records. If the honourable member still wishes me to arrange for this information to be obtained I would be pleased if he could provide the background to his question so that it could be considered further.

Mr Yewdale: I will do so.

16. Vehicle Registrations

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

(1) How many vehicles are registered in Queensland under the following categories: (a) mopeds, (b) motor cycles, (c) cars (sedans and station-wagons), (d) light commercial vehicles, (e) primary producers, (f) heavy rigid commercial vehicles and (g) semi-trailers?

- (2) What is the total number of vehicle registrations?
- (3) How many unregistered vehicles are on Queensland roads, and how can this problem be overcome?
- (4) Is the practice of driving vehicles of interstate registration by residents of Queensland increasing and how can this problem be overcome?

Answer:—

(1) The statistical information available at 31 October 1982 regarding the number of vehicles registered in Queensland is detailed as follows: (a) The statistics for mopeds are included with the motor cycle statistics, (b) Motor cycles 98 149, (c) Cars including station wagons 1 010 326, (d) Light commercial vehicles 271 331, (e) Primary producers 19 680 (as at 30 June 1982), (f) Heavy rigid commercial vehicles 79 997, and (g) Semi-trailers 10 239.

(2) Total number of registrations 1 780 578.

(3) The department has no means of positively establishing the number of unregistered vehicles being used on Queensland roads at any particular time. Statistics reveal that on an average, 95 per cent of registrations are renewed up to and within 30 days of the due date. Some two years ago, because of the department's concern at the suspected high incidence of unregistered vehicles, representations were made to increase the Main Roads Department's police contingent from seven to 14 members. This doubling of police numbers has resulted in a significant increase in breaches of the Main Roads Regulations being detected, including the use of unregistered vehicles. The incidence of unregistered vehicles has declined noticeably but this enforcement program is continuing.

(4) Regulation 19 (1) of the Main Roads Regulation refers to the use of interstate registered vehicles by visitors to Queensland. In conjunction with the regulations, the department's policy is that provided a person is the registered owner in another State and is using the vehicle for private purposes, that person may use the vehicle until the registration falls due for renewal, in which case the vehicle should then be registered in Queensland. The policy in relation to vehicles used for commercial purposes is that the vehicle should be registered in Queensland immediately. This policy is carried out through the department's enforcement program.

17 & 18. Convicted Murderers Leaving Place of Detention Without Supervision

Mr Greenwood asked the Minister for Welfare Services—

With reference to my questions of 31 August and 15 September in the answers to which he said that four convicted murderers serving life sentences had been granted leave of absence from gaol, that one of the consequences of being granted leave from gaol is that they can come and go in the community without supervision, but that "Available records do not readily indicate the number of occasions" prisoners on leave had actually departed the prison during the last 12 months—

- (1) What is the nature of the records that are kept of the comings and goings from gaol of these convicted murderers supposedly serving a sentence for life with hard labour?
- (2) Is he prepared to tighten up the administration of his department so that in future when he asks the number of occasions a convicted murderer has walked out of gaol on leave, he can get an answer?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The Prisons Regulations provide that prison officers on gate duty at a prison shall keep a daily record of all entries to and exits from a prison, including movements by officials and the times and purposes of entry and exit. This record is kept in what is commonly referred to as a "gate book".

As the honourable member would appreciate, there is extensive movement at major prisons and to ascertain the exact number of times any particular person has entered or left the prison would require the perusal of literally thousands of written entries and would be very time-consuming. If the honourable member requires

this information in respect of a particular prisoner, I will arrange for it to be taken out as opportunity permits.

The important factor is that the record is kept and the existing system is considered adequate for security purposes. No change to the system is contemplated.

Mr Greenwood asked the Minister for Welfare Services—

With reference to leave granted to convicted murderers—

(1) Have one or more convicted murderers been granted leave to attend classes at tertiary institutions?

(2) If so, what are the permanent places of detention of these prisoners and which institutions do they attend?

(3) If Queensland University is one of these institutions, was an application for external status made on behalf of these students so that they could pursue their studies in gaol as an alternative to internal status?

(4) If so, were the views and interests of students and people on campus taken into account when allowing a convicted murderer to be there without supervision and, specifically, was permission sought and, if so, at what time from either the Senate or Union Council, the two bodies whose job it is to safeguard these interests?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Only one convicted murderer was granted leave of absence to attend a tertiary institution and his permanent place of detention is H.M. Prison, Brisbane. This prisoner who attends Queensland University was enrolled initially as an external student. He reached the stage, however, with his external studies in his Ph D that it became necessary for him to enrol as an internal status student because of the heavy computer and research component of his doctorate program.

As I indicated in reply to the honourable member's earlier question, when considering a prisoner for involvement in a release-to-study program, the overriding consideration is public safety and security of private property.

The question of the prisoner's attendance at the University of Queensland was discussed at length with representatives of the Department of Psychology. The Prisons Department dealt directly with the Department of Psychology, which supervises his post-graduate program. It is presumed that the Department of Psychology would have taken any action considered necessary as regards university policy.

19.

Migration to Queensland

Mr Burns asked the Premier—

With reference to his promises on behalf of the National Party and this Government at the Queensland Press Club function on the eve of the 1980 State election that the Liberal/National Party Government would draw up guide-lines under which employers should give preference to qualified Queenslanders seeking employment because of the flood of southerners and New Zealanders—

(1) Will he provide details of the guide-lines produced as a result of this election promise?

(2) As continued statements on the weekly and monthly migration to Queensland obviously point to a close study of these matters, will he provide details of migration from New Zealand since that date and details of the number of New Zealanders (a) employed or (b) in receipt of social welfare payments in Queensland at this time?

(3) What is the number of southerners who have come to Queensland (a) looking for jobs, (b) to retire and (c) to set up business?

(4) What is the number of these southerners lured here by the Government's visits, promotions and advertising who have (a) obtained work in Queensland or (b) are receiving unemployment benefits?

(5) What is the break-down of those out of work in Queensland, namely, how many are (a) southerners, (b) foreigners and (c) Queenslanders?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) The Queensland Government's policies are working very well indeed. During the month of October, more than 1 008 000 persons were employed in this State, which is an increase of 13 000 jobs in the last 12 months. The number of persons employed in New South Wales decreased by 34 000. The member for Archerfield referred to Mr Howard being in Queensland. This morning we discussed at very considerable length how we could solve the employment problems in New South Wales and Victoria to get those States out of their bog-hole. The only way in which those States can get out of trouble is by a change of Government.

As the honourable member should be aware, responsibility for migration and social welfare payments rests with the Commonwealth Government. A deal of the statistical information sought is contained in various bulletins issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, including:—

The Labour Force Australia (issued monthly)

Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly

Internal Migration Australia (issued annually)

The success of my Government's private enterprise policies is readily apparent from a study of the available statistics, which reveal that the net estimated interstate migration into Queensland for the twelve-month period ending 31 March 1982 totalled 38 448 persons, while the net estimated migration gain from all sources for the same period totalled 54 624.

The honourable member can see that the Government's policies are working very satisfactorily.

20. Operations of Associated Minerals Consolidated Ltd, Moreton Island

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) Has Associated Minerals Consolidated Ltd furnished a vegetation and contour plan of the areas of Moreton Island to be mined and the surrounds?

(2) Has Associated Minerals Consolidated Ltd carried out boring or other work that will clearly indicate to his satisfaction and that of the Queensland Water Resources Commissioner the extent, location and type of underground aquifers and surface bodies of fresh water for the proposed mining areas on Moreton Island?

(3) Has Associated Minerals Consolidated Ltd furnished a proposed timetable for the complete operation and a mining plan together with a detailed description of the works proposed to be undertaken on Moreton Island in respect of (a) reforming and vegetating or revegetating of the land mass after mining, (b) works it proposed to ensure that surface and underground water bodies are not destroyed or damaged to any extent, either in the long term or the short term and (c) construction of roads, jetties, airstrips and buildings, electricity supplies, disposal of waste material and litter, accommodation, transport of material, minerals and personnel?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The Moreton Island Mining Advisory Committee established as recommended in the Committee of Enquiry—Future Land Use Moreton Island Report (Cook Report) is presently advising on special conditions to apply to mining on Moreton Island. The committee is also having discussions on various relevant matters with the holders of mining leases for which mining has been approved. When these are finalised, Associated Minerals Consolidated Ltd will be in a position to proceed with the preparation of the necessary plans, investigations, descriptions of proposed works and time schedules of operations as referred to in (1), (2) and (3).

21. Computer Awareness Courses in Schools

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to my previous question of 25 November 1981 which sought advice on progress made by his department in the introduction of computer awareness courses and advice on the types of computers to be used in State schools—

(1) What were the recommendations of the Computer Policy Advisory Committee for Education reconvened in August 1981 to produce a further report?

- (2) When was this report completed?
- (3) Is the report a public document and, if so, will he table a copy in this House?
- (4) What progress has been made on the introduction of a computer awareness course for years 8 to 10?
- (5) How many children in these years are able to undertake such a course and how many are unable to do so?
- (6) What financial support is given to p. & c. committees and schools seeking to purchase computer equipment?
- (7) As it has been suggested that children entering the education system should not emerge from it without appropriate comprehension of what a computer is, what it does and how it does it and of the social implications and ramifications, when does the department estimate computer awareness classes will be available in all Queensland schools, both State and private?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The Computer Policy Advisory Committee was reconvened to report to my Director-General of Education. The second report of the committee was presented in June 1982, and its content will be considered in the derivation of departmental policy in this area. It is not intended that the report become a public document.

(4) Draft guide-lines for a computer awareness course for Years 8 to 10 have now been completed. These guide-lines will be published and distributed to schools during the first semester of 1983. The implementation of courses based on those guide-lines will be closely monitored and evaluated. In addition, the Board of Secondary School Studies has recently announced the membership of a computer studies subject advisory committee, which will prepare a syllabus for computer studies in Years 11 and 12.

(5) As I indicated to the honourable member in response to his question on 25 November 1981, it is not possible to state accurately the number of students involved in computer awareness activities. I would stress, however, that computer awareness activities can be undertaken even though a school may not possess a computer.

(6) No special financial support is provided for the purchase of computer equipment. However, schools and parents and citizens associations may use funds available from a variety of sources for such purchases.

(7) With respect to schools administered by my department, such courses will be introduced as rapidly as resources permit. I am not in a position to comment with respect to non-Government schools.

22. Assistance for Small Business in Drought-stricken Areas

Mr Neal asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the present drought which covers some 35 per cent of the State and includes 31 shires and parts of other shires, the effects of which are reflected in a downturn in small business so essential to the servicing of those areas—

- (1) What relief measures are available for small business?
- (2) Does an entire shire have to be declared drought-stricken before any small business applicant is eligible for consideration for drought-relief loans?
- (3) If so, will he give consideration to widening such eligibility conditions to allow applications in a similar manner as would apply to land-owners who have had their property individually declared drought-stricken, especially in view of the fact that many shire properties can be so declared while the shire as a whole may not?
- (4) Is the updated edition of his department's booklet on drought-relief measures available for distribution to interested persons and organisations?
- (5) If not, when will it be?

Answer:—

(1) Drought relief assistance available to small businesses consists of carry-on loans for sustenance, essential operations and the payment of rates and rents. The amount available is \$40,000 at 4 per cent interest for a maximum term of 7 years. These loans are administered by the Agricultural Bank.

(2) Small businesses situated within a shire which is totally drought stricken are eligible to apply for assistance. If a part shire declaration has been made, such as the current declaration of Division 4 of Sarina, the business must be situated within the declared area to be considered eligible for assistance.

(3) The granting of drought declarations to individual businesses in a manner similar to declarations of properties as individually droughted properties would present obvious difficulties. The major one would be the choice of criteria used to make declarations. At the present time the difficulties involved prevent the introduction of such a scheme but my officers will monitor the situation.

(4) The updated edition of the booklet "Drought Relief Assistance for Primary Producers" is currently being printed.

(5) I expect that the booklet will be distributed next week.

23. Capital Works, Central Queensland

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—
With reference to capital works in Central Queensland—

(1) What plans are in hand for new construction on the following roads in the Rockhampton area (a) Rockhampton-Ridgeland's main road, (b) the proposed Gracemere-Rockhampton deviation of the western highway and (c) Wowan-Dululu-Westwood section?

(2) When will the infrastructure costs between his department, the Banana Shire and QEGB be finalised in connection with Callide "B" Power Station construction?

Answer:—

(1) (a) Plans are being prepared for the reconstruction and widening of a further 4 km of the Rockhampton-Ridgeland's Road in Fitzroy Shire. (b) Plans are also being prepared for the construction of a deviation of the Capricorn Highway extending from the Fairybower turn-off to the western approach to Gracemere Creek. (c) There is no design work being carried out on the Wowan-Dululu-Westwood section at present.

(2) Infrastructure costs in connection with the Callide "B" Power Station construction are a matter for the Co-ordinator-General's Department, and the question should be referred to the Honourable the Premier.

24. New Railway Station, Biloela

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the conditions under which the Biloela railway station-master and his assistant have to work—

As it is now over five years since the then Minister for Transport promised the people of Biloela a new railway station, what plans has the Railway Department in hand to build a new railway station at Biloela in the light of previous promises not honoured by this Government?

Answer:—

In view of the continued limitation on loan funds made available to the Railway Department, it has not been possible to allocate funds for the building of the new station at Biloela during 1982-83.

However, the new station at Biloela is first on the list of priorities for station buildings to be reconstructed in the Central Division when funds are available.

25. Investigation of White-collar Crime

Mr R. J. Gibbs asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to his stated intentions to stamp out white-collar criminals in Queensland as reported in "The Courier-Mail" of 25 October—

(1) Can we look forward to (a) the re-establishment of the special police squad that was seconded to the Corporate Affairs Commissioner's Office and similar to that which was dismantled by the Government on 1 October 1979 as referred to in Queensland Parliamentary Debates pages 3057-3058 of 1 April 1980 and (b) an increase in the investigative staff in the Corporate Affairs and Auctioneers and Agents Offices throughout the State?

(2) What are the number of investigations to which Corporate Affairs Officers were assigned to assist the police during the period 1 October 1979 until the present, as the then Minister for Mines, Energy and Police and the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General informed the House on 1 April, as referred to in Queensland Parliamentary Debates pages 3058-3060 of 1 April 1980, that one reason for dismantling the special police squad at Corporate Affairs was that the members "would be more effective in relation to the investigation of white-collar crime under the direct control of the Police Department and further that Corporate Affairs officers would be available to be assigned to assist police officers"?

(3) What were the number of complaints on hand at the special police squad at Corporate Affairs and the value of these complaints at 1 October 1979, and how many of these complaints have been fully investigated since and have led to court actions?

Answer:—

(1)—

(a) The relationship between the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and the Police Fraud Squad is being kept constantly under review.

(b) An additional 26 positions were recently created in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. Included were three senior investigator positions.

I am continuing my endeavours to further increase the staff in the office and, in particular, experienced qualified staff in the Investigation Division.

Approval for the appointment of investigative staff in the Auctioneers and Agents Office is also being sought.

(2) These statistics are not available from the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.

Assistance has been provided by the commissioner when requested by the Fraud Squad. In addition, an accountant inspector has been seconded to the Fraud Squad for the past two years.

(3) Questions on statistics relating to these matters should be directed to the Honourable the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: I redirect part (3) of the question to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police.

26. Bankruptcies

Mr R. J. Gibbs asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) What was the number of bankruptcies in Queensland between 1979 and 1981?

(2) How many of these resulted in criminal charges or charges under the Companies Act being laid against directors, companies or individuals?

(3) What responsibilities do liquidators have to investigate properly these bankruptcies for criminal offences or offences against the Companies Act?

(4) What amount has these bankruptcies cost creditors?

(5) Is he aware that no officers of the Corporate Affairs Commission or Auctioneers and Agents Office are stationed at centres outside Brisbane, and does he intend to correct this anomaly by providing investigative officers as distinct from clerks?

(6) Is he aware that an amendment to The Criminal Code to include a provision similar to Section 59 of the Trade Practices Act would greatly strengthen police powers for combating the activities of many "fly-by-night" companies who use the media to deceive people?

Answer:—

(1) The records held at the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs in Brisbane and Townsville indicate that from 1979 to 1981 there were 1714 companies placed into liquidation in Queensland. It has not been possible to obtain precise information from the Rockhampton office and further advice will be given to the honourable member when the information is obtained. Inquiries regarding bankruptcy of individuals should be directed to the Commonwealth Attorney-General.

(2) Fourteen charges have been laid against directors of these companies pursuant to the Companies Act 1961-1981. Information relating to charges under the Criminal Code should be sought from the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police.

(3) The liquidator of a company has responsibility to make inquiries and examinations to enable him to report any breaches of any law of the Commonwealth or State to the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.

(4) Statistical information in relation to this matter is not maintained by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.

(5) The commissioner has an office in Townsville staffed by four officers including an assistant commissioner. In Rockhampton company work is performed by a Corporate Affairs clerk stationed in the Supreme Court Registry.

The creation of a further three senior investigator positions in the Investigations Division of the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs will shortly strengthen the investigations capacity of this office and will increase the ability of the office to carry out investigations throughout the State. However, the need to station investigation staff outside Brisbane is being considered.

(6) If a person knowingly misrepresents the profits which can be made if a person enters into a contract, it would constitute a false pretence or a wilful false promise within the meaning of section 427 of the Criminal Code.

If a person obtains money from another person who has relied on the truth of the representation or promise, he would commit the offence of obtaining goods by false pretences or wilfully false promise under the existing law.

The reversal of onus of proof, requiring the person alleged to have committed an offence to prove his innocence, involves a grave departure from the accepted rule that the prosecution must prove the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt. Such a step could not be taken lightly.

27.

Dishonouring of Cheques

Mr R. J. Gibbs asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Is he aware that banking corporations frequently dishonour clients' cheques without adequately recording advices to clients of their actions, and in some instances not advising clients that a particular cheque was dishonoured for lack of funds, with the result that, especially in cases where clients have overdrafts, it is often almost impossible to prove that a client knew a particular cheque would be dishonoured due to insufficient funds in his account when he passed it to another person, and this practice is enabling unscrupulous persons to avoid being prosecuted for fraud?

(2) Will he examine this practice and introduce legislation or other suitable means to correct it and force unscrupulous persons to be held more accountable than is now the case, or else change the rules of evidence to place responsibility on the author of cheques to ensure that they will be honoured rather than on the Crown to prove that he intended to defraud?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Measures taken by banks to notify customers of the dishonouring of a cheque are matters for the individual bank concerned. If a person writes a cheque knowing that it will not be met on presentation or having no reasonable expectation

that it will be met, he commits the offence of false pretences under section 427 of the Criminal Code.

In addition, section 427A provides that any person who obtains from any other person any chattel, money or valuable security by passing a cheque that is not paid on presentation for payment commits an offence which is punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of two years.

It is a defence to such a charge to prove that the accused person had reasonable grounds for believing that the cheque would be paid in full on presentation for payment and had no intent to defraud.

A prosecution for an offence under this section cannot be commenced without the consent of myself or the Solicitor-General.

It is considered that this provision strikes an appropriate balance between the rights of persons who may inadvertently write cheques exceeding the amount in their account and the rights of persons to whom such cheques are given.

I am disturbed to note that the honourable member is once again wanting to reverse the onus of proof, which is presently an accepted principle of law. It has not been the policy of this Government to move in that direction except in the most exceptional circumstances.

28. Parthenium Weed, Booringa Shire

Mr Turner asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

(1) Is he aware that an outbreak of parthenium weed has been discovered in the northern area of the Booringa Shire?

(2) What steps are being undertaken to eradicate this outbreak?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The Stock Routes and Pest Destruction Board is aware of the infestation of parthenium weed, which has occurred on Womblebank Station, and is keeping the area under regular surveillance.

Inspection by the board's regional inspector in July and November 1982 indicated that there is little evidence of the weed at present, largely owing to the dry conditions.

The manager of the property, the Booringa Shire's herdsman and the board staff have treated the areas a number of times and further inspections will be made to monitor and control any outbreaks.

29. ABC Television Coverage of Major Sporting Events

Mr Turner asked the Premier—

(1) Is he aware of proposed changes to television coverage of Sydney and Brisbane Rugby League football next season, whereby ABC TV will not be televising any league matches, including Test matches, and that this coverage is to be taken over by commercial TV?

(2) In view of the fact that most country areas in Queensland receive only ABC TV, will he, on behalf of this Government, approach the Prime Minister and the Federal Telecommunications Minister in an endeavour to see that all areas not serviced by commercial TV are provided with ABC TV coverage of major Rugby League and all major sporting events, as was the case with the recent Melbourne Cup?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The honourable member may recall that, following a parliamentary question which he directed to me on 6 December 1978, I made appropriate representations to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister seeking the televising by the Australian Broadcasting Commission of major sporting events in country areas. In reply, the Prime Minister assured me that attempts would be made to provide this facility for country residents. My representations have been successful to the extent that the Melbourne Cup is now televised live in country areas.

Unfortunately, special difficulties arise when commercial television operators manage to purchase exclusive rights for the telecasting of major sporting events. In such circumstances, the ABC is heavily dependent upon the commercial operator

to offer it reasonable rates for the purchase of the television rights for such programs for presentation in those areas not covered by the commercial operator.

Responsibility for the granting of television rights for the showing of major sporting events rests with the controlling body of the sport concerned. In reaching a decision regarding the allocation of the rights, I am sure the respective bodies are fully aware of the limitations placed on the viewing audience when they grant exclusive rights to commercial television operators. In the circumstances, I consider that the honourable member should direct his representations to the relevant sporting bodies.

I shall again take up the matter with the Prime Minister.

30. Site of Proposed New Bridge, Goondiwindi

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

(1) Will he remind the NSW Department of Main Roads again that the people of Goondiwindi need to know the site of the proposed new bridge at Goondiwindi as quickly as possible?

(2) What is the latest information in regard to the planning of the site of the bridge?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The interest of the honourable member and of the people of Goondiwindi is appreciated. However, there are technical problems in the location of the bridge approach which must be resolved by the NSW Department of Main Roads, and reasonable time must be allowed for full investigation of these problems. The honourable member may be assured that the matter is being pursued at senior officer level.

31. Mackay North State High School

Mr Casey asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Is he aware that the anticipated enrolment for the Mackay North State High School for 1983 is 1240?

(2) What plans have been prepared to meet the additional class-room requirements for the 1983 school year?

(3) When will the necessary work to provide for the additional students be undertaken?

(4) Does this work include the renovation of the existing principal's office and the administration and staff offices which will become available on completion of the new administration block?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2 & 3) Representations concerning additional class-rooms have been made to me by the member, the honourable member for Whitsunday and the president of the parents and citizens association. I am pleased to inform him that I have recently approved the remodelling necessary to meet the school requirements for the 1983 school year, and my district supervisor at Mackay has been instructed to proceed with the work.

(4) For the honourable member's information, I point out that the new administration block has been completed and is now occupied.

32. Motor Vehicle Fee for Nominal Defendant Fund

Mr Casey asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

With reference to the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Nominal Defendant which shows a fund balance at 30 June of \$35,136,312.83, which is almost double the amount of outstanding claims, and in view of his constant claim that Queensland is a low-tax State—

(1) Why is it necessary to retain an annual fee of \$3 per registered motor vehicle for this fund when claims and associated expenses each year are running at approximately 60 per cent of premiums?

(2) Why was it necessary to double the stamp duty on the registration of each motor vehicle when the interest earned by this fund this year is now greater than the amount of claims?

(3) Will he reduce this annual charge on all motor vehicles since, according to the figures in the report, it is much higher than is necessary?

Answer:—

(1) Outstanding claims are currently estimated at \$26,599,500 against a fund valuation of \$35,136,312, a 76 per cent ratio. The fund balance is obviously not double the outstanding claims, as stated by the honourable member. Having regard to the escalation in individual awards granted in recent times, the margin of \$8.5m is considered no more than a prudent reserve. As an example, recent awards in excess of \$1m have been made in Queensland.

(2) Stamp duty on motor vehicle registration is in no way related to the Nominal Defendant Fund or its earnings.

(3) From my answer to (1) it is clear that the figures in the report to which the honourable member refers do not indicate that the annual charges on motor vehicles are higher than is necessary. The Government will therefore continue to act in the interests of all concerned in determining the charge to be applicable.

33. Eradication of Giant Sensitive Plant

Mr Eaton asked the Premier—

With reference to the serious downturn in rural incomes at the present time—

Will the Government meet the cost of hormone chemicals to farmers who wish to eradicate and control the giant sensitive plant under departmental supervision?

Answer:—

The responsibility for eradication of noxious weeds rests with the landholder. The Crown, through the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board and in association with local authorities, is responsible for control of infestations on Crown land, roads and reserves and has been assisting in isolated instances in the eradication of plants missed by landholders. The board has been spraying plants that occur along river-banks, and these infestations are also the responsibility of landholders. No funds are available in the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board budget for the supply of hormones free of cost to landholders whose properties are infested with giant sensitive plant.

34. Quality of Distillate

Mr Eaton asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) Is he aware of growing concern over the quality of distillate sold in Australia due to problems of wax and sludge?

(2) As Bass Strait crude oil contains a very high proportion of wax and this wax content has resulted in growing complaints that waxing has occurred on cold mornings, blocking fuel lines and filters and immobilising trucks, tractors, irrigation pumps, power plants, etcetera, what action has his Government taken to see that oil companies improve the quality of distillate to suit Queensland conditions?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Yes. This matter has been raised previously in a question by the honourable member for Bundaberg, directed to my colleague the Minister for Commerce and Industry, who stated on 19 October 1982 in this Parliament that—

“The recent problems associated with the quality of diesel distillate are an Australia-wide phenomena. The formation of waxy deposits has occurred in some distillate exposed to very cold conditions, and fuel stored for very long periods can develop gums and sludges. Furthermore, distillate stored for long periods under adverse conditions, such as with water contamination, can grow

micro-organisms that cause filter and injector problems in diesel engines. Many of these problems can be eliminated by keeping distillate under good conditions and not storing it for long periods.

The whole question of diesel distillate is presently being examined on a national basis with a view to preparing a new Australian standard for diesel distillate so that the quality problems currently being experienced can be overcome.

Each batch of distillate leaving all of Queensland's oil refineries is checked to ensure that it meets the existing specifications."

35. Soil Erosion, Cane-growing Areas

Mr Eaton asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) How much land used for sugar production has been abandoned because of land degradation caused by short-term economic considerations and greed, as claimed by a Department of Primary Industry soil conservationist at a seminar in Innisfail in June?

(2) Are the worst-damaged areas losing up to 100 tonnes of topsoil per hectare?

(3) If soil from sugar cane-growing is silting up rivers, damaging foreshore areas and adversely affecting flooding and drainage in the lower catchments, what action have various Government departments taken to prevent a continuation of these wasteful and costly practices?

(4) What percentage representing what total acreage of sugar farmland is in an unstable condition through soil erosion and soil fertility decline?

(5) How much land has been abandoned?

(6) Is the Government concerned at these developments and, if so, what positive action has it taken to assist farmers to prevent further erosion?

Answer:—

(1) A soil conservation officer did use the rather ill-chosen word "greed" at a seminar in Innisfail. He was, however, referring to historical attitudes to land development which often failed to take account of long-term land stability. To the best of my knowledge, less than 100 ha of land used for sugar production on the wet, tropical coast has been abandoned because, at least in part, of land degradation. Continuing to cultivate steep slopes in this area may lead to further abandonment.

(2) Yes.

(3) Rivers and foreshore areas are being affected to greater or lesser extent by siltation with subsequent drainage problems. Siltation is not caused by sugar-cane cultivation alone but from all parts of the catchment. My department is endeavouring as best it can to institute measures to control erosion in cultivated lands. This is no easy task in high-rainfall areas of steep slope. Other departments I believe are taking action to improve drainage and foreshores.

(4) Some 4 000 ha of a total of 125 000 ha cultivated for sugar on the wet, tropical coast are so severely eroded as to be considered unstable. Much greater areas require treatment of some kind to minimise soil damage. In some cases it has been possible to substitute more suitable areas. Further south in the Isis area this Government supported planned substitution for approximately 3 000 ha of sugar land where degradation problems were causing concern.

(5) As previously stated less than 100 ha of land cultivated for sugar has been abandoned because of land degradation.

(6) This Government is concerned at the possible effects of soil erosion throughout the State. We are trying to provide staff to plan and survey structures for run-off control and to research and develop agronomic means of minimising erosion.

My department is assisting the sugar industry to select land for allocation of further assignments and has undertaken land resource studies in a number of sugar areas. At present, it is conducting an agricultural land-use capability study for the coastal lands between Ingham and Daintree, which will identify areas suitable for agricultural development and will define management requirements to ensure stability of existing crop areas.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House proceeded with Government business.

SUPPLY

Fifteenth Allotted Day—Reception of Resolutions

The Resolutions reported from Committee of Supply on 23 November were presented and, on motion of Dr Edwards, received.

Adoption of Resolutions

The Resolutions being taken as read—

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

“That the Resolutions be now agreed to.”

Motion agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

Opening of Committee

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

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

“(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1982-1983, a further sum not exceeding \$1,973,161,047 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland.

(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1982-1983, a further sum not exceeding \$2,615,881,616 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1982-1983, a further sum not exceeding \$126,506,900 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.

(d) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1981-1982, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$275,246,720 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland.

(e) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1981-1982, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$244,408,701 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

(f) That, towards making good the Supply to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1981-1982, a supplementary sum not exceeding \$11,650,692 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.

(g) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1983-1984, a sum not exceeding \$700,000,000 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland.

(h) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1983-1984, a sum not exceeding \$800,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

(i) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1983-1984, a sum not exceeding \$60,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund.”

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, received, and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

First Reading

A Bill, founded on the Resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, was introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (12.11 p.m.):
I move—

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

This Bill is the second, and final, Appropriation Bill for the current financial year. It seeks parliamentary approval to cover expenditure included in the Budget Estimates for this year, unforeseen expenditure incurred during 1981-82 and expenditure for the first two months of the financial year 1983-84 to maintain Government activities until further Supply can be granted.

An amount of \$7,845.5m is provided for 1982-83 to cover anticipated expenditures for Supply services from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, Trust and Special Funds and the Loan Fund and represents the total of Parts III, IV and V of the schedule to this Bill. This amount represents the appropriation for the full 1982-83 financial year, apart from \$270.8m appropriated under specific Acts for special services and shown in Parts I and II of the schedule to the Bill. It also incorporates the amount of \$1,210m for Supply services appropriated in the Appropriation Act 1981-1982 (No. 2) and the further amount of \$1,920m appropriated in the Appropriation Act 1982-83 (No. 1), which was assented to on 5 August to provide for Government services until the passing of this Bill.

Unforeseen expenditure for 1981-82 totalling \$531.3m is also incorporated in the Bill. This amount had Executive authority but now requires parliamentary approval. Full details of this amount are set out in Parts VI, VII and VIII of the schedule to this Bill.

The Bill also provides for an amount of \$1,560m to provide Supply for the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Trust and Special Funds and Loan Fund for the first two months of the financial year 1983-84. Adequate provision has been allowed to cover cost escalations in the interim period. This Bill is of a particularly technical nature and I do not propose to explain the individual parts in detail. Honourable members have had a number of opportunities to comment on particular expenditure issues to which the Bill relates, in the debate on the Budget proper and also in debates on Estimates of expenditure for individual departments.

As has been the practice in the past, I propose to take this opportunity to comment on the Queensland economy with particular emphasis on our position relative to the nation as a whole and the world scene.

This year, more so than any other in recent times, it is imperative that time be taken to develop a rational analysis of the economy, partly in an attempt to dispel the multitude of economic half-truths and inaccuracies that currently abound, and to sound a note of reason among the clamour raised by many persons in the public eye.

A sense of responsibility and purpose is needed when making economic statements of this nature. No purpose is served by blindly following the practice of panic-mongering which seems to have been a forte of the Opposition in Queensland for many years and, I must say, has been indulged in by the Federal Government in recent weeks. By that, I am not suggesting that the Government generate false hope and paint a foolishly optimistic picture not supported by prevailing economic conditions and data. Rather, an attempt must be made to develop a mature analysis that reflects a balanced and accurate interpretation of available data in relation to prospects in both the short and long term.

To make such an assessment, the economy must be considered on three levels—the international, the national and ultimately the local level. Factors affecting our major trading partners must affect this State, just as the economic climate in other States must inevitably have an impact on Queensland.

The Australian economy generally reflects the conditions currently being experienced in the rest of the world and more particularly those prevailing in the countries with whom we trade. As I mentioned during my Budget Speech, the Japanese economy in particular is of some concern. Fluctuations in demand for Japanese goods in the world market-place must adversely affect the Japanese demand for Queensland's raw materials. But this condition is a temporary one, and rather than leading to a cessation of existing projects, it will involve in the short term a deceleration of original projections.

International investors are maintaining intense interest in the Queensland market. There are some ten major coal-mining projects which either have recently commenced production or are currently under construction to be in production within the next two years. These represent a combined up-front investment of the order of \$3,600m. The mines I refer to are the Oaky Creek, German Creek, Blair Athol, Scottville/Newlands, Curragh, South Blackwater expansion, Riverside, Yarrabee, Boundary Hill and Tarong projects. A total of almost 34 million tonnes of coal per annum will be supplied for the domestic and export markets by those projects. The State's coal exports will more than double over a period of just a few years as a result. I emphasise that fact. The present great coal export industry—the glamour industry of the recent few years—will more than double on firm contracts over the next 2 to 3 years. I hope that the member for Nudgee heard that.

Mr Vaughan: Did you read this morning's "Financial Review"?

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member believes everything that appears in the newspapers. I am stating proven facts. It is about time that the honourable member visited the mines to see what is going on.

In addition to the actual construction of new mines, there will be the provision of the full range of necessary supporting infrastructure, including new towns and housing developments with additional water-supply and local authorities works, service industries and community and recreational facilities, as well as railways, roads and ports. Benefits from these developments are passed on to virtually all sectors of the State's economy. The State is looking to this very large capital investment at this time to be a very real cushion against the decline in economic activity in other segments of the national economy.

Mr Davis interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member for Brisbane Central shares the pessimism expressed by other members of the Opposition. That is why they have very little support in the community. Fifty-six per cent of the people consider that the Government is acting correctly. That is the kind of support that the Government has experienced as a result of its positive contribution to this State. If members of the Opposition do not know what is going on in this State, I am prepared to take them around the State to show them. I suspect that not one of them will take that opportunity.

Mr Vaughan: I will take it.

Dr EDWARDS: I shall take the honourable member up on that and arrange to take him round the State to show him the projects that are going on.

At the beginning of the financial year, about \$8 billion worth of investment in Queensland was at the final or feasibility stages—almost one-quarter of the forecast investment in mining and manufacturing for Australia as a whole. This suggests continuing international confidence in Queensland's economy.

The media are absent on this occasion. They should be here listening to facts. This is good news, but nobody wants to listen to good news these days. This is the kind of news that we should be telling the people of Australia. The people of Australia should be given confidence, and it is the Government's responsibility to give that confidence.

On the positive side, Australia's major trading partner, the United States, is now showing clear signs of an economic recovery that economic analysts the world over regard as a sustained trend and not a temporary aberration. The prime rate of interest continues to fall and the inflation rate in the United States has dropped to 6.5 per cent.

Australia's ties with the United States are deep, not only in terms of economics but also in history and philosophy. An improvement in the confidence and economy of that major power will have profound effects on Australia and will signal an improvement in the fortunes of this country generally.

Moves to diversify our world markets by moving into trade relationships with developing industrial nations such as the Republic of Korea also augur well for the long-term resilience of the Australian economy and that of Queensland in particular.

It is true that the Australian dollar continues to remain weak on world markets and our balance of trade remains in deficit, but these factors will improve with a general improvement in the world economy.

In particular, the deficit on the balance of trade has been significantly affected by the severe drought conditions currently experienced by several States. However, further relief measures are regularly being considered and extended to affected communities, and I am confident that the tenacity and resilience of the people involved will ensure a quick recovery once there is an improvement in conditions within the rural sector.

It would be facile to ignore the dependency of the Australian economy on the world economy and thus disregard the certainty that the current improvement in the fortunes of our major trading partners will result in an upswing in the Australian economy. However, it would be naive to argue that the Australian economy is without its own internal problems, and I do not propose to do so.

It may sound like a trite comment but it is nevertheless a fact that the most severe social and economic problem currently facing this country is the spectre of increasing unemployment. This is the end product of a number of factors, many of which are within the Federal Government's power to control or influence. That is a matter that the Premier and I raised with Mr Howard this morning. However, the Federal Government is not going about it in the right way.

I must say that an ad hoc wages freeze will do little to solve the basic problems, especially if it is applied to only one section of the community. Wage rates in themselves do not cause unemployment. The solution to the malaise cannot be found by falling victim to panic and by proposing a shallow and ultimately dangerous course of action such as that currently proposed by the Federal Government and supported by some Labor States.

Opposition Members interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: The facts speak for themselves.

At this point, all States must react firmly against a wages policy that is proposed outside the ambit of a total economic package. What is needed is a total economic package covering a spectrum of measures including interest rates, prices and wages right throughout the community. The total package must contain restraint on demands for shorter working hours, and the total package must be accepted in a co-operative spirit between the Federal Government, State Governments, trade unions and the community. I am pleased to hear that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition agrees with that concept. One element on its own is totally useless. I am sure that the honourable member would agree with that contention, too.

A total economic package should include some real and positive incentive to economic improvement, perhaps in the form of an enhancement of the capital works program of State and local authorities. This Government adopts that view. It has stimulated the economy by spending thousands of millions of dollars on capital works programs, as outlined in the Budget. The proposal that we placed before Mr Howard previously and reinforced again today is that there must be an enhancement of the capital works program at Federal, State and local Government level. That must be undertaken right now, not in the new year or in the next Budget. That is what is needed in Australia.

A wages freeze in itself is cosmetic. It may suggest a temporary economic improvement in the short term, but it could crush the very fragile gains made towards stability and disable the long-term prospects for recovery.

Moving now to Queensland's position and prospects relative to the nation as a whole—it must be understood that Queensland's economy is not isolated from current conditions; available data supports this, and I do not propose to deny it. But this very data that damns the State's economy on the one hand also points to a very real and positive difference between this State's performance and that of the other States.

While other States are drifting aimlessly into deeper economic and financial problems, the resilience and the inherent strength of the economy of this State have insulated Queenslanders from the very worst rigours of the economic recession and suggest that when the upswing comes, as inevitably it will, Queensland will be more than ready to take full and immediate advantage of it.

The statistics support my view. Although the number of new dwellings approved in Queensland in the first three months of 1982-83 fell on the number approved last year, it still represented 28.2 approvals per 10 000 head of population compared with a

national average of 19.3. I repeat those figures: a national average of 19.3 and a State average of 28.2.

The consumer price index in the 12 months to September 1982 rose by 11.3 per cent for Brisbane, but the national increase was significantly above that at 12.3 per cent.

The unemployment rate in Queensland reached 7.1 per cent in October 1982, and I am told that, according to the figures announced this morning, it is now 6.9 per cent, which is a drop of .2 per cent.

Mr Davis: That is a big difference!

Dr EDWARDS: It is significant, particularly when it is pointed out that the figure in the Labor-controlled State of New South Wales increased by .5 per cent. If the honourable member wants to debate with me the unemployment situation in New South Wales, I will be only too happy to accommodate him.

The unemployment rate for the whole of Australia was 7.8 per cent. We should be talking about the number of people employed, which is what this Government is doing. It is not being a prophet of gloom and doom; it is talking about those people who are able to get a job and hold it at this time in our history.

The number of people employed in this State actually grew by over one per cent in the 12-month period ending September 1982. That compares with a decline nationally of similar magnitude. Nationally, there was a decline of one per cent in the number of jobs, and in this State there was an increase of one per cent in the number of jobs available. The figures released this morning indicate that over one million Queenslanders are in full-time employment. With a population of 2.3 million, that means that 40 per cent of the total population in this State is in employment, which is the highest figure in Australia. The national average is about 28 per cent. It is about time that people listened to those facts.

Mr Davis: You believe in your own propaganda.

Dr EDWARDS: It is the propaganda put out by the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics. The figures are accurate. When the figures suit the honourable member, he uses them; but when they do not suit him, he does not use them and says that they are my own figures.

The increase of 15.07 per cent in the value of retail sales for the year 1981-82 showed a real improvement over and above prices and population increases in that year. The average increase for the whole of Australia was only 12.36 per cent. For the three months to September 1982, new motor vehicle registrations increased by almost 9 per cent in Queensland, which compares favourably with a national increase of less than one per cent. Those figures speak for themselves.

Of all the jobs created in Australia last year, 49 per cent were created in Queensland. That is the kind of economy that we have in this State, and it is about time that that fact was recognised by the Opposition and by the members of the media, who never seem to want to tell good stories. It is about time that they told some of the good stories in the community and not stories about doom and gloom.

Mr Underwood interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: For three years now the member for Ipswich West has been predicting doom and gloom. I am proud of this State and this nation. I am also proud to be part of a Government that is promoting growth and development and creating optimism. If Opposition members want to talk about gloom, let them do so, but I will have no part of it.

These very telling statistics can be viewed in only one way: they support the contention that Queensland remains a few vital steps ahead of every other State in Australia; but that should not be a matter for complacency. If there was a Labor Government in Queensland, the State would be in the same mess as New South Wales and Victoria. I make that point very clearly, and the people of Australia recognise it. The New South Wales economy speaks for itself. The popularity rating of Mr Wran, which at one time stood at 52 per cent, has dropped to 36 per cent. That is what the people of New South Wales think of his policies.

We stand on our record and feel very strongly that it should be acknowledged. We do not suggest complacency in our attitudes and we do not suggest that there should be relaxation in the standards that have placed this State at such an advantage over every other State. If Opposition members are not proud of this State, let them go to live in New South Wales or Victoria. Perhaps they might be happy there if they are not happy in this State. They are the only unhappy souls in Queensland at the present time.

Wage restraint must be maintained and, with it, the general productivity of Queensland's industries. Now is not the time for singular, selfish alterations to employment conditions and working hours. The member for Ipswich West can smile if he likes. I will stand on my statement, as I have always done, that it is not the time for shortening working hours. If he wants to advocate that, he is welcome to continue doing so. If he wants to be identified with that type of stupidity, let him be condemned by the electorate as he deserves. Now is the time for consolidation so that the effects of the current recession on all Queenslanders are minimised and so that this State can maintain its firm basis on which to build future prosperity.

The Government, however, remains profoundly concerned at the level of unemployment in this State and at the effect of the current nationwide recession on its industries. This concern is reflected in the proposal that we have already announced of a \$100m housing package which will not only help Queenslanders to own their own homes—and afford to live in them—but will also provide invaluable incentive to the building industry, with obvious multiplier effects to other sectors of the economy.

It is also reflected in the Government's decisions over the last five years to direct over \$528m above and beyond our normal capital works program into capital works supplementation, in preference to massive expansions in ongoing programs and services or further reductions in taxation which, no doubt, would have provided more electoral kudos. By diverting funds into capital works, the maximum possible productive incentive is provided to the private sector. This supplementation impacts directly on the demand for private-sector goods and services and, ultimately, employment. These works include not only the obvious schools and hospitals but also major port and rail projects which directly service every industry in this State and, in particular, the important mining development so vital to the State's recovery.

As I have already said, the current drought, of course, still hangs as a bleak cloud over our rural industries; but this is not passing unchecked. Further drought relief measures are being proposed or instituted all the time with a view to minimising the effects of the drought—not only to enable business to carry on as normally as possible but also to provide some positive incentives to growth in rural areas.

Some of the Government's detractors—most notably, the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition in general—have seen fit to suggest that the Government is not doing all that it can to encourage recovery in Queensland and should be making use of its cash balances to fund grandiose programs.

Mr Davis: I like it.

Dr EDWARDS: I am sure the member for Brisbane Central is identified with it. I am glad to hear it.

My duty as Treasurer of this State makes it mandatory for me to lay to rest once and for all any suggestions for the use of Treasurer's cash balances. These moneys are made up predominantly of the balances of various trust and special funds. I emphasise that: they are the balances of various trust and special funds.

Mr Warburton: You wouldn't make anything out of the superannuation funds, would you?

Dr EDWARDS: Those funds have been collected or have accrued for specific purposes and must be available for such purposes.

The honourable member for Sandgate mentioned the superannuation funds and what we make out of them. Let me make it clear. I have heard the Leader of the Opposition claim that the Government pays 7 per cent to the superannuation fund. It must be made clear to the Parliament that the Government has arranged for superannuation funds to be loaned over a long period. Some of the loans are at 2½ per cent,

with another 20 years to run. What we pay is an actuarial estimation of the average over the whole period, which is determined by the Government. That figure is under review.

If the Government adopted the suggestion of the Opposition relative to paying interest rates on each individual loan, a massive administrative nightmare would result and the situation would become totally impossible. It is ridiculous to suggest that the Government pay rates of 2½ per cent, 3 per cent, 9 per cent, 14 per cent and 17 per cent on the different loans. What happens is that the interest rate is averaged, and the average figure of the interest paid to the State Service Superannuation Fund is under review at present. That suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition is total hypocrisy and must be laid to rest.

The Financial Administration and Audit Act provides for the expenditure of these moneys. Complementary to such provisions are stipulations within various relevant Acts and Executive orders as to the purpose for which such moneys held in trust and special funds may be expended. The Financial Administration and Audit Act also gives specific powers to the Treasurer to invest the moneys held in public accounts.

The crucial difference is in the use of two words "expenditure" and "investment". There is no wide-ranging power for the Treasurer to spend the moneys in any way he sees fit. Moneys drawn on by the Government from trust and special funds must be utilised for purposes and in a way that will ensure their recovery with interest. They must be available for use as and when required for their own particular purpose. It would be absolute financial negligence and irresponsibility to divert those moneys to programs of an ongoing nature that are not self-financing. That virtually precludes investment in projects suggested by the Leader of the Opposition, such as hospitals, schools, etc., which could not meet repayment conditions except by charges on taxpayers generally. It is stupid policies of that type that have caused taxation to go up in New South Wales and Victoria.

Because of the long-term nature of such investments, the level of funds that can be used for programs such as the new housing package is also limited. Certainly the funds cannot and should not be used extensively for speculative investments in risk ventures more appropriately the province of private enterprise. The Government is able to make prudent investments and loans to local government and semi-Government authorities for capital purposes, to co-operative housing societies for housing purposes and, to an extent, new packages such as the housing one, and those things are done and will be done in the future.

The policies and the course of action followed by this Government would be the action of any responsible Government with the real, long-term interests of the citizens at heart. Only one result—bankruptcy—can come to any firm, any company or any Government that lives beyond its means. That must never be forgotten. Bankruptcy is the ultimate end of any firm, any company or any Government that lives beyond its means.

Mr Davis: Is that what you are saying will happen in the United States? It has a \$91 billion deficit.

Dr EDWARDS: When the honourable member links my statements with the position in the United States of America, he shows his total ignorance. What I said was that any firm, company or Government that lives beyond its means has one ultimate end—bankruptcy. If the honourable member lives beyond his means, there is no doubt that that is where he will end up.

Borrowing to fund operating costs is akin to borrowing to pay the butcher and the baker. If that is the position, a person is broke and, as somebody said recently, "God help the lender." Furthermore, if dedicated funds or any sort of "one-time" moneys pulled out of "hollow logs" are used to build up or even sustain ongoing programs, what happens when those moneys run out? They can be used once, and once only, and when they are gone the programs they have financed have to be cut right back or eliminated—a very unpalatable and difficult operation.

That is what the Labor Government of New South Wales has done. On the figures contained in public documents, it saved itself from a massive consolidated revenue deficit of something like \$290m in 1981-82 by the "hollow log" method of financing and unless

it has an endless supply of hollow logs full of money—and it has not—it must come to the end of the line in the very near future. In fact, its cash reserves at the end of June would last for only eighteen months or so if the Government's 1981-82 performance continues. Every cash reserve in New South Wales will be gone. What a despicable and irresponsible action leading to bankruptcy that is!

Mr Borbidge: And still the highest-taxed State in Australia.

Dr EDWARDS: And still the highest-taxed State in Australia, as the honourable member for Surfers Paradise rightly said.

Unless that Labor Government is unaware of or oblivious to the financial implications of what it has done, its members must be having some sleepless nights anticipating the day of reckoning that must come. The piper must be paid sooner or later.

It may well be planning to leave office, which I am sure will occur, anyway, at the end of its next term, and leave the Liberal and National parties with a mess to clear up.

Victoria seems to be heading in the same direction, and no doubt the new Government of South Australia will embrace—it has already started—the irresponsible “spend at all costs” Labor Party philosophy that first manifested itself with the Whitlam Government.

Mr Vaughan: You're so far wrong it doesn't matter.

Dr EDWARDS: The facts speak for themselves.

Mr Vaughan: Whose facts?

Dr EDWARDS: I will be very interested to hear from the honourable member. He will put his foot in his mouth, as he always does.

So long as I am Treasurer of this State, the integrity of moneys held in trust and the integrity of the Government's financial structure and management principles will be preserved.

In discussing the economic and financial scenario, I have not sought to minimise the problems that we face in steering our economy on a path to recovery; neither can the bells of recovery be rung out yet. We must look beyond short-term problems to the long-range prospects of the State. Recovery will not occur overnight, and it will not be instantaneous when it does occur. What I can say in all confidence is that this State has proved itself in the past by its performance. It is proving itself now in these most difficult of times since 1929-1931 by cushioning the effect of the recession on Queenslanders while still providing a framework for long-term growth and development.

Queensland has a strong and relatively stable economy; it has its own inherent strength in the form of its natural resources and its people; and it will continue to prove that it has the wherewithal to meet current challenges, consolidate its position, and plan and grow well into the future.

I commend the Bill to honourable members.

Mr FOURAS (South Brisbane) (12.43 p.m.): In recent days, in what can only be described as opportunistic and cynical political ploys, on a number of occasions both the Premier and the Treasurer have strongly attacked the Fraser Government over its economic management. Those methods are motivated by the perceived need of the Queensland Government to distance itself from the disastrous policies of the Fraser Government, which, in the past, the Queensland Government has strongly supported. Queensland was Fraser's strongest supporter for his failed new federalism policies; Queensland was Fraser's strongest supporter for his failed monetarist policies and balanced-budget philosophy. Over and over, the Fraser Government has insisted that inflation must be brought down first before long-term economic growth can be restored. Over and over the Fraser Government has assured us that it alone can do that. Now even on those, the Fraser Government's own criteria, it has failed. Only now are we seeing that the Queensland Government is trying to distance itself from Fraser's policies.

Unemployment is now sky-rocketing. The Budget estimate of 395 000 unemployment beneficiaries has now been revised to 525 000—an increase of 130 000—and will be further revised upwards with the 100 000 school-leavers trying to find jobs that do not exist anywhere.

The increase in the consumer price index for the September quarter was 3½ per cent, compared with 2 per cent for the corresponding quarter last year. The Government cannot ignore or shrug off inflation of that order. In a year in which inflation in almost every other western country has fallen, inflation in Australia has risen from 9 per cent to 12.3 per cent. If Japan can get inflation down to 3 per cent, West Germany to 5 per cent, the United States of America to 6 per cent and Britain to 8 per cent, surely Australia must be able to do the same. Australia's inflation rate of 12.3 per cent is 5.5 per cent above the average of our trading partners, and it is seriously affecting our ability to compete on world markets. It is affecting the value of our dollar and the return we get for our exports.

It is vital that there be a dramatic and drastic change in the Fraser Government's economic policies. I believe that, contrary to the rosy figures given by the Treasurer, the slump in economic activity is now beginning to hit Queensland as it has hit the other States.

Queensland has been insulated by its very small manufacturing base. Some 80 per cent of the manufacturing jobs in Australia are provided in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. When the manufacturing slump hit the other States, Queensland was not affected to the same extent, but it is now being affected quite seriously by the decline in economic activity.

Dwelling approvals fell from 3 740 in September 1981 to 2 203 in September 1982. That 40 per cent slump compares unfavourably with the 30 per cent Australian average. Later in this financial year, the good figures referred to by the Treasurer will come back to taws with the other States. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for the last quarter, fixed-capital, private-sector expenditure in Queensland fell by 19 per cent. That was about the Australian average. Vehicle registrations will slump. In the next few months they will not continue to increase by 10 per cent despite what the Treasurer has said.

The drought is now hitting Queensland as hard as it is hitting other States. Its effects must be taken into account. The Government has talked about Queensland coal exports doubling in three years' time, but what is really happening to our exports? Utah will ship 20 per cent less coal overseas than it expected to. That will have a serious effect on Queensland's economy. On the basis that the Government makes \$6 a tonne in rail freights on coal exports, it can expect to lose about \$30m plus royalties. The Government will not recoup the same money from tax revenue.

The Premier skited about the CPI increase being 11.3 per cent until September this year compared to the Australian average of 12.3 per cent. That difference was attributable to the sole fact that health insurance charges did not increase in Queensland at the same time as they did in other States. I will be interested to see the comparative CPI rates when the increase is taken into account.

Since the last Fraser Budget, over 100 000 people in Australia have lost their jobs. The increase in unemployment since then is approaching 2 per cent. That is a frightening figure.

Opposition members are not prophets of gloom and doom. At all times they try to put figures into proper perspective. The increase in unemployment suggests that the economy is in a far worse slide than even the most pessimistic person believed at the time the Federal Budget was introduced. To draw attention from its failed economic policies, the Federal Government has responded with gimmicks. The headlines screamed the Howard/Anthony solution—a freeze on all Public Service salaries with the money saved channelled into job-creation programs.

To put it into its proper perspective—Queensland would save \$136m under a freeze on Public Service salaries in the remainder of the 1982-83 financial year. What would be the real consequence of the Federal Government's wage freeze? The income of public servants would be really cut. They, in turn, would respond by cutting expenditure. That would add to the deflationary bias in the economy. On the other hand, we are told that that would be offset by expenditure on job-creation schemes. The net increase in jobs would be nil. It is very likely that there would be a lag between the savings on expenditure and the expenditure on job creation. As a result, in the short term, there would be a net loss of jobs.

New jobs can be created only by increased demand. In the present, apparent, rapid contraction in private-sector demand, a wage freeze could only create more jobs if the Federal Government were prepared to expand demand by widening the Budget deficit by either reducing taxes or increasing expenditure.

That is the crux of the problem created by the Fraser Government's blind commitment to balanced budgeting. I state categorically that the Labor Party does not believe that the State can engage in deficit budgeting, because it does not have the printing presses, and because it does not believe that it is responsible to suggest that that be done.

Dr Edwards interjected.

Mr FOURAS: I assure the Treasurer that a Labor Government would not run deficit Budgets.

For years, the Fraser Government, in line with its piggy-bank approach to running the national economy, has been telling the people of Australia that balanced Budgets will cure inflation.

The deficit in America this year will be \$100,000 billion and next year it will be \$200,000 billion. Inflation has been reduced in America. No comparison can be made between the size of the deficit and the level of inflation in other countries. However, we have been told that the priority of the Federal Government is to bring down inflation and that it will do that by keeping the deficit at a low level. That is absolute nonsense.

The Treasurer said that we should increase demand and that more capital-intensive works should be undertaken. By the same token, he does not believe in the Federal Budget blowing out. The Federal Budget deficit amounted to \$1.7 billion. That will blow out by approximately \$1,000m because of events since the Budget was introduced.

An additional 135 000 persons are receiving unemployment benefits. The Fraser Government had to find an additional \$350m for emergency drought relief. Because people are unemployed, they cannot pay their mortgages and will lose their homes. The social costs of unemployment are too high to bear in any society.

In the present state of depressed demand, we cannot afford to blow out the Budget deficit. Fraser, by pretending to fight inflation and talking about his piggy-bank economics with regard to the size of the deficit, is barking up the wrong tree. The Federal Treasurer (Mr Howard), has listened to advisers in the Treasury who have been proved to be failures. Year after year he has been told, "These are the policies that will reduce inflation." Year after year there has been more unemployment and no reduction in inflation.

Let us look at what the Labor States are doing. The Treasurer stated that the Labor States supported a wages freeze. Let me put him straight on what their attitude is. The Labor States have been very positive. The Premiers of the Labor States have suggested an approach to economic recovery. They say that an effective recovery program must be instituted. To be successful, it must receive support from all Governments as well as from trade unions and employers. The Treasurer referred to that earlier.

The Premiers Conference on 7 December should set down the objectives and the main components of a recovery program that will give the community strong grounds for expecting the program to work. With such a program, there would be a favourable reaction from the community, and a willingness to participate and contribute should emerge. There should be a more positive rather than negative attitude to what is happening in our society.

The Treasurer should not boast about employment when every day people are losing their jobs. Young people are telling their parents that they have been put off work. The Treasurer suggests that we can sit back and say, "Let us be positive; let us not be knockers about the state of the economy." He thinks that some magic wand can be waved that will increase demand and provide resources so that people can obtain employment. That will not happen.

The Labor Premiers have formulated a recovery program. Their objectives are to reduce unemployment significantly over the next year; to ensure that the 1982 school-leavers have improved employment opportunities during 1983; to minimise the loss of

jobs among those presently employed and to ensure that special assistance in the form of retraining, subsidies for on-the-job training and assistance for relocation are available for the longer-term unemployed.

Unless there is a strong commitment by all Governments to the objectives of the recovery program and to the measures needed to achieve the objectives, a wages freeze would be unworkable. It is nothing more than a political gimmick. Without a commitment to expand demand, a wages freeze would be counter-productive.

With the probability that unemployment will rise to 10 per cent in 1983—again the Treasurer will say I am a prophet of doom—unless there is a change in Fraser's economic follies and unless Howard stops listening to the Stones and to the silly monetarists who run his Treasury, unemployment will reach double figures. It is time that programs were formulated to reverse that trend. The social cost of that type of unemployment will be much more than a society ought to bear. We ought to forget about the "fight inflation first" policies; we ought to forget about the piggy-bank economics approach to the size of the Federal deficit; and we ought to do some of the things that the Labor Premiers have proposed. They are not just proposing a slow down in wages; they are proposing positive programs, such as a program to stimulate the housing industry.

Dr Edwards: I have not seen them yet.

Mr FOURAS: I will tell the Treasurer what they are, if he takes time to listen.

In proposing a stimulus to housing, the Labor Premiers called for a major injection of funds into both public and private housing as a matter of urgency. As the Treasurer said, it should be done tomorrow, because every day lost represents the loss of hundreds of jobs. Such an injection would have substantial employment-creation effects, because projects can be started quickly. Those projects would have a wide geographical distribution and would encourage families who have saved for housing to spend on manufactured goods. They would be able to buy a refrigerator and they would be able to buy carpets. They would create a demand, which is a necessary element of the economy.

The Queensland Government skates about the job it is doing. In Queensland, 10 000 families are urgently in need of welfare housing. The Government should do something about helping them. It should direct its resources towards them to help relieve their situation of stress. The Government should build houses for the poor and should put people into houses at low rentals so that people who exist below the breadline are able to pay those rentals.

Another proposal by the Labor Premiers is under the heading "Mortgage Protection Arrangements". The Labor Premiers stress that protection needs to be provided to families who are holding back from buying homes because of uncertainty about their ability to meet repayments on home mortgages. This protection should extend to existing home purchasers who are at risk in the current economic climate.

Continually we are told that Queensland is the richest State in the Commonwealth and that Queenslanders are better off than anybody else in Australia. I am appalled that the State Government does not show any concern for people who lose their jobs and face the prospect of losing their homes. If the other State Governments are so badly off, how is it that they are able to find money—which the Treasurer claims they do not have—to help needy people? The Queensland Government should show more care for the people of this State.

Instead of skiting about the Government's massive cash balances and about what a good manager the Government is, the Treasurer should be showing some concern for the people in this time of a severe economic downturn. Opposition members will not stand idly by and allow the Government to get away with not doing anything for people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and who may lose their homes.

As to capital works programs—the Treasurer claimed that the Labor Premiers were adopting a negative attitude and had nothing to put forward. Let me tell the Treasurer what the Labor Premiers had to say concerning capital works. They said that there is an urgent need for an immediate increase in capital works programs. They said that capital expenditure should be financed from grants from the Federal Government to the States.

Dr Edwards: Again, who is going to pay for it? Why don't they have balanced Budgets and do this out of their own money?

Mr FOURAS: Is that what the Treasurer will say when he attends the Premiers Conference on 7 December? Will he suggest that the other States find the money and pay the high interest rates that will be asked? That would only result in an increase in State charges. Is that the solution that the Treasurer is suggesting? At a time when inflation is creating a problem, is the Treasurer suggesting that those States should borrow money, pay the high interest rates that will be demanded, and pass on the costs?

Dr Edwards: That is not what I said.

Mr FOURAS: That is exactly what the Treasurer is implying. It is about time he realised that, instead of making comments about distancing himself from Mr Fraser and Mr Howard and telling them that their proposed wage freeze will not work, he should be fair dinkum. The Treasurer does not agree with the Labor Premiers that portion of the capital works program should be financed from grants from the Federal Government.

The capital works program should include the expansion of expenditure on road projects. Federal funds should be available for the construction of local roads and road repairs.

Increased State semi-Government borrowing allocations should not be the major source of finance for the recovery program. Increased interest costs are a major factor in determining taxes and charges of State Governments and their authorities. If the Governments or their authorities are required to pay the interest on funds for the recovery program, it will add significantly to these taxes and charges.

The three Labor States—New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia—are prepared to contribute the maximum possible to the recovery program, so long as it would not require further increases in State taxes and charges.

Any economic recovery program without substantial and significant Federal contributions will mean that the recovery program has no chance of meeting its objectives.

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

Mr FOURAS: Prior to the luncheon recess, I was informing the House of the proposals put forward by the Labor Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, and was talking about the need for increased expenditure on capital works. I said that the three Labor States are prepared to contribute the maximum possible to the recovery program as long as it would not require further increases in State taxes and charges. Without substantial Federal contributions no economic recovery program has any chance of meeting its objectives.

I shall look briefly at what has happened with Loan Fund allocations to the States over the last few years. It is undoubtedly a fact that State Treasurers have been concerned about the miserly and very mean-handed approach that the Fraser Government has adopted to Loan Fund allocations. In recent years, those allocations have fallen substantially. That has meant a reduction in the levels of reserves and internal funding—more in the other States than in Queensland—and the greater use of alternative financial methods. As a result of what has been happening, this State has had to adopt some of those alternative financial methods.

The level of Loan Council allocations now is lower than it was under the McMahon Government. In this time, the economy has grown by 30 per cent in real terms, but the States are receiving less Loan Fund allocations. In the seven years from 1975-76 to 1982-83, costs have increased by 97 per cent. The cut in real terms to the State Governments has been about 45 per cent.

The position in one area has been improved. The States are now receiving increased allocations for electricity authorities. Fortunately, those allocations have been increasing in real terms, but they do not make up for the losses that have occurred in other areas. All of the States, particularly Queensland, would be in an horrendous position if they did not receive those increased allocations for their infrastructure programs.

The last pertinent statistic that I shall quote to the House is expenditure related to the gross domestic product. In 1975-76, loan allocations were 7 per cent of the gross domestic product, but they fell to 5.6 per cent in 1981-82.

I shall continue with the six proposals in the package of the Labor Premiers. One proposal concerns interest rates. One of the factors affecting our economy is the abnormally high interest rates. The rates are higher than those in comparable countries. That is affecting the level of economic activity in this country. It is unfortunate that interest rates began to increase because of the open-door approach that was adopted to try to overcome the balance of payments problem in this country. The Federal Treasury had to try to overcome the problem, and that pushed up interest rates. Since then, with the economic downturn and the lack of returns for our exports, our balance of payments situation has become rather serious.

It is unfortunate that in that situation interest rates have to remain at a high level to enable us to pay our bills. We talk about people balancing their books, but we require \$10,000m from overseas to stay afloat. That is a serious situation. Interest rates have to be maintained at a high level so that that money does not flow out of the country.

We talk about increasing demand. We have two choices: we reduce taxation or increase Government expenditure. There is no doubt that if we took either of those steps it would affect our balance of payments. In those circumstances it would be of benefit to the Queensland economy that a package be considered that includes a reasonable level of devaluation. There would necessarily be balance of payments problems. The moment more money circulates in the community, demand increases. There is a propensity for some of that money to be directed to imports, and we are already in a parlous financial state because of our level of imports and poor balance of payments.

Although I am not setting myself up as an expert, I believe that a stimulatory program would be very successful if it went hand in hand with substantial devaluation. Certainly, as a member of this Assembly, I can see benefits flowing to this State from such action, particularly if in such a package wages were prevented from increasing rapidly. The cost of imports would rise, which would create difficulties. In an overall package, it would be opportune to mention that such action was necessary. I repeat that the role interest rates are playing is unfortunate.

I move on to deal briefly with what is happening in world trade, because that is important in the context of what is happening in this country. Extreme concern is expressed by many firms about dumping. The Temporary Assistance Authority is bogged down in applications seeking the imposition of tariffs to stop what manufacturers see as unfair competition. It is important that immediate action be taken to reduce the long delays in hearing claims for temporary assistance. Manufacturing industry is labour intensive. It plays a very important part in providing employment. I support the Labor Premiers' concept of a need for a freeze on the implementation of any reduction in existing protection levels.

I was upset about one of the Premier's statements on his return from overseas. I noticed that the Treasurer did not join him in some of those statements. The Premier said, "They are saying over there, 'Gee whiz, you are great fellows, but you have these terrible tariff policies in your country. You should open up your doors.'" I am amazed that the Premier should parrot comments of that type when he returns from overseas. Those elderly Japanese and Korean gentlemen must really be at their best when they are dining with the Premier. They have somebody who to them must appear like a door-to-door salesman, because when he returns he spreads propaganda that is against the interests of our country.

Australia's steel industry is under extreme duress and efficient sections of the industry are suffering. But try to get any more than a few per cent of their market! There are limits on quotas. It does not matter what tariff protection they have; if they have a quota, the level of tariff protection is effectively increased many times over. Such a system operates in Japan and Korea. After dining with the Japanese and the Koreans, the Premier comes back as the advocate of those gentlemen who say, "Oh, gee whiz, Mr Premier, isn't it marvellous that we have a man of your stature over here who knows what it is all about! Your free-enterprise ethic is marvellous. Take that back to your State and open up the doors."

The Commonwealth and State Governments need to be positive about a "Buy Australian" campaign. I understand that in a free-trade concept the economic cake shared by the world is greater. Theoretically, one can be a free trader. However, what is happening is that

"beggar thy neighbour" policies are practised by other countries, with the result that they can improve their terms of trade by putting up tariff barriers to our exports and then demanding access to our markets.

I am amazed that the Government, in effect, exports jobs to Korea and other countries. In our current economic climate, it is nothing short of a crime to export jobs. It is a crime that ought not to be supported; in fact, it ought to be stopped forthwith. I invite honourable members to consider our current economic state in the context of the Premier's wanting to invite a South Korean company to perform works programs in this State, at a time when there is no shortage of capital in this country—the banks are flush; the shortage is in the investment of the capital—and at a time when there is no shortage of skilled labour. It is ridiculous to suggest as a trade-off, "We will have one of your companies in here and you can build our pipeline across from the Jackson oilfields. Isn't that marvellous? We'll give you a quid pro quo."

When he states that he is selling Queensland, he should be telling the people of the State that he is selling off Queensland. He goes overseas and tells companies that they will be welcomed with open arms. What is even worse is that he has the gall to suggest that he can invite an unnamed Japanese bank to come here. Anybody who understands even a little bit about the system would be aware that the Campbell inquiry report has not yet been accepted by the Fraser Government, and certainly the aspect of overseas banking companies coming to Australia has not yet been finalised. I, for one, would be appalled if that happened.

Dr Edwards: He mentioned a representative office of a merchant bank.

Mr FOURAS: Merchant banks have been established everywhere. That is not the way I construed his statement.

Dr Edwards: That was the arrangement.

Mr FOURAS: That puts it in a different light.

Even though the Premier and the Treasurer travel together on overseas trips, the Treasurer ought to be very careful that he is not labelled as one who is selling off this State to countries such as Korea and Japan. Australia has enough problems of its own without having open-door policies, exporting jobs and inviting foreign companies to come here to take over even the few remaining jobs.

The last aspect of the Labor Premier's proposal is the need for training/employment programs. That such programs be considered in the context of the package is very important. Each State Government should be asked to bring forward details of its own programs. The Queensland Government is not keeping pace with other State Governments, and I am sure that at a future date the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr Warburton) will make that very point quite clear. The States should be asking the Commonwealth for funding to support a large number of programs.

When I was a public servant, I supported early retirement in the Public Service, and the option of retiring at 60 has already been introduced. But the Government must consider early retirement for the ordinary person in the community. Of course, the pension age would have to be reduced as well. With the current depressed economic climate, the introduction of early retirement is very sensible. However, even if the economy improves to a more sensible level, the rate of technological change is such that job sharing must be considered as a means of maintaining employment. That can be assisted by early retirement. The community would have to accept the cost.

If there is not to be social trauma and an extremely high social cost to the young people of the community, action of that type is needed urgently. Young people in the present society are suiciding, taking drugs and destroying themselves. In many ways, they are not reacting against society but are turning inwards against themselves. That is because there is dignity in work and dignity in belonging to some establishment. A young person wants to be able to go to the shop-floor where his father worked, or somewhere else, so that he can learn a trade and become an integral part of society. Dignity in work is very important. The Government cannot afford to take away from a substantial part of one generation of Australians that dignity in work. Increased suicide and crime rates have come about not because young people are reacting against society, as some people have said, but because they see themselves as having no part or reasonable role to play in society.

Now that I have gone through the proposals of the Labor Premiers at some length and had some indication of support from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in his speech, I hope that he will consider those proposals and go to Canberra with a very open mind about the whole package. As the Treasurer has said, "Tomorrow is one day too late." As soon as possible, an expansion of demand must be created and those programs should be put to work so that people can play a meaningful role in society.

I now wish to consider some of the myths that have been spread about how well Queensland is progressing. One of those myths is how well the Government is managing in the fields of health, welfare and education. The Government says that, even though it is spending much less than other States, it is doing a great job. That is an argument that I will not buy, because in the first few years that I was a member of Parliament I had the responsibility of being welfare spokesman for the Opposition. I checked what is happening in other States and looked at the various programs that they are running. I can assure members—and I would put my credibility on the line on this point—that Queensland is the worst serviced State.

The 1980-81 report of the Grants Commission showed that Queensland spent \$609.29 per capita in areas such as health, welfare and education compared with the six-State average of \$699.79, a massive \$90 a head less. What that means to this State in budgetary terms and the Government's desire to be seen as a very good budgeter is that something in excess of \$200m is being saved in comparison with what is spent in those areas in the other States. There is no doubt that, because of our decentralisation the cost of providing services in a lot of areas is very high. But we ought to be spending a lot more; perhaps somewhere near the amount spent by Western Australia.

The Government wants to be known as a low-tax Government, but I spent a couple of days in two southern States with my deputy leader (Mr Warburton), and we learnt that Queensland is known as the worst-served State; that it does not do a lot for people. The worst con trick ever perpetrated by a State Government has been its approaches to the Grants Commission over the years.

Dr Edwards: Very successfully.

Mr FOURAS: I admit that. I give credit to the State Government because it very successfully conned millions of dollars out of the Grants Commission. The Government was granted money because it said that it wanted to lift services to a certain level. It said that it suffered cost disparities and that it did not have the same taxation avenues as other States, although it did and the Government has thrown a few of them out the window. But that is not the issue that I am raising.

In 1977-78 Queensland received \$15.4m; in 1978-79, \$22.7m; in 1979-80, \$44.5m and in 1980-81, \$25m. Unfortunately, although \$107.6m was given to Queensland as a claimant State, none of it was spent on improving services to Queenslanders. I guess that, like money that should have gone to local authorities such as the Brisbane City Council, it was spent on other things. It was very cleverly transferred to other uses. I do not believe that that is honest government. It is a sly and underhand sort of approach.

On page 13 of his Budget Speech the Treasurer referred to the enhancement of ongoing projects. The Budget contains a paucity of progressive, reformist, caring-for-human beings approaches. The Government's treatment of the people is appalling. The Treasurer referred to increases in remote area education allowances, senior remote area scholarships, textbook allowances, transport payments, and so on. Such payments have been indexed. I asked the Minister of Education whether he was aware of the very low level of student allowances being paid to children attending high school. Even if a child is attending a State school there is a cost for uniforms and books.

At the beginning of every school year an increasing number of pensioners and low-income earners come to my office saying that, although a \$54 a year allowance is paid in three instalments of \$18, the means test is so severe that only supporting parents can obtain it. Invalid or age pensioners with children attending school just do not qualify. Compare that to the \$238 available in Victoria under a much fairer means test. All social security beneficiaries are eligible for that payment. This Government is mean, and I would like Government members to come to my office during the week before high school starts and hear of the trauma and distress faced by parents in trying to send their children to high school. Surely those children are disadvantaged enough because of their environment, without having to put up with attending school without proper books and uniforms which marks

them as coming from a lower socio-economic group. The Treasurer keeps saying that Queensland is the richest State in the Commonwealth because it manages its resources so well. He ought to have a little bit of heart and find additional resources to improve conditions in that area.

One item in the Budget relates to increasing from 453 to 466 the number of subsidised staff for home-nursing services. At a cursory glance it might be thought that the Government is improving that service. Unfortunately, in some areas, demands on the service have escalated by more than 20 per cent. The paltry increase means that aged people in the community are not receiving home-nursing services. It is negative economics and negative thinking not to keep aged people in their homes and provide them with cheap home-nursing services. Instead, the Government is making them join the long queues waiting to enter the very expensive Government-funded nursing homes and hostels. I am appalled at the penny-pinching, miserly attitude adopted in providing some of these services.

Unfortunately, I was absent when the Welfare Estimates were debated. In my capacity as Treasury spokesman, I emphasise that if an extra \$10m could be provided for the Welfare Services Department to support the voluntary sector in community development, rather than in institutional programs, it would be money well spent. The voluntary sector in Queensland is close to breaking point.

Since the end of last year, the Minister has used his White Paper on Family Welfare to convince the people that the Government intends to increase community services at the local community level, but the Budget gives no indication that funds will be provided for voluntary groups to do the job that is expected of them. On the contrary, all of the voluntary agencies are close to breaking point. The 20 people in the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Community Information Services do not receive a cent from this penny-pinching Government, whereas they are funded by every other State Government. The Better Hearing Association and other groups need small sums of money to fund a secretariat and a co-ordinator as well as to cover ongoing costs. Voluntary organisations look after hundreds of thousands of people but the Government will not provide the money to keep them going. They were formed to fill gaps left by the Government, and in Queensland, gaping holes are obvious. The voluntary sector is vital, but it requires funds to do its work. The State could well find \$10m in its next Budget to get things done that the Welfare Minister keeps promising the community.

The Minister for Welfare Services has engaged in a sham unequalled by any Minister during my five years in this Chamber. Day after day he parades in the community, has himself photographed kissing babies, and so on. I am informed that when the pamphlet to advertise Children's Week came to his department it was sent back so that a photograph of the Minister could be included. The Minister has conned the people time after time by talking about family welfare legislation but it has not surfaced because the money has not been found. He has talked about reforming the prison laws, but again nothing has been done. His little achievements get a lot of mileage because he has a very good public relations machine. If he can con the Government into putting him into a higher position, the Government will be getting very poor value for money.

Some time ago, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Wright) asked a question about gangos and access to a report commissioned by the Government. He was not given the information. He was told that the report was privy to the Cabinet. Let us look at what the other States are doing in this very important area. Yesterday it was announced in New South Wales that a public accounts committee would be appointed. One of the charters of that committee will be to examine statutory authorities and to look at that sector that is at present unaccountable. At the moment nobody knows whether they are effective, efficient, or what they are doing. Nobody knows what management schemes they are using. A specific charter of the committee will be to look into those matters.

In Victoria, the Public Bodies Review Committee is an all-party select committee. It has presented some very important reports. Some statutory bodies in that State spend on capital and current costs more than the amount of the Victorian State Budget. In Queensland, statutory bodies are spending amounts approaching the level of the Queensland Budget. We ought to be doing something about that. Rob Jolly, the Victorian Treasurer,

is determined to make those bodies accountable. He intends to ensure that his Government has a comprehensive account of that State's non-departmental Government bodies. In the "Financial Review" he is reported as saying—

"The situation that 80 per cent of quangos do not report to Parliament will not be tolerated... the government will remove subsidies in the form of low interest loans to public bodies where they cannot be justified on welfare grounds.

The requirement that statutory authorities maintain sinking funds will be abolished."

An examination of the reports that have been presented by the Public Bodies Review Committee will reveal that there are areas of mismanagement and practices that are out of date. However, that will be changed. I am not convinced that the Queensland Treasurer will take the necessary action, because we are not being told how statutory bodies are operated. We have not been granted access through a parliamentary select committee to the quangos in this State. There should be some consistency, for example, with their pricing policies. The pricing and financial management techniques in Victoria that were not co-ordinated have now been co-ordinated. If some bodies are antiquated or counter-productive, sensible money management techniques should be adopted. The Liberal Party is grandstanding on this issue. The member for Mt Gravatt has placed a notice of motion on the Business Paper dealing with the establishment of a select committee to be called the Statutory Authorities Review Committee. Unfortunately I do not believe that it will get off the ground. The Queensland Government will not allow access to the books so that we can determine what is happening. While the present Government rules this State, the public will continue to be misinformed and will not know what they have a right to know.

I suggest that the Treasurer should look closely at the points put forward by the Labor Party with regard to adopting an economic recovery package. He should go to Canberra on 7 December and support the very positive programs that the Labor Premiers have put forward so that, as soon as possible, we can get this State moving again. Although we can use statistics—some of which are a year old—showing how well we have done in the past, the economic downturn has come to Queensland. It is affecting Queenslanders daily. It is time that something was done about it.

Mr MOORE (Windsor) (2.44 p.m.): In rising to speak to the Appropriation Bill, the first thought that comes to my mind is that the most pressing problem that this State and nation faces is unemployment. Encouragement should be given to people who want to work to get them back to work. There should not be any form of posturing or political point-scoring that sometimes takes place at party and joint-party meetings. If our efforts are not directed towards creating work and getting people back to work, there is something wrong with us as a party and as a Government.

In this House, motions are moved for all sorts of stupid reasons. However, I have not yet seen Opposition and Government members get down to tin-tacks and say, "Let us forget our differences. Let us find a way to get the work-force back into production."

The 1929 Depression continued until World War II. At that time, only half the work-force was in employment. The Public Service would not employ married women, and married schoolteachers either resigned or were sacked. In those days, each family had only one bread-winner. However, not all the bread-winners could be given employment until the war came. During the war, a very large number of troops were overseas on a payment of six shillings a day each. That did not impose a great strain on the economy. The people who remained in Australia were able to find work.

There is no more depressing situation than one in which highly trained young people of Senior standard or even higher—some with university degrees—cannot obtain work. They suffer from the non-work syndrome. They lose confidence. It will take a lot to give them confidence again. Our main objective should be to get people back into employment.

Mr Frawley: This might be your last Appropriation Bill.

Mr MOORE: Not if I have anything to do with it. No-one can predict how the people of Windsor will vote. However, I will be there attempting to get back. I have found out from my selection council that I had 100 per cent support of the Liberals

in Windsor. I just hope that that fact is reflected in the results on election day. I will be working at it. If I am to be done, I will be done by the electors. I will not go out of Parliament ignominiously with my tail down. That will not happen to me.

The Government cannot provide all the opportunities for the work-force simply by spending money that is contributed by the taxpayer. What it can do from the taxes that it receives is channel them into creating the best type of work that will absorb the work-force. It is useless directing money into activities that simply rely on vast quantities of overseas equipment. It is important to create jobs that rely on equipment manufactured in this country.

The restoration of Parliament House could, in some ways, be classed as constituting excessive spending. However, for the couple of years or so that the restoration work took, about 400 or 500 workers who were engaged on the project were able to buy their bacon and eggs, their roast dinners, their clothes and their children's school books. As it turned out, their wages were a substitution for the dole. If those men had not been working on this building, they would have been on the dole. They did useful work and were proud of their work. Although, at the beginning, it might have appeared that the expenditure was exorbitant, it turned out that it was the right thing to do.

A person should not receive the dole unless he does some work to earn it. The phrase "There is dignity in work" is used quite a bit. In fact, there is dignity in work. It is soul-destroying for people to seek work and not obtain it.

Some people talk about job enrichment and that sort of tripe. When I left school, it was a case of taking any job. If a person got the sack from one job, he would get another. It may not necessarily have been the job that he wanted, but at least it kept the wolf from the door. In those days there was no unemployment benefit.

Mr Hansen: You learnt to love it.

Mr MOORE: It is a funny thing about work: one gets into a pattern where one really does not mind work. Some people who have retired do not bother to shave, clean their fingernails, polish their shoes or dress up. They are happy to walk round in baggy pants. The mere fact of going to work is a great morale booster for many people.

I think that we have to look at the priorities in this State and ask: What work can we get done for the money? What work is needed? Freeways have been proposed, but nothing has been done about them. I might say that there is some resistance to freeways from people in the areas in which they will be built; but I have never heard anyone say that the freeways that have already been built should be abandoned.

If we are to have a city of worth, we have to provide some means of transport. If we want mobile and flexible transport, not a steel wheel on a steel track, we need a vehicle with rubber tyres. Freeways are needed to get people quickly out of the city.

The construction of freeways results in some devastation. Houses have to be knocked down and houses have to be built in other areas to replace them. That is self-generating. When people are employed they are able to keep the butcher, baker and other people going.

There has been talk of building a pipeline from the Cooper Basin. It is true that if a pipeline is built the steel pipes will not be made in Queensland.

Mr Davis: Why not?

Mr MOORE: Because we do not have the facilities to make them. We would help out Wran and get some of his unemployed back to work. After all, although we might be Queenslanders, we are also Australians.

Dr Edwards: Mr Wran needs a lot of help.

Mr MOORE: He needs it badly. He thinks that things can be done merely by talking about them. He does not ask, "Can we afford them?"

The whole question comes down to the capacity of industry to pay. It is no good anyone saying, "Prices have gone up, so I now have to get a 10 per cent pay rise." If a person working for a plumber or a carpenter says, "I want a 10 per cent pay rise" and his employer does not have sufficient work to make the profit necessary to pay that extra 10 per cent, it will not be long before the employee has worked himself out of a job.

That is a single instance, but it highlights the absurdity of a court deciding on increases without taking into account the total effects on the economy. Wages should vary to blazes. Some people would have employees if those employees accepted the money that the employers could afford to pay. However, if the court makes an award at a certain rate, the employers say, "I just can't afford to pay that much."

When I was a young bloke, people worked on farms for not much money—a pound or 25 shillings a week and keep. The property owner was able to afford that much. But what happened when awards were made to cover primary industries? At one time Aborigines were employed on a low rate of pay and the grazier fed the Aborigine's wife, grandfather, grandmother, uncle and aunt. However, when the Station Hands Award was varied to cover them, the Aborigine was put out of business. That is virtually what is happening in the wider community. We are pricing ourselves out of the employment market simply because we haven't got the nous to learn from the old saying, "You can't get a quart out of a pint-pot."

What of the jobs still to be done? Electrification of the railways is still to be completed. That is quite labour intensive. I would like to think that more of the equipment was made in Queensland instead of electric motors being imported from Germany and Japan. There comes a time when the nation should aim for self-sufficiency. Our Railway Department is virtually running a tramway on 3 ft 6 in gauge when it should be the standard gauge of 4 ft 8½ ins. There is no reason in the world why we should not be laying a third rail so that eventually there is a standard gauge railway from one end of Australia to the other.

If we want to understand why so many people are unemployed, we should look at our history. Thomas Dixon and various other footwear manufacturers have gradually gone out of business. We used to see Bedggood shoes and Footrest shoes made by Thomas Dixon. Before long, Thomas Dixon was out of business. The same thing happened to Morris shoes and many others. The result is that there is no small manufacturing industry left in Queensland. Our textile mills have gone. Our woollen mills have virtually gone. At one time the Ipswich woollen mills were a great pride to us. The normal attire was an Ipswich flannel. The old Jacky Howe singlet was an Ipswich flannel shirt with the arms cut out of it.

Our friend the Prime Minister says, "Let us have more free trade. Take away tariff protection and reduce restrictions on imports from overseas." I wonder how effective that would be when South East Asia now has high technology. The people who make transistor radios and a wide range of electronic gear in that area would, if they worked in this country, be considered as dilutees or semi-skilled people. In Malaysia, when a young lady comes into a factory she is given 100 pieces of copper wire about an inch long, a soldering iron and a little piece of solder. She is told, "This is the way you solder. Heat it up, give it a little touch of solder and build a little house. Tomorrow you can make a boat."

For a week or two that woman gets some expertise in soldering and the week after that she is capable of making a transistor radio. What happens in Australia is that people say that a dilutee cannot do that type of job; it is a tradesman's job. The idea seems to be: one man, one job. People must have all the skills and qualifications to become tradesmen, even though they are not using all of them. A truck driver who has to carry gravel will not use a shovel for loading and unloading; he demands to have another person with him to do that.

Mr Davis: Where is that?

Mr MOORE: That is in the Brisbane City Council and everywhere else. The honourable member knows that.

To some extent, lines of demarcation are killing the country. I do not suggest the total abandonment of lines of demarcation, but it is ridiculous to have one person working and another sitting on his backside watching him. That is totally uneconomic.

Mr Hooper: There are very obvious lines of demarcation between the National Party and Liberal Party members of this House.

Mr MOORE: Yes, there would be, because the National Party is a rural-based party that looks after that section of the community very well, whereas the Liberal Party looks after the working man, who has now been abandoned by the ALP. The ALP has been devastated. As local opinion polls show, its stocks have never been so low.

I return to the subject of import restrictions and tariff protection. My view is that charity begins at home and that the first thing to be done is to look after Australians. A person can go to a store such as Woolworths and purchase for only \$9 a complicated piece of electronic gear such as a digital watch. The insides can be taken out of that case and put into another case, which can then be sold for \$80. It is the same product, the only difference being in the appearance of the case.

Mr Hooper: It is like putting Corio into a Glenfiddich bottle.

Mr MOORE: I do not know anything about whisky.

For that to happen, overseas countries must be dumping their goods here. It is not happening merely to kill Australian trade. It is happening because those countries need Australian dollars for their balance of payments so that they can afford to buy our coal and other articles. The production of coal for export is not labour-intensive. The industry is highly mechanised and, although some overseas countries buy millions of dollars' worth of coal, it does not provide a great deal of employment. In return, Australia buys small manufactured articles from overseas that are the product of a very labour-intensive industry. The stage has arrived when third-world countries are virtually employing most of their work-force while many Australian workers are on the dole.

I recently purchased a little bit of land near Killarney, and I have mixed with a group of people up there. Many of them would like to employ more people, but they cannot afford to pay the sort of money that is now considered a proper wage. However, the very people whom they cannot afford to employ are on the dole. It is only reasonable that if people employ somebody who would otherwise be on the dole, they should receive a Government subsidy equal to the dole payment. As I said earlier, there is dignity in work, and the people who are provided with employment gain confidence in themselves.

Mr Hooper: The honourable member for Cooroora used to employ some of those people on his property for 30 bob a week and keep them hungry.

Mr SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order. The ruddy-faced gentleman from Archerfield is, as usual, incorrect. It is just as well that he does not speak off the top of his head. If he did, there would be a vacuum. His remarks are inaccurate. I have employed, and still do employ people who are dedicated to me. I ask the honourable member to withdraw the remarks.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will withdraw the remark.

Mr Hooper: I am not in my correct seat, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member had better get there quickly, and he will then withdraw immediately.

Mr HOOPER: I withdraw.

Mr MOORE: The point of order taken by the honourable member for Cooroora simply deprived me of two minutes of my allotted time. It is a disgrace that there should be a request for a withdrawal of something said in jest, although the sad part—

Mr Hooper: The truth always hurts.

Mr MOORE: It does not hurt; but smiles cannot be shown in "Hansard", so that is probably a fair enough reason for the honourable member to take a point of order.

In relation to getting people back into the work-force, the honourable member for Isis said by way of interjection that the process is self-generating and that the Federal Government would benefit from increased taxes and would not have to pay out money in unemployment benefits. Increased profits bring an increase in tax revenue, which makes possible the construction of bigger and better hospitals.

There has been some talk about the introduction of a wage freeze as a palliative for the present downturn in the economy. Why now? There has been a recession for some years and it has gradually worsened into a depression. The longer a recession lasts, the worse it gets; it, too, is self-generating. But if a wage freeze is the answer now, then it was the answer years ago. I have referred before to talk of voluntary restraint and said that if that is the answer, why should there not be compulsory restraint? Ever since I became a member of this Assembly, there has been talk of voluntary restraint for this, that and the other problem. If it can be done voluntarily, it can be done compulsorily.

I do not go along with the idea of a wage freeze, because somewhere along the line it just does not work. I criticise the arbitration system. If the Industrial Commission hands out a wage rise when an industry does not have the capacity to pay, it makes a sad mistake. If the unions go on strike and stay out until the situation reaches the stage of blackmail and the company eventually pays up and there is then a flow-on, that does not help either. As has been said in relation to the road toll, it probably comes down to each and every one of us having to play his small part.

Mr Underwood: Did you ever go on strike?

Mr MOORE: Of course I did. When I was employed in the Railway Department in 1948, I went on strike for nine weeks. I did not vote to go back, and I would never have gone back.

Mr Hooper: Tell us about that fellow who clocked you down at the Gabba.

Mr MOORE: I have been clocked a few times. But when one is a Tory in the trade union movement, one is just asking for it; one is leading with one's chin.

Mr Hooper: Did you mix it?

Mr MOORE: I mixed it, but one cannot always win.

There are many things that the State can do about unemployment. However, if a decision is made to introduce schemes to generate employment, I do not want to see anybody employed digging holes and filling them in again. That does not do a thing for the economy, nor does it do anything for the souls of the men and women who are asked to do that type of work in order to earn money.

There is a need to improve hospital conditions. One has only to go to the children's ward at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and see the desperate cases to realise that much better facilities could be provided to enable parents to stay with young children suffering from leukemia and similar diseases. Money could be well spent in those areas.

Money would be far better spent on hospitals, schools, wharves and bridges than in bowing to the blackmail of schoolteachers for smaller class sizes. I do not mean that money should never be spent on lowering class sizes, but at present money should be spent on getting more people working in the construction industry. I have been told that the Government's approach is wrong, that during a war money is available. In wartime, emergency legislation is introduced to prevent strikes and force people to work where they are needed. People will accept rationing and other restrictions in wartime, but they would throw out any Government which introduced such measures in peace-time. If we were to introduce such measures we would be thrown out and, if any incoming Government followed suit, it, too, would be thrown out.

Despite the present unemployment situation, many people cannot get labouring work done. Men will sit on a tractor or use a machine to dig post holes, but it is impossible to get anyone to build a few miles of fencing in rough country. I have been trying to get a little bit of fencing done, but no-one is willing to do the work.

Mr Davis: I am not available this week-end, either.

Mr MOORE: I understand that.

Men will not do physical work, such as digging post holes.

Mr Scott: The Liberal electors in Windsor did not think you were putting too much effort into your job, either.

Mr MOORE: Quite to the contrary. If the honourable member had been in the Chamber earlier he would have heard me say that I had 100 per cent support in Windsor. I get a big A-plus, not a B-minus.

People may ask, "Given the powers of a Prime Minister or a dictator, how would you overcome the problem?". With interest rates running at 15 or 16 per cent, the inflation rate cannot be lowered. It is said that interest rates cannot be lowered because that would stop the inflow of capital. What a lot of poppycock! We advance money to people in rural industries at low rates of interest—perhaps they are not as low as they should be—but, at best, they make five per cent on capital. No home owner should pay more than five per cent interest on his home loan. People are finding that after paying off a home for 10 years they owe just as much as when they established the loan. That is devastating. In those circumstances, they will not buy houses.

If the Government is trying to stimulate the work-force, surely the first thing it should do is lower the interest rates so that more houses can be built.

Mr DAVIS (Brisbane Central) (3.14 p.m.): In this very important debate I intend to raise a number of matters that are worthy of comment.

I congratulate the new Opposition Treasury spokesman (Mr Fouras) on a fine and well balanced presentation this afternoon. I hope and pray that the Treasurer takes notice of what he said. He stated that he recently visited New South Wales and Victoria, two of the most progressive States in the Commonwealth. He brought back a list of the matters that their Premiers and the Premier of South Australia would put forward at the Premiers Conference on 7 December.

During the debate the member for Windsor made a statement concerning the proposed pipeline from the Jackson oilfield. He said that it was a good idea to construct a pipeline from the Jackson oilfield to the east coast. He said that the line would probably be built in New South Wales. It would be very good if it were. The pipes for the Moonie pipeline were built by Japanese labour and the same situation will obviously apply if the proposed pipeline is built in Queensland.

Mr Frawley: Are you a racist?

Mr DAVIS: I am not a racist. The member for Caboolture would well know that I am one person in this Chamber who is certainly not a racist.

The Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer recently visited Korea and Japan. The Premier came back to our shores and mouthed his usual propaganda. There is always to be a new bank or an oil-to-coal liquefaction scheme. This time he came back with two or three schemes.

Mr Prentice: You can't make coal out of oil.

Mr DAVIS: Or vice versa. We are lucky to have so many engineering experts in this House.

The Premier brought back some magnificent schemes. However they will never come to fruition. I am amazed that we have not heard one comment from the Treasurer concerning the discussion that he had with the Koreans about the Ord River sugar scheme. Obviously they were telling him one thing and at the same time were selling out our greatest primary industry and half our secondary industries. The Koreans probably think that the Premier and the Treasurer are two of the greatest mugs who ever went overseas.

Mr Hooper: Did you realise that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer has been to Korea nine times?

Mr DAVIS: It is an interesting exercise. It is something that Opposition members have discussed on a number of occasions.

Why does the Treasurer have to go overseas to Japan at enormous cost? The last time that he went to Korea, the member for Rockhampton (Mr Wright) raised the matter of a private travel agency purchasing the tickets. Thousands of dollars are spent each time the Treasurer goes overseas. Any departmental head could sign a loan form. However, the Treasurer goes overseas and comes back big-noting himself and says that we are progressing. Over the years, the Queensland Government has adopted Fraserism.

It is interesting to examine what the Treasurer said during his speech. He said that the unemployment rate in Queensland reached 7.1 per cent in October 1982 whereas, for Australia as a whole, it was well above Queensland at 7.8 per cent.

The Treasurer, in referring to percentages, talks about decimal points. Little does he realise that in Queensland there are more than 100 000 unemployed people. But that is typical of the attitude of the Treasurer and the Tory Government. The Queensland Government's economic principles are the same as those of Mrs Thatcher, Mr Reagan and Mr Fraser. No wonder Queensland is in such disorder!

I want to make a comment that I am sure the Treasurer will reply to. As the Liberal Treasurer is doing so well in this State—

Dr Edwards: Thank you very much.

Mr DAVIS: These are the Treasurer's words, not mine.

As the Treasurer claims to be doing so well, I point out to him that a Morgan Gallup poll figure released on Wednesday shows that only 20 per cent of the people of Queensland think that the Liberal Party is doing well. If, as the Treasurer claims, he is doing so well, why do only 20 per cent of Queenslanders agree with him?

Dr Edwards: You are worried about it, aren't you?

Mr DAVIS: No, I am not worried; I am simply stating a fact. That is the figure, and the Treasurer might like to try to contradict it.

I must take this opportunity to divert from economics for a moment, even though I know that the Treasurer would like me to spend all my time discussing economics.

Government Members interjected.

Mr DAVIS: We have come to expect laughter from the jackasses on the Government side. My record is on the board. I have shown that I am a successful businessman and a successful administrator. I am not like some of the Government members, whose business expertise is nil.

As I have asked time and time again, whom do the small businessmen come to see? They certainly do not come to see the Government, which has more or less killed them off—there are more bankruptcies in Queensland than anywhere else—and they certainly do not come to see the Liberal members. They come to see members of the Opposition.

Government Members interjected.

Mr DAVIS: I can assure the House that the honourable member for Archerfield is one member who supports small business, just as all Opposition members do.

Mrs Nelson: You are blushing.

Mr DAVIS: I am pleased to see the honourable member for Aspley in the House. I shall mention her later.

I want to show honourable members how badly the Government treats this Parliament. Every Government member who visits the House of Commons at Westminster comes back to Queensland lauding the role of the House of Commons and the Westminster system.

Mr Frawley interjected.

Mr DAVIS: The reason why the honourable member for Caboolture has not visited the House of Commons is that he is not bright enough to know who are the right people.

As I was saying, Government members who visit the House of Commons praise the Westminster system. That is particularly so of members of the Liberal Party. There is a reason for that. The members of the National Party understand what their party is about. They prefer to support the Premier and his dictator-style of Government. They like to say to the general public that the Liberal Party is a party of democracy.

I have with me some of the statements that the Liberal Party uses at election-time. This is the policy that the leader of the Liberal Party gave when he said to the people, "Give the Liberals the numbers." Of course, we know that the people did not give them the numbers. I can see the member for Toowong waiting anxiously to hear the policy.

I do not know whether he and the member for Mt Gravatt wrote it. I know that the members of the National Party have not read the policy of the Liberal Party, but they will be able to do so tomorrow. The policy states—

“The Liberal Party also believes that the people of Queensland must play an active and vital role in the process of Government which must be the servant of the people and not an aloof and unconcerned master. For democracy to be effective Parliament must be effective, and for this reason the Liberal Party believes that there is a need to continually review Parliamentary procedures to ensure that members can, as representatives of the people, make a substantial and continuing contribution to the processes of Government.”

They are good words; they have been well put together.

Dr Edwards: Do you agree with them?

Mr DAVIS: I agree with them 100 per cent. That is the second part of the Liberal Party policy with which I agree. The policy continues—

“The Liberal Party also declares that the essential elements of a democratic system are as follows:

1. The constitutional monarchy as defined within the Westminster System as a symbol of unity, continuity and tradition.
2. The maintenance of the Rule of Law through an independent judiciary.
3. The Parliament in which the sovereignty of the people is the essential base and to which Cabinet as the executive arm of Government is accountable.
4. An informed and effective Parliamentary Opposition with full freedom of expression.”

Dr Edwards: Good.

Mr DAVIS: The Deputy Premier and Treasurer agrees with that.

Mr Frawley: This is a good Parliament until you get up to speak.

Mr DAVIS: The member for Caboolture should listen to what I am saying about his friends and colleagues in the Liberal Party. Honourable members may be wondering where I obtained this document. The member for Caboolture asked me, “Would you mind raising one or two matters?” I asked, “Where do I get one of those documents?” He said, “I have a stack of them.” Just for the record—I rubbed his name off the front on the document.

The policy continues—

“Therefore the Liberal Party believes that the Parliament must fulfil these obligations, and as well serve as a forum for the enactment of legislation, the questioning and accountability of the executive and the debate of major issues of public concern.”

I emphasise those words “questioning and accountability of the executive”.

I have taken note of what has happened in this Parliament since it was opened on 3 August. Sixty-nine Dorothy Dix questions have been asked in this Chamber.

Dr Edwards: Sixty-eight were asked by the Labor Party.

Mr DAVIS: That is 69 apart from any that we raised in our questions.

Mrs Nelson: Do you mean there were more?

Mr DAVIS: The member for Aspley is well up amongst the culprits.

Mr Powell: Your blokes aren't laughing.

Mr DAVIS: I am glad that the member for Isis is in the Chamber. We have had our differences of opinion. There was the time when he leaked the Budget papers and I had to criticise him. Now we are back as friends and wave to each other. I don't hold any grudges against his leaking those 81 documents.

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order. It has been proven that I did not leak any Budget documents. I take offence at the remarks and ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller). Order! The honourable member for Isis asks for a withdrawal.

Mr DAVIS: By all means, I will retract what the member asks.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Without equivocation.

Mr DAVIS: Without equivocation, of course.

I am glad that the member for Isis is in the Chamber. I said to myself, "What will I raise today in the debate on the Appropriation Bill?" I wanted some evidence about these Dorothy Dix questions. Guess what I found in "The Courier-Mail" in the "Day by Day" column by Des Partridge? It gives full credit to the member for Isis, our budding Cabinet hope.

Mr Gygar: You are just jealous.

Mr DAVIS: No, I am not jealous. This is what Des Partridge reports of the statement by the member for Isis—

"Naturally, members of the Government parties are not usually trying to embarrass a Minister or the Government, so the questions asked by Government members are usually ones which will enable a well-informed Minister the opportunity of presenting a Government decision in a good light."

Mr Powell points out further that sometimes there is a matter of importance for which the customary 24-hour advance notice cannot be given.

"In such a case, the member asking the question will privately notify the Minister that the question is to be asked so that the Minister has some warning."

The other day we saw the Minister for Main Roads (Mr Hinze) go straight over to one of the back-benchers and hand him a question. Des Partridge continues—

"I repeat: It is not the place of a Government backbencher to try to embarrass a Minister."

Not, of course, if a backbencher wants to get to be a Minister."

Fair enough. That is how politics operate. That is how National Party politics operate.

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is quoting from an article that is not accurate. The journalist could not even spell my name correctly. His argument to the House is wrong and I ask him to recognise that.

Mr DAVIS: What is he talking about?

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

Mr DAVIS: I knew there was no point of order.

Mr Austin interjected.

Mr DAVIS: I am glad that the Minister for Health is in the Chamber. Perhaps the Minister for Health might like to know what his rating is, as a result of my research of the 69 Dorothy Dix questions asked by Government members.

Mr Austin: I would have no Dorothy Dix questions.

Mr DAVIS: With due respect to the Minister for Health, it is well known on the Government back benches that he has told member after member on that side, "If you want a question answered, give me notice or forget about the question for the day."

Mrs Nelson: He doesn't answer questions. He makes statements.

Mr DAVIS: The member for Aspley will verify that, I am sure.

Mr Austin: "Hansard" can't record laughter.

Mr DAVIS: That's fair enough, but the public will later—at least, they will on my copy!

At the top of the list of Dorothy Dix questions is the Premier. Out of the 69, he had 13.

Mrs NELSON: I rise to a point of order. The member for Brisbane Central is making allegations that the Minister for Health has prompted me to ask questions in the House. I ask him to withdraw those remarks as they are inaccurate and false. I would like an unreserved withdrawal.

Mr DAVIS: There is no point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw that statement.

Mr DAVIS: I withdraw.

Mr HOOPER: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, can a member of Parliament take a point of order on behalf of another member?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! No member of Parliament can take a point of order on behalf of another member. The honourable member for Aspley took a point of order on her own behalf because the honourable member for Brisbane Central alleged that she had asked Dorothy Dix questions.

Mr DAVIS: The Premier had 13. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer (Dr Edwards), who is well-known for this sort of subterfuge, had 11 such questions asked of him.

Mr Austin: What was my rating?

Mr DAVIS: I am sorry that I could not record the statistics for the May sittings; my biro ran out. In this sittings the Minister has had only four; he was away for half of the time.

The Minister for Transport, who is a well-known Dorothy Dixer from way back, had seven. The surprising point is that it is the Liberal Ministers who are in front.

Mr Austin: Can you tell us how you judge them to be Dorothy Dix questions?

Mr DAVIS: I sit here day after day and keep a close watch on proceedings. First of all I see Ministers go over to a back-bench member such as the honourable member for Aspley and say, "Look, would you mind asking a question of me?" She may go to the Minister and say, "I would like to ask a question on health matters." That is how questions are given the tag "Dorothy Dix".

Mr Austin: What about the ones I see the Minister for Transport slip you?

Mr DAVIS: I can assure the House that the Minister for Transport has never slipped me any Dorothy Dixers. That would be the day!

Now that I have mentioned the Ministers who receive Dorothy Dix questions, I feel that I should give a guide to form on the stars of the back-bench who ask the Dorothy Dix questions. Right at the top is the member for Sherwood. I do not know why Ian Miller would ask the member for Sherwood about question-time or about parliamentary reform but the following was reported in the Press—

"He was joined in his call by the Liberal member for Sherwood, Mr Angus Innes, who said: 'Some of the questions on notice are so parochial and they are put there by some members just so they'll get coverage in their local rag.

'Goodness... we've been down the roads and gutters, tuck shops, and lavatories of some of those electorates so many times.

'And yesterday we had the ultimate stupidity of people in the gallery listening to questions without answers...'"

Like the member for Sherwood, the members for Mt Gravatt, Toowong, Aspley and, of course, the assassinator from Stafford ask quite a number of Dorothy Dix questions. Since honourable members have asked for their ratings, I will have to give them. The member for Toowong has asked six Dorothy Dix questions.

Mr Prentice: That is not true.

Mr DAVIS: It is true. I have checked them because on many occasions he was thanked by the Minister for asking them.

The member for Mt Gravatt has asked four and the member for Sherwood, five.

Mr PRENTICE: I rise to a point of order. If the honourable member is going to give ratings that relate to me which are incorrect, then he should tell the House how many Dorothy Dix questions he has asked. I have heard him do it time and time again.

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

Mr DAVIS: That was a time-consuming and time-wasting point of order.

Mr Borbidge interjected.

Mr DAVIS: Before I go any further I cannot let the giggling hyena from Surfers Paradise escape.

Mr Austin: Why don't you table the document?

Mr DAVIS: The Minister can have it later if he wants it.

The member for Surfers Paradise is screaming out like a little boy who has yet to get his first kiss. He has asked in a plaintive voice, "What about me?" I will give him the medal. He was right near the top of the National Party list with five. The only reason he did not go higher on the list was that he did not have enough turns. To be honest, I must say that the member for Surfers Paradise has asked nothing but Dorothy Dix questions.

Mr BORBRIDGE: I rise to a point of order. The last statement made by the honourable member is completely untrue, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! The honourable member asks that the statement be withdrawn.

Mr DAVIS: I withdraw the statement that he did not like.

Dr Edwards: What about something on economics?

Mr DAVIS: I am glad that the Treasurer asked me that question, because unless we have a fair dinkum Parliament here that we can all look up to we will not have a democracy. Although we might have had a bit of laughter in the last few minutes, the simple facts of life are that this Parliament is undemocratic. Those who should be criticised even more than members of the National Party are the Liberals. Half of them would not know how the Parliament operates, while the other half go through the motions of getting into Cabinet. They will not rock the boat. Time and time again the Treasurer asks the people of Queensland to give him the numbers, but they will not do so.

All honourable members will recall the three-year period before the member for Wavell became Minister for Health. He was one of the great democrats until he got his behind on the plush cushions of the ministerial benches. He now has his big LTD motor vehicle, so he will not rock the boat. He does not want to give up anything he has gained.

The simple fact is that we do not have a Parliament that we can look up to, one that debates the issues fairly and squarely. We do not have the standing committees that we have been promised time and time again. So we do not have a democracy, and if we do not have that, that is the end of everything.

I want to make a brief comment about the way in which the Deputy Premier and Treasurer (Dr Edwards) has handled the State's finances. Being fair and non-political, I must say that he has been hopeless. His organisation has been pitiful. In an attempt to be fair, I say with all due respect that of the four Treasurers whom I have had anything to do with he would rate zero.

Mr POWELL (Isis) (3.43 p.m.): The comedy hour is now over and we will get back to debating some of the issues that are of great importance to this State. I cannot imagine how any person who calls himself a member of Parliament could stand in his place in the Chamber for 30 minutes and act the fool as the honourable member for Brisbane Central did and expect to have the respect of the people of this State.

I will repeat the aside I made earlier about question-time. The article that appeared in today's "Courier-Mail" shows clearly why members of Parliament criticise the media. If the article had faithfully reported what was said, it would have been to the effect that

I was criticising the members of the Labor Party because they do not use the opportunity that is available in this Chamber to them to question the Government. I was making the point, I think fairly succinctly—probably that is what the reporter, and certainly the person from whom he got his information in the first place, did not like—that during question-time in this Assembly Government members are, naturally, seeking information about their own electorates and about Government policy, and that the Ministers who are efficient are able to project themselves and give informative answers.

Opposition members whinge to the media about question-time not being used as they think it ought to be used. They then put question after question on notice. In fact, the very day that the honourable member for Lytton whinged to the newspapers about questions not being answered to his liking, his leader and every other Opposition member who followed him put every question on notice.

If honourable members opposite had half a brain, they would continually ask searching questions without notice of Ministers. But every time they do ask questions without notice, they get belted around the ears. When they ask the Premier questions without notice, he knocks them out of the ring; when they ask the Deputy Premier questions without notice, he gives them a belting. And so it goes on down through Cabinet. Opposition members are simply incompetent.

The honourable member for Brisbane Central said that when Parliament does not work as a democratic body, democracy is dead. He was correct in saying that. But this Parliament works as a democratic body. In the 30 minutes before I began my speech, he had an opportunity to speak about the economic situation and what the Government should be doing about it. Instead of doing that, he wasted his time, allegedly giving us the number of questions members had asked. I have no intention of wasting my time on that. The Bill before the House is important and members should debate it rather than make humorous speeches. They should be debating how to keep the State and the nation on the rails and progressing.

Yesterday, in the debate on matters of public interest, I used figures that have not been challenged. Those accurate figures should be brought to the fore for the benefit of the people of Queensland. The Budget allocates \$1,000m for job creation works through the Department of Main Roads, the Queensland Water Resources Commission and the Housing Commission. The Government will be spending that money to create employment.

The honourable member for Brisbane Central said that 100 000 Queenslanders are out of work. The number out of work is approximately 69 000. His figure was inflated by about 30 per cent. An examination of the statements made time and again by members of the Labor Party reveals that all they can do is preach gloom and doom and try to push people into depression and recession.

Mr Lee: It suits their purpose.

Mr POWELL: Of course it does.

Members of the Labor Party are determined, and, through the Labor Party, some of the unions are determined, to push Australia into a situation in which people will depend entirely on the Government for a living. If that is not socialism or Communism, I do not know what is. That is what they are trying to force on the nation. They do not talk about the thousands of people who have jobs or the thousands who are using their initiative to get jobs.

The honourable member for Brisbane Central referred also to small business. Today, the small businessmen in Australia do not support the Labor Party because they know what it will do for them.

Mr Davis: Rubbish!

Mr POWELL: That is exactly what the Labor Party will do for them: it will rubbish them to such an extent that they will be forced out of business. State Labor Governments are forcing small businesses to the wall by their high-tax policies.

The National and Liberal Parties in Queensland, under the excellent stewardship of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and his staff, have ensured that Queensland is the lowest-taxed State in Australia. How often do Opposition members give the

Government credit for Queensland's being the lowest-taxed State? Because that is so, the individual Queenslander has more money to spend.

The honourable member for Windsor spoke about how the dole should be used. What he said was completely correct. People should not depend on the State to give them money when they are out of work. In the first place, they are out of work because of economic conditions created artificially by those who are pushing up wages and preventing Australia from competing with other countries.

This nation must learn that lesson. With a population of only 15 million, we do not have a large enough consumer body to purchase all the manufactured goods that we can possibly make. Therefore, we must be an exporting nation. That applies to primary and secondary products. The sugar industry in Queensland and New South Wales is the most efficient sugar industry in the world. As the honourable member for Cooroora reminds me, it produces the best quality sugar in the world. Why are people being put out of work as farm labourers in the sugar industry? Simply because the world price of sugar is so low that it is now half the cost of production. Farmers just cannot afford to maintain people in employment.

In Bundaberg, Versatile Toft and Massey-Ferguson have put off 400 workers because the cane harvesters manufactured by those firms are not cost competitive with harvesters manufactured overseas. They are the best cane harvesters in the world, but they are not cost competitive. They are not cost competitive because of the high cost of labour, steel and technology. That is the message that we must get across to the people of this nation. While we have a Federal Government that keeps pandering to the International Labour Organization and big unions, we will never succeed. Everyone will have to wake up to the fact that we cannot afford to live in the lap of luxury and at the same time pay people for doing nothing. It is impossible for us to do that.

I will return to my comments about the cane harvester manufacturers in Bundaberg. Last year, the Federal Government paid the New Guinea Government approximately \$283 million in foreign aid. The Federal leaders and members pat themselves on the back, thump their chests and tell everyone what a wonderful, magnanimous Government it is. It is giving so much foreign aid to other nations! What happens to our own workers and our own nation? Because Versatile Toft has lost a contract to New Guinea, it has to put Australian workers out of work. The Federal Government should buy the cane harvesters from Versatile Toft and give them to the New Guinea Government as foreign aid. The West German Government provides foreign aid in that way. That is why the New Guinea Government purchased Klass cane harvesters for their Ramu Valley sugar product. If that is not the worst thing that we could do, I do not know what is.

We have the capacity to produce the best manufactured articles and primary industry products in the world. However, the Federal Government turns around and gives money to overseas nations as foreign aid instead of giving them goods. The doctrinaire people in Canberra must be convinced that the present system should cease.

I wish to carry on from what the honourable member for Windsor said about the dole. People in manufacturing industries are being put out of work. There is nothing more soul-destroying than a person being put out of work, having to get the dole and doing nothing for it. The majority of people on the dole would get out of that situation yesterday—if they could. The Federal Government should distribute that amount of money to State Governments, or to businesses to encourage the employment of people by those businesses. Every member in this Parliament could talk about numerous job creation projects that should be under way in his electorate. I have a long list of projects that could be carried out in the Bundaberg, Childers, Woodgate and Hervey Bay areas. A tremendous amount of work needs to be done in the national park on Fraser Island. Work needs to be carried out on the small boat harbour at Urangan. A good deal of work needs to be carried out on the small boat harbour at Burnett Heads, which is in the electorate of my colleague the member for Burnett.

Money that is being used to pay the dole could be used to employ people to work on those labour-intensive projects. Beautification works and the extension of a boat ramp involve some capital cost, but they also involve a labour cost. That is the type of work on which money should be spent.

The Federal Government would soon recoup the cost. It would get money back by way of taxes. It would get money back because people who earn money spend money. When people spend money, other jobs are created.

Mr Scott: Will you tell us why your Government is not doing that?

Mr POWELL: The answer is a very simple one; it is a Federal Government responsibility and decision. If the Queensland Government could do that, it would be doing it. However, the Federal Government prefers to spend thousands of millions of dollars on the dole. If it chooses not to spend money in the manner I have suggested, there is not a thing that the Queensland Government can do about it. For the life of me, I cannot understand why National Party members in the Federal Government cannot see their way clear to do it. They say they cannot do it because Mr Whitlam, as Prime Minister of Australia, signed an International Labour Organization agreement. I know what I would do with the agreement; it is not worth the paper it is written on.

Dr Lockwood: Do the Cubans get paid as much as our workers?

Mr POWELL: Of course not, yet they work longer hours. However, their standard of living is not as high as ours. I do not think any of us would like to see in Queensland the type of situation that prevails in Cuba. The fact of the matter is that Australia has to come to its senses and recognise exactly where and how money should be spent.

The Queensland Government's record is a proud one. The last Budget provided for the expenditure of \$1,000m on job-creation projects. As a result, 4 300 professional people—teachers, nurses and police officers—will be employed. The Budget will directly increase the number of persons in employment, and it will indirectly increase the number of persons needed in employment to support those persons. The State Government is doing everything possible to create employment. I am bitterly disappointed that the Federal Government will not see its way clear to follow our example.

From an answer given to me this morning by the Minister for Works and Housing I am delighted to learn that in 1982-83 12 Housing Commission homes have already been completed in Bundaberg and a further five are planned. Queensland faces a housing crisis, and builders are out of work. Today I received a letter from the Minister for Works and Housing indicating that a builder in Hervey Bay had been given a contract to build two Housing Commission homes in that area. The Queensland Government is doing everything it can to keep people in employment. However, the economy of the nation is governed from Canberra. That is the unpleasant aspect from the nation's point of view.

Mr Scott: Around about June next year there will be a change of Government down there and things will be all right.

Mr POWELL: If there is a change of Government in Canberra next year, Australia will be well and truly down the path towards doom and destruction. A future Labor Government would adopt exactly the same policies as those of a previous Labor Government. Those policies got Australia into the mess in the first place. It is only by taking bold and wise initiatives that Australia will get out of its present plight. Opposition members who represent the trade unions must convince those unions that the workers cannot have their cake and eat it too.

A short time ago I mentioned the job-creation projects that are being undertaken by the Queensland Government and some that should be undertaken. One thing that disappoints me is the drop in subsidies from 33½ to 20 per cent for capital works associated with youth clubs. I speak particularly of the scout and guide movements. I would hope that all members have some appreciation of the work that is done in the community by the scout and guide organisations. Those two organisations—they could be wrapped up as one organisation as far as philosophy is concerned—are the best organisations that have ever been established. They teach young people self-reliance, citizenship and the way to behave in the community. That is why some doctrinaire people do not like them.

I am disappointed that the subsidy that is paid on buildings constructed by those organisations has been dropped to 20 per cent. If that subsidy could be increased to 50 per cent, it would create jobs.

Those voluntary organisations need assistance. All the leaders in the scout and guide movements are volunteers. They give their time for nothing. They work very hard to raise funds to build dens and other buildings to assist in the training of young people. As I say, I would like to see the subsidy on such buildings increased from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

At this time I am not asking that the subsidy be increased for sporting bodies that hold a liquor licence. I do not believe that we should increase the assistance given to those clubs; but we should be doing something for the scout and guide organisations.

Another way in which the Government could help those organisations would be to advance some money, in the form of grants, to allow for the full-time employment of officers. Other countries employ scout leaders. I do not want to see all scout leaders employed on a full-time basis, but those leaders who travel round the State to assist with training programs ought to be paid. This Government could well provide a subsidy to help scout and guide associations conduct leader-training programs throughout the State.

One other matter that I would like to mention in the welfare area is women's shelters.

Mr Davis: What has this got to do with appropriation? Get on to appropriation.

Mr POWELL: If the member for Brisbane Central would just listen instead of letting the brain that he has just rattle, he would see that it has a lot to do with appropriation.

The Government meets 87½ per cent of the costs of running all women's shelters in Queensland, and 75 per cent of the costs of capital works associated with those shelters. I am sick and tired of Opposition members getting up in this Chamber and castigating the Government for not doing enough in the welfare area. The philosophy that the Government adopts towards women's shelters is ideal.

I shall mention the women's shelter in Bundaberg, of which I am the trustee. The people there are very dedicated and they work very hard for that organisation. They deserve the credit of the community for what they do, but, unfortunately, they do not always receive it. As I say, the Government meets 87½ per cent of the total costs of running women's shelters. I think that it is right and proper that the other 12½ per cent of the costs should be met by the community, because it cannot be allowed to ignore its responsibilities in the welfare field.

In the welfare field, people say, "The Government has got to do it." When are people going to realise that the Government has only the money that comes from the taxpayers? It is like the dog chasing its tail. The money that the Government obtains comes from the taxpayers and is spent on community projects for the taxpayers. Some people sit back and say, "They have got to do it." Who are "they"? "They" are the people who pay the taxes. The sooner that people understand that there must be significant community involvement in welfare projects, the better.

That leads me to another philosophical issue on the payment and spending of taxes. In some of the organised countries in the world, the taxes for schools, police, ambulance, and so on are collected by local authorities. In other words, the local authority collects the taxes for all of those things and is responsible for the payment of that money to those organisations. It is responsible also for the hiring and firing of personnel. It is all done on a local basis. There seems to me to be something wrong in Australia when we have a centralised tax-gathering organisation—the Federal Taxation Department—and we all call upon the Federal Government for funds. Would it not be better if the Federal Government were to raise a certain amount of money to cater for its responsibilities, if the State Governments were to raise money for their needs and if the local authorities were to spend their money where it is collected, so that the individual who had the responsibility for paying his tax could see how the money was appropriated? When major funds are expended on a school, a hospital or a police station, for example, the local community knows what that expenditure is and how much has to be contributed towards its upkeep. It is important that we use our taxes to the best effect. We will be able to do that only if we are able to make people understand how funds are being spent and exactly their responsibility in providing them.

The National Party has a policy for a flat tax, which I support fully.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr POWELL: Of course I support it fully. Any person who does not support it fully has to be ignoring the facts.

The more money that a person has in his pocket, the more he will spend, with the result that consumer-oriented works will flourish—manufactured goods, services, tourist operators, and so on. Under a flat tax, people would work harder and have more money in their pockets.

Mr Frawley: What about the low-wage earners? They could end up paying more tax.

Mr POWELL: I am not talking about a particular cut-off point. The low-wage earner need not necessarily be paying higher tax. I am talking about a flat tax so that everybody knows how much tax he has to pay. As a result, he would know that, if he worked harder, he would not be fleeced by the extra tax payable in the higher bracket. That is what is stopping much of the initiative in this country and causing many of the problems in our nation.

In the few minutes remaining to me, I bring to the attention of the House one of the problems faced by small business. Today, small business—in fact, all business—operates pretty much on a shoe-string. What gets under my skin is Opposition members saying that because a company has made a big profit it should therefore employ more people. Such an argument is completely fallacious. The fact that a company makes a profit of \$2m is of no consequence if the profit is not related to capital. \$2m might represent a return of only 2 per cent on capital. I guarantee that no Opposition member would invest his money in a venture that yielded only 2 per cent. Today business is operating on a very fine profit margin. There is a very fine balance between profit and loss. If a business operates at a loss, it has to put off people. Members opposite talk about profit as though it were a dirty word. Profit means jobs. Without it there are no jobs. The sooner that philosophy gets through to members opposite, the better it will be for them and the nation.

The recovery of debts worries me and many small business people. They are concerned because some people are obtaining goods and services from them but are not paying when they ought to be paying. I know of a couple of instances of small business people having taken cases to the Small Claims Tribunal and receiving judgment in their favour but not having been able to obtain the money. Quite clearly that system needs to be strengthened so that those who owe money are forced to pay. Somewhere along the line that sort of reinforcement must be made.

The Queensland Budget that has just been approved by this House is based on sound economic principles. It is designed to keep Queensland forging ahead, and it is doing that. The fact that there is unemployment and the fact that in some places it is increasing is to the disadvantage and detriment of the State. Every member of this side of the House supports every project that keeps people in employment, but the State is caught because it is part of a federation. It is the Commonwealth Government that makes the decisions on monetary policy and that is where the State is caught.

If people will look honestly at the projects and the generation of funds in Queensland, they will find that they are working, and working well. I hope that people will understand that the problem is not caused by a single entity. The Government recognises the problem in keeping the economy going and does its best to keep generating it. But it is impossible for the State Government to do things in which the Federal Government will not co-operate. I am sure that if some of the projects that I have suggested were implemented, job creation would occur in places where it is most needed. If money that is now spent only on the dole was wisely appropriated in some other way, the creation of jobs would, in the end, provide the taxes that might have been lost in the meantime.

It is quite clear to me that today in this nation there ought to be no gloom or doom because anybody has the opportunity of using his initiative to get a job and to be a real part of the community.

Mr SCOTT (Cook) (4.13 p.m.): I am very happy to make a modest contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill this afternoon. I will certainly not do the same as the member for Isis. If that was his best effort at a ministerial speech, he has lost his chance of getting a guernsey. I could see in the Treasurer's eyes that he would not wear somebody who could not think positively. Any person who joins the ministry should have a lot of good ideas and be able to stand and deliver wonderful speeches.

Mr Underwood: He did not kick the Commie can today.

Mr SCOTT: Perhaps he should be given an extension of time to give the Commie can a good old kick. He took a little bit of a swipe at the unions on the way through.

If he aspires to be a Minister he should make some fiery speeches. But of course if he does get on the team he will be just like the rest—a pretty colourless and hopeless person. I really mean that. The ministry has very little talent.

Queensland is a wonderful State but, unfortunately, it is reeling under the effects of bad government. I must spend a little more time on the member for Isis because I am concerned about who will get the ministerial guernseys. I rather like the attitude of the deputy leader of the National Party and the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs. I admit that the latter Minister and I have had some differences of opinion.

Our differences of opinion have related to the policies of the Government. Unfortunately I have had to channel my criticism through that poor man. I believe that he has said that he will ride it out. I say, "Good luck to him". Those two Ministers would probably be better—incompetent and all that they are—than anyone else who might be elevated to the ministry.

I listened intently to the speech of the member for Isis—I sat here and suffered, I could say—and I understood every word. Even though he is a former schoolteacher I noticed that he used no big words. That was calculated to indicate that he is not way up there but is one of the boys. I realise that I may be drifting a little away from the Appropriation Bill, but it is pertinent to point out that if he is elevated to the ministry the augmentation of his salary will have to be met by the Government. But, as we have just been told that this is the lowest-taxed State in Australia, there may be difficulty in finding the money to pay him. Let us get a little bit of talent onto the ministerial benches. It is badly needed. The honourable member did not say anything worth while. His speech was a lot of convoluted waffle. Listen carefully as I might, I could not discover anything worth while.

I will give the Treasurer a little scope to have a go at me. I heard some bad news today.

Mr Davis: He blotted his copy-book with that Press statement today. The Ministers are really dirty on him.

Mr SCOTT: I realise that that hurt, but the honourable member will overcome it by taking certain action.

I am pleased that I will be present this evening when the Treasurer sums up, because I know that he will give me a mention, even if it is only a small one. Unfortunately, he attributed certain remarks of mine to my colleague the member for Townsville West. He was rather sharp with him. The member for Townsville West did not refer to deficit budgeting in his speech on the Financial Statement; I did.

Dr Edwards: Because I had made a mistake I apologised to the House.

Mr SCOTT: I appreciate that it was probably an honest mistake. I do not mind if the Treasurer attacks me for my remarks on deficit budgeting because I am quite prepared to back up what I say in that regard. It is a technique that the Government should adopt.

Dr Edwards: Mr Fouras—

Mr SCOTT: Mr Fouras is quite entitled to his opinion. He is a competent man with a fair degree of economic knowledge.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr SCOTT: He is not a qualified economist. Our Treasury spokesman has economic knowledge and can certainly turn to competent people for advice. If he and I were to have a very minor difference of opinion on how State funding should be made available, that does not stop me from making my point. I have just had confirmation of that from Mr Fouras. He can develop his economic theories and I will stick to mine.

I am concerned, first, about unemployment in this State and, second, about the lack of effort that is being made by the Government to do something for remote areas. I have the best of references to prove my point. My concern comes across clearly when members who represent electorates a long way from Brisbane speak in this place. They follow the accepted formula of giving a little praise to the Minister in charge of the Bill or whose

Estimates are being debated and then turn on the Government and bite very sharply. They tell the people of Queensland, particularly those in their own electorates, that not enough is being done.

Funding is available in Queensland, even though the point is constantly made that Queensland is the lowest-taxed State, but it is being misdirected. The theme that I want to push is that far too much money is being spent in the south-east corner of the State and not enough in the remote areas. That comes through time and time again when other members are addressing the Assembly. I certainly feel sorry for those people in the electorates represented by Government members, who do not have the ability to speak up and get results. Because they are Government members, they are written off. The Treasurer and the Premier say, "They won't buck. They won't kick over the traces about the fact that we are not doing enough in the remote areas." Those members complain about it here, but they suffer that treatment. But I am not suffering it, and I have not done so in the five years I have been here. I will continue to urge the Government to do the right thing by not only the people in the south-east corner but the people throughout this wonderful State.

I really cannot complain about Government expenditure in the electorate of Cook. In comparing it with expenditure in other electorates, I find that the inverse-square law applies—the further away from Brisbane, the less is spent. However, I must admit that the formula is applied evenly. Roughly the same small amount of money is spent in Flinders, Cook, Mt Isa and other distant electorates. I repeat that I cannot complain about what is spent in the Cook electorate, but I have had a hard fight to have even that amount spent. When I look closely at what has been done I realise that money is being spent, but the people in remote areas suffer because the Government spends so much less in their areas.

The state of the roads is the clearest example of lack of Government spending. This debate affords me an opportunity to refer to the road-funding situation. It is very apparent that country people are paying for the Government's neglect. They are paying through high vehicle maintenance costs. Travellers are deterred from visiting remote areas. Tourists simply will not drive on bad roads. People living in Chillagoe have often told me that many of the tourists who reach Dimbulah are not prepared to drive on the rough road to Chillagoe. Although Chillagoe is their destination they cut their losses and turn back.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr SCOTT: Recently, the Chillagoe Road has improved markedly.

I am critical of the Government for improving that road but without sealing it. Because it is unsealed it will gradually deteriorate. During the next wet season, the tourist traffic and trucks transporting cattle and minerals will damage the road so badly it will have to be regraded. If two or three years elapse before this tardy Government decides to seal the road, much of the hard-won gravel will be lost. The same conditions prevail on the road to Cooktown, Laura, Cohen, Weipa and Bamaga.

I have often spoken about the magnetic attraction of these areas. If the roads were better, they would go there in droves. Even now, many brave souls make the trip. It is interesting to note the number of tourists who arrive in Bamaga in four-wheel-drive vehicles. Most of them chase souvenirs, such as high school T-shirts, to show that they have been to Bamaga, which is at the tip of Queensland, but they pay the price when they make the trip.

The people engaged in raising cattle and mining pay a big price in vehicle damage.

A large bait in the form of the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program has been held out to people in remote areas to hold on until after the next Federal election. Allegedly, that program is to be funded by a 1c a litre fuel tax this year and a 2c a litre fuel tax next year. I do not know whether that tax is to rise in geometric progression or whether it will remain at the 2c level. Sensible people who know how much has to be done to improve the roads in Australia realise that they can expect very little from the program. It is simply pie in the sky.

I am pleased to see that the Minister is shaking his head. If he can show me that that is not so the people in remote areas and I will be happy. We are not so optimistic or gullible.

About three years ago, the Federal member for Leichhardt promised the people of Weipa that they would get an all-weather road to their town.

I admit that he is a very junior Minister and that he does not know very much about such matters. However, he is not likely to be in his present position for very long. He made a promise. The Treasurer might be able to quote the Federal Minister for Transport, but he will not convince me that anything really great will come out of the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program.

Mr Blake: Conversely, the Local Government Association of Queensland sees a diminishing benefit from it.

Mr SCOTT: I can understand that there could be a diminishing benefit. I have read its submission and I am quite taken with it. It has made a very accurate analysis of the situation.

The Local Government Association is being squeezed by the State Government. Subsidies are being cut back and local authorities are extremely worried. They would have been pleased if there was a glimmer of hope in the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program. However, their expectations have been short-lived. They have experienced the Fraser Government's imposition on the people of Australia and the Queensland Government's imposition on country people. State members do not like attending Local Government Association meetings because they receive a caning from the other people who attend those meetings. The authorities do not want to have anything to do with the State Government. I know that they are anxious to make a change.

To sum up on the Bicentennial Road Development Program—how many kilometres of road construction are needed and how much money will be available? The basis for assuming that there will be much less funding available is the sad old story of the inflation that continues under the Fraser Government. That will erode any superficial gains that might have been forthcoming. There are good bitumen roads round Brisbane. Ministers drive over those roads. I am sure that Mr Bird left North Queensland and came to Brisbane because he did not like driving over the roads in his electorate. All Ministers live close to Brisbane. They drive over the best of the roads.

The member for Sherwood owns a four-wheel-drive vehicle. He could have had some experience with country roads but, of course, that is not the case. He simply uses his vehicle to show off and drive over Fraser Island and Stradbroke Island to look at places that are the subject of important environmental issues. However, he does not venture in to the areas in which the roads are very bad. I am quite certain that he would not be able to cope with driving in my area. I am not taking his name lightly. People purchase four-wheel-drive vehicles and make out that they intend to travel over the worst roads in the State.

Mr Blake: It is the in thing.

Mr SCOTT: The honourable member for Bundaberg is correct.

It worries me that there might be subtle pressure from Government members to leave northern roads as they are so that they can be used as an exercise in four-wheel-driving. That is a shoddy attitude. I have a four-wheel-drive vehicle. However, I use it to get round my electorate. It is used the way it should be—to service the people.

Mr Eaton: It is necessary in your electorate.

Mr SCOTT: It is essential.

I have referred to the high cost of living in North Queensland. That is one factor that is brought about by bad roads. I would also like to refer to the cost of living on Thursday Island, on the islands in the Torres Strait and in the communities on the western side of the Peninsula. Supplies are sent to those communities by boat. Submissions have been made to me to ask the Federal Government to reduce the iniquitous tax on diesel fuel. It is affecting road and shipping operators.

I received a letter from John Burke Shipping pointing out how the cost of marine diesel fuel has escalated, since 1975, from \$50 per tonne—before the latest excise duty increases applied—to \$351.22 per tonne. The price has escalated by approximately \$74.35 to an incredible \$425.57 per tonne.

I have been told by shipping executives that in the pre-Fraser era the cost of fuel was the smallest item in the overall cost of moving a vessel from one point to another. The cost of fuel was virtually ignored. Perhaps an increase in fuel prices is justified, but the escalation to the present high price should not be countenanced.

John Burke Shipping and its subsidiary Mason Shipping & Stevedoring Pty Ltd transport all the goods that are carried by sea to the Peninsula, Torres Strait and Gulf areas. You, Mr Deputy Speaker, have visited that part of the State. I am sure that when you saw the prices of articles in the shops on Thursday Island you wondered how people could afford them.

John Burke Shipping has been faced with additional costs in its operations at the port of Cairns. It has had to subscribe money to the Cairns Harbour Board to pay for the construction of wharves and facilities. An accepted economic principle today is that the user pays. Unfortunately, a shipping company that does not operate on a high profit margin is forced to pass its costs on. There is no room in a shipping operation in the Peninsula area for absorbing costs. They are passed on to the people of Thursday Island and of other places that are serviced by John Burke's vessels. Those costs add tremendously to the cost of living on the Torres Strait islands.

This morning, if there had not been so much mucking around at question-time, and if honourable members had been given time to ask questions, I would have asked what subsidy had been paid to Mason Shipping and whether the Government will consider paying the company a subsidy towards the cost of its operations.

It is essential that people live in the Torres Strait area. The job opportunities there are not very plentiful; the opportunities for earning high wages are not very good. Some people are in employment, but many are in receipt of either unemployment benefits or the age or widow's pension. They find it extremely difficult to cope with the high cost of living.

Queensland wants people to live in the Torres Strait area. As I have said on previous occasions, it is the frontier between Papua New Guinea, which for some years has been an independent nation, and Australia. However, the policies adopted by the Queensland Government have forced people to leave the Torres Strait area. The population of all the inhabited islands in Torres Strait has been reduced considerably, simply because parents have no prospect of finding employment for their children when they leave school.

For reasons that I have already mentioned, the cost of living on the Torres Strait islands is very high. Although the general life-style is good, the standard of living is not. In all sincerity, I urge the Queensland Government to adopt policies that will induce people to remain in the Torres Strait area instead of moving to other parts of Australia. Many Torres Strait Islanders are living in other parts of Australia. They can be encountered wherever one travels. I remember meeting a Torres Strait family in Western Australia. They had been working in the mining area of the north-west and were on holidays in Perth. Why cannot families such as that one be encouraged to return to Torres Strait?

The poor education facilities are another reason why people are reluctant to remain in the Torres Strait area. I urge the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing, who told me that next week they are having a meeting to decide how the remainder of the budgetary moneys will be spent, to spend the money that is needed to rebuild the Thursday Island High School on the new site as a replacement for the building that was burned several years ago. Education is important also in towns such as Dimbulah, Cooktown and Weipa. It is closely related to the quality of life. So many Torres Strait Islanders have told me that they moved down to Brisbane because of the education and job prospects here.

I do not see why the Government should have such tight guide-lines in regard to the establishment of full high schools at places such as Cooktown, Dimbulah, Weipa and Normanton. High schools are already established at Bamaga and Thursday Island, but the one at Thursday Island caters for children only to Year 10. At the present time the education officers on Thursday Island are debating whether or not to cater for children up to Year 12. It must be extended to Year 12 so that the full range of education is available at that school. The same comment applies to the schools in the other areas about which I have spoken.

I have referred previously to the fact that some people in Cooktown have been able to set up their own community high school. The money for that project was raised among the community. A building was prepared and a teacher was employed. The people went

through all the difficulties of starting a high school. It has been done very successfully. I must give credit to the Minister for Education (Mr Gunn) for recognising that school on a limited basis so that it is able to receive some Government funding. People are able to send their children away to other high schools in Queensland and obtain the secondary school assistance.

Water supplies are important. Again, I shall refer to the water supplies on the Torres Strait islands. People are living on those islands with very little water. On many occasions, I have referred to the fact that people virtually have to surround their houses with 44-gallon drums. When it rains or when water flows through the very limited reticulation system they fill up their 44-gallon drums. They use that water while they wait for the local well to fill up again so that pumping can be continued.

The problem is compounded by the fact that the DAIA has total control over the islands. Pumps have a bad habit of breaking down, and they are serviced very irregularly by the DAIA manager on Thursday Island. Of course, he has his difficulties. He has only the limited funds that are provided by the Government. Therefore, he is short of staff, and that prevents him from sending people to carry out the necessary repairs on the pumps.

The Queensland Water Resources Commission carried out tests on a large number of islands in the Torres Strait. Because of the secretive way in which the Government and the DAIA, particularly its director and would-be member of Parliament (Mr Killoran), operate, I have had great difficulty in finding out on what islands tests were carried out. Tests were carried out, but I do not know how much water was found. So far, very little work has been done to get that underground water to the surface.

On virtually none of the Torres Strait islands are there the high tanks that are necessary to give a head of water that would allow water to flow through the showers and taps in the high-block houses. The residents have to fill up their containers from a downstairs tap and take them upstairs.

I have been told that even at some of the medical aid posts there is no flowing water. How can hygienic conditions possibly be maintained at those posts if there is no flowing water?

Reference to health and education in the Torres Strait brings me to the point where I must urge the Government to take over the responsibility for providing those facilities. A long battle has been raging. I have used every possible opportunity to remind the Government that it is not doing the right thing by the Torres Strait Islanders. It is allowing a substandard education system to be provided on the outer islands. The staff of DAIA have criticised me for saying that. They say that I am denigrating Islander teachers. That is not true. I have sent copies of my speeches to the teachers in the Torres Strait. I am not ashamed of anything that I have said in this Chamber; I speak the truth. I am prepared to criticise the Government outright, if that is what is necessary to bring about a change up there.

The teachers in the Torres Strait area are not fully trained, but that is not their fault. They have undertaken the few courses that have been arranged by the DAIA, but those courses are totally inefficient and inadequate. Children are going through the Torres Strait schools and are not receiving a proper primary school education. When they attend the Thursday Island High School and other high schools throughout the State, they find that their basic education is inadequate.

I urge the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to make money available to allow the Education Department to take over responsibility for those schools. They are a definite blot on this Government's record. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer and the Minister for Education know that, but two factors are involved. Firstly, the Director of DAIA will not relinquish control over those schools, just as he will not relinquish control over health matters on the outer islands. It is simply an ego trip on the part of that man. He is so power hungry that he has to maintain control over those matters. That is totally wrong, because people are suffering.

I can understand that neither the Health Department nor the Education Department would press too heavily to have the facilities taken over by their departments. In principle, they want it to happen, but they will not press it too strongly because the facilities are so run down that they would be deprived of funds for other projects.

They would have to channel money out to the Torres Strait in both the education and health fields. That is the second reason why proper arrangements have not been made to have education and health facilities administered by the appropriate departments.

I note that the member for Windsor is sitting with the Treasurer. He has been up to the Torres Strait. I know that he does have some concern. Unfortunately—and I have criticised him for it before—he does not report to the House on precisely what has happened. He knows what is happening, but he does not want to be critical of his Government. I understand that. Perhaps now that his hold on the seat will be a little tenuous, he may be more open about what is happening up there. He does know it. You have been up there yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker. You know what is happening. I urge you in all humanity to speak to people in your party to reinforce what I am saying.

Mr MOORE: I rise to a point of order. Any person who reads "Hansard" would know that on many occasions I have spoken about the needs of the Torres Strait islands. The honourable member for Cook is misrepresenting the position. His remarks are offensive to me and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! I ask the member to withdraw the statement.

Mr SCOTT: I do withdraw that statement. I have to add the further remark that the representations the honourable member has made could only have been inadequate. That is perfectly obvious.

Mr Prest: They go up there and have a good holiday.

Mr SCOTT: They go up there and have their holidays and then perhaps come back here and say a little about it, but their representations are totally ineffective. I have raised the matters in a raucous voice. I use that word because I know that it grates on members opposite when I criticise them fairly about their shortcomings. My voice might grate, but the things I say are true. I cannot help it if they stir me up inside and I am required to tell the people of Queensland just how bad things are in the Torres Strait. In the rest of the Cook electorate, things are going along in a fair manner, but that is not happening in the Torres Strait. I cannot understand it, because that is a buffer area between Queensland and Papua New Guinea.

I have been taken to people's homes up there and they almost cry when they show me the state of the housing. Those comments apply equally to Aboriginal communities and part of the Torres Strait area. A number of new houses are being provided. Many are still on the beaches where they were dumped unceremoniously because of inadequate handling facilities by the island people who were required to unload them from the barges. Some efforts are being made to erect the houses. I know that the department has difficulty in getting carpenters to stay there, but that is because of its own mismanagement. On Badu the other day the chairman told me the sad story that the last carpenter had left because he could not get concrete from DAIA to put down the foundations for the houses, which are still lying on the sand deteriorating. The other houses I wish to speak about are in such a bad condition that the people cry when they show them to me. I implore members of the Government to do something about housing up there.

(Time expired.)

Mr FRAWLEY (Caboolture) (4.44 p.m.): This Appropriation Bill—

Mr Hooper: This will be a good speech.

Mr FRAWLEY: I think it will be, too.

The Appropriation Bill is an important part of government. Incidentally, I have heard people today speak about the Westminster system. I have been here for 10½ years and I have not seen it operate yet. If someone could explain it to me, I would be very pleased.

Mr Scott: Did you refer to an Axminster system?

Mr FRAWLEY: Yes, that is what I call it. It is when the Opposition gets the chop and everybody else who does not agree gets it also.

Mr Scott: I thought you meant that your Government sweeps everything under the carpet.

Mr FRAWLEY: No.

Still, a great deal of benefit has resulted since I have been the member for Caboolture. During the last five years \$11m has been spent on education in the Caboolture electorate. I have heard many members complain about education facilities, but in my electorate they are adequate. A new library is presently under construction at Morayfield State School. Tenders have been called for a library for Caboolture East State School, a new teaching block at Morayfield State High, a pre-school at Morayfield State School and a covered play area at the Caboolture State School.

Mr Hooper: Why did you bow to pressure from Sir Robert Sparkes to get out?

Mr FRAWLEY: I did not bow to any pressure. I am getting out because I want to. There are a number of factors, any one of which on its own would not have influenced my decision. However, taken together, they have.

Mr Hooper: You were pressured by Sparkes.

Mr FRAWLEY: No, never. There was an attempt to unseat me in 1977. I know where that attempt came from, but I managed to beat it.

An administration block is badly needed at the Burpengary State School. The secretary of the school works on the veranda, teachers are crowded into a small room and the principal's office is not as big as one of the toilets in this place. Woodford school also needs an administration block, and the Wamuran school needs a covered play area. I sincerely hope that the necessary money is made available.

I turn now to a very important point that should be mentioned today. The Bill contains a clause that deals with defraying money for salaries, so it is appropriate to speak about members of Parliament.

For the last few weeks, I have been absolutely sickened by Press articles stating that the back bench of the National Party is pressing the Premier to get rid of two Ministers, that is, either to sack them or have them resign. That is not correct. The back-bench members of the National Party are being used as stalking horses. The majority of back-benchers do not want to get rid of the two Ministers in any way. A very small minority of National Party back-benchers want them out only because they want their jobs. They do not want the job for the additional salary, the ministerial car or any of those things. Because they are insecure and suffer from an inferiority complex, they want the job for a bit of power and prestige.

Mr Hooper interjected.

Mr FRAWLEY: Some of them would make a pact with the devil to become a Minister.

Mr Prentice: Who are they?

Mr FRAWLEY: I will not mention any names, but if the honourable member whistles I will point.

For months, moves have been afoot to get rid of these Ministers. Not here but in other places, plots have been hatched daily. In fact, what happened on the "Melbidir" was a classic example. The Press was soiled onto the Ministers. The Press was given the information and told to blacken the names of the Ministers. Now the back-benchers are being blamed. The Press is stating that we are putting pressure on the Premier to get rid of the Ministers, which is not correct. I will say that anywhere.

Mr Prentice: Would you keep them there?

Mr FRAWLEY: Of course I would.

The Minister for Commerce and Industry (Mr Sullivan) was first elected to this House in May 1960 and has been a member for 22½ years. He was first appointed to the ministry in 1968. He served in the military forces from 1940 to 1946 as a lieutenant.

Mr Hooper: He was a batman.

Mr FRAWLEY: At least he served his country. He did not dodge military service.

The Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs (Mr Tomkins) was elected to this Assembly in June 1967 and has been a member for 15½ years and a Minister since 1974. In this place, loyalty seems to be a one-way street; a member is expected to give it but not receive it. After all their loyalty, those Ministers are to be pressured into resigning or they will be sacked. That is all because they are not wanted by a certain group of people.

Mr Hooper: One has to be realistic; it is a geriatric Cabinet.

Mr FRAWLEY: I will not come into that one.

I do not criticise any Liberals who are present, but I wish to speak about my very good friend and colleague the member for Windsor, whom I have known for years and who was in my electricians' class at college. He was viciously stabbed in the back. He was done from outside his electorate. His pre-selection committee was stacked, and there is no doubt that Dr Herron and Gary Neat were right behind that move. The member for Mansfield also got the chop. One could not wish to have two nicer people in this Parliament. That shows that service does not count, that loyalty is expected but is never given.

In my electorate, there has been a great deal of talk about a coal-loading facility on Bribie Island. Denials have been made. Only recently I asked a question of the Premier in the following terms—

"Are there any plans to establish a coal-loading facility at Bribie Island and, if so, when is it expected to eventuate?"

The Premier answered—

"At the present time, the Government has no plans to establish a coal-loading facility at Bribie Island, nor has any proposal for such a facility been placed before the Government."

Regardless of that statement, plans do exist for a coal-loading facility to be established on Bribie Island. I have a map here that shows the coal resources on the Darling Downs. At the conclusion of my speech I will table it. That shows that the only place on the east coast of Queensland where a coal-loading facility can be established is Bribie Island, so that is where it will go. The mining groups in this State pack such political clout that if they want it there, it will go there. I am against it because it will ruin Bribie Island.

There has been mention of a uranium enrichment plant being established in my electorate, although that has been denied. I have asked questions—

Mr Scott: Do you think they are safe?

Mr FRAWLEY: I am not against a uranium enrichment plant provided it is built away out in the country somewhere, right away from South-east Queensland.

Mr Scott: Somewhere else?

Mr FRAWLEY: Not in the Torres Strait or near any centre of population, but somewhere out in the desert. Such plants do not need a lot of water.

With reference to recent reports about investigations—the Federal Government set up the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia to investigate the setting up of a uranium enrichment plant in various parts of Australia. That study is continuing. Such a group will not worry about any environmental impact study; it will just go ahead and do what it wants to do. I do not mind supporting the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant, but not in a highly populated area.

The technology being considered is known as gas centrifugation. I will not give an explanation and bore the House. The product is called UF₆. Usually it is a white solid at room temperature. It goes through the enrichment process in a vapour form, and if it is released into the atmosphere it becomes hydrolised on contact with water vapour and forms uranyl flouride and hydrogen flouride. On solution in water, the hydrogen flouride forms hydrofluoric acid. Both hydrogen flouride and hydrofluoric acid cause unusually severe burns and all precautions have to be taken to avoid contact with the skin and the eyes. In fact, the chemical hazards to people far outweigh the radiological hazards. There is less radiological danger from a uranium enrichment plant than there is from the chemical process. So I would not support a plant in Caboolture, Beaudesert or any other centre of population.

Something that many people do not know or have not mentioned is that the enriched UF_6 is a fissile material that could, under certain circumstances, produce an accidental mass reaction. It has been stated that that possibility is extremely small because of design reviews, administrative controls, regulatory nuclear surveys and all that rubbish that is put over to try to confuse the public. But it cannot be denied that a uranium enrichment plant in Caboolture or anywhere else in South-east Queensland would be an imposition on the people and an absolute disgrace.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr FRAWLEY: I will not waste time. I am a considerate person. I am even considerate to the member for Murrumba, because I have been invited to stand against him but I will not do so. He is an asset to the Government in opposition. It is better to have him in the Parliament than somebody better.

An Opposition Member: He will be a good Minister.

Mr FRAWLEY: He will never be a Minister.

Many people are coming to this State, and to Caboolture in particular, from the South. Most of those coming to Caboolture are Victorians who are looking for jobs. Many businessmen have come to Caboolture and established industries.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr FRAWLEY: A Government member should be prepared to criticise anything the Government does if he thinks that it is not right. I feel free to criticise and give credit to the Government. Without doubt, it is the best Government in Australia. Unlike other honourable members, I will not say that it is the best of a bad bunch. Queensland has a good Treasurer. I do not say that because he is here. Some people criticise the Government for being incompetent, but I emphasise that the Treasurer has done a fine job.

An Honourable Member: He is a nice fellow.

Mr FRAWLEY: He is, but it pays not to be too nice in politics. When one is too nice, one can be stabbed in the back very easily. One of the reasons for my sitting at the table nearest the wall in the dining-room is that no-one can get behind me.

Mr PREST (Port Curtis) (4.56 p.m.): I only wish that Queensland was as financially sound as we are led to believe by the Treasurer, and that job opportunities were available to all. If that were so, Queensland would be a great State. Although some people and some companies are well off, far too many people are without jobs and are living in poverty.

I was very surprised to read the comments attributed to a top public servant, Mr Hielscher, in the "Daily Sun" of Saturday 25 September 1982. He said—

"If you are feeling gloomy about the economy then cheer up."

I emphasise that Mr Hielscher is Queensland's most powerful public servant. As the senior man in the Treasury, he believes that Queensland is about to take-off into economic orbit. I only wish that that were so. After reading recent Press reports, I cannot understand how such a high-ranking public servant could make that statement. How does he expect to sell that story to people who are unemployed?

A recent "Telegraph" article stated that 700 people a day are going on the dole. The Federal Budget deficit far exceeds the estimate made three months ago. Unemployment is running 30 per cent above the Government's estimate, and on 25 November this year, one Press article pointed out that dole payments had increased by \$600m.

On the Gold Coast, one person in five is unemployed. Those figures were tabled at last week's meeting of the Gold Coast City Council, at which the councillors decided to ask the Federal and State Governments to produce job creation schemes in the area.

I understand that talks took place today between Queensland's leaders and the Federal Treasurer (Mr Howard). I hope that the proposals emanating from those talks are more soundly based than the wages freeze put forward by the Federal Government.

In a media interview on returning to Brisbane after his latest trip to Japan and Korea, the Premier agreed with a wage freeze. He went even further and advocated a 10 per cent wage reduction across the board. Before he made a further statement,

he was fortunate enough to be advised and shown how stupid his proposal was. He changed his advocacy of a 10 per cent reduction in wages to a more realistic proposal, namely, that the Federal Government should cut personal tax and sales tax to give an incentive to all sections of the community to get the country working again.

An article that appeared in "The Sunday Mail" on 21 November 1982 indicated that the Premier's pilot, Miss Beryl Young, is earning \$10,000 more than her counterparts in private enterprise. She is being paid almost as much as a commercial airline pilot. The article stated—

"Miss Young, who is the pilot of the Government's Beechcraft Super Kingair and also unofficially one of Mr Bjelke-Petersen's closest political advisors . . ."

I am certain that the decision to change his proposal of a 10 per cent wage reduction to a more realistic proposal came from that very senior and very close political adviser. As it would have affected both of them, the Premier changed his attitude.

The economic situation in Australia today shows that the policies of the National and Liberal Parties of this country are a disaster. While the Government plays politics, the people starve and the only answer is supposed to be to reduce or freeze wages and let prices of goods and services run wild. The end result would be that the rich would get richer and the poor would get poorer.

Let us look closer to our own State in which there are many great problems. On 25 November the Premier said that his Government was stimulating confidence in Queensland and getting project after project going. I do not know what he meant by that. The following article, which was written by Ian Miller, appeared in the Press—

"Unemployed Queenslanders generally have one chance in 16 of getting a job, according to a major submission on unemployment released in Brisbane yesterday.

The submission was presented to the newly formed Australian Workers' Union job generation committee by a lecturer in public administration at the Queensland Institute of Technology, Mr Wayne Swan.

Mr Swan said: 'There are no "good places" for job hunting in Queensland, only degrees of worse, worse and worse.

Nowhere do conditions even approaching full employment exist.'

He said in the submission that latest figures showed around 98,000 people in Queensland were unemployed with only 6000 job vacancies. This was a ratio of 16 to one.

The worst area for trying to get a job was Coolangatta which registered 1774 and 42 job vacancies—a ratio of 42 to one.

Nambour and Warwick each had a ratio of 30 to one with Maroochydore 29 to one and Mermaid Beach 28 to one.

Townsville had a ratio of 21 to one with Cairns and Innisfail each on 20 to one.

According to the figures, which Mr Swan said were gleaned from statistics in the Commonwealth Employment Service, the best place to find a job was Longreach which had 300 unemployed and 50 job vacancies—a ratio of six to one."

Fancy a town the size of Longreach having 300 people unemployed! The article continued—

"Mr Swan said there had been a 38 percent increase in unemployment in Queensland over the past year and a total of 188,000 people in Queensland were affected directly.

He said Social Security Department figures showed 103,000 men, women and children living on unemployment benefits in Queensland.

A further 35,000 registered unemployed did not receive the dole and lived on their savings, charity or their relatives."

That is a terrible situation. The report continued—

"There were a further 50,000 hidden unemployed—people who had dropped out of the labour market because they had given up hope of finding a job.

Mr Swan said: 'Those who grasped at any excuse to confirm their prejudice that the unemployed don't try hard enough, travel enough, ignore the fact that 16 into one doesn't go.

'With an official unemployment level of 70,000, unemployment is costing the Queensland community \$40 million a week in lost production of goods and services and the Federal Government \$10 million a week in lost taxation revenue and unemployment benefits.'"

Surely it would be true that a labour-intensive program should be initiated in this State. Money should be made available to local authorities. The money made available by the Federal Labor Government under the RED scheme that was introduced in mid-1975 was well spent. It provided work that benefited local authorities. The work was labour-intensive and relieved the ratepayer of some of the cost of providing services and facilities. If there were mistakes in that scheme, let us recognise the value of the scheme as it was. Surely we have learned from the mistakes made. We have learned how to avoid those mistakes.

Any scheme that will employ people is better than no scheme at all. Let us all be concerned about the present situation and let us not increase costs that have to be met by the unemployed and those in receipt of benefits or pensions.

Recently the Queensland Housing Commission rental assessment scheme was changed. Very recently, pensioners received an increase of \$6 a fortnight. That increase was based on rises in the CPI over the past year. That \$6 is supposed to cover the increases in the cost of items such as rent, food, clothing, electricity and other everyday needs. Yet the Queensland Housing Commission is taking 75 per cent of that \$6 a fortnight increase.

Mr Wharton: That is not right.

Mr PREST: It is right. Pensioners were paying \$31.60 a fortnight rent and now they will have to pay \$36 a fortnight. What a shocking state of affairs!

Mr Wharton interjected.

Mr PREST: The pensioners are hit the hardest by the scheme.

Under the scheme, the minimum rent will be paid when the net household income is below \$94. Yet, the income of a single pensioner will be well below that; I think it will be approximately \$74. The Minister for Works and Housing is reported as saying that some people will pay less. It certainly will not be the pensioner.

The Minister also said that assistance will go to those in need. Surely the pensioners are the ones who are in need. Although it takes as much electricity to light a room, cook a meal, run a wireless and run the television for a single pensioner as it does for a married couple with a small family, the Queensland Housing Commission will take 75 per cent of the pension increase. That is shocking.

Mr Wharton: It is not 75 per cent, and it is not taken out of the rise at all.

Mr PREST: It is based on an income of less than \$94 a week.

To turn to another Government department that charges unrealistic prices—on 11 January the Government will be conducting a land sale in the Gladstone area. In the Toolara Estate area, which is a Housing Commission area, the upset prices of land range from \$12,000 to \$16,500. I know a person who has land adjacent to the estate and it is on the market at \$10,000. It was bought in 1954 for approximately \$5,500. The owner has been paying rates on it ever since, so that even if it is sold at \$10,000 it will not be sold at a huge profit. Although the owner is having difficulty in selling the land for \$10,000, the Government is asking \$12,000 to \$16,500 for blocks.

Dr Edwards: I guarantee that they will all sell.

Mr PREST: I sincerely hope that the Treasurer is right; but I am quite certain he is not.

I am concerned about the attacks made by the Government on certain Opposition members. Yesterday a Government member asked a question concerning the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Wright. The Premier in his answer said that Mr Wright is a dishonest man and that he has consistently refused to pay money that had been outstanding since the Peel report.

Mr Wharton: You've got to say this.

Mr PREST: I have not got to say anything. I was on the committee, and I might be able to tell the Minister more than he thinks I know.

The Leader of the Opposition has maintained his innocence, and rightly so. He has not had action taken against him, and under our system of justice he is innocent until he is proven guilty. When a person who is cornered accepts that he has been caught and offers to pay, he is indicating that he is guilty. Such a person is the one against whom action should be taken.

People who live in glasshouses should not throw stones, and I believe that the member for Isis, who asked that question, lives in a glasshouse. The Peel report was presented to this Parliament on 11 September 1978. It showed that the member for Isis purchased a ticket for a member of his family on a flight from Bundaberg to Brisbane to Sydney for the part cost of \$56.40. He purchased another ticket for a flight from Bundaberg to Brisbane to Bundaberg for a part cost of \$21.70. He purchased another ticket for a flight from Brisbane to Sydney to Bundaberg for a part cost of \$65.70. He also purchased two tickets in the name of other persons—presumably friends or associates—on a flight from Bundaberg to Brisbane and return for \$118.80. The honourable member fancies himself as a Minister. Fancy having in Cabinet a member who has a past record! Apparently he is a yes-man for the Premier. For him to ask the Premier a question about dishonesty on the part of the Leader of the Opposition proves to me the type of person that he is, what he will do and how low he will stoop.

Mr WHARTON: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Isis is not present in the Chamber. I believe that the statements of the member for Port Curtis are untrue, and I ask him to withdraw them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! The Minister is aware that he cannot ask for a withdrawal on behalf of another member.

Mr PREST: The facts are there. The Peel report was tabled in this Chamber and the member for Isis was mentioned in that report. I believe that it was low of him to ask a question about another member when he himself was mentioned in the report. Members should not only be honest but also appear to be honest at all times. I hope that that is the last occasion on which that type of question will be asked or allowed to be asked. If the Premier says that the Leader of the Opposition is dishonest, I ask him to speak to me and I will give him some information about other members who are mentioned in the Peel report.

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Port Curtis, in his usual low fashion, waited till I was out of the Chamber to say something about me. The fact that I was mentioned in the Peel report is on record. The fact that I paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund the amount mentioned in the report is also on record. The amount relative to the honourable member for Rockhampton that is mentioned in the Peel report has not been paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and that is also on record. I ask the honourable member for Port Curtis to withdraw the slur that he has cast on my name.

Mr PREST: I am afraid that I cannot do that. It is true that both members were mentioned in the Peel report. The Leader of the Opposition is maintaining his innocence by not paying; he says he does not owe the money.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I point out to the honourable member for Port Curtis that the Standing Orders provide that if a member finds words offensive he has the right to ask the member addressing the Chair to withdraw those words. I ask the honourable member to withdraw them.

Mr PREST: I withdraw whatever words are offensive to the member for Isis. I hope that people who live in glasshouses will not throw any more stones.

An article in today's "Telegraph" refers to road safety in Queensland, which is a matter of concern to all of us. Recently, we saw a real "Starsky and Hutch" show in the grounds of Parliament House. Two Ministers put on a very good show for the media. The article in today's "Telegraph" states—

"Many police are furious with the State Government over Queensland's new trump card against the road toll—the Highway Patrol—and they have said it is a political 'con-trick'.

Sen.-Sgt. Chant said the Highway Patrol—initiated on November 11 to save Queenslander's lives on roads over the Christmas period—had gone almost nowhere since then.

In the two weeks since the unveiling of the first Highway Patrol car, by Mr Hinze on November 11, the police force was to have put 53 cars, most powered by V-8 engines, on the road. Money also was to have been made available for the equipment of 84, high-powered motorcycles.

Sen.-Sgt Chant said the men, the equipment, and the money had not appeared.

He said the few Highway Patrol cars which were presently in action had been taken from other areas of the force."

They have robbed Peter to pay Paul, so to speak.

We are reliably told today that there are only six patrol cars in operation at the present time. The police union supports the idea of a highway patrol, but only if it is properly equipped. We agree with that. We all support the proposed highway patrol but it should not have been given such a big build-up by the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Police, with wide TV and other media coverage—great propaganda—only to be followed by a let-down. There is no money, there are no cars, there are no high-powered motor bikes and there are no extra men. If that is the best the Government can do to save our road users, there will be a continuation of the record road fatalities and the thousands of people carrying permanent injuries for the rest of their lives.

There was talk of a blitz on semi-trailers. I have never seen people more courteous on the road than semi-trailer drivers. It is imperative, however, that the ordinary motorist be patient when he sees a semi-trailer on the road. I do not agree that the speed limit for semi-trailers on the open highway should have been reduced. When a semi-trailer driver sees that the road ahead is clear and it is safe to pass, he will give an indication of that to the motorist behind him. Unfortunately, when accidents occur as a result of the impatience of motorists—small cars dart in and out, and a semi-trailer driver has a load of many tonnes and a machine of great power under his control—the blame is placed on the semi-trailer driver.

Mr Lee: On a one-for-one basis, they are far better drivers, aren't they?

Mr PREST: I believe so. They are courteous, too.

With only 37 days left in this year, if another 40-odd deaths occur, we will have exceeded the record 1981 death toll on our roads. The ALP joins "The Courier-Mail" in its efforts to encourage people to drive carefully and to be courteous to other road users. Over the past few months the ALP road safety task force met many groups in Victoria and New South Wales as well as in Queensland. It produced a report which received some media coverage. Copies of it are publicly available. Normally when something is published by the Australian Labor Party, Government members attempt to pull it to pieces. Although that report has been published for a month, no criticism has been directed to it by Government members. I would hope that, until we are elected to Government and are able to implement our road safety policy, the Government will adopt some of the positive action recommended in that report to bring road safety a little more forcefully before the people.

During the debate on the Transport Estimates, we expressed our concern about the investigation into the Queensland Railways by P A Australia. We asked the Minister many pertinent questions. In his evasive manner, he did not answer them. I do not think it was because he did not want to answer the questions, but rather that he could not. That would be putting it at its best. The Australian Labor Party is concerned about the inquiry and its findings. We are concerned that the most profitable section of the Railway Department will go to private enterprise.

If the Government is blaming semi-trailer drivers for the increased road toll, why is it contemplating taking patronage away from the railways and thus forcing more heavy vehicles onto the highways? If the railways stop services to some country areas, there will be no competition to road transport and freight costs will be increased. If private enterprise is allowed to take over some parts of rail transport some of the unprofitable lines could be closed, and that causes the Opposition concern for country areas.

The Opposition is also concerned about job opportunities. In some other States the railway work-force has been reduced by 10 per cent. All that has proved is that reports of this type are disastrous. If the recommendations of the report are implemented in Queensland the railways would employ 2 500 fewer employees immediately, but in the long term many more persons—up to 4 000—would be dismissed from the Railway Department. Quite often the Government states in this place that for every job it creates five other jobs are created somewhere else to maintain that one person. I suppose that argument can be advanced the other way: for every job that is lost five other people become unemployed. So it will not be a loss of 2 500 or 4 000 jobs, but the loss of jobs by many more persons.

Many Queensland towns rely very heavily for their economy on railway employees. If the number of employees of the Railway Department is reduced, many of the businesses in those towns will be faced with great hardships.

The Opposition believes that the railway system in Queensland provides a community service, especially to those in the Outback where because of the conditions of the roads, particularly during the wet season, the people rely very heavily on the transportation of goods by rail. The Opposition is concerned that the report by PA Australia may be to the detriment of railway workers and the Railway Department.

Mr FitzGerald: Do you think there is a possibility that the report may be of benefit to the Railway Department?

Mr PREST: That is one possibility. I am pleased to see that this afternoon the member for Lockyer is a little more constructive.

The men who have given long and loyal service in the railway workshops have had to work in very difficult conditions with outdated machinery.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Second-rate equipment.

Mr PREST: That is right. The member for Wolston has the Redbank Railway Workshops in his electorate, and he would therefore be quite aware of the work that is done, the conditions there, and the equipment with which the employees are expected to work. If the Minister for Transport wishes to do something for the State, he should upgrade the facilities in the railway workshops so that the employees can more easily maintain the high standard of workmanship that they display.

I sincerely hope that in the coming year the economy picks up in all areas. Certainly the building industry needs a great shot in the arm. Because of the state of the economy some people now receive lower wages and do not have the opportunity to work overtime, and that creates further problems in the community. During the times of high wages and a great deal of overtime, which many people thought would never end, unfortunately some people entered into financial commitments that still cost them \$400 or \$500 a month. Now they are unable to meet those commitments. The lending institutions are showing no mercy at all. As soon as a person gets a month behind—two months at the most—the company puts the screws on and asks him to renegotiate a higher interest rate or it will sell him up.

When I spoke about this subject some five months ago, I was speaking about an unfortunate but isolated case. In the past two or three weeks this practice has become common. More and more people are finding that the building societies and finance companies are putting the screws on and showing no mercy. If one institution is not trying to put a person out of his home, another is repossessing his goods and chattels. People who have tried to do their utmost are suffering hardship because of the economic policies of the State and Federal Governments. I feel sorry for those people. I hope that the leaders of this Government make some constructive suggestions to the Federal Treasurer this morning, and that when they are put into practice the entire community benefits.

(Time expired.)

Mrs KYBURZ (Salisbury) (5.26 p.m.): I am very pleased to be able to speak to this Appropriation Bill this evening because I always find money Bills very interesting. One is able to cover a wide range of subjects when debating such Bills.

I notice from the Treasurer's second-reading speech that a certain amount is to be appropriated for the first two months of the 1983-84 financial year. Before I turn to the main subject of my speech, I would like to know how that amount was arrived at.

Why should we be asked to happily agree to an appropriation of such an amount when we are not aware of how the money is to be spent? In his speech the Treasurer said that the Bill seeks parliamentary approval to cover expenditure included in the Budget Estimates for this year, unforeseen expenditure incurred during 1981-82 and expenditure for the first two months of next financial year. Is it the case that each department submits to the Treasurer estimates for the financial year and they are then divided by six? Is it then determined that there will be unforeseen expenditure for two months on top of that amount?

I was particularly interested to note the amount provided in 1982-83 to cover anticipated expenditure for Supply services. I will be interested to hear from the Treasurer just how accountable each department is. If a department submits an estimate to the Treasurer and goes wildly over that estimate, what is the process? I am interested in that item because I have never been able to work out who actually makes the final decision. Is it the head of the Treasury who finally gets down to the nitty-gritty and says which department shall spend what amount?

That brings me to the unforeseen expenditure for 1981-82 which totalled \$531.3m, a rather large amount. The expenditure of that amount is not explained in sufficient detail in the Bill. I note that Part VIII of the Schedule relating to Supplementary Appropriation for Unforeseen Expenditure contains a list of the appropriations for each portfolio which has overspent. I want to know how the departments administered by the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs could overspend by \$4.15m. I would like to know the precise details of the overspending by those departments. I see the Treasurer nodding, so perhaps in his summation he will inform the House how that overspending occurred, because it is a very large amount.

The Department of Works and Housing is another department that has overspent, yet all we are told is that the \$3.8m-odd was overspent on buildings. Does that mean that the money was overspent on public housing, assistance for housing or on city office blocks constructed by the Works Department? Under the heading "Treasurer", \$196,000 was overspent on "General Works". Perhaps the Treasurer will be kind enough to explain that.

I am sure that the Treasurer will understand that honourable members often do not question what is in the schedules to Bills that they are asked to agree to because there is so much in the body of the Bills. Sometimes we say "Yes" to matters on which we are not fully informed. I should like the Treasurer to tell us why there was so much unforeseen expenditure.

The Commerce and Industry Department overspent by \$2.8m. That is a fairly large sum of money. I am interested to learn how it was arrived at. When large sums of money are being dealt with it must be very difficult to be precise to the dollar, but the Treasury Department is supposed to be precise.

I was very interested to read the Treasurer's speech on this Bill. It was well reasoned and well put together. He is to be congratulated on it. At page 4 of his speech, he said—

"No purpose is served by blindly following the practice of panic-mongering which seems to be a forte of the Opposition here in Queensland for many years and, I must say, has been indulged in by the Federal Government in recent weeks."

I can only reiterate his words. I note clearly that the newspapers are only trumpeting doom and gloom. Every night we see or hear doom and gloom on TV and radio. Every journal and newspaper conveys the same message. The talk of doom and gloom is creating in the collective public mind a form of panic that I have not seen before in my adult life.

The Treasurer's speech was excellent because it was temperate. It was unlike the silly speeches made by some Government members. He did not say that Queensland is an eldorado, that everything is wonderful, that everything is perfect and that we have everything. He pointed out that we are feeling the tail-end of the recession but, because of our sound economic management, we will come through it. It was probably one of his best speeches because it tells the entire truth. I only wish that other Government members would do precisely that. Instead of trying to make us feel that we will be able to ride on the back of this wonderful Government—and it is the best Government in

Australia—the Treasurer told us that things will become more difficult in Queensland before they get better. That is a prime note on which to base the economic assessment for next year.

In a following paragraph in his speech, the Treasurer stipulated that, to make an assessment, the economy must be considered on three levels. I was particularly pleased to note the three levels. Far too often State Governments become introspective when considering their economies. They seem to see themselves in isolation. That is so in New South Wales and Victoria; it is particularly so in Tasmania. We seem to read only complaints about that State having insufficient money. It would be nice if other Governments considered how they could cut costs rather than be so introspective.

The Treasurer stated that factors affecting Queensland's major trading partners must have an effect upon this State. Surely anyone considering the economic climate in Queensland would consider that first and foremost. The economic climate in Japan will have a severe effect on Queensland's economy. My constituents are mainly middle to working class people. The Treasurer represents an electorate not dissimilar to mine. There are persons in his electorate who consider themselves to be upwardly socially mobile and who work very hard to improve their lot and the lot of their children. They obviously hope that their children will have a better future, a better job and greater job satisfaction. All parents want the very best for their children.

We are now witnessing swings in voting in seats in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia that in the past were referred to by economic pundits as the outer suburban swinging seats. I wonder whether panic is building up in the Federal Government because of the feelings of the electors who live in outer suburban electorates.

The pressure of advertising on people in my age group has taught many people in the younger age group that they can have absolutely everything that their heart desires. I am sure that every member in this House has had a constituent come to him in a \$8,000 or \$9,000 station wagon, with pictures painted on the side and mag wheels that must have cost \$100, complaining about unemployment. Those persons seem to be able to afford what their heart desires. I suggest that part of the motivation for owning those sort of material goods is the pressure of advertising. In the last 20 years, the so-called middle class person has been led to believe that he or she should own a modern home with all its comforts—the latest carpets, curtains, kitchen appliances, a colour television set and a video recorder, which is the latest game for big boys—even if those goods have to be bought on hire purchase. Honourable members all know the old saying about living on the never-never.

In Australia, 40 per cent of all household income is tied to hire purchase commitments of one kind or another. That leaves only 60 per cent of household income for consumer durables, food and clothing. There is not a great deal left. If a person lost his employment, at least 60 per cent of his household income would be tied up with hire purchase commitments. That is the major ill affecting the economy at the local level.

I am sure that the Treasurer is aware that people in his electorate are having financial difficulties. We have very high material standards in Australia, but those standards are based on debt. I am worried about that, because although I have every credit card that is available—in fact, I have a wallet full of credit cards—I have no money. Probably that is what is wrong with each and every one of us. Fifty or 100 years ago, only a few people could buy everything they dreamt about. They were able to do that because they inherited wealth. Because of the pressure of advertising, people believe that they can buy everything, and that is one of the causes of massive inflation. That is an economic fact.

The Treasurer also gave a run-down on many statistics relating to the economy of Queensland. He referred to the resilience and inherent strength of the economy. I would like him to detail that inherent strength and the effect upon that strength of decreasing world markets for minerals. I realise that probably that aspect was taken into account in the summation of the Estimates. However, should there be a total downswing on the stock markets of London and New York, and should the prices for minerals drop so much that there is no new overseas capital inflow into Queensland, what will be the effect on our economy?

Is the Treasurer merely boosting the economic position for next year? Has he taken into account a downswing in overseas investments? Although he may be saying that the upswing will inevitably come, does that mean that Queensland will be cushioned against the effects of what is taking place in the southern States? I agree with his claim that Queensland will be more than ready to take full and immediate advantage of an upswing in the economy.

The Treasurer contends that statistics support his viewpoint. He went on to detail the number of new dwellings. I find that aspect very interesting, because it is of significance in the Queensland economy.

The Treasurer referred also to the consumer price index, the level of unemployment and—holy of holies—the number of people employed. I have often said that it is about time that someone mentioned the number of people employed instead of trumpeting unemployment figures. It would be interesting to know how many people are actually employed. The Treasurer stated that over the past 12 months the number of people employed in Queensland increased by one per cent and that that increase is in contrast with a national decline of a similar nature. However, he went on to say that the increase should not suggest complacency in our attitudes.

I should like the Treasurer to indicate what might happen should there be the overseas crash that some pundits have been predicting and how the Treasury will rein in the budgets of the various departments. I should also like to know what power the Treasurer has to stipulate to departments and to other Ministers that they shall not spend the amounts that they have asked for. If the crash does come and if the Treasury has to rein in its Budget, where will the purse-strings be tightened and who will make that decision?

The Treasurer referred to the \$100m housing deal. I was very pleased to learn of that deal. However, it needs to be amended, and I have spoken to the Minister for Works and Housing about amending it because I am particularly concerned about some aspects of the Housing Commission's operations in Queensland. I know that there will need to be further amendments, because some people are still unable to obtain what I consider to be basic adequate housing. I have circulated to members the cost/rent housing proposal that the Housing Commission has investigated. Although it seems rather complicated to some, it is only another co-operative housing scheme. It will provide housing for people who just cannot afford to pay for their own house.

I have also mentioned to the Minister for Works and Housing that Queensland still has outer-suburban ghettos in which single mothers are being placed and in which up to 30 or 40 single mothers are in Housing Commission houses on their own. Inherent problems arise in those areas, and many of those problems could be overcome by the setting up of a hostel system for young single mothers. It is time that families of that type were no longer treated as the normal 2.2-type family, which is looked upon in social statistics as being "normal".

In closing—I am interested to see how Queensland will pull through next year. If one believes even half of what is written in economic reviews, one is forced to the conclusion that next year will be even worse than this year. If Queensland is able to maintain its position in Australia, all of us will be extremely pleased.

I was not pleased to read recently about a scheme launched by the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations (Sir William Knox). It was designed to push for jobs to be given to Queensland youngsters first. That annoyed me because it was an inherently hypocritical stance to take. Only a year ago, Ministers were travelling round New South Wales and Victoria selling Queensland. They were saying, "Queensland is the best State. It is the promised land. Everything is OK there. Housing and goods are cheap. Jobs are overflowing. All you have to do is go and look at them. Come to Queensland." I think that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer will remember that because he took part in one of those tours to Victoria.

Last week, while the Deputy Premier and Treasurer was abroad, a new scheme was launched to give jobs to Queensland youth first. The inherent hypocrisy in that scheme is that we cannot open our arms to people from the other States and at the same time say to the youth from those other States, "There are no jobs for you because we are giving all the jobs to Queensland youth first." Either we tell the truth in the beginning or we do not tell a story at all.

I always say to people who come to look for a job in Queensland, "Unless you have got accommodation fixed and can afford it, and unless you have a job for yourself, your wife and your children and whomever else you intend seeking employment for, do not come. This is not the promised land. This is not an eldorado where everything flows and flows, as one is led to believe. It is just as difficult to find housing here at a good price and it is just as difficult to find a job. However, we do have a stable economy. Just think before you sell up and come here."

I hope that in the future there will be more of this sound, economic reasoning from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and less rhetoric from other Ministers, who, I frankly believe, do not know what they are talking about.

Mr EATON (Mourilyan) (5.47 p.m.): I commence by referring to the Treasury's failure to provide more money for tourism. A Government department is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on advertising to attract people to come to Queensland, particularly to North Queensland, to enjoy the benefits that are here. Over the years, the development in North Queensland has fallen far behind the development that has taken place in other parts of the State. That matter has to be brought to the attention of the Government, particularly the Treasurer. Money has to be made available in North Queensland.

In the past, Ansett and Pioneer, when they were separate companies, provided bus tours to areas of North Queensland where there were tourist attractions. I refer to places such as Ravenshoe and Tully Falls. People were coming from the South in bus loads and spending their money in the area. The local people were able to operate businesses and that provided employment in the towns.

At the top of the Tully Falls two families lived in rather low-standard houses, but they kept the tracks and paths clean, looked after the roads and provided firewood for the picnic areas. At week-ends, the area became overcrowded. That kept two families in the area employed. Towns along the way, such as Ravenshoe, benefited from those tours. Businesses in those towns provided lunches, afternoon teas and dinners. The buses used to run from Cairns to the Tully Falls area and the Millstream Falls area outside Ravenshoe. Because of the Government's policies, those areas and other areas have gone backwards.

At Lake Eacham, Roy Stirling was employed as a ranger and did a tremendous job. His family looked after the kiosk. I doubt that these days we would be able to attract people of such high calibre to our tourist ventures. Mrs Stirling entertained bus loads of tourists with her boomerang-throwing demonstrations. She provided morning and afternoon teas and the kiosk stocked mementoes for the tourists. Boat trips round the lake were available. Interstate visitors did a lot to promote Queensland's tourism through word-of-mouth advertising. On occasions we have spoken to people in their retirement years who are revisiting the area, which they had first seen as young people. They have commented on the former facilities being noticeably missing.

The Government has shown that it can maintain some tourist areas. At Tinaroo Dam there are caretakers and persons who maintain a tourist kiosk and other facilities. The lawns and gardens are maintained in first-class condition.

The opportunities for tourism in North Queensland are many and varied. The Government has fallen behind in its promotion of that area. I invite the Minister to tour the North at some future date—I am prepared to fit in with his arrangements—to see its potential. I suggest that money be available for caretakers and accommodation for them. At Josephine Falls the Government has built a cottage for a national parks ranger, who gives advice to tourists, maintains the tracks and patrols areas to see that they are free from vandalism. Areas that are opened away from civilisation often attract the vandal element.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars a year are spent on advertising. However, the best promotion is achieved through delivering the goods and letting the tourists do the advertising for us. I ask the Treasurer to take note of that. The old saying is that good and bad news travel at the same speed. In the long term, the Government would find that its money would be better spent by being directed to positive action rather than to advertising, which does not always reach the prospective customers.

I turn now to local government. Queensland has 132 local authorities, whose problems are numerous and vary according to their geographic position. Again I will refer to North Queensland and the wet belt. The Government is not combining the efforts of the various departments to work for the benefit of the people and local authorities. From time to time local authorities require large grants and large sums of loan money. I am aware that the Government has a big say in the distribution of those funds. Local authorities are responsible for the river trusts. Every member is aware of the wet coastal belt in North Queensland.

Mr Lee: It's not too wet at the moment.

Mr EATON: I know that, but I am planning for the future and giving advice to the Treasurer. Whether he heeds my advice remains to be seen.

The capacity of the local authority river trusts is limited by the funds made available by the Government. If local government was given an injection of funds for this sort of work, two birds could be killed with the one stone. The river areas that are suffering from erosion could be protected, and a long-term plan could be embarked upon to drain water away from farms where it now causes damage. Then when roads were built in those areas proper drainage would have already been provided. Of course, both the Federal and State Governments are responsible for main roads. The work of river trusts to overcome erosion problems is hindered by the fact that new road work has occurred over old, small water pipes that will not carry a sufficient volume of water to drain an area quickly.

During the 1980 floods 112 inches of rain fell in 14 days.

Mr Lee: That is nearly as good as raining for 40 days and 40 nights.

Mr EATON: Yes, it was not far off that.

When that figure was reported in the Press, people in the South thought it was a misprint. I was in Brisbane during the floods and by the time I returned to my home 148 inches had fallen in three weeks. Most of the damage was caused by the inability of drainage pipes to get the water away. The road became a dam, and when the water went over the road the shoulders of the road broke away. That was caused by inadequate drainage. I realise that that volume of rain does not fall very often, but at certain times of the year, particularly during January and February, very heavy rain falls. The Government needs to undertake an ongoing program and spend greater amounts of money each year. What must be remembered is the disaster element in floods. Damage is done every year. Only today I received a letter from the Treasurer stating that the flood damage money for this year has now been granted. Every year the Government has to pay out a sizeable sum of money to compensate for flood damage.

A long-term plan is needed to overcome the problem. If the Government merely pays out money each year for the damage done, no headway will be made. The area of which I speak extends from the Herbert River right up to Mossman. I am sure that the shire councils would be prepared to work in with the Government if it could come up with a long-term plan to overcome the flood problem. I have spoken with shire councillors and sugar producers about the problem, and I know that during the recent Estimates debates many northern members made contributions on the matter. The honourable member for Flinders certainly pointed out the cost of the damage that was caused and the wastage of water in North Queensland. He said that the loss to the sugar industry alone was \$30m. The Government must take that into consideration. Now that the sugar industry is suffering from such an economic downturn it certainly is very important that drainage works be carried out so that it does not lose any more money through flooding. The sugar industry has a very great effect on the economies of many North Queensland towns, and if the sugar industry suffers a downturn the economies of the towns will fall with a resultant loss of jobs.

I know that the State Treasurer cannot be blamed for all of the State's economic ills, because many of them are caused by the policies of the Federal Government. However, he will have to make a concerted effort to get the Federal Government to make more money available for water conservation, water resources, river trusts, drainage,

etc. I am sure that all the different boards and authorities would be only too willing to work in with the Governments, both State and Federal, if money could be made available to formulate a long-term plan that would benefit not only those boards and authorities but also the State as a whole. These problems that drain money out of Federal and State Government coffers are a yearly event, so something should be done in an effort to avoid them.

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

Mr EATON: I point out for the benefit of the Treasurer that not only in my electorate but throughout North Queensland there is a severe shortage of land for sporting purposes, which has been caused by the amount of development that has taken place in recent years. Money will have to be made available so that the Lands Department can acquire land in and around suburban areas in both big cities and small country towns. If an attempt is to be made to keep children occupied and off the streets, land will have to be found so that junior sport can be organised. I know that the citizens of most communities spend a lot of time organising and raising funds for junior sport.

The shire surrounding Innisfail has a population of about 17 000 people. There are about 50 junior soccer teams but Innisfail does not have one junior soccer league ground. All games have to be played at Silkwood. Junior cricket, rugby league and other sports are well organised and maintained, but they also face a severe shortage of grounds on which to play. In other areas the shortage has been caused by additional buildings being built in schoolgrounds, thus reducing the area available for sport. Every sports day the children from the Innisfail East State School have to travel by hired bus either 3 km or three miles. I am not sure which, to a park on the other side of town.

Mr Moore: Isn't that a page out of your last speech?

Mr EATON: I have to keep mentioning these things to ensure that the Government is aware of them. Otherwise it is like pouring water on a duck's back and the Government takes it for granted and does nothing. In the short time I have been here I have learnt that to get results from this Government I have to work night and day like a white ant. Nobody hears a white ant working, but it keeps going and it is only when the building collapses that anyone wants to do anything. The same applies to this Government. It will not act until there is a crisis, when it has to spend twice the money to extricate itself from the problem.

I now want to move to another area and draw the Treasurer's attention to a problem involving schools, land and the Works Department. I know that there is a severe shortage of money. I do not envy the Treasurer his job, because although I know all of the problems that exist, I do not know how to suggest solutions when no money is available.

I referred earlier to the Innisfail East State School. The council has agreed to transfer an area of land to the school but, because the cost of converting it to a suitable playground is so high, the Works Department cannot foot the bill. The cost of making the land suitable has risen each year until now a very large sum is involved. Had the job been carried out when the problem first arose it would have been far cheaper than work to be carried out in future.

I know that from time to time Ministers receive requests from members who fight pretty hard for their electorates, just as I do for mine. I have a copy of the "Innisfail Advocate" of Monday, 25 June 1979. It illustrates why people get upset about politicians. The story refers to Government members who, for the sake of publicity and in an attempt to build up support, make unsubstantiated statements designed to win votes rather than to achieve what the electors want.

The article is headed, "Innisfail School May Get A \$½M. Teaching Centre". In part, it reads—

"The Education Department is considering spending up to \$½ million in the coming financial year for a teaching centre at the Innisfail High School.

This was announced yesterday by Mourilyan M.L.A. Vicky Kippin.

Mrs Kippin said that the centre, if built, would include six teaching areas, a staffroom, two study rooms and toilets.

She said that Education Department officers and Works Department planning architects would meet with the school's principal, Ian Wallace, within a fortnight to discuss details for the centre.

This move follows an inspection of the school on Saturday morning by Mrs Kippin, the Minister for Works, Claude Wharton and Russ Wagner, a senior planning architect with the Works Department in Townsville."

I repeat that that was in 1979.

Recently, I had a long discussion about this school with the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing. Although I did not get everything needed at the school, I am pleased to say that I was partially successful. I thank the Minister for agreeing to construct a manual arts block. When it is completed, six rooms will once again become ordinary teaching rooms.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: This is happening after the exodus of Mrs Kippin.

Mr EATON: That is so.

The article depicts Mrs Kippin, Mr Wharton and the school principal. Because of earlier publicity, constituents are bringing newspapers to me asking what has happened to proposed developments. I should point out that \$250,000 has not been spent on that school since it was mooted.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: One thing for sure, she is the former member and she will never be back in this Chamber.

Mr EATON: The honourable member is right. That is because I work so hard.

About six weeks ago the Treasurer criticised members of Parliament for predicting doom and gloom. What are honourable members to do if they cannot be truthful and honest?

Mr Blake: We will have to be dishonest.

Mr EATON: It seems so.

Ministers should try to put themselves in the position of members who are approached by young married men with problems in trying to pay off a home, in job security and in getting children through the college system. Some of them do not know if they should mortgage their homes to keep their children at school to complete their education, knowing that jobs will not be available.

We must be honest and practical. The majority of electors are sensible. They are concerned about the daily bread-and-butter issues of trying to make a living and maintain their standards. They are trying to educate their children to take their places in the work-force as responsible citizens.

Mr Blake: And they seek the truth.

Mr EATON: They do that at all times.

This afternoon, the honourable member for Salisbury criticised Opposition members for predicting doom and gloom. If a politician is to maintain his integrity, he has to be realistic and face the facts. In the present economic situation in Australia, finance is seriously short. As I said, I do not envy the Treasurer. Ministers must be realistic, face up to the problems and get their priorities right. They will have to make hard decisions. If they are honest and open, the public will accept hard decisions.

Today, harsh Government decisions are not made by Governments. They do not want to get offside with the public. Such decisions are made because no alternative is available in the present economic conditions. Governments at all levels are on the verge of bankruptcy. The banking system in other parts of the world is starting to crumble. It will not be long before that happens in Australia. I read in one of yesterday's daily newspapers that, in the next few weeks, Mr Howard will make a statement on the entry of a foreign bank into the Australian banking system. That proves how desperate the Government is. Foreign banks have been wanting entry to Australia for a long time. They realise that now is an opportune time to apply because the Government is looking for finance, and one way for it to get off the hook is to have an injection of foreign funds through the banking system. The economic climate will get worse before it gets better, so I sincerely hope that the Treasurer will do the best job that he can.

Mrs NELSON (Aspley) (7.25 p.m.): I have great pleasure in joining in the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I wish to refer to three issues. I shall refer first to some of the economic problems that face Australia and in particular to problems that face Queensland and its Government, which is the deliverer of services. It is the main body in the State responsible for the distribution of funds.

One of the problems that concerns the whole nation is the ideological approach to solving economic problems in the last decade. When the Whitlam Government came to power in 1972, it inherited a certain amount of inflation and an economy that was under stress. Almost immediately it took the ideological approach of deficit budgeting to get out of its predicament. Temporarily, that worked.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mrs NELSON: The member for Wolston has assumed that I am going to criticise the Prime Minister. If he waits, he will find that he is in error.

In 1973 and at the beginning of 1974, the deficit budgeting system was shown to have some holes in it. Instead of changing roles and changing direction, the Government expanded the system of deficit budgeting that it was using. History shows that vast amounts of money were sought overseas by the Federal Government from other sources around the world. It tried to buy and spend its way out of what was a very serious economic situation.

Conversely, the Federal Governments since 1975 have taken a strictly monetarist policy, which is to put the screws on the supply of money, tighten the economy, reduce expenditure and sit out the economic downturn. Governments have tried not to spend their way out of the economic situation; they have tried to conserve as much of their resources as possible and sit it out, knowing full well that the dampening effect might bring down inflation but increase unemployment and other associated problems.

Problems developed between 1972 and 1975 because there was deficit budgeting, and deficit budgeting at its worst. For the last seven years, monetarist policies have been adopted. I suspect that they have been monetarist policies at their worst. Neither of those systems will work by itself. It is frustrating and annoying to see people with economic backgrounds playing around with ideology in politics and trying to solve economic problems. Neither deficit budgeting nor a monetarist policy takes into account the human factor. In particular, the monetarist policy does not take into account the civil unrest and the social disobedience that can come from large numbers of unemployed people who become distressed and disturbed at being out of work for long periods. It does not take into account the very harrowing human factor of those young people who, upon leaving school, cannot find work. A non-working mentality is developed within that group. There is also evidence of that in middle-aged males. If they are out of work for long periods, there is evidence that they develop lasting psychological problems.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mrs NELSON: The member for Brisbane Central thinks that he is the only member of this Parliament who is prepared to come into the House having done some research. Although I was delighted with his humorous speech this afternoon, as were other members, I am sure that the Treasurer would rather hear some constructive comments about the economic policies of the Government. That is what I am trying to introduce into this debate.

The Federal and State Governments must realise that there should be a balance that ignores neither monetarist policies, if one is on that side of the political arena, nor deficit budgeting, if one is on the other side politically, but takes into account the human factor. I happen to believe that a balanced approach to the monetarist policy, taking into account the human factor, is the best approach. Certainly, spending one's way out of trouble has never worked for individuals; nor has it worked in Western Europe and in Eastern bloc countries. For a lengthy period there has been no evidence to show that deficit budgeting works. We must maintain a monetarist, but modified, policy.

At the national level, the whole purpose of an economic policy is to restore confidence in the economy. That requires the trust of the people. If enough of the people are out of work and if enough of the people are finding it extremely difficult to maintain their budgets and their standard of living, there will not be confidence in the economy and Governments become unstable and tend to lose office, no matter what their political persuasion might

be. So the Government of the day has the double responsibility of having sound economic policies and of adopting a humane approach to solving the social problems that those policies create.

That brings me to the point of job-creation programs. During 1973-74 we had the RED scheme, that ghastly innovation of the Whitlam era which sought to find a humane solution to a social problem but did not go about it in the right way. The present Government is not going about solving its problems in the right way. Both it and the Whitlam Government ignored the vital factor in the economy, that is, that although Governments have access to what appear to be vast sums of money and provide vast services throughout the community, it is the private-sector economy in which confidence has to be generated and in which risk capital has to be invested. If the private-sector economy does not trust the Government and does not have confidence in any of the Governments in office, it will not risk capital and it will not employ additional staff. What the Governments from 1972 to 1975 and from 1975 to 1982 should have done was discuss with private enterprise and the private-sector economy the way in which they could involve themselves in improving the economy.

To give a classic example of what the private sector itself did wrong in 1974-75 and is now paying for seven years later—in its wisdom, it decided to sack most of the married women in the work-force. It went ahead and did that. Incidentally, this State Government was guilty of doing that in 1978-79. The private sector said that it would give preference in employment to the theoretical bread-winner, who was assumed to be the married family man, to school-leavers and to single people. What that did was take the money out of the economy, the consumer out of the economy. The assumption that only men are bread-winners is a false assumption and has been a false assumption since the end of World War I. Women have never really been out of the work-force; they have only been more obviously in it since the end of the 1950s. Technology hit the home in the late 1950s, with the result that women had the time to work more obviously. Women were paid to work, whereas previously many had worked voluntarily. All that had a profound effect upon the economy.

The private sector did two things: it took those women out of the work-force and it made the very clear and, in the short term, correct assumption that it could still operate its factories and shops with half the staff. Look at the retailing industry as a classic example.

David Jones and Myer are clear examples of short-sighted economic planning. They sacked many of their staff. For a number of years they continued to make tremendous profits, but look at what is happening now in the major retailing centres in Australia. They are collapsing. David Jones has found it hard for the past six years and Myer is now starting to feel the pinch very badly. In the past, those stores had relied on service. They had a lot of staff and they provided service. That service went towards making their profits grow. The people they paid spent their money. However, they then took those people out of the economy, with the result that those people did not have money to spend. Five years ago a group of us told the retail industry that it would rue the day that it did that. Now it is starting to reap the rewards of its own short-sighted economic planning.

What the private-sector economy should be doing is showing a willingness to forgo major profits. Many industries ought to be prepared to go without profits for three or four years, to maintain productivity and to break even—and, most importantly, to keep their staff employed. If they put off their staff, in the long run they will close down their own businesses.

I wish to make some brief comments about an article that appeared in "The National Times" of two weeks ago. It commented on a report about women in the Public Service. What it said applied to women in the Federal Public Service, but, from my research, it applies equally to women in the State Public Service in Queensland.

I would like the Treasurer to ask each of the departments of the State Government to provide material, for perusal by him and by the Parliament, showing how many women are in management positions in the Queensland Public Service, how many hold executive positions in the top two levels of the Public Service—I think that there would be only one or two in the top two levels—and how many hold executive positions in the third level of the Public Service. I would also like to know how many have been appointed to such positions in the last decade.

It is my considered judgment that many hundreds of extremely capable women throughout the various levels of the Public Service are continually frustrated in their attempts to achieve promotion not only because of the short-sighted bread-winner sort of policy, which, in some circumstances, really prevents them from being employed in the first instance, but also because of the 18th century mentality which prevents them from being promoted and adequately rewarded for their efforts.

I shall now spend a little bit of time on an issue that probably will not win me any friends, but I believe that it needs to be said. I refer to superannuation. Queensland first had a Public Service Superannuation Act in 1912. It became law on 1 January 1913. It provided annuity benefits for public servants at the age of 65 years. Those benefits were not directly subsidised by the Government until 1949. Incidentally, the Denham Liberal Government of the time introduced the Act.

From the very beginning, the superannuation could be commuted to a lump sum. That option was available, but very rarely was it taken up. Most people took a fortnightly or monthly pension. That Act has been updated from 1958 onwards.

The Australian Public Service Superannuation Act was introduced by the Hughes Nationalist Government in 1922 for Commonwealth public servants, and this is the point that I wish to make: that scheme was introduced with no conversion option or lump-sum payments. Only retrenched public servants had that conversion option.

What I put to the House tonight is that, since its inception, there has been a significant philosophical change in attitude to superannuation. Clearly, the lump-sum option has always been in the Queensland scheme, but it was not exercised to any great extent until recent years when actuaries realised that it would be cheaper for the fund to make those sorts of payments rather than to pay a pension to retired persons for a long period and then to their spouses. That may be so, but, philosophically, the purpose of superannuation was to provide a retiring public servant and his spouse with a reasonable living income, which could carry them in dignity through their old age.

Superannuation was never designed to make the children of retired people wealthy overnight. Death duties have been abolished in nearly every State and at the Federal level.

In the present circumstances, many people are retiring, taking large amounts of money, which, frankly, they cannot possibly hope to spend, and dying within a decade, and their children are inheriting most of the money without their having to pay any death duties. I do not believe that that is morally or philosophically correct. It is time that Governments of all political persuasions around Australia examined the matter.

I shall not exclude myself from what I am about to say. I do not want to be branded as a person who makes a statement but wants to be excluded from what is suggested. In the circumstances, I am quite prepared to say that it should apply to me, to every other member and to every public servant.

People who entered a scheme expecting to receive a certain type of benefit and who are eligible ought to be able to receive it, but we ought to review the scheme now—and I mean now, because the people of Queensland and Australia are sickened by the vast amounts of money being paid to very few people in the Public Service and Parliaments. That is vastly unfair to public servants themselves, most of whom will not receive anything like the sums of money. They are held up to public ridicule wherever they go. The same applies to politicians. It is not generally acknowledged that very few ever get to collect superannuation because they are not in Parliament long enough. I think only about 14 per cent of members of Parliament receive superannuation. It is also not known by the public that politicians' contributions are double those of members of the Public Service.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: I am glad you are making your contribution.

Mrs NELSON: I am sorry to disappoint the member for Wolston. I will be here when he has a beard and I am in a wheelchair.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Dr Edwards: He said that you will need Labor preferences. You will get in by an absolute majority.

Mrs NELSON: He obviously has not done any surveys in my electorate. Neither the member for Ipswich nor the member for Aspley will need to worry about the preferences of the Labor Party.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: That's not what you said to me last week.

Mrs NELSON: The member is very bitter this week.

There is a real question in the public mind about the purpose of superannuation, both in good and bad economic times. When times are bad, it simply exacerbates the public wound. When people are struggling to buy food and pay the rent on small wages or welfare benefits, there is something quite obscene about the amounts of money paid out in lump sums to high-ranking public servants, and to people in private industry. Let them not walk away from this. They are as much subsidised by the taxpayer as are public servants.

Superannuation has become removed from the purpose for which it was recommended initially, which was to provide for people a reasonable income on which to live out the end of their lives with dignity. We ought to revert to that system. If there is to be a conversion option for people who are presently not eligible but who will become eligible, it ought to be at a reduced amount and their pension should be suitably reduced. If there is a double benefit for spouses at present, that ought to be abolished.

I take the opportunity to say that, if there is to be a review of superannuation schemes for both the private and public sectors, as well as for members of Parliament, let us give women equality of opportunity. They certainly do not have it at the moment. They are significantly discriminated against in the State Public Service Superannuation Scheme. The State scheme relies on the fact that 90 per cent of women in the service will never collect. It is known that they will leave within seven years of their employment. That helps to keep the yearly payments down and the benefits up. I would like to see an across-the-board slight reduction in benefits paid out to give women equality of opportunity under the scheme. I know that members of the State Service Union will really be beside themselves about that comment. If the option is to increase payments to bring those people in, we ought to reduce the benefits paid out to everybody so that at least each citizen employed by the Government is treated equally.

I take the opportunity to make the point that people in our community do not understand the way Australia is governed. They seem to think that the only Government responsible for fiscal and monetary policy is the Federal Government.

Although that may be true at the national level, I point out that in this State more than half the revenue of the Government is earned by the State, either through taxation, levy charges, royalties or other sources of funds. Less than half of it comes from the Commonwealth, and not a great deal of that is directional funding. Therefore, the fiscal and monetary policies of the State Government are just as important as those of the Federal Government.

I am delighted with both the quality and the calibre of the people who administer the finances of this State, and I pay a tribute to leading public servants. This State has never had a better Treasurer, and I conclude by congratulating the honourable gentleman on the way in which he administers the finances of Queensland.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (7.46 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contribution to the debate, which has been one of great variation. I feel very strongly that some members made a genuine attempt to discuss the State economy as well as the Federal economy. In that regard, the debate has been quite interesting.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Stimulating!

Dr EDWARDS: I would certainly agree with that.

The honourable member for South Brisbane, as the Opposition spokesman on Treasury matters, certainly made some very interesting points. In his first effort as spokesman on Treasury matters for the Opposition, he showed a very keen understanding of fiscal matters. I assure him of my co-operation in Treasury matters as well as in the matters that he discussed. His contribution was certainly of great interest to me.

I did not agree with some of his comments about the economy in general. I realise that he has to carry out his responsibilities on behalf of the ALP, which seems to have

a vested interest in being the prophet of gloom and doom. However, he carried out that responsibility with great decorum.

I do not agree with that gloom and doom prophecy. I feel very strongly that the Government, with the policies that it has initiated, has provided correct management which will, despite the difficult times I mentioned in my speech, ensure that the State will continue to blossom and that, once the economy builds up, development will occur at an even more rapid rate.

The honourable member's comments about State deficits were very interesting. I share his view, because he does not support deficit funding for the States. I hope that he and the member for Cook (Mr Scott), who still supports deficit budgeting, will settle their differences.

Mr Burns: Of course he still supports it. He has not changed his mind.

Dr EDWARDS: No, he has not changed his mind, so the Opposition's Treasury spokesman and the member for Cook have a conflict of ideas. That is not the only policy difference that exists on that side of the House.

Mr Burns: Not on your side, either.

Dr EDWARDS: I am sure that the honourable member for Lytton is correct in saying that. Perhaps, overall, that is a good thing. However, I understood that members of the ALP were bound by its policy, so it is interesting to hear that two members of the ALP support different policies on the same issue.

In general, the member for South Brisbane supports the Government's policy in relation to the national economy. The State Government does not agree with the large increase in Budget deficit at the Federal level.

I was interested also in his comments about tariff protection and devaluation of the dollar. I must say that at this stage I share that view.

The honourable member spoke also about the establishment of a Japanese bank in Queensland. I must correct that statement, which was a misunderstanding caused by an inaccurate Press report.

Mr Davis. After a trip, they always are.

Dr EDWARDS: I do not write the articles for the news media, although sometimes I wish I did. I think I could do a much better job than is done on some of the media reports that come to my notice.

The Premier did not say that a Japanese bank would be established in Queensland. He said that a representative office of a Japanese bank would be established in Brisbane, which is much different from the establishment of a Japanese bank.

The honourable member for Windsor spoke about employment schemes. He felt very strongly that the Government should become involved in funding more capital works.

I am not sure what the member for Brisbane Central was talking about. He referred to the sugar scheme and unemployment, and then there was a comical episode about the Liberal Party. His most classic statement was that he should spend all his time talking economics. After two minutes he ran out of steam! Perhaps we will hear more in the future.

The member for Isis felt that there was a need for this Parliament to become more involved in a debate on the economy. He also said that the Labor Party has a vested interest in gloom and doom. He supported some aspects of increasing subsidies on the building of girl guides' huts and women's shelters. I was also very interested in his comments—I share his view entirely—about the need for responsibility in tax collection. He said that the public had to understand how money is used and that money expended by Governments has to be obtained through taxation.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: I will have a little bet with you that he finishes up being one of your Cabinet colleagues.

Dr EDWARDS: I can assure the honourable member for Wolston that he will never be a Cabinet colleague of mine, and that is one thing I am very happy about.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You are in trouble in Ipswich.

Dr EDWARDS: If I was a betting man, I would take a bet on that, too.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: That is why you are attending every dog fight up there at the moment.

Dr EDWARDS: It would be the first time I ever saw the honourable member at a dog fight in Ipswich.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Dr EDWARDS: Mr Scott, the member for Cook, supported deficit budgeting, something for which he is well known. I have already dealt with that. He also made a very interesting statement that he cannot complain about the spending of Government money in the electorate of Cook. Despite the fact that the former Leader of the Opposition continuously accused this Government of pork-barrelling Government electorates and spending nothing in Opposition electorates, Mr Scott said he cannot complain about Government expenditure in Opposition electorates.

Mr Frawley mentioned the possible siting of a coal-loading facility at Bribie Island. I do not believe that it will go ahead, and even if it does, it is a long way down the track. But that is a matter that will be considered and decided by the Government in the future.

Mr Prest, the abject prophet of gloom from Central Queensland, referred to personal attacks. I wish he would follow his own suggestions, because after saying that he deplored personal attacks he went on to make a personal attack on the member for Isis. I do not quite follow his consistency.

Mrs Kyburz made one of the best speeches in the debate. Her comments indicated that she understood the Appropriation Bill. She also asked a number of questions. She raised the matter of unforeseen expenditure and the accountability of departments. Under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the accountable officer of the department, who is approved by me, is the responsible officer at law and is accountable for all expenditure. If unforeseen expenditure is to occur it has to go through the hoops, as it were, with the accountable officer being satisfied that it meets the Government's requirements. Before the expenditure can be undertaken it has to be approved by the Treasury, Cabinet and finally the Governor in Council. Without going into the specific details of our Budget management, I can assure the honourable member that there is a very close scrutiny of all expenditure, especially where there is a possibility of any expenditure above what has been budgeted for. We feel very strongly that the secret of the success of this Government is related to the strong provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

The honourable member also asked about decreasing world markets and their effect on our minerals. We have long-term contracts, and our agreements contain a fixed clause. I do not expect that there will be any problems at all.

The honourable member for Mourilyan, Mr Eaton, raised the subject of tourism and said he believed that the Government should spend more money on it. I share his view. We have done as much as we can, but it is a matter of making the available money go round. Tourism is necessary for this State's growth, so more money will have to be spent on the promotion and expansion of the tourist industry in the next few years. I am sure the honourable member will agree that the private sector has a major role to play in tourism.

The honourable member for Aspley made some interesting, appropriate comments about economic management in general. Her knowledge of fiscal theories was obvious from her comments. I was very interested in her comments on the way in which the hazardous monetarist policies in Canada have dominated the theories of Canadian economists. I share her views. Those policies are totally unacceptable to me, too. Both points that the honourable member for Aspley raised about superannuation benefits and equality for women are under investigation by the Government. I assure her that I will report to her on them.

I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate. Finally, I pay tribute to the officers of my department for the tremendous support they have given to the Government in preparing the Budget appropriations and in managing the State. I am sure no other State or the Commonwealth has more dedicated Treasury officers. I say publicly that if my Treasury officers were in the Federal sphere we would not be

getting the advice that is coming from some of the officers who are advising the Federal Government. I look forward to their continuing support. I am sure that the Government will receive it.

Motion (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Committee

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

Clauses 1 to 5, and schedule, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Dr Edwards, read a third time,

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ACT AND INSPECTION OF MACHINERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX—(Minister for Employment and Labour Relations), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Construction Safety Act 1971-1975 in certain particulars and the Inspection of Machinery Act 1951-1974 in a certain particular.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations) (8 p.m.): I move—

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

At the present time, applicants for positions of inspectors of construction work are required to meet entry qualifications as laid down in accordance with the provisions of the Construction Safety Act. For positions generally throughout the Public Service, however, the criteria for appointment are determined by the Public Service Board.

A recent examination of the recruiting procedures for inspectorial staff of the Division of Occupational Safety revealed a need to allow the Public Service Board to set the qualifications for these positions. The board has the necessary expertise in this area and is obviously the appropriate authority to perform such functions. It is therefore proposed to remove the responsibility for the prescription of qualifications for appointment to positions of inspectors of construction work from the Construction Safety Act and transfer such responsibility to the Public Service Board.

Also contained in this Bill is an amendment to both the Construction Safety Act and the Inspection of Machinery Act which gives legislative authority to the Under Secretary, Department of Employment and Labour Relations, to be directly responsible to me for the administration of the Acts. The overseeing of legislation under my portfolio is the responsibility of the permanent head of my department and it is simply intended to make provision for this role of my departmental head in the Acts mentioned.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Warburton, adjourned.

CITY OF BRISBANE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the City of Brisbane Act 1924-1982 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House) (8.3 p.m.): I move—

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

This is a short Bill, the purpose of which is to confer upon the Brisbane City Council certain rating powers already enjoyed by all other local authorities in Queensland by virtue of the operation of the provisions of the Local Government Act.

The Bill empowers the Brisbane City Council, at its discretion, to make and levy a minimum general rate in respect of rateable lands in the city. The concept behind such a rate is that it enables the local authority to secure a reasonable contribution towards the cost of providing local government services from the owner of land which is assigned a relatively low valuation.

The power for other local authorities to make and levy a minimum general rate has been included in the Local Government Act for quite a number of years, and the great majority of local authorities have availed themselves of such power. It would seem only reasonable that such power be extended to the Brisbane City Council. As in the case of the Local Government Act, the Bill empowers the council to exempt rateable lands of any specified class from the levy of a minimum general rate. For example, the council may consider that it would be inequitable to apply the minimum general rate to very small parcels of land attracting relatively low valuations, such as leases for pump licences which are incorporated in the use of other lands held by the property owner.

The second provision of the Bill relates to the charging of interest on rates due and payable to the council. In terms of the City of Brisbane Act, where rates are unpaid at the end of the year in which they become due and payable, such rates thereafter bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum simple interest. On the other hand, the Local Government Act presently provides for a rate of interest on rates in arrears, at 14 per cent per annum or such other interest rate as the Governor in Council determines from time to time, and it is provided that such interest be calculated on a compound basis.

Once again, it would only seem reasonable that the Brisbane City Council should have powers similar to those of other local authorities in relation to the amount of interest which may be charged on rates in arrears. Accordingly, the Bill provides that where any rates become due and payable in the city of Brisbane, they shall bear interest at the rate of 14 per cent per annum, calculated on compound interest or such other rate as the Governor in Council from time to time by Order in Council determines.

The amendments are of a machinery nature. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Davis, adjourned.

CLEAN WATERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Clean Waters Act 1971-1981 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House) (8.7 p.m.): I move—

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

The prime purpose of this Bill is to adjust the membership of the Water Quality Council constituted under the Clean Waters Act following the transfer of responsibility for administration of that Act from the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police.

Members will recall that responsibility for administration of this Act was previously under the control of the Minister for Local Government and at that stage the Act provided for the Chief Engineer of the Department of Local Government to be chairman of the Water Quality Council and for a representative of the Water Resources Commission to be a member of the council.

When responsibility for administration of the Act was transferred to the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs, the Act was amended to provide for the Commisisoner of Water Resources or his nominee to be chairman of the council and for representation on the council by the Department of Local Government.

Because of the further change in administration of the Act, it has again become necessary to adjust the chairmanship and membership of the council between the two departments, and the Bill accordingly provides for the Director of Local Government or his nominee to be chairman of the council and for representation on the council by the Water Resources Commission.

The Bill provides that where the Director of Local Government nominates a person to be chairman of the Water Quality Council, such person may continue as the director's nominee only so long as he continues to be an officer of the Department of Local Government. In addition, the Clean Waters Act presently provides for representation on the Water Quality Council by a representative of the Queensland Fisheries Service.

The Director-General, Department of Primary Industries, has advised that the Queensland Fisheries Service no longer exists as a separate entity but is contained within the Division of Dairying and Fisheries of that department. The Bill accordingly provides for representation in the future of this division. There is already separate provision in the Act for a representative on the council of the Department of Primary Industries.

Members will see that the Bill is of a machinery nature and I commend it to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Davis, adjourned.

SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House), by leave, without notice:
I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Sewerage and Water Supply Act 1949–1981 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House) (8.10 p.m.): I move—

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

This Bill has a two-fold purpose. Firstly, it adjusts the membership of the Plumbers and Drainers Examination and Licensing Board constituted under the Sewerage and Water Supply Act following the transfer of responsibility for administration of that Act from the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police.

The board is primarily concerned with the issue of licences to plumbers and drainers entitling them to carry out sewerage and water-supply plumbing work and house-drainage work governed by the provisions of the Standard Sewerage and Standard Water Supply By-laws.

Members will recall that responsibility for administration of this Act was previously under the control of the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police and at that stage the Act provided for the Department of Local Government to be represented

on the board. When responsibility for administration of the Act was transferred to the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs, the Act was amended to provide for a representative of the Commissioner of Water Resources on the board in lieu of the Department of Local Government.

Because of the further change in administration of the Act, it has again become necessary to adjust the representation on the board. The Bill accordingly provides for a representative of the Department of Local Government, nominated in that behalf by the Minister, to be a member of the Plumbers and Drainers Examination and Licensing Board.

The second aspect dealt with in the Bill relates to a limitation on the holders of interim licences granted under the Act.

The Plumbers and Drainers Examination and Licensing Board, which is comprised of representatives of interested Government departments, local authorities, the Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union and the Master Plumbers Association, grants plumbers', country plumbers', water plumbers' and drainers' licences to persons who have the prescribed period of practical experience and who have completed an appropriate apprenticeship course and passed the theoretical and practical examinations associated with that course. Additionally, the board is empowered to grant interim licences in each of the categories referred to.

It is the general policy of the board that interim licences be granted to persons who satisfy the board of their basic skills pending such persons passing the necessary examinations or obtaining sufficient practical experience, as the case may be.

The currency of interim licences is a matter within the discretion of the board, but, generally, they are granted for a period of only 12 months.

As the law presently stands, a person holding an interim licence may conduct his own business and undertake, by way of contract, any plumbing or house-drainage work covered by the provisions of the Standard Sewerage and Standard Water Supply By-laws.

In circumstances where an interim licence-holder fails to meet all the board's requirements for the issue of a full licence and his interim licence expires, he is left in the position, if he has partly completed a contract, of not being able to lawfully complete the whole of the contract. This is an imposition on the householder who has to engage another licensed person to complete the work, quite often at an increased cost.

The Bill accordingly provides that a person who first obtains an interim licence, after the coming into force of this legislation, may not enter into a contract for the carrying out of plumbing or drainage work (other than a contract of employment) and may only carry out work which he is lawfully entitled to perform while in the employ of another person. This approach has been recommended by the Plumbers and Drainers Board which, as I have stated, is representative of all sections of the plumbing industry.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Davis, adjourned.

WINE INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House), by leave, without notice:
I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Wine Industry Act 1974-1978 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading.

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House) (8.15 p.m.): I move—
 “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

The wine industry in Queensland is largely concentrated in the Granite Belt and adjacent areas and is now contributing significantly to the economy of those areas. Not only does the industry make a direct contribution in terms of value of production and additional employment but it also contributes indirectly through the encouragement of tourism.

Since 1974, when the Wine Industry Act was originally passed, the industry has made outstanding progress. Not only have the quality and range of products improved markedly, but the standard of premises and the service offered to the public have now reached the point where they equal anything offered elsewhere in Australia. This general improvement in quality and standards has been particularly evident since 1978, when the Wine Industry Act was last amended. The amendments at that time enabled Queensland wine makers to compete more effectively in the market and encouraged better presentation and promotion of Queensland wines. An indication of the benefit of the wine industry legislation to our Queensland industry is given by the increase in production since the Act was first introduced in 1974. In the first full year after the Act was introduced, production of wine in Queensland was a mere 173 000 litres. By 1981-82, this had increased to 585 000 litres.

Provision was made in the 1978 amendment to enable a wine maker, or a group of wine makers operating as a co-operative, to open a second outlet away from the winery. Some Granite Belt wine makers have availed themselves of this opportunity and now offer from their outlet at Mt Gravatt an excellent selection of Queensland wines as well as other Australian wines. Problems have, however, been experienced by some of the smaller wine makers whose throughput is not yet large enough to enable them to participate in the second outlet arrangement. The purpose of the present Bill is to assist in overcoming this problem.

At present, the Act provides that at least 50 per cent of the wine sold through the second outlet must be the wine maker's own wine. The balance may consist of other Australian wines. The proposed amendment will specify that at least 50 per cent of wine sold through the second outlet shall consist of Queensland-produced wine, rather than the wine maker's own wine, and that the balance may consist of any other wine. This will assist the smaller Queensland wine producers by enabling them to participate in the second outlet. It will also have the added advantage of increasing total sales through the second outlet, thereby improving the economic viability of that outlet.

The proposed amendments are quite straightforward and have the industry's full support. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Davis, adjourned.

OFFENDERS PROBATION AND PAROLE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. T. A. WHITE (Redcliffe—Minister for Welfare Services); by leave, without notice:
 I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. T. A. WHITE (Redcliffe—Minister for Welfare Services) (8.20 p.m.): I move—
 “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

On 12 May 1980 assent was given to the Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980. The purpose of this Act was to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the probation and parole of offenders and to provide for their release under community

service orders. The Queensland Probation and Parole Service provides an effective and decentralised advisory service to Queensland courts, the Queensland Parole Board and other Government departments.

One of the major innovations of the Bill is the extension of the provisions of the community service order scheme to those offenders who, because of economic difficulties, are required to serve a period of imprisonment in lieu of paying their fine. Part VA covering clauses 34 to 39 has been included in this legislation to introduce the fine option program to Queensland.

Apart from the fine option program, which will be discussed separately, most of the other matters in the new Bill are procedural modifications aimed at making current legislation more workable.

They provide for—

- (i) Delegation of authority by the Chief Probation and Parole Officer to a position rather than a person;
- (ii) preparation and distribution of pre-sentence reports;
- (iii) the establishment of firm initial reporting instructions to probationers and parolees;
- (iv) clarification of areas of uncertainty in selected sections of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980;
- (v) machinery to imprison parole violators in any Queensland prison;
- (vi) extradition warrants to be used when parole violators are arrested outside of Queensland;
- (vii) the removal of limitations imposed upon magistrates and judges when sentencing offenders to perform community service;
- (viii) the guilt or innocence of offenders charged with a breach of community service to be determined by a District Court judge or a Supreme Court judge rather than the matter going to a jury;
- (ix) the requirement that probation officers obtain approval of the Chief Probation and Parole Officer before making application to the court to transfer supervising courts, discharge orders, and amend orders;
- (x) the extension of the matters in relation to which regulations may be made under the Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980.

Important amendments will be discussed in detail under respective clauses shortly.

The other amendments are minor and have been designed to simplify the administration of probation and parole and community service in Queensland.

As mentioned previously, the major innovation of the whole Bill relates to the introduction of fine option orders. These orders will provide community service as an alternative to the costly practice of imprisoning fine defaulters. The report of the Comptroller-General of Prisons for the 1981-82 financial year indicated that of the 3 875 admissions to prisons during that year, 1 410 or 36 per cent, were admissions of offenders who had failed to pay a fine.

At any one time, fine defaulters compose 6 per cent of the total prison population. The cost of a probation, parole or community service order is approximately \$530 per annum. On the other hand, it costs approximately \$16,000 to keep a person in prison for a year.

The fact that a court was prepared to fine an offender rather than ordering imprisonment would suggest that the court regarded the offender as not constituting a danger to the community. Hence the offender was given an opportunity to pay his debt to society by way of a fine rather than a prison sentence in the first instance. The option to payment of a fine has traditionally been a term of imprisonment for defaulters.

The paradox is that there are a number of offenders currently in prison because of their financial situation rather than for the crime they committed. This does not lead to any benefit to society nor does it achieve the payment of the fine.

The Bill will allow, at the time of sentencing, offenders who cannot afford to pay their fine or who can show that by paying the fine their family would suffer economic

hardship, the opportunity to apply to the court to suspend the original order and replace it with a fine option order.

This will permit the offender to perform unpaid community service in lieu of paying a fine. Failure to complete the community service ordered by the court will result in the immediate reinstatement of the original order.

The extension of the community service order scheme to include fine defaulters is designed to keep less dangerous persons out of prison, and thereby eliminate the associated problems attributed to prison.

The idea that offenders against the criminal law should be obliged to work as part of their punishment is not new. Under this modern sentence, the offender remains within the general community and is obliged to involve himself in supervised activities for a period of time. This means giving up leisure by assisting in charitable tasks of a nature that has been approved by the responsible Minister.

The purposes of such an order are twofold. On one hand they provide some form of reparation by the offender himself and on the other hand they expose him to association with well-adjusted citizens who are members of a community service organisation responsible for worthwhile projects.

This allows offenders to assimilate some of the values and to develop goals that they had not previously considered. It also enables them to form relationships of a kind that will assist in their personal development towards social responsibility.

Offenders, for the most part, have responded in a very positive manner to the orders made against them. It is estimated that around 85 per cent of offenders placed on community service orders have successfully completed the required number of hours of service under their orders.

Owing to the fact that a number of clauses relate mainly to improving the procedures involved in the administration of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980, it is not proposed to discuss the Bill clause by clause at this stage. Comments will be restricted to sections where there has been a change of some significance.

Clause 6 defines the term "police officer" in accordance with the Police Acts. The term "police officer" is not used in the Police Acts and it is necessary to use a definition that is consistent with those Acts.

The Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980 provides for the Chief Probation and Parole Officer to delegate to any person any of his powers, authorities, functions and duties except power of delegation. Clause 7 has been included to remove problems that arise when an officer who had been delegated this authority leaves the service, is transferred or is on leave.

Significant amendments are contained in clauses 8 and 9. The Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980 established that the Chief Probation and Parole Officer was responsible for the preparation of court reports. However, there was no direction indicating who was to prepare these reports, the time in which the report was to be prepared, and the number of copies required. To avoid unnecessary delays during the sentencing process, it was considered that provision should be made to prescribe the time in which reports are to be prepared. Clause 8 deals with these aspects.

Members of the legal profession have expressed concern regarding the distribution of the reports and information contained in the reports. Pre-sentence reports often contain confidential and contentious information regarding the offender and his family. To protect the rights of all concerned, clause 9 gives the courts power to make these reports available to the defence, the prosecution and the defendant. However, should the report contain information that the court considers should be withheld from the defendant, it may direct that the report not be shown to the defendant. As the material in the report is to be regarded as *prima facie* evidence, an opportunity will be given to the defence or the prosecution to question the material in the report. To ensure that the reports do not become public property, clause 9 directs that all reports are to be returned to the court at the conclusion of proceedings.

Clauses 10, 11 and 12 are procedural modifications.

Clauses 13 and 17 are complementary clauses that provide for breach action to be taken against a probationer, even though the probation order has expired or been discharged.

There is provision in the current legislation to enable a higher court to deal with a probationer for the offence in respect of which a probation order was made in a lower court, should that probationer be convicted in a higher court of an offence during the probation period. The higher court may deal with the offender in a manner in which the lower court could have dealt with him if he had just been convicted by the lower court. Unfortunately, the wording of the section that empowers the higher court to take this action is not clear in its intention.

Clause 16 has been included to rectify any uncertainty that may exist.

Clause 20 is based on the Solicitor-General's observation that there was an omission in the Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980 relating to the making of a recommendation for early eligibility for release on parole. However, there was no provision for a situation where the court is sentencing a person to a term of imprisonment which is to be served cumulatively on a term of imprisonment which the prisoner is already undergoing.

Clause 20 will permit a court to recommend that he be eligible for release on parole. The amendment, however, ensures that a prisoner does not become eligible for parole at a time earlier than he would have been under the sentence that he has been serving.

Clauses 22 and 23 direct that a parole violator be conveyed to any prison in Queensland. As legislation now stands, warrants used for the apprehension of parole violators should specify the name of the prison to which a parole violator is to be conveyed. This might result, for example, in the costly exercise of having an offending parolee arrested in Townsville conveyed to a prison in Brisbane. Under the proposed legislation, parole violators, when arrested, will be conveyed to the nearest prison.

There has always been doubt as to the legality of having parole violators arrested outside Queensland extradited on Parole Board warrants. To remove this doubt, clause 24 gives power to the Parole Board to apply to a stipendiary magistrate for a warrant of apprehension which will give legitimate grounds for extradition.

Clause 27 has been included to prevent delays at the time of sentencing. Judges and magistrates have expressed concern that legislation required that they seek a report from a probation officer regarding the suitability of an offender to perform community service. This requirement often required a judge or magistrate to adjourn proceedings to seek this report. Such action resulted in unnecessary delays in the court proceedings. Clause 27 removes this requirement, but still ensures that orders cannot be made where projects are unavailable.

Clause 29 introduces a new procedure. Provision is available under the Offenders Probation and Parole Act 1980 to allow a judge to determine the guilt or innocence of a probationer. It is considered that the same provisions should be available to the courts when determining the guilt or innocence of an offender charged with a breach of a community service order.

Current legislation makes provision for a conviction for which probation is granted to be disregarded for certain purposes, but it does not provide the same safeguard for those offenders who have successfully completed community service orders. Clause 32 provides this safeguard. It must, however, be pointed out that the proposed clause is not designed to remove a conviction from the person's record, but simply to give some protection from the consequences of youthful indiscretion.

As previously mentioned, clauses 34 to 39 deal with the introduction of fine option orders.

Clause 40 permits the Magistrates Court's certificate specifying that a probationer was in breach of his order to be accepted as admissible evidence in either a District or Supreme Court.

Clause 42 extends the matters in relation to which regulations may be made under the Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Shaw, adjourned.

CASINO CONTROL BILL

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Miller, Ithaca) in the chair; Hon. L. R. Edwards (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—Interpretation—

Mr BURNS (8.34 p.m.): By way of interjection, the Treasurer said to the member for Townsville, "Poker machines will not be introduced." However, under this clause, this is the interpretation given to the word "game"—

"'game' means any game notified in the Gazette, together with an account of the rules for the playing thereof, by the Minister as a game that may be conducted or played in a casino pursuant to a casino licence;"

Later, "gaming equipment" is defined in this way—

"gaming equipment means any electronic, electrical or mechanical contrivance or machine or any other physical item (excluding chips) used or for use in a casino in connexion with gaming;"

If the Government does not want poker machines in the casinos, why does the Bill not contain a provision stipulating that poker machines will not be allowed in the casinos? Is it correct that any future Treasurer or any other Minister who is held responsible for this legislation would be able to introduce poker machines under the provision contained in that clause?

Dr EDWARDS: If poker machines were defined in the legislation, they could be introduced in other forms, as the honourable member would know. It has been decided that by Government regulation and by agreement there will be no poker machines. However, it is true that the meaning "electronic, electrical or mechanical contrivance" has been included. That will allow the game of keno, which is an electronic type of bingo, which is acceptable to the Government, to be played. It has been defined in general terms. However, by regulation, the Government will allow only those games that it has decided to allow. It would be possible for some future Government to regulate and use this clause to introduce other games of an electronic nature, including poker machines, if necessary. At this stage, the Government is totally committed against poker machines.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—Appointment of other persons—

Mr BURNS (8.36 p.m.): Clause 6 (5) states that the Governor in Council may appoint a director, an inspector and other officers as deemed necessary for the effectual administration of the Act. Clause 8 contains a provision that the Under Treasurer shall make available clerical and other staff assistance. However, clause 7 refers to appointments for a period not exceeding five years. I understand that Michael Brown, the former New Jersey gaming division enforcement director, advised the Government on casinos. At the Victorian inquiry he spoke about the need for unlimited investigative regulatory groups to be set up in casino proposals. I wonder who the Government envisages appointing under this provision. Is it people like Michael Brown; is it people from New Jersey or the people wanted by the World Resorts or Genting organisation? There must be a reason for this clause. I would ask the Treasurer to state those reasons.

Dr EDWARDS: The reason for the clause is to enable the Government to appoint from outside the Government people with expertise who are certainly not associated with the company. Mr Brown is a person whose services have been used by the Government on a consultative basis. I think that the Government will use his services in the future. Mr Vern McDonald has been appointed by the Government under a three-year contract to provide investigational advice relative to how we will go about the inspectorate, the police activities, and so forth. The clause will give the Government power to appoint persons not associated with the companies. The companies will not be consulted on that matter.

Mr Burns: Is there any reason why there is a five-year period?

Dr EDWARDS: There is no particular reason. We felt that we should not go beyond five years because there is no purpose in going beyond that period.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 15, as read, agreed to.

Clause 16—Secrecy—

Mr BURNS (8.39 p.m.): There is need for a restriction on the availability of information, especially in relation to the people who arrange credit on a personal basis with the casino, including the hotel operations. What is the procedure where a person has been convicted and fined \$2,500? Is there a right of appeal against that decision? Can it be heard by an independent tribunal, or is it a departmental matter?

In addition, the Opposition has some questions in relation to subsection (4), which allows the Minister to authorise an officer to take any matter coming to his knowledge to any department of the State, body, holder of an office or person specified by the Minister.

In relation to financing, problems have arisen concerning the passing on of information that is not totally correct. I know of a dozen cases of persons being refused loans by banks or finance companies because someone in a reporting bureau has passed on incorrect information. I think every honourable member would be aware of such cases.

I really cannot think of a large number of Government departments that would need information, but if information is to be passed on the system must contain adequate safeguards. The Minister must ensure that the information is absolutely correct before he authorises an officer to pass it on. The dissemination of wrong information could destroy a man or women's commercial reputation and deprive him or her of a job thereafter. So it is important that the Minister give a guarantee that wrong information will not be passed on.

In the past, it has been known that wrong information has been passed on to the Department of Social Security and to the Department of Welfare Services. We know that the police pass on accident reports to insurance companies. The community is concerned that wrong information might be passed on. People want to be assured that their personal details are secure and that wrong information is not passed on.

Dr EDWARDS: As to secrecy—an offence will be reported to the police and action will be taken in the court. The secrecy requirements apply only to officers of the division, who take the secrecy oath. If they break the oath, we will have power to deal with them both within the Public Service and, if they are proved guilty, in a court.

The second point raised by the honourable member is a relevant one. I share his concern. The honourable member has been quite outspoken over the years in expressing his concern about white-collar crime. If it is proved to our officers that some aspects of the activities in a casino or of the associated contracts should be drawn to the attention of the Corporate Affairs Commissioner or the Auditor-General, the Minister will have power to authorise the officer to pass on the information to those departments. As I say, I share the honourable member's concern. The provisions will be of importance in relation to the Corporate Affairs office, the Police Department and the Auditor-General.

Clause 16, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 17 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Clause 20—Suitability of casino licensee and other persons—

Mr R. J. GIBBS (8.44 p.m.): I rise to seek some answers in relation to this clause, which is probably one of the most important clauses in the Bill. It refers to the suitability of a casino licensee and other persons. I need not go through the whole of the clause, but I should like to refer to a number of paragraphs in subclause (1).

Paragraph (a), which obviously refers to the people involved in the corporate structure of the casino, provides—

“that each person in question is of good repute, having regard to character, honesty and integrity;”

Paragraph (c) raises a relevant point, in that it provides—

“in the case of the casino licensee not being a natural person, that it has arranged or, as the circumstances require, has, in an appropriate case, a satisfactory ownership, trust or corporate structure;”

Paragraph (f) provides—

“that none of them has any business association with any person, body or association who or that, in the opinion of the Governor in Council after investigation made or caused to be made by the Minister, is not of good repute having regard to character, honesty and integrity or has undesirable or unsatisfactory financial sources;”.

Paragraph (g) reads—

“(g) that each director, partner, trustee, executive officer and secretary and any other officer or person determined by the Minister associated or connected or to be associated or connected with the ownership, administration or management of the operations or business of the casino licensee is a suitable person as or to be such director, partner, trustee, executive officer, secretary or other officer or person in his respective capacity;”.

This point concerns not only the Opposition but also the general public. It has been raised in this Chamber previously. What in-depth investigation has been carried out into the people who are now forming the corporate structure for both the northern casino and the Gold Coast casino? I am interested in the company called World Resorts Pty Ltd., which, naturally, is a direct subsidiary of the Genting group from Malaysia. I am extremely concerned about the suitability of the Genting group to be involved in both casinos.

Approximately 2½ years ago, when I had the great privilege to represent this Parliament at an overseas conference, I went to Malaysia. That was some time before it was decided that casino licences would be issued in Queensland. In Malaysia, I was able to speak to a number of people about Genting and, in particular, the main person involved in Genting, Tan Sri Lim. I can assure the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that the remarks made in Malaysia about Tan Sri Lim and Genting were not complimentary. At that time, I was told by a number of top Government officials that the way in which Tan Sri Lim raised the revenue for the first casino of the Genting group could only be described as being extremely unsatisfactory. It is on that basis that I wish to ask a number of questions tonight.

I want to know to what extent the Genting group, or World Resorts, which is an associated company of Genting, was investigated. Who did the investigation? Was the investigation carried out by members of the Queensland Police or the Commonwealth Police? If it was, then I may not be quite as concerned about the matter, because it would have been in the hands of relatively competent people.

I want to know whether the Deputy Premier and Treasurer relied on reports from overseas police forces, such as the Hong Kong Police Force, the Malaysian Police Force and the Singapore Police Force. I do not think it can be denied that those police forces are held in extremely poor light throughout the world. Graft and corruption are absolutely rife in those police forces.

Tonight, I wish to refer to a number of documents that have come into my possession. I assure the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that they come from a source which I consider to be relatively reliable. I do not propose to give any names. I shall read a number of extracts from the reports. Report 1 is headed—

“Genting Highland Casino Resort

Casino Shylocks

Date: 21 August 1981

Time: 8.30 pm to 10.45 pm”

Dr EDWARDS: Mr Speaker, could I move that those documents be tabled at the end of his speech?

Mr R. J. GIBBS: The Deputy Premier and Treasurer does not have to move that I table them. I will table them for him.

The report states—

“Suddenly the croupiers pointed out to me a lady (in her early fifties) with three hefty men following her. She was carrying a bulky lady hand bag measuring approximately 12” x 10” under her arm.

The croupiers told me that the lady is one of the numerous unofficial money-lenders and the three men behind her are her bodyguards.

These moneylenders prey on the losers—please refer to the Straits Times (Malaysian edition) report on this.”

In case there is any doubt about the document, I refer to an article headed “Casino Shylocks” in “The Straits Times”. Under the subheading “They prey on losers: Loans at 10 per cent for 3 days”, it states—

“At 10 per cent for three days, the interest on loans charged by a new breed of Shylocks at the Genting Highlands makes the meanest Chettlar money-lender look like a benevolent banker.

These loan sharks operate in the hill resort’s casino, preying on the desperate loser who will literally give his right arm for a chance to recoup his losses.”

It further states—

“And on the third day—the day the loan matures—they will wait faithfully at your doorstep for payment. Most honour their debts.”

No wonder, when we read some of the other things mentioned in the document I referred to earlier. It further states—

“Furthermore, for Malaysians to enter the Casino, they need to deposit only M\$200/—(Malaysian dollars) at the deposit counter beside the entrance. A pass would then be issued to each depositor.

The ideas of a M\$200/—deposit are:

- (i) to prevent unwanted elements into the Casino;
- (ii) to safeguard the depositor or would be loser. For instance if one loses all one’s money, at least one still has sufficient fund to catch a taxi home.

The ideas may be good but the system doesn’t seem to work out.

The reason being, should one loses all the money, one could cash the money out of one’s pass (illegally) from the moneylenders.

The moneylenders would accept the pass and pay out to the loser M\$195/—.

The moneylenders then take the pass to the deposit counter and exchange it for M\$200/—that is, an outright M\$5/—profit for the moneylender.

Those with foreign passports would be issued with a similar pass at the entrance, upon identifying themselves. A specimen copy is attached.”

The specimen copy that is attached is headed “Casino de Genting”. It has on it “Issued free of charge to foreign patrons”. It has the date on it and the number of the pass stamped on it.

The report goes on—

“There is no recording or control to the issuing of these passes either at the entrance or deposit counter.

...

Although the Casino Management is fully aware of these unauthorised activities in the Casino, there is nothing much they could do to prevent the syndicate—” and I emphasise those words “the syndicate”—

“from carrying out such illegal activities because they (the syndicate) is backed by a very powerful Mafai type gansters. Besides the syndicate is very well organised. As a result, the Casino Management would choose to close an eye and allow the syndicate to carry on with their activities.”

I now refer to the second report. It is headed—

“Reports 2

Re: Genting Highland Casino Resort

Internal Problems.”

I realise that this report would not be particularly relevant to the circumstances in Queensland, because it shows a blatant rip-off of the people who are employed by the Genting group. For example, a waiter or a maid receives M\$140/—per month, which, if my exchange rate calculation is correct, is the equivalent of \$50. A croupier receives M\$310/—per month. It is a dreadful indictment of the employment practices carried out by the Genting group. The report states—

"Those staff interviewed also indicated that they would resign soon. In fact the senior staff—the Floor Managers and the Deputy Casino Manager told me that they are prepared to work for Wreast Point or Alice Spring or Darwin Casinos for a lower position."

Lest the Treasurer should have some doubt about my being willing to table these documents, I refer him to a number of extracts from newspaper articles in Malaysia. Two of the headlines are "Casino Winners robbed of \$23,600" and "Winners end up losers". Where were they held up? Outside the casino or on their way home from it. They were armed robberies. Another headline is, "Robbery at Casino: Man held". The next says, "Fire Destroys Copters". \$3m worth of helicopters accidentally blew up at the casino. The next says, "Towkay robbed of his Genting winnings". Somebody else was held up and robbed of \$5,000 on his way home from that casino. Others are "Casino patron hold-up victim"; "Four Business Men robbed of their Genting Winnings"; "Chinese Couple Robbed of their M\$4,000—plus Casino Winnings"; "Couple robbed of Casino Winnings—2.50 a.m. in the morning". There is an endless array of incidents that have happened with this group.

The Treasurer has the responsibility to tell the Parliament exactly what sort of investigation has been held into World Resorts, which is a subsidiary of the Genting group, and into the Genting group itself. I also want to know—and to a degree this clause refers to the corporate structure—what the Treasurer has to say about an article that I will quote from. I assume that a number of members of Parliament have it. It states—

"The consortium is also seeking the entry of an international hotelier . . . Eventually, the private equities will be diluted by a 40 per cent public participation, to be arranged in the form of a \$50 million convertible note issue in about 12 months' time, to be handled by Potter Partners and the Brisbane brokers Wilson & Company."

If that is correct, I assume that that is a reference to the public issue of shareholding in the casino group. If that is the fact, how has the Government made arrangements for it to be handled by Potter Partners and the Brisbane brokers Wilson & Co.? I want to know what outstanding qualifications those firms have to equip them to handle this quite enormous brokerage on behalf of the Government.

Although I do not expect the Treasurer to be able to answer me off the cuff this evening, I give notice to him now that I would be very interested to know who are the primary participants in those two firms.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the documents referred to.

Dr EDWARDS: I shall answer the last part of the honourable member's comments first. The honourable member can do that himself. It is quite easy for him to find out from the register of companies who are the directors of a public company. I have no intention of giving him that information. I certainly do not have it. It is not a matter for the Government to say which sharebrokers are used; that is a matter for the company. If they are listed on the stock exchange, the company is free to use them.

The honourable member said that he spoke to Government officials. I suggest to him that he make available to me or to my officers the names of those Government officials so that his allegations can be taken up directly with them.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: They were associated with the Deputy Prime Minister's department.

Dr EDWARDS: If the honourable member will give my officers the names, that will be followed up.

All of the Government's investigations have been undertaken by the Queensland Police, the Commonwealth Police and Interpol. In fact, Australian Police in Malaysia also undertook investigations. On all occasions the reports have been clear.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Would you be prepared to make a copy of that available?

Dr EDWARDS: No.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: In confidence?

Dr EDWARDS: I will talk to the honourable member in confidence at any time. However, I assure him that I have no intention of ever tabling police reports that have been provided at the request of the Government. From the beginning that has been my policy, and I stand or fall on that policy.

The honourable member also raised some allegations that have formed part of the campaign during the time of the consideration of the awarding of casino licences. The documents to which he refers have all come to my notice. I am sure that all members of Parliament have received many documents from a variety of sources. All of them have been anonymous. The department's investigations reveal that none of those documents has any basis.

The matter of loan sharks to which the honourable member referred did form part of the Government's investigations after it was drawn to the Government's attention by media reports and by anonymous reports. It was investigated very fully and the investigations reveal that such practices are not occurring at the present time. It is believed that some of those activities may well have occurred with the Genting operation but they have now been completely removed and the policy is that they will be kept out permanently.

Mr Davis interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: As I have said from the beginning, I cannot guarantee anything about a casino. What I can guarantee to the honourable member for Brisbane Central is that this legislation will deal with those things. I now warn any person who is associated with such practices that if, while I am the Minister, I find any of them occurring, they will be a ground for suspension of licence or cancellation of licence. I make no apology for that strict rule. My good friend the member for Southport criticised me in the House about that clause of the Bill. That is why it is in the legislation and that is why I must have that power.

I know from speaking to the honourable member for Lytton this evening that he shares that view. I am pleased that the Opposition shares the draconian view that must be taken relative to any action. I cannot give a guarantee that this will not occur, but I can guarantee that we will act if we find that it is occurring. The honourable member said that a lot of robberies take place around casinos. Robberies take place outside Parliament House, and I hope that the honourable member is not suggesting that we should ban Parliament House just because of that.

Mr Scott interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: There have been robberies outside this place, just as there have been robberies inside and outside private homes. My home has been broken into.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Not on a regular basis like that.

Dr EDWARDS: There is a regular pattern of robberies outside hotels and other types of resort activities, and the honourable member knows that full well. Such things do occur, and if they occur in the future they will be placed in the hands of the police and fully investigated. But to suggest that I can prevent robberies is ridiculous. Of course I cannot give a guarantee.

The points raised by the honourable member for Wolston are well taken. I can assure him that we have gone through every aspect of this legislation, and if there is anything in any of the investigations we conduct in the future or if any of the matters he has raised are raised with me at any time are found to be correct, they will be grounds for a show cause or the suspension or cancellation of the licence. If the honourable member would like to give me the names of the Malaysian Government officials with whom he has spoken, we will certainly speak to them.

Clause 20, as read, agreed to.

Clause 21—Hotel-casino complex owner as licensee—

Dr EDWARDS (9.2 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"At page 11, omit all words comprising lines 12 to 17 and substitute the following words—

'(2) Save in the case of an assignment as referred to in section 32 and subject to that section, a ground for cancellation or suspension of the casino licence

arises, and shall be taken to be a ground for cancellation or suspension arising pursuant to section 31 (1), if the casino licensee ceases to be the owner as aforesaid.’”

The purpose of this amendment is to provide protection for the casino licence during the execution of a mortgagee's rights and the assignment of the licence to another person.

Rather than have the licence automatically cancelled in the event of a transfer of ownership as previously provided, these circumstances merely create a ground for cancellation under clause 31 and thus brings any transposition of the casino licence under the control of the Governor in Council.

The amendment is a machinery provision to allow a transfer or assignment of the licence to take place without the need to go through the involved process of first cancelling a licence and then reissuing it.

The amendment is really a technicality, and I ask the Committee to accept it.

Amendment (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 22 to 30, as read, agreed to.

Clause 31—Cancellation or suspension of casino licences and letters of censure—

Mr BURNS (9.5 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

“At page 15, after line 29, insert the following words—

‘(h) fails to pay the amounts of any Casino Licence Fee, casino tax or casino community benefit levy payable by him.’”

The Opposition believes that failure to pay a levy should be grounds for cancellation of a licence. The Treasurer and others have said that many people class a casino licence as a licence to print money. Casino licensees should be required to pay their taxes and levies on time. We do not accept the proposal in later clauses for late payment of levies or taxes. An amount of money equal to the last two months' taxes or levies should be kept in a trust account in the name of the company, with interest being paid to the company concerned, so that, on the due date, the levies and taxes owing to the Government will be paid.

Dr EDWARDS: I have discussed this matter with the honourable members for Woodridge and Lytton. I understand their sentiments and share their view. However, the Government sees no need for the amendment to be included in the legislation. Clauses 50, 51 and 52 require the payment of fees, taxes and levies, and failure to do so will constitute an offence under the Act. I assure honourable members that the Government will view very seriously failure to pay up on the due date. Indeed, it will be considered as an offence. It is very likely that failure to pay will be part of show-cause, suspension or cancellation proceedings relative to a licence.

Although I agree with the sentiments expressed in the amendment, the Government is of the opinion that nothing is to be gained by including it, because it is a repetition of later provisions.

The honourable member for Lytton referred to establishing a trust fund. There may be some merit in that but casino operators should pay their way on a daily or monthly basis, and should be penalised by the Government under the powers conferred for failing to do so. We do not believe that any value is to be gained by establishing another trust fund that would have to be audited and so on. The suggested amendment may be worthy of consideration if problems arise. However, the Government is not prepared to accept it because it believes the situation is covered.

Dr LOCKWOOD: The Minister mentioned clauses 50, 51 and 52. I have studied clause 51, which relates to casino tax. I wonder what penalties will apply if a tax is not paid on the due date. This clause provides that the Governor in Council may vary the taxes, but what penalty will apply if the taxes or levies are not paid on the due date?

Dr EDWARDS: I am not quite sure what clause it is, but another clause—

Mr Innes: It is clause 119.

Dr EDWARDS: The penalty will be 5 per cent a month. A very expensive penalty will apply should the payment be late at any time.

Mr INNES: Some of the Opposition's fears about this and other matters will be alleviated if Opposition members study clause 119 which provides for a general penalty. It is in these terms—

“General penalty. A person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this Act is guilty of an offence and, save where a specific penalty is otherwise provided, is liable, in the case of a body corporate, to a penalty of \$5 000 and, in the case of a natural person, to a penalty of \$2 500.”

A person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision is guilty of an offence. There is no other special provision. That general penalty applies. Under the proposed section 51, there is an obligation to pay to the director each month in respect of a casino licence a casino tax. Under section 52, there is an obligation to pay a casino community benefit levy to the director each month in respect of a casino licence. If that is not done, there is a contravention of the Act. A contravention of the Act is an offence, prosecution of which, as the Treasurer rightly points out, gives rise to grounds for the cancellation of a licence.

The lead speaker for the Opposition, the honourable member for Woodridge, is not here tonight. However, I am sure that he has looked at the Bill in detail and that he could help the Opposition with its problems.

Mr BURNS: I thank the honourable barrister for his opinion. Quite truthfully, I think that he made a mess of it. It is no wonder that he left the law and came to the Parliament. The honourable member for Woodridge asked me to raise this matter. If the honourable member for Sherwood had been listening, he would have heard the Treasurer say that he had discussed the matter with the honourable member for Woodridge and myself prior to its being raised in this Chamber.

Clause 119 states that a person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions of the Act is guilty of an offence and is liable to a penalty of \$5,000, in the case of a body corporate, and to a penalty of \$2,500, in the case of a natural person. The licence should be cancelled if the casino operator does not pay its tax or its levy. Under the provisions of clause 31, if a company that does not pay its taxes—

Mr Scassola: It will.

Mr BURNS: Yes, it will. It should be covered in that clause. I will accept the explanation of the Treasurer, but I cannot accept the high-priced barrister's explanation.

Mr INNES: There are dangers in looking to a former SP bookie, albeit a very good-natured one, for legal advice.

Under the Bill, a failure to pay any taxes will constitute the commission of an offence. Are we going to go that step further and say that the person should be convicted of an offence without the due process of the law? How much tax should be paid will obviously be in issue. In any particular month, there will be a question of what amount of casino tax or what amount of community levy will be paid. Under this Act, which is draconian, the cancellation of the licence will be dependent upon the Minister's forming an opinion.

Mr Scott: It might have been draconian yesterday; it has been watered down today.

Mr INNES: It is draconian all right. I point out to the honourable member for Cook that, whether I was giving high-priced or low-priced advice, I would have to advise anybody entering into a casino licence that, because of the ministerial discretion built into the Bill, he has no security on which to build a multimillion dollar facility. It would require a pretty bold act of faith.

The honourable member for Southport would certainly agree that generally the commission of some offence should be involved. Failure to pay the tax is an offence. If the tax was duly payable and it was not paid, the person concerned could be prosecuted by the director of gaming, and convicted. The conviction gives rise, as is clearly indicated in clause 31(a), to a cancellation. It is a simple matter of linking a few sections together.

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr INNES: The words are very simple. I would ask the honourable member what he understands to be the meaning, in simple terms, of failing to comply with a provision of the Act? Is there a duty under clause 51 or clause 52 to do something?

Mr Burns: I will leave it to the Treasurer.

Mr INNES: Is there a duty under clauses 51 or 52 to do something?

Mr Burns: We are talking about a company that does not pay. That clause refers to a person.

Mr INNES: It is perfectly clear that clauses 119, 51 and 52 apply both to natural persons and to corporate casino proprietors. There is no difference at law. The obligation is on either and the offence is committed by either. Failure to comply is the commission of an offence. That leads to the grounds for forfeiting a licence. It is as simple as ABC.

Mr SCASSOLA: In my view, there is no need for the amendment. The circumstance that has been raised is covered by the provision as it now stands. Under clause 31, a ground for cancellation or suspension of a licence arises under a number of circumstances, including the failure to comply with any term or condition of the agreement. It would be rather strange if an agreement did not contain a provision imposing an obligation to pay licence fees.

There is a further provision under clause 31 (g) which gives grounds if the lessee fails to discharge his financial commitments. Under Part V the payment of fees and taxes are stated to be financial commitments. Under clause 56 the recovery of fees becomes a debt due to the Crown.

Clearly, clause 31 provides grounds for cancellation if a licensee does not meet his commitments in the payment of taxes and levies. It is quite clearly set out in the clause.

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member for Mt Gravatt correctly states the position. My advice is that clause 119 provides for a general penalty that is applicable when no other specific penalty is applied. It really refers to general penalties. As the honourable member for Mt Gravatt has mentioned, the matter is covered by clause 31.

Mr HARTWIG: As I pointed out in my previous speech, the Government is a beneficiary from the payment of licence fees. It has come to my notice that Genting Berhad is the manager of the Townsville casino. I have in my hand a document from a person in Kuala Lumpur pointing out that the management of that company carries out certain unauthorised activities.

Dr Edwards: That does not relate to this.

Mr HARTWIG: Maybe the Treasurer does not want to hear it.

Dr EDWARDS: I rise to a point of order. That matter is not related to the clause. The honourable member for Wolston referred to this matter. I am quite happy to hear the comments of the honourable member for Callide, but they are not relevant to this clause.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will have to ask the honourable member for Callide to resume his seat.

Mr HARTWIG: The point I am making is that—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I cannot allow the honourable member to speak to a clause that has already been dealt with.

Mr HARTWIG: The amendment refers to the failure to pay the amount of any casino licence fee. I maintain that if the person or firm managing the casino is not reputable—that is possible—trouble will arise with the non-payment of certain fees. What happens if such a firm refuses to pay a licence fee and if it is conducting a Mafia-type operation?

Dr EDWARDS: As indicated in my reply to the honourable member for Lytton, the Bill provides for certain activities, such as showing cause, suspension or cancellation of the licences. I am sure that that answers the honourable member.

Amendment (Mr Burns) negatived.

Dr EDWARDS: I move the following amendment—

“At page 15, omit all words in lines 41, 42 and 43 after the words ‘to show cause why’ and substitute the words—

‘action should not be taken with respect to the casino licence or, as the case may be, the casino lease or casino management agreement pursuant to the provisions of this section.’ ”

Mr BURNS: The member for Sherwood had a slight go at me for handling these clauses on behalf of the Opposition. The member for Woodridge (Mr D'Arcy) was to handle them yesterday, but the Treasurer was unable to get the amendments to the Assembly. The member for Woodridge has had to go to Townsville, and I am handling these matters on his behalf.

Before he left, he said that there was a move to substantially weaken clause 31 by removing from it those provisions that provide for the automatic cancellation of a licence. Lo and behold, his prediction has come true. The words that this amendment seeks to remove are—

“the casino licence should not be cancelled or, as the case may be, suspended or, if he thinks fit, why the casino lease or casino management agreement should not be terminated.”

The amendment seeks to insert the words—

“action should not be taken with respect to the casino licence or, as the case may be, the casino lease or casino management agreement pursuant to the provisions of this section.”

In other words, the provision calling on a licensee to show cause why his casino licence should not be cancelled is to be removed.

Dr Edwards: That is not right.

Mr BURNS: That is what the amendment says. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer can show me where I am wrong.

I understand that in a television program last night the Deputy Premier and Treasurer said that negotiations had taken place with casino principals over the preparation of the legislation to be placed before the Parliament. I would like to know whether negotiations took place about clause 31 and, if they did, who carried them out. Were the principals involved from World Resorts or Genting? Who has been involved in the last few days in suggesting to the Government that it should prepare these amendments?

Dr EDWARDS: My point in trying to move all the amendments to clause 31 is so that it may be understood. To take one amendment, as the member for Lytton is doing, is to take it out of context. The whole clause has been altered so that, as well as asking them to show cause, we are also taking a number of other steps. The matters of show cause, cancellation of licence and so on are contained in the rest of the Bill and will continue to apply. In this clause we are taking out the immediate steps of showing cause so that other action may take place as well. The reason is that, if the Government in its wisdom decides to cancel a licence—and it still has the power to do that—we believe that there should be a right to continue the operation of the casino under a Government-appointed operator. I have discussed that with the member for Woodridge. These amendments will give a broader approach, allowing an administrator to operate the casino if we decide to take some action. If we cancel the licence—as far as the operator is concerned, he is kicked out—we will put in an approved administrator, who will allow the 1 500 or 2 000 people to remain in employment. The amendments do not weaken the clause. They allow action additional to that included in the clause originally.

My officers and I have been involved in negotiations for something like 12 months. The contents of the legislation have been discussed in principle at all times with the participants of the Jupiter's group, mostly, but in recent times with World Resorts. At no stage did they discuss it without my knowledge. No pressures have been applied. I am sure the members for Southport and Surfers Paradise would understand the importance of this in an industry employing something like 2 000 persons. In fact, some of the unions have raised this matter with me. The member for Lytton suggested to me this afternoon that one way would be to have an agreement between the company and the trade union movement. If they want to do that as well, that is another matter. If the licence is cancelled we believe that it is far better to maintain the casino as a going concern, with the operator kicked out of the way, with the subsequent sale of a casino operating as a going concern managed by an administrator appointed by the Government.

Mr BURNS: We are not trying to debate one amendment or the other. We feel that the whole crux of the legislation is the right to cancel a licence. We are talking about a multimillion-dollar business, which people suggest will possibly handle a cash-flow of \$1m a day. People will do all they can to get everything they can out of the system. The Opposition thinks that the Government must hold the threat of the cancellation of the licence to operate a casino. Without it, the casino is just another big hotel with an empty room beside it. We would like to divide the Committee on each of the three clauses, but we are using this one and we will vote against it to indicate our opposition to any weakening of clause 31.

Dr EDWARDS: I repeat that the honourable member does not understand. He has obviously been badly advised by the honourable member for Woodridge.

Mr Burns: No.

Dr EDWARDS: He is taking the same line as the member for Woodridge took. He has not read clause 31 (1) from (a) to (g).

Mr Burns: I have.

Dr EDWARDS: They are the provisions allowing for cancellation. They are not being altered. Cancellation will be total, immediate and, in some cases, without notice. I make no apology for that draconian provision. I would have thought that Labor members, of all people, would be looking after the interests of the unions. We are providing for the appointment of an administrator to maintain the jobs of the employees.

If the administrator broke the law he would be kicked out just as quickly. That might be the time that people would lose their jobs because at that stage the casino would be in serious trouble. But I assure the honourable member with all the integrity and faith in my own heart that the amendment causes no weakening whatsoever. In fact, I believe it strengthens the legislation by facilitating the appointment of an administrator. The last thing a casino operator wants is to be kicked out of the casino to be replaced by a Government administrator. I do not share the honourable member's view, and the Government will have to proceed with the amendment.

Mr BURNS: If that is the way to keep the casino open and ensure the employment of people, then I have no objection to the appointment of an administrator, as long as the licence does not go back to the original operators. The sort of thing about which we are speaking is a case where the Government has reached the bottom of the barrel. I ask honourable members to think about what has happened in London and other places. A licence is not cancelled until there is no other alternative.

However, the Opposition believes that each of the three amendments removes words dealing with the cancellation of a licence. I am speaking about the Bill produced by the Minister, not about a Bill produced by me or by the Opposition. The amendment provides for the omission of the expression that provides for the cancellation or suspension of a casino licence. The Opposition contends that the omission provided for in the amendment weakens the whole intent of clause 31. It has been suggested to the Opposition that the Genting operators and others have been demanding that those words be removed. I do not wish to argue about whether that is right or wrong, but it has been suggested to the Opposition as the truth, so the Opposition will oppose what it believes to be the weakening of the clause and will divide the Committee on that issue.

Mr WARBURTON: I seek some explanation from the Treasurer. Admittedly the insertion of the provision dealing with the administrator is something relatively new.

Dr Edwards: No, I discussed that with you some eight months ago.

Mr WARBURTON: It is relatively new in respect of the legislation in that it is contained in an amendment.

Dr Edwards: It was in the original Bill.

Mr WARBURTON: That is true. I do not argue about that.

I do not understand the sequence that the events will take. The Opposition is very concerned about what would happen if something of such a serious nature occurred that caused the cancellation or suspension of a licence. What has not been explained to

my satisfaction is the sequence of events. The Treasurer has said that an administrator would be appointed if the casino operators did something seriously wrong, but would the licence be suspended to enable the Government time to appoint an administrator? The Government could not simply pick somebody off the street and make him an administrator.

Dr EDWARDS: Supposing Jupiter's Hotel Pty Ltd infringes the law, the licence is suspended as far as it is concerned. But within one or two days an administrator could be appointed.

Mr WARBURTON: I think it is reasonable that the Treasurer give an explanation of the sequence of events so that it can be fully understood.

I suggest that the first step to be taken would be the suspension or cancellation of the licence. Then the Government would have to look for an administrator and some time would elapse before an administrator could successfully enter that place to continue operations.

Dr EDWARDS: I thought I had clarified the point raised by the honourable member, but I will do so in detail for him. If the Bill is read in detail one will see that the Minister can recommend to the Governor in Council that one of four major actions be taken. The first is that no action be taken other than a public censure of the casino operator. That is a serious penalty to a casino operator.

Mr Miller, I wonder if we could have a little quiet in the Chamber.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I again appeal to honourable members. The Honourable the Treasurer is trying to explain to members of the Opposition a very important point. Those members who are not interested in the Bill and who wish to have a discussion should leave the Chamber. If they continue with their present behaviour, they will leave the Chamber under Standing Order 123A.

Dr EDWARDS: I thank you, Mr Miller, because this is very complicated and difficult legislation. It is only fair to the Opposition and other people interested in the debate that your decision be respected. As the honourable member said, this is the most important clause in the Bill, and I share his concern.

To get back to what I was saying—there may be a more or less public censure of the company, and that would be serious. If a company is censured publicly by the Government, there will be headlines in the newspapers and reports in the media, and that is serious. Secondly, the licensee could be called upon to show cause why the Government should not take further action, which could be either a suspension or a cancellation of the licence. The Government could act promptly by suspending the licence for a period of, perhaps, 7 or 14 days. No administrator would be appointed during that period, but we would expect and demand—I say this very clearly—that, as a penalty, the staff be kept on during that period. There is no reason why the staff should be suspended or stood down.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: They would be paid?

Dr EDWARDS: As far as I am concerned, if the company infringes and its licence is suspended until it fixes something up, it will keep the employees on on full pay, and I make no apology for that.

However, there could be a rare occasion—I hope it never occurs—on which the Government steps in and there is a recommendation by the Minister to the Governor in Council for the immediate cancellation of the licence. The company can then conduct no operations; it is finished. The board of directors will not meet or operate the casino. The Government will have nothing to do with them. If there were no provision for the appointment of an administrator in those circumstances, the board of directors would have no alternative but to terminate the services of all members of the staff. They would get two days' or seven days' notice, whichever their award provides, and their services would be terminated.

With great respect to the honourable member and to the information that he has received, this amendment has nothing to do with any request. In fact, an administrator was part of the Government's original concept, and then we had reservations about it. We had discussions with bankers, unions and other people who said, "What about the employee? If you cancel the licence, you say, 'No go.' We still have the power to do that, and it will be done. This amendment will allow us to appoint an administrator. It is true that it may take a few days, but I hope my own division, as a result of very close

investigations, will be able to have somebody on hand with whom they can get in touch. It may well be that we have to bring in a highly respected business operator. The licence is cancelled and the company cannot operate. As the honourable member said—and I appreciate the point he made—it may take a few days; but in that time we will find and appoint an administrator. He will run the casino, under the direction of the Director of the Casino Control Division, in accordance with the Act.

The administrator will be expected to fix the problems. For example, one of the reasons for the cancellation might be that a casino key employee does not do what he is told. The inspector would report to the Director of the Casino Control Division that that person should be dismissed. The company might say, "We are not going to dismiss Mr so-and-so; he has been a good employee." As far as we are concerned, he goes. If his licence is withdrawn, the company might still keep him on and blatantly disregard the direction of the Government. If an employee is tickling the peter, cheating or doing something in association with somebody else with criminal intent, that is a ground for suspension or cancellation of the licence, and I will take action. Because a stupid board is not prepared to get rid of one employee who is not playing the game, the whole company will suffer. From the Government's point of view, it is unfair to deal with, say, 19 other employees just because the board will not get rid of one person who is breaking the law. That is why the provision is there. I assure the honourable member that the clause is not weakened; in fact, I believe that it has been strengthened.

Mr BURNS: Mr Miller—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Lytton has already used the time allowed him on this clause.

Mr Burns: Have I used 20 minutes?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! For the information of the honourable member for Lytton, I point out that he has either 20 minutes or three separate speeches of 10 minutes, five minutes and five minutes.

Mr WARBURTON: I thank the Treasurer for the explanation he has given. I am sure he agrees that the Opposition raised a valid point. Opposition members are concerned about the time lag that could occur. We were very pleased to hear that the Minister has the interests of the employees in mind. As the Minister has given an assurance that he will be demanding that the casino operators, or the person responsible, keep the employees in business, so to speak—and obviously their wages and other conditions will be met—is it possible for the Treasurer to give some assurance that a relevant provision will be inserted in an industrial agreement or award? Will the Government look kindly at any approach by the relevant trade union on this matter? The Minister stated his intention but, as was said earlier, perhaps the Treasurer and other Ministers may not always be here. We want to be assured that the Treasurer's thoughts tonight, for which we are thankful, will be expressed properly in any future industrial arrangement.

Dr EDWARDS: I am not an expert in law but I will be quite happy to take the matter up with the companies to see if there is some way by which an arrangement can be negotiated either in the agreement between the companies and the Government or with the trade union movement. I will be happy to take the matter up with them.

Mr AKERS: When I asked by way of interjection whether the Opposition proposed to divide the Committee on this matter, the honourable member for Lytton held up his hand and said, "Four times". It is purely blind politicking, when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition accepts the Treasurer's explanation that the clause is not being weakened—and in my opinion it is being made stronger—for Opposition members to go ahead and divide the Committee. It proves that they are following outside dictates, or that they cannot think for themselves.

A Government is always under moral pressure not to act when employees will be affected. If extra time is made available by appointing an administrator instead of suspending or cancelling a licence, the Government will be more likely to act. Cancellation of a licence would mean immediate unemployment for 1 900 to 2 000 people. The Opposition will be playing blind politics if it calls a division on this matter. Obviously it will be following outside direction. It should start thinking for itself.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted from clause 31 (Dr Edwards's amendment) stand part of the clause—put; and the Committee divided—

Ayes, 14

Blake	McLean	
Davis	Prest	
Fouras	Scott	
Gibbs, R. J.	Shaw	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hooper	Underwood	Burns
Kruger	Warburton	Eaton

Noes, 34

Akers	Hewitt	Scassola
Bertoni	Innes	Simpson
Booth	Jennings	Stephan
Borbridge	Kaus	Sullivan
Edwards	Knox	Tomkins
Elliott	Lee	Turner
FitzGerald	Lickiss	Wharton
Frawley	Lockwood	White
Gibbs, I. J.	McKechnie	
Gygar	Moore	<i>Tellers:</i>
Harper	Powell	Neal
Hartwig	Row	Nelson

Pairs:

Casey	Doumany
D'Arcy	Gunn
Hansen	Lane
Jones	Katter
Mackenroth	Kyburz
Smith	Lester
Milliner	Muntz
Vaughan	Randell
Wright	Warner
Wilson	Greenwood
Yewdale	Bjelke-Petersen

Resolved in the negative.

Question—That the words proposed to be substituted in clause 31 (Dr Edwards's amendment) be so substituted—put and agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: I move the following further amendment—

“At page 16, omit all words comprising lines 27 to 32 and substitute the words—
‘and further action is warranted or if no answers are given and no submissions made, he may—

- (i) by notice in writing give to each of them the casino licensee, the lessee and the casino operator or to any of them any direction that he considers appropriate to ensure that any matter connected with or giving rise to the issue of the notice is rectified within a time specified in the notice; or
- (ii) recommend to the Governor in Council that the casino licence be cancelled or that it be suspended or that the casino lease or casino management agreement be terminated.’”

Honourable Members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that all honourable members have been warned under the provisions of Standing Order 123A. Therefore, if I have to call any member to order he will have to leave the Chamber.

Dr EDWARDS: Mr Miller, with your indulgence, I should like to direct the attention of honourable members to the proposed new subclause (15), which appears on page 2 of the amendments that I have circulated. I have sought some advice on this matter and I am prepared to omit from the amendment the words—

“after giving consideration to the recommendation of the Minister pursuant to subsection (8) or subsection (9), other matters as referred to in subsection (11) submitted to him and to the circumstances generally, and whether or not he has taken any action or exercised any power under subsection (12),”
and the words—

“of the case under consideration”

I am prepared to omit those words so that there is not any doubt whatever. The provision will be strengthened even further. I foreshadow that when I move the appropriate amendment it will not include those words. I want honourable members to be completely aware of my feelings right from the beginning. If any mistake occurs in the drafting, that amendment will clarify the whole thing.

As to the amendment that I have just moved, it is consequent to the notice to which I referred previously.

Mr BURNS: I thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for his advice that he will omit those words. The omission will strengthen the Bill, and that is what Opposition members are after—the strongest possible provision that can apply when a licensee has to be disciplined.

Amendment (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: I move the following further amendment—

“At page 16, after line 32, insert the following words—

“(9) If a direction given by the Minister pursuant to subsection (8) (c) (i) is not complied with within the time specified in the notice, the Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council that the casino licence be cancelled or that it be suspended or that the casino lease or casino management agreement be terminated.”

Amendment agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: I move the following further amendment—

“At page 17, line 3, omit the expression—

“(10)”

and substitute the expression—

“(11).”

Amendment agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: I move the following further amendment—

“At page 17, omit all words comprising lines 13 to 15 and substitute the following words—

“(c) by notice in writing give or cause to be given on his behalf to each of them the casino licensee, the lessee and the casino operator or to any of them any direction that he considers appropriate to ensure that any matter connected with or giving rise to the issue of the notice is rectified within a time specified in the notice;

(d) unless a receiver and manager has been appointed pursuant to section 32, appoint an administrator subject to such terms and conditions as he thinks fit for the purposes as referred to in subsection (14).”

In essence, what we are doing here is allowing for the appointment of an administrator.

Amendment (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: I move the following further amendment—

“At page 17, after line 19, insert the following words—

“(14) An administrator appointed by the Governor in Council pursuant to subsection (12) (d) shall—

(a) assume full control of and responsibility for the business of the casino licensee in respect of the hotel-casino complex or the casino;

- (b) conduct or cause to be conducted casino operations in accordance with this Act.

The appointment as administrator shall be determined by the appointment of a receiver and manager or an assignment of the casino licence pursuant to section 32.

(15) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act the Governor in Council, if he considers in his absolute discretion that the circumstances are so extraordinary that it is imperative in the public interest to do so, may cancel the casino licence or suspend it for such period as he thinks fit or direct the termination of the casino lease or casino management agreement."

That was the intention of the Government. If the words in the amendment as printed have misled the Committee, I apologise. I make it very clear that the Government has always said that the Governor in Council must have the right to cancel the licence at any time. I certainly hope that the new wording of the amendment will make it clear for the Opposition and for every member of the public.

Mr BURNS: That amendment is acceptable in those terms. It clears up the dispute that we had earlier. I thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

Dr EDWARDS: That was the intention of the Government. If there was wording that was inaccurate, I apologise to the Committee.

Amendment (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: I move the following further amendment—

"At page 17, line 41, omit the expression—

'(11) (c)'

and substitute the expression—

'(15)'."

That is a difference in numbering made necessary by earlier amendments.

Amendment (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Clause 31, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 32—Mortgage and assignment of casino licence, etc.—

Dr EDWARDS (10.5 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"At page 18, after line 27, insert the following words—

'For the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of subsection (5), the name of a proposed receiver and manager may be submitted to the Minister at any time.'

It is essential that any receiver and manager who is appointed by a mortgagee exercising his rights should be thoroughly investigated, as is the case with any director or similar person of authority associated with the operation. The stipulation is that an investigation of such a person must take place, and naturally that would take some time to complete. Therefore, action to install a receiver or manager would be delayed some vital weeks or months.

In order to surmount that problem the amendment allows the person concerned to nominate a proposed receiver or manager ahead of the time when he might be required. Therefore, the necessary investigations can be undertaken so that there is no undue delay in the appointment of a receiver or a manager. I am sure that the Opposition would support that amendment.

Amendment (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Mr HARTWIG: Is there any provision that a person who is appointed as a manager should be a naturalised Australian?

Dr Edwards: I am not sure if the honourable member means the manager of the casino being appointed following receivership or whether he means the manager in general.

Mr HARTWIG: As long as he has Australian citizenship.

Dr Edwards: The Bill has no requirement such as that.

Mr HARTWIG: The time has arrived when the Government should consider the nationality of the management. Does the Government give a green light—

Mr Scott: Is this relevant to clause 32?

Mr HARTWIG: Of course it is. The clause deals with casino licences.

Dr Edwards: This is the assignment of a licence, not the operation of the casinos?

Mr HARTWIG: I ask the question: Does the person in control of the casino not necessarily have to be an Australian citizen?

Dr EDWARDS: Certainly that matter does not refer to this clause. However, any person other than an Australian citizen who wishes to work in this country must have a work permit issued by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. Certainly the Queensland Government has never inserted a provision in any other legislation that requires any person who works in this State to be of a certain origin. I certainly do not intend to have that sort of provision included in this legislation.

Clause 32, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 33 to 43, as read, agreed to.

Clause 44—Cancellation or suspension of licence—

Mr R. J. GIBBS (10.9 p.m.): The Opposition shares some concern about this clause. I use the word "shares" because it is not often that Opposition members agree with the member for Southport (Mr Jennings), but I believe that a point he made during the second reading of the Bill is certainly a relevant one and I wish to expand on it this evening.

I am concerned, firstly, about two provisions. Clause 44 (1) (b) states—

"if the holder is convicted of an indictable offence, whether on indictment or summarily, punishable in the particular case by imprisonment for 12 months or more irrespective of whether the offence is also punishable by a fine, in addition to or as an alternative to the punishment by imprisonment;"

and 44 (4) states—

"A decision by the Minister to cancel or suspend a casino key employee licence or a casino employee licence is final and conclusive and shall not be appealed against, reviewed, quashed or in any way called in question by any Court on any account whatsoever."

Those provisions concern me, because I believe that one of the principles of the stringent guide-lines that should be laid down by any Parliament is that no decision of that magnitude, particularly where it can affect a point of law, should ultimately be left in the hands of politicians, and that remark has equal application to politicians of all parties.

I believe that the Treasurer is setting a very grave precedent in this clause. People are virtually being denied the right of appeal. I can remember only one other occasion when this Assembly has passed legislation denying a person the right of appeal, and that was when the Bail Act was amended. For example, if a person is charged with a serious offence such as drug trafficking, murder, piracy or sedition and he applies to a Supreme Court justice for bail and it is refused, he has no right of appeal. We have argued in the past that even when offences of that magnitude are involved there should still be a right of appeal. I seem to recall that on the last occasion we debated that provision the Attorney-General conceded that we did have a point and that the provision might be reviewed at a later date.

There is virtually the same provision in clause 38, but this provision is more important because it makes direct reference to an employee. Only a few moments ago the Treasurer said that if he was concerned about the activities of a key employee and he gave a direction or made a recommendation that that person should be suspended or dismissed, and that did not occur, then he would take action. That argument could be reversed. Let us assume that this legislation is not perfect and that the investigation or canvassing of the people who hold the licence has not been as thorough as we would have liked. If there were a number of corrupt people within the casino operation and they decided

that they wanted to get rid of an employee, it appears to me that it would not be an impossible task to set that person up on some trumped-up charge and have him dismissed or make a recommendation to the Treasurer that he be dismissed. I presume that the Treasurer would act on the information supplied to him. But referring back to subclause (1) (b), what would happen if an employee was taken before a court and convicted of a crime and he then appealed to the Supreme Court? In the meantime the Treasurer might have made a decision that because the employee had been convicted of an indictable offence he should be dismissed. That employee would be dismissed before the appeal was heard even though it might be upheld and the conviction quashed. At that stage the employee would have no job to go to. What would happen then? Would the Treasurer be in a position to redress the situation? Would the employer be in a position to redress the situation?

The Treasurer is setting a very dangerous precedent. The point has been made that the integrity of future Ministers in the Treasurer's position cannot be predicted. Members of the Opposition are worried; I am sure that the people of Queensland would be worried, too, if they were au fait with the legislation. It is worrying that any Minister of the Crown should be able to make a final decision on such matters without there being a right of appeal. If the Minister decides that an employee is not a fit and proper person for employment in a casino, he will be dismissed with a stain on his character for the rest of his life. That will affect his future employment. It is wrong that there should be no right of appeal when such a stigma can attach to an employee. Perhaps the Minister will indicate that he is prepared to reconsider the clause at another time.

Mr HARTWIG: The manager of Genting need not necessarily be an Australian. Could he import from the Genting casino in Malaysia a full crew of employees to work the casino for 12 months, send them back, and bring in another crew? What restriction is there on the employment of people other than Queenslanders?

Mr R. J. Gibbs: What has that to do with clause 44?

Mr HARTWIG: It is a very important matter.

Dr EDWARDS: I understand that, before I answer the honourable member for Wolston, the member for Southport wishes to make a contribution. However, at this stage, I will answer the question raised by the honourable member for Callide.

Before anybody can be employed in a casino, he must have a casino key licence or a licence issued by the Minister.

Mr Hartwig: A licence could come from Genting.

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member had his say.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: That would apply to any person?

Dr EDWARDS: Anybody who applies for a job in the casino will have to apply to the Casino Control Division for a licence of a particular type. In all the discussions that were held, we were told that only a very small number of overseas employees would be needed in the early stages in the Townsville casino. The Genting people will not be operating the southern casino. Genting is only a shareholder. If the Townsville casino intends to bring in only one or two people, if they get a work permit—

Mr Warburton: How many people?

Dr EDWARDS: I do not know, Genting might not be bringing in any employees. If they do, the employees will first have to get a licence from the Government. If they get a licence, they can work. If more than a small number of employees is brought in, no provision will be made for them to get a licence.

Mr JENNINGS: I will not repeat everything that I said earlier relative to this clause, but it is extremely important, relating, as it does, to men's jobs and their families. If in the future a Minister receives bad advice about a key employee—it could be purposefully misleading advice—it is obvious that he will not have time to check on the advice that he is given. Someone could easily be treated unjustly and have a black mark on his character for life.

I agree with the right to suspend; but a key employee should at least have the right to be called upon to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled. If the Minister is advised by his departmental advisers that something has gone wrong, he can suspend an employee straight away. In my opinion, that key employee should at least be given the right to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled. It provides a check, and it gives a person the right to state his case. That is all I ask.

Mr INNES: The member for Wolston raised what he said were fundamental points. The member for Southport also raised some fundamental points in a very forceful and telling contribution on Tuesday night. I take an opposing view to that held by him, but I respect the basis of reasoning on which he founded his reservations.

Anybody in this House who is interested in casinos should read a book titled "The Mogul of the Mob", which is a biography of Meyer Lanski, a financial genius who was the chief operator of the Mafia during the latter part of prohibition and following prohibition. He was one of the few men trusted by the entire Mafia organisations in the United States of America. Irrespective of their ethnic backgrounds—whether they were Italians, Jews or of some other nationality—they tended to use Lanski as their investor. As I said, he was a financial genius. He realised that people would be always tempted by gambling; he knew that the bank always wins. Such was his power that he infiltrated the Government of Cuba and set up casinos in Havana and later in Florida. He and his associate Lucky Luciano started the casinos in Las Vegas. Organised gambling has been a recognised focus and magnet for organised crime in the United States and internationally ever since organised crime existed.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr INNES: I find that common sense always bores the member for Brisbane Central. After this exercise, one ends up with faith in somebody. I prefer the faith to be on our side, on the basis of home-grown political beings who are referable to the populous every three years. That is not to say that politicians were not bought by the Mafia.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You amaze me. As a man of the bar, you are prepared to let the right of appeal go down the drain.

Mr INNES: It is precisely the right of appeal. It was not until the Federal law enforcement agencies of the United States of America and the American taxation authorities set up special squads at enormous expense, with people working for years, that they were able to come to grips with organised crime. I am not enamoured of casinos, so that puts me on a different side of the fence. If we are going to have casinos, the people who operate them and every person who is employed in them should realise that they are acting under the greatest privilege.

The problem with a right of appeal is that the type of information that the controllers of gambling are likely to receive or that the Minister is likely to receive is not the type of information that, under the existing laws of evidence, would necessarily be admissible in a court. Frequently, it will not be possible to disclose the evidence because of the danger of revealing its source and jeopardising the ability of the controllers to control a network of information on this type of activity. It was only after years and years of resorting to special squads and setting up special institutions to combat the Mafia, and through special provisions of the law of an extreme kind, that the United States began to come to grips with the Mafia. That country still does not have it under control. If there is to be a balance, in this instance the balance can be tipped in favour of something that is under the control of the Government of this State.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr INNES: It is (e)—that is, that a person is not a fit and proper person. Almost invariably that will be on the basis of confidential information of a type that cannot properly be litigated, or can be litigated only at enormous risk to the whole supervisory network, in a court of law. I am sorry to say that, but the procedures of the law are simply not suitable for this type of control. For that reason, on this occasion I differ from the honourable member for Southport, notwithstanding that I think his general principles are right. I understand his attitudes, and normally I would be on the same side in that type of reasoning. But for a very special reason this case is distinguished from all other cases.

Dr EDWARDS: I think that the honourable member for Sherwood has answered most of the questions that were raised. As I said at the second-reading stage, we are not dealing with an ordinary law-abiding citizen or with a person who infringes the law occasionally; we are dealing with people who go out of their way to corrupt the system. That is the important point that the honourable member for Sherwood made.

Let it be said again, as I have said a dozen times during this debate, that this rare power must not be allowed to be applied to any other situation. That has been clearly stated right from the beginning. We are dealing with a situation in which bad apples can cause problems. As the honourable member for Sherwood has said, it could well be that the offence could not be proved at law, even though everybody knew the true position.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member can laugh as much as he likes. I am not ashamed to say that I would rather dismiss one innocent person and take away his licence than risk corrupting the whole system. That would be a very risky course for a Minister to follow, but I would be prepared to follow it. We do not know what we are playing with.

Let the self-confessed experts on casinos read the book referred to by the honourable member and let them talk to my officers about some of the things they saw at casinos throughout the rest of the world that do not have this control. An appeal involves a lengthy legal procedure. In an appeal we could find that we are battling over the law and not over the correctness or otherwise of a casino's operations.

Mr Burns: Couldn't the ombudsman have a look at it?

Dr EDWARDS: No, I do not believe so. The power should be there.

Mr Scott: Probably the file would be torn up when he got it.

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member for Cook is always cynical, and again he shows his cynicism. This is one of the most serious matters that the Government and the Opposition have dealt with. Instead of making inane comments, the honourable member for Cook should leave the Chamber.

The honourable member for Wolston raised another matter concerning a person who appeals. I share his concern. A person who has lost his licence may lodge an appeal. There is a certain time by which appeals must be lodged. It may be that we will have to look at some administrative procedure by which we can deal with that problem. I do not believe it is worth while considering changing the law.

I refer to the comments made by the honourable member for Southport. Mr Justice Lusher, in his recommendations concerning the legislation of casinos, said—

"It is freely conceded that the official controls are far reaching and the powers vested in the official controlling body are immense and are not easily found or sought to be justified elsewhere. It is equally plain that the recommended body will carry the responsibility of keeping casino gaming in the hands of honest respectable and capable people who are above reproach.

It is an enormous responsibility with a corresponding obligation.

This is because the powers necessarily involve discretionary administrative powers and decisions for which reasons often cannot be advanced because of the nature of things and the removal of its proceedings from the area of usual judicial restraints and appeals. It will require a turning away from accepted legal principles and evidentiary procedures and access to any and every source of available information. This will include hearsay, informers, and anonymous material and the careful evaluation of this and other information of varying degrees of reliability and confidentiality from which a court of law would turn."

Mr Justice Lusher in his report made it very clear that we are dealing with a rare situation.

I personally would not support the inclusion of that provision in any other law. I support what the member for Sherwood said. I hope that honourable members will understand the reasons for the inclusion of this provision in the Bill.

Mr JENNINGS: I think that the Treasurer and the member for Sherwood have slightly misunderstood my request. What I would like done does not diminish in any way the power provided under this clause. It does not affect anything that the Treasurer has said; but it does give a let-out.

The Treasurer said, "We are not dealing with law-abiding persons; we are dealing with bad apples." I accept that. But the "bad apples" are not necessarily the employees. A "bad apple" could try to get rid of one of the best employees. That is the point I am making.

Mr Moore: They could fit him just to get rid of him.

Mr JENNINGS: That is right. As I say, what I propose does not reduce the power in any way. Sure, the Minister can suspend a licence and give a person an opportunity to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled. That would protect a good employee from some overbearing, corrupt individual who was trying to get rid of him. All I ask the Minister to do is to omit the word "cancel".

Dr EDWARDS: I understand the sentiments expressed by the honourable member for Southport. Before any responsible Minister who was administering this legislation made a decision, he would seek a report from his director. Many procedures have to be undertaken before a decision to cancel a licence is made. Under the powers provided in this legislation—powers of control, surveillance and so on—it is not possible for a so-called bad egg to set up somebody else. The controls are such that I do not believe it is possible for such a thing to occur.

What I am saying is that the appeal is really to the Minister. First of all, a director would have to convince his Minister, and that would not be an easy step, because it would be a serious matter involving a man's job. Any Minister worth his salt would make further investigations before he cancelled a licence. If an appeal to a court of law is provided, there will be great problems.

Mr Jennings: Not a court of law.

Dr EDWARDS: I know that the honourable member did not refer to a court of law. The Minister would either take no action and warn the employee—he can do that—or cancel the licence. A discretion is given to the Minister. I take the point that the honourable member has made, and I hope that whoever administers this legislation in the future will take note of what I have said.

Mr Jennings: I am not talking about litigation.

Dr EDWARDS: I understand that.

Clause 44, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 45 to 51, as read, agreed to.

Clause 52—Community benefit levy—

Mr SCOTT (10.34 p.m.): I shall preface my remarks on this clause by saying that Cairns will not have a casino, at least in the foreseeable future. A number of good proposals were put forward for establishing a casino in Cairns. I am sure that Messrs Williams, McInnes, Fry, Ireland and Gray regret that a casino licence was not given to Cairns.

I am speaking to the clause, because it is rather nebulous to talk about a community benefit that will accrue under the terms of the clause. I believe that there will be many spin-offs to Cairns. We will appreciate that we are 250 miles away from Townsville.

Dr Lockwood: I don't see how you can get a benefit out of that.

Mr SCOTT: I do not think there will be any benefit from a casino. The member for Toowoomba North has not yet heard what I intend to say.

The levy shall amount to 1 per cent "of the casino gross revenue for the month in question." The "casino gross revenue" is defined as—

"... the total of all sums, including cheques whether collected or not, actually received in any month by a casino operator from the conduct of gaming . . . less . . . the total of all sums paid out as winnings during that month in respect of gaming . . ."

It is what we might call a net profit. One per cent of zero is always zero. I ask the Treasurer not to accuse me of being cynical again. He has done it half a dozen times. I am being fairly critical.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Objective.

Mr SCOTT: Even objective, yes. I always try to be objective.

Dr Edwards: Even your friends are laughing at you.

Mr SCOTT: My friends? I probably haven't got any friends anywhere.

The community benefit levy is an attempt to spread some of the benefits directly to the community, instead of through the Government. The point I have been asked to make relates to the membership of the trust. I am speaking for the member for Townsville West, who has asked me to put forward the case for the Townsville City Council, which is particularly concerned about local government representation on the trust. It is an extremely good point. Its members believe that, as elected representatives, they should have some voice. I will quote from the letter that the council sent the member—

"As elected representatives of the community we are able to represent the views of all sections of the community. If the government proceeds with its proposal to exclude local authority representation then we would seek to ensure that the community representation is properly representative of welfare and sporting organisations already established in the City."

That statement implies great concern about how the benefits will be spread in the community. I am surprised that there does not appear to be more debate on this clause.

Dr Lockwood: You're the first cab off the rank.

Mr SCOTT: I hope that I am followed by some stirring supporters. It is an important clause.

I am sure that the Minister will happily give undertakings to the Committee that benefits will be properly assessed and spread throughout the community. My mind goes to the problems associated with the distribution of sporting benefits, the competition that is involved and the concern by legitimate organisations that have put forward strong cases for assistance under the relevant legislation in this State. I am not convinced that all sporting bodies get a fair deal from the Government. Although it might conflict with something I said earlier in the day, I feel that the hearing a sporting body gets from the Government depends on the local member. It worries me that, even though there will be little money to spread around, the disbursement of that money will cause a great deal of heartburn in the community. A high degree of fairness will be required to ensure that the full benefits from that small amount of money are felt by worthy organisations in the community.

This money is allegedly to compensate for problems that might be caused by having a casino in the community. The letter from the Townsville City Council that I referred to earlier states—

"... the opening of the casino will have a very dramatic effect on the fund-raising capabilities of sporting organisations through their traditional methods i.e. bingo, chook raffles etc."

I do not entirely agree with that idea. It will be rather interesting for people to observe the way that casinos drain money from the community. Earlier in the debate it was claimed that in Hobart most of the money that goes through the Wrest Point Casino—

Dr Lockwood: Is local.

Mr SCOTT: That is right. The member for Toowoomba North made the point very clearly.

I do not know that that is the sort of money that would normally be gained from such things as bingo and chook raffles. Unfortunately sporting organisations have to rely to a large extent on that sort of fund raising because moneys provided by the Government are inadequate. Sport and charitable organisations are extremely important in the community. Anybody who has attempted to raise money for political parties knows just how hard it is to raise a reasonable sum of money by conducting 20c raffles. Certainly that is the way that we on this side of the House do it. It does not matter how legitimate the cause or how good the political party. I assure honourable members that in the Cook electorate it is pretty tough going to raise money. I am being a little light-hearted there.

The matter is of great concern to all sorts of sporting, charitable and church organisations that need to raise money from donations in their community. People work extremely hard to raise very small amounts of money, and they become very concerned when they do not reach their budgetary goals. If the people of the Gold Coast or Townsville are counting on receiving money under the provisions of this clause, I think they will be waiting a long time for a very small amount of money. If that is the case it is essential that reliable people be appointed as trustees. I would not like to see too many Government-appointed members. There is a plethora of them right around Queensland, and I know by whom they were appointed.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: By the Minister for Health.

Mr SCOTT: That has been soundly argued in this Chamber. The only reason he has come out on top is that he is on that side of the Chamber. However, times will change.

Before times change it is appropriate that a representative of local government be appointed as a trustee. On behalf of the good people of Townsville, I rest my case.

Mr BORBIDGE: During the second-reading debate I made brief mention of the clause, and in his reply the Treasurer gave certain assurances concerning the establishment of the community benefit levy. I make the point that I accept those assurances.

This is a most important clause. I understand that in the case of the Gold Coast casino the amount of money that will pass through the community benefit fund is expected to be of the order of \$750,000 to \$1m per year. It is appropriate and proper that the community that supports and provides the infrastructure will receive a direct and material benefit.

I also make the point that the Gold Coast City Council and the Albert Shire Council have not made any representations to me or, as far as I am aware, to the member for Southport in regard to trustees. In reply to comments that I made at the second-reading stage about the omission of the word "local" from the clause, the Treasurer assured me that four of the six trustees would be from the local community and would be representative of that community. He said there were particular problems that tied down the clause if the word "local" was used because of the definitions that could be applied to that word.

I support the clause as it stands and I thank the Treasurer for his clarification, which I accept.

Mr BURNS: Is it intended that the money involved will go only to the Gold Coast from the Gold Coast casino and only to Townsville from its casino? The reason I ask this question is that the Gold Coast casino will attract many tourists, including many people from all over Queensland. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise said that 1 per cent of the profits of the operation could amount to \$1m. That means that the turnover of that casino could be \$1,000m per year, which is a substantial amount of money.

I have no objection to the money going to the nearby community, but there are some other worthy organisations such as Gamblers Anonymous that perhaps should receive some of these funds. If the opportunities for gambling in the community are to be continually extended, provision must be made, just as it is for alcoholics, to help people who succumb to it. Like alcohol or drugs, gambling becomes addictive. It seems to me that if \$1m a year is to come from operations of this type, some of that money ought to be used to try to right some of the wrongs and cure some of the ills that gambling creates.

Dr LOCKWOOD: During the second-reading debate, I criticised the lack of an entrance fee or a cover charge to enter the casino. Is that correct?

Dr Edwards: No cover charge.

Dr LOCKWOOD: That was one of my criticisms, because such fees are charged in overseas casinos. As other members have said, in the absence of a cover charge or entrance fee, people who are gambling addicts will be able to enter at will. As I pointed out during the second-reading debate, after the Tasman Bridge across the Derwent River collapsed the casino at Wrest Point was in financial peril. I believe it had to apply for Government assistance, although I am not sure in what form.

Mr Scott: How long had the casino been going then?

Dr LOCKWOOD: It had been going for a while. But the collapse of the bridge meant that access to Hobart was difficult for northern suburbs dwellers and so the casino lost patrons. One had only to go through the car-park to see the type of people who were using the casino. The cars were very ordinary—it was not the staff car-park—and most were rusty old Holdens. They were not the chauffeur-driven Rolls Royces of multi-millionaire jet-setters. They were cars belonging to ordinary people who were gambling, and I do not doubt that they were gambling often. That being the case, I believe that, in the absence of a cover charge or admission fee, people from the immediate district around the casino will be able to enter at will and will end up becoming gambling addicts. As the member for Lytton said, there will be a need for Gamblers Anonymous or some such organisation.

I would like to know how far afield, in a geographic sense, the community benefit levy will be applied. Will it be applied Statewide or merely applied to the Gold Coast/Surfers Paradise/Logan/Albert region? How far afield will it be applied in the welfare field?

A similar levy was applied in Greece. A carrot was held out to local government in the form of 5 per cent of gross profits. Here 1 per cent is to go to the community benefit fund.

I do not think we can ignore the point that has been raised about easy access for gamblers. In opening the Red Shield Appeal last year, a Salvation Army spokesman pointed out that since the advent of poker machines with easy access in New South Wales the work-load of the Salvation Army had increased tremendously. Counselling was up 60 per cent. People will gamble away all their money until they are destitute and cannot buy food. The provision of food parcels had increased by 50 per cent. The Salvation Army was called upon to provide household articles at double the rate that it had prior to the introduction of poker machines, and cash assistance had increased by 50 per cent. The Salvation Army is the first to admit that not all of that increase was due to gambling—some could have been due to changes in the economic climate—but it still puts the blame on the easy access to poker machines and subsequent poker machine addiction.

There will be two games in this casino to which I believe people could become addicted and to which ordinary people who walk in off the street will have easy access. One is keno, which has great fascination. I do not know how keno will be played in our casinos, but I understand that provision has been made for the game in the reference to electronic gambling. Bets of \$1 or any multiple of \$1 can be made. Blackjack is another game that will be played. At the Wrest Point Casino—

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It is a superb game.

Dr LOCKWOOD: It is. I watched the tables and saw 25 straight wins for the house, without any possible chance of cheating. The odds are very slightly in favour of the house.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: The odds are three to one in blackjack in favour of the house.

Dr LOCKWOOD: The odds are slightly in favour of the house.

I visualise people coming in off the streets and becoming addicted to these forms of gambling. For that reason, a cover charge as high as \$10 should be imposed if the Government is genuine in confining gambling in casinos to people who can afford to gamble. The cover charge money should be split 50/50 between the Government and the community benefit fund.

Mr WARBURTON: The community benefit levies have a certain appeal. No doubt the Treasurer had in mind the appeasing of some people when that provision was inserted. I am concerned about the geographic area in which the money will be disbursed. I am

not arguing against the principle—it is reasonable—but when the Government tries to be a do-gooder it sometimes opens Pandora's box. It is fair enough to ask the Treasurer to explain what is to happen to the community benefit levies. The Treasurer has indicated to the member for Surfers Paradise that a certain community input will flow through the trust from the Gold Coast casino. We have no idea of the people who will be on the trust and I do not think the Treasurer will tell us their names tonight. If he selects the wrong people, they could cause him a headache at some time in the future.

I should like the Treasurer to tell me if he has any firm guide-lines on the sort of recommendations that the trust will be required to make. I see that the clause uses the phrase, "The trustees of each trust deed may make recommendations . . ." I am not quite sure why the word "may" is used. It may be that the word "may" is used, rather than the word "shall" because the trust will not have any money to enable it to make recommendations. The Minister may be able to advise me on that.

If we are to be asked to give the green light to such important provisions we must be sure that proper guide-lines are provided. Surely the Treasurer is in a position to say, "We have given this provision a lot of thought. When the trust members are appointed we will tell them what they have to look at. We will not want them to look at sporting organisations or church organisations. We want them to direct their attention to a, b and c."

If the Government has done its homework, the Treasurer should be able to give us a very firm indication, in the interests of the public, because this is one of the provisions that could cause the Government some headaches in the future. The Treasurer should be in a position to give us that information.

Dr EDWARDS: The member for Cook raised a matter on behalf of the Townsville City Council, which seemed to think that it had the almost God-given right of total control of this fund. The council is on record as saying that the fund should be paid over to it.

Mr Scott: I did not say that.

Dr EDWARDS: I know that the honourable member did not say that. However, the council has written to me suggesting that it should be the controlling body. I cannot share that view. It could involve three or four local authority areas, as is the case on the Gold Coast. The intention is that the funds should be applied mainly to local areas. Flexibility will be given to the trustees to make a recommendation for payment to other areas.

The Townsville City Council also indicated in the correspondence that it sent to the honourable member that the local authority consisted of the elected members and therefore should have the responsibility of the community. The same argument could be used to appoint the local members of Parliament as the community representatives because they are also elected members. Other arguments could be advanced about the persons who represent the community. The trust that will be set up will consist of six people—two representatives of the community approved by the Minister, two representatives nominated by the company and two representatives nominated by the Government.

The honourable member for Surfers Paradise raised a particular matter with me, which I appreciate. The trust deed will indicate that, where possible, the funds will be spent locally. There may be an occasional situation in which the trustees may want to make a recommendation to the Government for some charity that may not be local.

Mr Scott: Is it meant to replace the money that will be drained away from the bingo-type operation?

Dr EDWARDS: It is believed that a casino could have some effect on the fund-raising activities of local charities. That is a notable effect that has been experienced in the areas surrounding a casino. I think that the construction of a casino would have more effect on the local charities in Townsville than those on the Gold Coast. For this reason, it was felt that the local community efforts should be assisted.

The member for Lytton asked whether the funds would be provided to Gamblers Anonymous. No doubt that organisation would qualify. It is hoped that the trust would call applications for funds to be disbursed. I would hope that Gamblers Anonymous would receive a very high priority. It would certainly have a high priority as far as most members are concerned. Perhaps that is one of the things that could be made very clear.

The member for Toowoomba referred to an entry charge. The Government considered the imposition of a charge. In some casinos throughout the world a charge up to \$100 is made; at others a passport must be left at the door as a person enters the casino. Some of the advice that was received suggested that there was an advantage in imposing a charge. The Government looked at that with the local community in mind. After a lot of consideration it was felt that no charge would be imposed. Whether that is a wise decision, time will tell.

The honourable member for Sandgate referred to the guide-lines. A trust deed will be prepared which will provide for the appointment of trustees, the conditions under which the trustees will act and also the procedures—

Mr Scott: Is there public accountability on their part?

Dr EDWARDS: Any trust deed carries certain responsibilities, as the honourable member would know. Any trustee has a responsibility. The trust deed will set out the objects of the fund and the procedures for the distribution of the funds. The trust deed will be submitted to the Governor in Council for approval. I assure the honourable member that when it is prepared, I will table it in the Parliament, if that would be of assistance to him. I see no reason why such a trust deed should not be a public document. Each and every time a trust deed is drawn up I am quite happy to have it tabled in Parliament.

The honourable member for Sandgate raised another matter.

Mr Warburton: "May" instead of "shall"

Dr EDWARDS: It may be that a very unwise recommendation will come from the trustees, in which event the Minister would not be obliged to pay out the funds. All aspects are covered. I should hope that the trust would act responsibly and that the Minister would accept all the recommendations of the trust.

Mr Scott: Will the Townsville branch of the Liberal Party be a benefiting organisation?

Dr EDWARDS: At one stage I felt strongly that political parties should be totally excluded from any involvement and from donations. However, this is a new procedure, and I do not think such a step would be a wise one.

Mr PREST: This clause is a very wide-ranging one. On the face of it it appears to be a good one. Under it the Minister may cause moneys to be paid out of the fund for the benefit of the community in accordance with the recommendations of the trustees. No doubt the trustees will be people from Townsville and the Gold Coast, so their recommendations will not be that payments benefit other areas of the State or other sections of the community. No doubt the two casinos will be of benefit particularly to the Gold Coast City Council and the Townsville City Council.

Mr Borbidge: The Gold Coast casino will be in the Albert Shire.

Mr PREST: The Albert Shire and the city of Gold Coast could well come together over a period, especially as such large hand-outs will be involved.

I was hoping that the casinos would benefit all people in Queensland. The guide-lines are too wide. I should like to see the funds allocated for a specific purpose, as they are in relation to the Pools. In the early days, revenue derived from the Golden Casket was allocated to hospitals.

I agree with the honourable member for Lytton that we should look at the social problems that will be caused in the community and consider allocating money to alleviate some of those problems. Gambling has certain side-effects; it affects the family unit. I should like to see the benefit distributed over all sections of the community and not restricted to the Gold Coast and Townsville.

Dr EDWARDS: Sometimes I think honourable members speak just for the sake of hearing themselves speak. Every question raised by the honourable member for Port Curtis has been answered by me and by other honourable members. The clause refers to a community benefit for the community involved in the casino. The honourable member is talking about the benefits derived from the taxes and levies. They will be applied to the whole of Queensland. To suggest that a community benefit, in the case of Townsville, of \$200,000 to \$300,000 and, in the case of the Gold Coast, of \$700,000 to \$1m be distributed

amongst the 130 shire councils would mean that they would receive about two cents each. That is not a community benefit for the local community in which the casino is operating. I am sure that I have answered all the questions that have been raised.

Clause 52, as read, agreed to.

Clause 53—Adjustment of payment of casino tax and casino community benefit levy in certain circumstances—

Mr BURNS (11.4 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

“At page 28, omit all words comprising lines 14 to 36.”

I call this the “underwriting the losses” clause. It provides that the winnings are deducted from the total of all sums, including cheques whether collected or not, actually received in any month by a casino operator, and what is left is known as the casino gross revenue. That is really the net receipts from the tables.

If a casino operator loses on his tables in any month, he does not pay casino tax or any community benefit levy. If he makes a profit the following month, the losses for the previous month are deducted from that profit. That reduces the amount of money on which he may be taxed.

The losses are the responsibility of the casino operator. People queue up to get those casino licences. Most casinos do all right. I must admit that some casinos in Atlantic City are starting to run into problems. Before the member for Woodridge, who advised me on these matters, left yesterday, he suggested that we should oppose this clause, and caucus agreed with him. The clause seems to be badly written. It allows for artificial losses to be incurred.

One way to launder money is for someone to go to a casino and get remarkably lucky. He can go away with a cheque for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I do not know anything about the fellow from Malaysia, but there have been some very bad reports about the casino operation in that country. If it is true that those people do some of the things that have been alleged, then they could milk off a large amount of the money on which they should be taxed.

The clause refers to the assessment of casino tax and casino community benefit levies. The tax is supposed to be paid under an agreement set out in clause 19; but the Bill does not spell out the amount of tax to be paid. Perhaps the Treasurer could tell us that.

Dr EDWARDS: The tax will be 20 per cent for the southern casino and 15 per cent for the northern casino.

There will certainly be no underwriting of the losses. Full tax will be paid on the casino operations. The clause simply states that if there is a loss one month, it may be carried forward, and the tax is then levied on the net position over two months. I am told that in a number of taxation practices, losses incurred in any period are allowed as an offset against profits in the following period. Company income taxation is a good example.

In respect of casino tax, there are many examples where the tax is averaged for quarterly or even annual periods. I am told that that is not an unusual procedure throughout the world. Other jurisdictions tax on a monthly basis.

In the light of the information available from throughout the world, the Government believed that it should adopt a monthly period, but it has allowed for a gaming loss. If the takings in a small casino are not high in any month, and suddenly, on the last day of the month, a couple of high-rollers come in and clean out the casino, then we do not think it is unreasonable that that operator should carry that loss forward to the next month, when business might pick up. Indeed, if an operator does not make any profit he will pay no tax.

Mr Burns interjected.

Dr EDWARDS: They have to win, first. It would be unusual for losses to be incurred continually.

The member for Woodridge suggested to me that somebody in a casino could tickle the peter and make a loss. There will be inspectors on the floor checking at every hour of every day. If they become aware of a loss, that indicates that there is an inefficient operation or that there is some shenanigan going on. That could well be the reason for a notice to show cause why the licence should not be suspended.

I do not see that there is the problem that the Opposition has raised. I understand what the Opposition has indicated. We appreciate the concern, but our feeling is that there is no need for the suggested amendment.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted from clause 53 (Mr. Burns's amendment) stand part of the clause; put and the committee divided—

Ayes, 36

Akers
Austin
Bertoni
Bjelke-Petersen
Booth
Borbidge
Edwards
Elliott
FitzGerald
Frawley
Gibbs, I. J.
Goleby
Harper

Hewitt
Innes
Jennings
Kaus
Knox
Lee
Lockwood
McKechnie
Moore
Nelson
Powell
Prentice
Row

Scassola
Simpson
Stephan
Sullivan
Tomkins
Turner
Wharton
White

Tellers:

Gygar
Neal

Noes, 14

Blake
Davis
Fouras
Gibbs, R. J.
Hooper
Kruger

McLean
Prest
Scott
Shaw
Underwood
Warburton

Tellers:

Burns
Eaton

Pairs:

Doumany
Gunn
Katter
Lane
Kyburz
Muntz
Warner
Lickiss
Lester
Randell
Greenwood

Casey
D'Arcy
Jones
Hansen
Mackenroth
Milliner
Wright
Wilson
Smith
Vaughan
Yewdale

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 53, as read, agreed to.

Clause 54, as read, agreed to.

Clause 55—Penalty for late payment—

Mr BURNS (11.15 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

“At pages 28 and 29, omit all words comprising lines 40 to 44 on page 28 and lines 1 to 17 on page 29.”

As was said in relation to clause 31, the Opposition opposes any suggestion of late payment. The casino operator should make provision through a trust fund which should have in it the amount of taxes paid for the previous two months so that on the day the levy is due the company can pay the tax. The Opposition completely opposes clause 55 and does not see the necessity for the provisions contained in it.

Dr EDWARDS: The Government is not prepared to accept the amendment. If it were accepted a penalty would not apply when any tax or levy was paid later than the due date. As I have commented earlier, failure to pay the money would constitute an offence and could establish grounds for cancellation or suspension of the licence. However, there may be very rare circumstances when the Government wants to give a casino operator

a slight extension in the time to pay. However, the penalty is 5 per cent per month which compounds to 60 per cent per year. Anybody who allowed a 60 per cent penalty to be applied would be very foolish. If a casino operator is starting to get into trouble, that will be the first sign, so he will be asked to show cause, and if no satisfactory explanation is given the licence will be cancelled. The Government does not accept the amendment.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted from clause 55 (Mr Burns's amendment) stand part of the clause—put; and the Committee divided—

Ayes, 37

Akers	Hewitt	Row
Austin	Innes	Scassola
Bertoni	Jennings	Simpson
Bjelke-Petersen	Kaus	Stephan
Booth	Knox	Sullivan
Borbidge	Lee	Tomkins
Edwards	Lickiss	Turner
Elliott	Lockwood	Wharton
FitzGerald	McKechnie	White
Frawley	Moore	<i>Tellers:</i>
Gibbs, I. J.	Nelson	Gygar
Goleby	Powell	Neal
Harper	Prentice	

Noes, 14

Blake	McLean	
Davis	Prest	
Fouras	Scott	
Gibbs, R. J.	Shaw	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hooper	Underwood	Burns
Kruger	Warburton	Eaton

Pairs:

Doumany	Casey
Gunn	D'Arcy
Lester	Smith
Warner	Wright
Greenwood	Yewdale
Bird	Wilson
Kyburz	Mackenroth
Muntz	Milliner
Lane	Hansen
Katter	Jones
Randell	Vaughan

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 55, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 56 to 63, as read, agreed to.

Clause 64—Assistance to patrons in relation to rules of games—

Mr BURNS (9.23 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

“At page 33, lines 36 to 38, omit the words—

‘unless a sign indicating the new minimum and the proposed time of change is displayed at the table or location at least 20 minutes prior to the time of proposed change.’

and substitute the words—

‘for the remainder of the time for the day in question that the casino operator operates the casino.’”

This is what I call the spiv clause that will be used against gamblers on the table. It allows the operator to raise the limit of betting on the table by displaying a sign that says, “In 20 minutes the limit will be raised.” So if a gambler is losing \$500 or \$600

and that sign is displayed and the operator says, "I am going to raise the limit to \$100 or \$1,000 a bet and I am going to do it in 20 minutes' time.", the punter then either punts fast to try to get his money back within the 20 minutes or has to increase his bets to the new level.

It is not so much the \$10 or \$20 punters who are affected but the big-money gamblers. They are the ones the operators are interested in. That has been shown at Ladbrokes and in other places around the world, and it is a way of manipulating the punter. If members know any gamblers, they would know that they wear their favourite suit and sit in their favourite chair at their favourite table.

Government Members interjected.

Mr BURNS: Yes, I have been wearing my favourite suit for a long time. We all wear the things that we feel are lucky. Some people will carry a lucky dog-tag in their pocket. People who are gamblers are also superstitious in many ways. To force them to move from a table is crazy. It is being done for money.

The operator should have to open a new table. The operator will say, "The little old ladies are there in the morning and they are betting in \$2. We want to change the limit to \$20 or \$50." Generally there are many empty tables in casinos. Another table should be opened when the betting limit is raised.

The only people who should be allowed to raise the limit are the betters. Let the betters, not the casino operators, say "We want the limit raised." All the advantages favour the casino operator. The Opposition firmly believes that the provision should be changed. I moved the amendment on behalf of the honourable member for Woodridge but, in my opinion, a day is a little long for a session. Many casino operators operate a limit for one session, and it may be changed for the next session. The Opposition opposes the clause in its present form.

Dr EDWARDS: The Government is not prepared to accept the amendment. Research has indicated that most overseas casinos impose a 30 or 20-minute limit before increasing the minimum bet. Others tend to hold the limit in place while a person who placed a bet at the original limit is still playing at the table. The honourable member referred to that. After examining this matter the Government firmly believes that the casino operators should be able to impose limitations. I appreciate the feelings of the honourable member on this matter, but the Government is not prepared to accept the amendment.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted from clause 64 (Mr Burns's amendment) stand part of the clause—put; and the Committee divided—

Ayes, 37

Akers	Innes	Simpson
Austin	Jennings	Stephan
Bertoni	Kaus	Sullivan
Bjelke-Petersen	Knox	Tomkins
Booth	Lee	Turner
Borbridge	Lickiss	Wharton
Edwards	Lockwood	White
Elliott	McKechnie	
FitzGerald	Moore	
Frawley	Nelson	
Gibbs, I. J.	Powell	
Goleby	Prentice	<i>Tellers:</i>
Harper	Row	Gygar
Hewitt	Scassola	Neal

Noes, 14

Blake	McLean	
Davis	Prest	
Fouras	Scott	
Gibbs, R. J.	Shaw	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hooper	Underwood	Burns
Kruger	Warburton	Eaton

Pairs:

Doumany	Casey
Gunn	D'Arcy
Warner	Wright
Lester	Smith
Greenwood	Yewdale
Bird	Wilson
Kyburz	Mackenroth
Muntz	Milliner
Lane	Hansen
Katter	Jones
Randell	Vaughan

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 64, as read, agreed to.

Clause 65—Obligation of casino operator in relation to conduct of games—

Mr BURNS (11.31 p.m.): Clause 65 relates to the obligation of casino operator in relation to conduct of games. It states—

“(6) A casino operator shall during the hours of operation of a casino, at the request of a casino patron—

(a) exchange chip purchase vouchers or chips issued by the casino for chips or other chips, as the case may be, as requested of an equivalent total value;

(b) redeem chips or chip purchase vouchers issued by the casino for cash of an amount equivalent to the value of the chips or chip purchase vouchers:

Provided that the casino operator, if requested by the patron, may at his discretion issue for the whole or any part of the amount to be paid in cash, in lieu of cash, a cheque made payable to the patron and drawn on a bank account approved by the Minister for the purpose.”

This is the laundering part of the Bill.

Everybody remembers the days of the Gold Coast syndicate that went down to Wrest Point and had miraculous wins because it had a system. Everybody knows the system that it used. The system that is used in many cases is that people with black money from drugs or gambling, on which tax has not been paid and which the owners do not want the authorities to trace to them, set up a company known as the XYZ Company. That company is generally a bottom-of-the-harbour company. The directors put from \$200,000 to \$3m into the bank and establish a credit rating with the casino. The directors go to the casino with that credit rating and purchase \$1m worth of chips. They drink a few beers, have a few bets and go back with the chips and say, “We won this on your games tonight. Give us a cheque.” They receive personal cheques. They return home and say, “We have won \$1m. It is all good, clean money.” They put it into their private bank accounts. The money has been laundered. I am not revealing any new secrets. It has been done many times in the casinos throughout the world. It will probably be done on the Gold Coast. We should not make the laundering of money easy for that type of person. We should try to make it as difficult as possible.

In a particular Swedish casino, if a person changed a cheque for \$100,000 to purchase chips and went back with \$100,000 worth of chips, he received his original cheque in return. That was the end of laundering dirty money at that casino.

This clause is dangerous and should be tightened up. It is unwise to allow a casino operator, at the request of the patron, to issue cheques. All of the crooked casino operators in the world have used that system as a way of laundering money. It is also a way of paying people off. A person who has a miraculous run of luck at the casino receives a personal cheque.

The honourable member for Woodridge referred to drinking at the tables. The argument raised is that a person should not get drunk, gamble, lose all his money, and then claim later that he lost it because he drank too much.

Subclause (10) is badly drafted. It provides—

“A casino operator shall not sell, give or distribute intoxicating liquor to any person at a gaming table or at any other playing area within a casino.”

Anyone who goes to Wrest Point and buys a drink is not allowed out of the drinking area or at the tables. Under this Bill, a person can buy a drink somewhere else and take it to the table. The clause provides that an operator shall not sell the liquor. It should be rewritten in some way that will prevent drinking at the tables. That would prevent someone claiming that he lost his money because he drank too much.

Dr EDWARDS: I do not think anyone denies that laundering money is a problem at casinos. It is a major problem, and it is recognised by every Government that has had anything to do with casinos.

I assure the honourable member for Lytton that our inspection and surveillance system will be a very good one. He might remember that within two or three weeks of the activities of the famous group from the Gold Coast it was realised that laundering was occurring. Eventually members of the group were declared bankrupt. That was the result of surveillance by the casino and the realisation that something funny was going on.

Mr Burns: They were on the front page.

Dr EDWARDS: They were publicised well. I am sure that if the honourable member for Lytton was involved, he would not tell the "Telegraph".

Laundering of money is a problem. We are aware of it, but we believe that our surveillance measures and our checks on the transfer of cheques will overcome the problem.

As to liquor—house rules will be drawn up subject to the Bill. We will be indicating to the people concerned that the house rules should provide that liquor cannot be taken to the tables.

Clause 65, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 66 to 69, as read, agreed to.

Clause 70—Depositing of cheques—

Mr BURNS (11.38 p.m.): Those people who criticise the Government in relation to this Bill refer to this clause as the blackmail clause. It provides—

"All cheques received by a casino operator in respect of gaming that are not redeemed in accordance with section 69 shall be banked by him within the prescribed time."

The prescribed time is not spelt out in the Bill. What happens is that a fellow comes along and gambles at the casino for some time. He hands in a cheque bearing today's date and gambles to the extent of the sum involved. At the end of the day he goes to the casino operator and says, "I am a bit short on that cheque. Will you hold it for me?" As soon as the casino does that, it has him in a difficult position. The casino is not forced to bank the cheque within 24 hours. In England the period is, I think, two days. The casino has a very strong hold over that man. It can tell him that he owes the casino something and that he must pay up. People who borrow can get themselves into difficulty.

If the casino operator is a crook or has people who want to use that man's knowledge—he could be a public servant or someone in the gambling industry, such as a jockey, a bookie, a racehorse owner or a trotting-horse owner—he can virtually blackmail him. It is dangerous to allow people to get themselves into a situation in which their cheques can be used against them.

The Opposition believes that the prescribed time should be spelt out and that anyone's cheque should be banked immediately or next day. A casino should not be allowed to hold it to the detriment of the person who gives it to the casino.

Dr LOCKWOOD: I do not believe that any cheque should be allowed to be redeemed under the law. As I said in my speech during the second-reading debate, those who are entrusted with other people's money should not be allowed into casinos. A person may come along to a casino with a cheque to which he is not legally entitled and present it in the hope of winning on one of the games. Having won, he will redeem the cheque. I believe that that has happened in other places in this State.

Mr Burns: Some of those people using other people's funds can hold them for 12 months.

Dr LOCKWOOD: They could, too.

I believe that every cheque presented must be banked and it should not be able to be redeemed under any circumstances. I am sorry that I was not sitting in my correct seat when clause 69 was called on—I was discussing the legal implications of redemption with my friend the member for Mt Gravatt—but I believe that that clause should have been wiped from the Bill.

If cheques have to be presented at banks without exception, I think people will become aware that other persons are operating accounts illegally. This system will allow people to illegally draw cheques, gamble, win and then destroy the evidence. As the member for Lytton pointed out, that evidence could be used to blackmail a person. There is no difference between a person who has illegally drawn a cheque and won and a person who has illegally drawn a cheque and lost. Both have committed a crime. If banking is compulsory, that crime will be discovered.

Dr EDWARDS: I appreciate the points that have been made. The Government has looked at this matter and found that it is impossible not to allow casinos to accept cheques. Some people are likely to gamble with \$1m, and it is very difficult to take that amount of money into a casino. As the member for Wolston suggested, they could be robbed on the way to the casino.

The management has to decide, first of all, whether it will accept the cheque. If it accepts a cheque, it has to pay tax on it. Therefore, the management will not accept too many that might bounce because, firstly, it will have to pay out winnings on the cheque and, secondly, it will have to pay 20 per cent tax on the cheque. I do not think that that is a problem.

The cheque facility must be provided. The responsibility will be placed on the owner of the casino to establish that a cheque is genuine.

The member for Lytton referred to the time within which cheques will have to be banked. He is correct when he says that the longer the period allowed the more likely problems will arise. In other countries, 30 days, 28 days and 21 days are allowed, but the prescribed period in Queensland will be five days. That will allow banks sufficient time to clear cheques. The period of five days will be provided in the regulations.

Although I recognise the problems that both members have raised, I do not think we have any alternative other than to limit it to a shorter period. I give the Committee an assurance that we will not be lengthening that period. In view of the points raised by the member for Lytton, it may well be that it will be reduced to a shorter period.

Mr BURNS: The reason why we asked about the five days is obvious. The suggestion made to us was that there should be a requirement on the casino operator to indicate what cheques he holds. I will quote a paragraph out of a report on the management of casino gaming in London by David Miers. He says—

“While it is permissible for a punter to purchase chips by cheque, such cheques must be presented for payment within two banking days; at Crockford’s seemingly, cheques to the value of £10 million had been held by the management and returned to the drawers over a 3-year period.”

The law said two days, but they had held £10m for three years. He continues—

“The Gaming Board reports consistently record non-compliance with the rules relating to the acceptance of cheques ”

and he named the various paragraphs in the Gaming Board’s reports.

The suggestion has been that they should be required to provide a list of cheques they are holding. I really do not know why they would hold them. I accept that there have to be cheques and I accept that they have to be paid. I suppose five days is not a long period, but it is still a period during which the information can be used against the person who issues the cheque.

Dr EDWARDS: I don’t think it is in the legislation that we have to list the cheques. The cheques will be seen by the inspectors because of the necessity for them to be recorded in some form for purposes of taxation. I am quite happy to look at some mechanism within the house rules by which the cheques are listed so that procedure is followed.

Clause 70, as read, agreed to.

Clause 71, as read, agreed to.

Clause 72—Training courses for employees—

Mr BURNS (11.47 p.m.): The bottom of page 36 speaks of training courses for employees and stipulates that "No cash is used and no chips are used." I have been told by the member for Woodridge that at Wrest Point chips and cash are used for training purposes. The suggestion is that if the Government has checked out the ladies and gentlemen to the degree that it should have before they reach the training stage, there should not be any danger of their taking a few dollars, chips, or chips for reproduction. It seems strange that people would be trained to use money and to handle chips in the correct way without allowing them to use cash or chips. Why?

Dr EDWARDS: There must be absolutely total control over the number of chips in a casino. The legislation means that they will not be using chips used in the casino. If the normal chips were a white colour, those used for training could be green. They will be replicas of chips, but not the chips used in the casino.

Clause 72, as read, agreed to.

Clause 73—System of controls and procedures—

Mr BURNS (11.49 p.m.): When we showed this Bill to people, they said that this clause is one of the weaknesses in the way the Queensland Government has proceeded with the preparation of the Bill. Their argument is that the Government says to the casino operator, "You draw them up and we will approve them." The clause reads—

"A casino operator shall submit to the Director for the approval of the Minister—

(a) a description of the system of internal controls and administrative and accounting procedures proposed by him in connexion with the operation of the casino;

(b) details of changes proposed to any such controls and procedures previously approved by the Minister."

It has been suggested to us that a smart international casino operator will write the methods of hiding the money and of skimming or of manipulating the books into the material that he provides so that the Government does not receive its rightful share of taxation and so that the community does not receive its correct levy. It has been suggested that it is naive on the Government's part to ask the operator to provide these details and that the Treasury officials, with their reputation in the community, should have prepared the documents. We should have said, "This is what we want. That is the way it should be done."

Dr EDWARDS: That sounds very good in theory, but the staff of my department does not have time to do that type of work. It should be done by the casino operator within the normal operation of accounting procedures. My department has standards and guide-lines that will be provided to the operators, but it does not intend doing the work that should be done by the companies.

I think I know where the suggestion came from, because it is one of the criticisms that came from a company that has had long association with the member for Woodridge. That criticism was aired when the Bill was first mooted. The Government was also contacted by the same organisation. I assure the honourable member that there is no problem. The Government will make sure that it meets its obligations.

Clause 73, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 74 to 91, as read, agreed to.

Clause 92—Entry to and exclusion of entry from casino—

Mr R. J. GIBBS (11.51 p.m.): Obviously, the management of a casino has the right to say who shall and who shall not enter that casino. I want to know why people who are known as card readers are banned from casinos. There has been some jesting about the odds on the tables of casinos, and one honourable member made the point that the bank always wins. The fact is that the bank does not always win.

I am referring specifically to the game of blackjack, which, as I understand it, has odds of between three and five to one in favour of the House. If a person has the ability to read cards, he can reduce the odds to one and a half to one in favour of the house.

A pattern is emerging which shows that people are being banned from casinos simply on the basis that they can understand how cards work and how they are played. They do nothing illegal in using that professional ability—that is the term I use to describe it—on the floor of a casino; yet a black list is drawn up that prevents them having a right of entry. In fact, a person was recently banned from the Wrest Point casino for reading cards. From my reading about the world casino scene, I know that many operators have become very alarmed about the success of some card readers at the gambling tables and are now considering a change in the rules so that the house can have better odds than in the past.

I ask the Treasurer: Under what circumstances and under what right does the management of a casino ban a person?

Mr Lee: They are not doing anything illegal?

Mr R. J. GIBBS: No, there is nothing illegal about it. A person's eyes can be trained to watch the drop of the cards as they come out of a shoe so that he can remember how many picture cards and other cards have dropped onto the table. By doing that, he can compute the odds and know when to play cards and when not to.

As I said, card readers have been banned from casinos, and I want to know on what grounds they have been banned.

Dr EDWARDS: The legislation makes no mention of that point. A casino operator must have the right to ban any person, just as the honourable member can ban anybody from entering his home and people can be banned from entering the premises of any businessman. The honourable member would not suggest that that should not be the case.

The banning of card readers is a matter for the casino operators. It is a situation that is worrying casino operators throughout the world. If the casino industry has that as one of its principles, I guess that it is one of the rules that it can apply. The Government certainly would not dare to try to legislate to stop casinos from banning card readers and the legislation does not refer to them. It gives the operator the right to ban people whom he does not want in the casino. I appreciate the honourable member's concern, but it is a matter for the casino operator. I recognise the problem, but anybody who does it probably deserves to have a win for a while. Judging by his performance in this place, the honourable member will never acquire that skill. It takes a lot of intelligence to acquire that skill. We will wait and see.

Clause 92, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 93 to 101, as read, agreed to.

Clause 102—Provisions relating to minors in respect of casinos—

Mr BURNS (11.56 p.m.): This is one of the areas which cause a lot of trouble in hotels. The union movement has always been concerned that the man or woman behind the counter has to take the responsibility for serving minors. I do not think any of us can tell with certainty the age of a young girl. One has only to go to a high school and see young girls in their uniforms and then see them dressed up at the end of the year ball to realise the difference. The difficulty is obvious. I do not really know how this provision will be enforced, particularly as the clause states—

“that the defendant believed, on reasonable grounds, that the person in question was of or above the age of 18 years.”

That is a complete out. It is our belief that the ordinary working man or woman should not be held responsible. The casino operator should make some sort of arrangement to check ages. The ordinary girl on the table or the ordinary man working in the casino is not trained to do that. The responsibility should be placed on the casino operator, not on the staff.

Dr EDWARDS: The honourable member is looking at the issue too narrowly. It is not possible for the operator—the casino licensee—to be looking at 130 tables, for example. He therefore has to delegate his authority to an employee. The legislation is fairly clear in that it says that patrons have to supply a certificate showing their age,

perhaps a driver's licence or some other identification. It is a reasonable request. As the honourable member said, it is always difficult, and we are trying to establish one way by which a person has to establish his age. Some 30-year-old people appear to be 18. When the honourable member and I were 18, we looked a little older. The legislation is fairly clear and reasonable. It is a difficult problem, but I appreciate the point the honourable member has made.

Clause 102, as read, agreed to.

Clause 103—Cheating—

Mr BURNS (11.59 p.m.): Subclause (d) states—

“by the fraudulent use of any instrument or article of a type normally used in connexion with gaming or appearing to be of a type normally used in connexion with gaming . . .”

Someone suggested that that provision could include dud cheques—that cheques that bounce could be included. I argued that it did not look to me as if such things were connected with gambling, but the person said, “How do you gamble without the money?” The penalty is \$20,000 in the case of a body corporate and \$10,000 or imprisonment for two years in the case of a natural person. People round the city pass dud cheques all the time, and they are unlucky if they are imprisoned for a month. Are they to be treated differently under this Bill, or is it only gaming instruments that the Bill refers to? I am really asking what it means.

[Friday, 26 November 1982]

Dr EDWARDS: I am advised that it does not apply to cheques but to section 429 of the Criminal Code. It certainly does not apply to cheques.

Clause 103, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 104 to 114, as read, agreed to.

Clause 115—Finger prints and the like—

Mr R. J. GIBBS (12.1 a.m.): Members of the Opposition are concerned about this clause. We objected to its incorporation in the recent Commonwealth Games legislation. The clause reads—

“Finger prints and the like. (1) Where a person has been arrested for an offence or an attempt to commit an offence against section 103 or section 104, a member of the police force at the police establishment to which he is taken after arrest or where he is in custody may take all such particulars as he considers necessary for the identification of that person, including his voice print, photograph, finger prints, palm prints, foot prints, toe prints and handwriting, and in taking those particulars may use such force as is reasonably necessary for the purpose.

Where a person is found not guilty of an offence or an attempt . . . taken pursuant to this section in relation to the offence in respect of which he was found not guilty shall, at the request of that person, be destroyed in his presence or in the presence of a person nominated by him.”

In my opinion, 99.9 per cent of the people who will frequent casinos will be unaware of the provisions in the legislation. I think the Minister will accept that comment. For the life of me, I cannot see how any person who is arrested, taken to court and found not guilty of an offence will be aware that he has the right to request the destruction of fingerprints, palm prints, etc. When a person is found not guilty of an offence, it should be mandatory that such record be destroyed. I can only repeat that most people would not know that, in the event of their being found not guilty, such records will be destroyed only upon request. Because it is very unusual for Opposition amendments to be accepted, I have not prepared one in this instance. I ask the Treasurer to consider the phrase “. . . in respect of which he was found not guilty shall, at the request of that person . . .” Could the Treasurer amend the clause to read “. . . in respect of which he was found not guilty shall automatically be destroyed in his presence or in the presence of a person nominated by him”? I see no problem in doing that.

Dr EDWARDS: I appreciate the honourable member's point. My limited legal knowledge leads me to believe that that is exactly what it means. Where the word "shall" is used, it means it will be done. The legislation provides that it "shall, at the request of that person, be destroyed in his presence or in the presence of a person nominated by him." I see no problem with that. I will pass the honourable member's request on to the proper authorities. It is not unreasonable.

Mr R. J. GIBBS: The Minister's point is accepted. I am not at odds with him. I ask him to accept my point that if a person does not make the request to have records destroyed, or is unaware that he can make such a request, the records will not be destroyed. If a person is found not guilty of a charge, the records should be destroyed automatically.

Dr EDWARDS: I do not object to it. I have just received technical advice. My advisers do not foresee any problems with the request. If it is acceptable to the Committee I am prepared to omit the words, "at the request of that person". It will then read—

"Where a person is found not guilty of an offence or an attempt to commit an offence against section 103 or section 104, any voice print, photograph, finger prints, palm prints, foot prints, toe prints or handwriting previously taken pursuant to this section in relation to the offence in respect of which he was found not guilty shall be destroyed in his presence or in the presence of a person nominated by him."

I move the following amendment—

"At page 56, lines 1 and 2, omit the words—
' , at the request of that person,'."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 115, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 116 to 128, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Dr Edwards, by leave, read a third time.

STAMP ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Stamp Act 1894-1982 and the Mining Act 1968-1982 each in certain particulars and for other purposes."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Dr Edwards, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (12.10 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Bill proposes some major amendments to the Stamp Act. The most significant are those designed to counter stamp duty avoidance involving—

Out-of-State documentation practices;

The practice of making false declarations claiming the principal place of residence concession; and

The scheme commonly known as the Darwin share register scheme.

The Bill also provides for a concession, withdraws the mechanism for the giving of a concession and makes provision for certain amendments of an administrative, minor or technical nature.

It is thought that significant stamp duty which would in the ordinary course be expected to be accounted for in Queensland is being avoided by persons executing and retaining outside Queensland instruments which relate to Queensland property or matters and things done or to be done in Queensland.

At present instruments are dutiable in Queensland when executed in Queensland or if executed outside and relating to Queensland property or matters or things done or to be done in Queensland, when first brought into Queensland.

It is proposed that out-of-State documentation avoidance practices be countered by providing in the Act for such instruments executed and retained outside the State to be dutiable from time of execution. This proposal will not have retrospective effect, as similar legislation in one other State does have.

At the same time, in conjunction with such amendment, it is proposed to set out clearly the circumstances where documents are chargeable with duty. At present this is only achieved by reference to the provisions which restrict the availability of unstamped instruments, say, in court proceedings.

More specifically, it is also proposed that unexecuted documents, which are dutiable where the original is not available in certain circumstances, be chargeable with duty in accordance with the law in force at the time when the originals to which they relate are first executed.

This represents a change from the present position. Presently such document is dutiable from the time when it is first made. This is a matter of which the commissioner in practice would have no knowledge and the change proposed is a practical alternative.

In the case of unexecuted documents that relate to original instruments which are executed outside the State before the commencement of this Act, it is proposed that the present position be maintained, that is, that they be chargeable with duty in accordance with the law in force at the time when they are first brought into Queensland.

Unexecuted copies, the originals of which are executed outside of Queensland after the commencement of the Act, will be chargeable with duty in accordance with the law in force at the time when the originals to which they relate were first executed in the same way as the originals in such cases will be dutiable from time of execution.

Amendments extending the duty base to cover out-of-State documentation in appropriate circumstances would not on their own significantly counter the out-of-State avoidance practices.

Generally, the penalties for late lodgment and non-stamping are not really strong enough in dissuading persons from late lodgment and non-stamping.

The Bill provides for the late lodgment penalty to be increased from the present level of between \$2 and \$50, and in addition up to 10 per cent payable by each of the parties to the instrument, to a maximum of \$5,000 payable by each of the parties, and in addition that all the parties together (as against each party individually) or any of them, be liable for a penalty of up to double the duty on the relevant document.

At the same time, the penalty for parties not paying duty chargeable on an instrument, for example, in the case of not stamping a document which may be adhesively stamped, is proposed to be increased from \$100 to \$500.

Persons have been making false declarations for the purpose of obtaining the conveyance concession for conveyances to persons acquiring their principal places of residence.

The concession is that a rate of conveyance duty of \$1 per \$100 of consideration or value whichever is the greater applies where the commissioner is satisfied that the subject property has been acquired for the purpose of being utilised as the acquirer's principal place of residence and that such purpose will be fulfilled forthwith or in such time thereafter not exceeding six months as the commissioner in his discretion allows.

The Commissioner of Stamp Duties is experiencing difficulties in countering the practice of making false declarations, because the concession mechanism requires him to determine whether the concession should be given in advance of any demonstration by the claimants of their intention to occupy the dwelling as a principal place of residence without the power to review the giving of the concession if persons do not subsequently accord with their stated intention.

To remedy the situation, the Bill provides for the commissioner to be empowered to withdraw the concession if occupation is not taken up by the claimant for the purpose of his principal place of residence immediately or within such time within six months as the commissioner has allowed.

To counter the situation of a person taking up occupation for a token period only for the purpose of obtaining the concession, it is proposed that the commissioner be empowered to withdraw the concession when after it is granted a person does not immediately continuously reside in the premises for a period of six months.

If the person who obtained the concession subsequently met the criteria for withdrawal, it is proposed that he be obliged to notify the commissioner within 28 days or such time as the commissioner in his discretion allows of his having failed to meet the criteria and to account for appropriate duty.

If notification is not given, he would be liable for a penalty equal to the full duty at the higher level. This would be in addition to the duty assessed in respect of the withdrawal of the concession.

The Bill has been drafted so that the mechanics for the giving of the concession, including the definition of "place of residence" for the purposes of the concession, are taken out of the charging schedule and placed in the body of the Act.

The mortgage duty concession for a principal place of residence utilises the "place of residence" definition presently located in the schedule and the reference to its location in the mortgage concession needs to be adjusted.

It is proposed that the Act be amended to counter the marketable security stamp duty avoidance scheme, which utilises share registers in the Northern Territory. The scheme generally involves transfers of private company shares.

Queensland stock and marketable security duty is presently in terms of transfers where the stock or marketable security is, at the time when the transfer is executed—

(a) in respect of any corporation, company or society which has a register in Queensland; and

(b) is registered on such register.

When the shares on a Queensland register are taken off the Queensland register and placed on a register in a tax-haven State before the transfer is executed in Queensland, such transfer executed in Queensland does not attract Queensland duty, and the transfer can then be entered on the Queensland register without duty having been accounted for in Queensland.

It is proposed to remedy this situation by imposing duty generally on conveyances and transfers of stock and marketable securities of companies, etc., with registers in Queensland, regardless of whether the stock or marketable security transferred is on the register in Queensland.

This change in the duty base could lead to a double duty situation arising with transfers attracting duty in Queensland and in a non-tax haven State, Territory or country.

It is proposed to provide for relief where, in the normal course, the duty would be accounted for in such State, Territory or country (that is, when the stock or marketable security or right in respect of shares is on a register in such State, Territory or country).

In brief, where duty is paid both in Queensland and in such State, Territory or country where the register on which the marketable security is to be transferred is located, the commissioner may refund either—

The amount of duty paid in Queensland where the amount paid outside the State is the same or greater; or

Where the amount of duty paid outside Queensland is lesser, an amount equal to the amount paid outside Queensland.

There is also provision for the commissioner to not utilise the refund provisions and stamp the relevant instrument not chargeable in Queensland where the amount of duty to be taken by him is the same as the potential refund. This provision relates to non-stock exchange transfers. Most other States have these refund provisions.

The foregoing provisions represent the most modern measures against the use of registers in a tax-haven State and have grown out of the initial measures adopted which involved the use of returns of off stock market transfers on branch registers in tax havens. However, the system of returns will be an added protection, and it is proposed to adopt it also.

In this regard, the Bill provides for companies with their principal registers in Queensland to account to the Commissioner of Stamp Duties by way of return for off stock market transfers on branch registers, except prescribed branch registers, so that effectively only duty on transfers on branch registers in States and Territories and countries which are tax havens will be accounted for by such return.

It will be provided that where duty has already been paid under the Act on a transfer with respect to which a return has been lodged, an appropriate credit will be available.

It is proposed to strengthen late-payment penalties. The rate is presently 5 per cent of the duty for the first month, 10 per cent of the duty if it is not paid after one month but within a year and, if not paid within the first year, 10 per cent per year or part thereof.

Because the rate is set so low persons are deliberately choosing not to pay the duty. With a view to encouraging persons to pay the duty at the appropriate time, it is proposed to lift the maximum rate to 20 per cent per annum and increase the 5 per cent rate to 10 per cent.

Further, it is proposed to strengthen certain penalties for non-compliance with section 54A of the Act. Section 54A of the Act requires persons acquiring or agreeing to acquire a business to complete a prescribed form in relation thereto and account for duty on the value of the business acquired.

The level of penalties are not strong enough to deter persons from failing to comply with the provisions, and they need to be strengthened as well. It is proposed that they be increased to the same level as it is proposed will apply for late lodgement penalty.

It is proposed to provide in the Stamp Act for a concession of a flat amount of duty of \$20 to apply in respect of instruments reconstituting or varying superannuation fund trust deeds which are in relation to bona fide superannuation schemes for the benefit of employees. Under the concession, bona fide employee schemes are identified in that they are of a type approved by the Governor in Council.

The guide-lines applicable for the giving of a similar concession in New South Wales have been utilised by the commissioner in relation to the assessment of instruments reconstituting or varying superannuation fund trust deeds under certain existing administrative arrangements since 19 November 1982.

It is proposed that the Governor in Council approve retrospectively superannuation schemes of the type which meet those guide-lines presently being applied and that the Bill provide for assessments issued by the commissioner since the commencement of the administrative arrangements to be formalised.

The proposal for this concession in this area will cover the case of amendments to bona fide employees' superannuation schemes to meet Australian Tax Office guide-lines, day-to-day amendments to superannuation fund trust deeds and major reorganisations of bona fide schemes, for example, for modernising benefits under or providing for additional benefits under a scheme.

In June, certain administrative arrangements in relation to the prescribed rate under the credit and rental provisions were adopted whereby the prescribed rate for all credit business other than Bankcard loans and credit was set administratively at 18.75 per cent on and from 1 June 1982, and the existing prescribed rate of 17.75 per cent was retained in relation to Bankcard loans and credit.

The arrangements were to provide for relief from credit duty for certain types of commercial lending when interest rates in the market rose, but the prescribed rate could not be unilaterally increased to an appropriate level without a loss of duty from the valuable Bankcard source. The Bankcard interest rate was 18 per cent. The administrative arrangements ceased as from 8 November 1982, and the existing prescribed rate of 17.75 per cent has applied in respect of all credit business on and from that date. That was in response to a decrease in the level of relevant commercial interest rates. It is proposed that the previous administrative arrangements now be formalised.

Section 105 of the Mining Act provides that stamp duty concessions be provided by the Governor in Council by Order in Council in relation to documents or instruments relating to mining or prospecting. The concession was no doubt provided in the context of the mining industry in its formative stage. In the context of modern mining, the provision of such exemptions is no longer considered to be appropriate, and it is proposed that the section be repealed.

The Bill also provides for certain amendments of a minor and technical nature, namely—

To include references to the new Cairns office; and

To change certain references from the old companies legislation to the new and to delete a reference to a now obsolete Companies Act form.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Fouras, adjourned.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend The Criminal Code in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Dr Edwards, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (12.23 a.m.): I move—

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

At present, the Criminal Code is being examined with a view to making it more effective in relation to both matters of substance and matters of procedure. Discussions are currently taking place involving His Honour the Chief Justice, other judges of the Supreme Court, representatives of the Bar Association and the Queensland Law Society, the Solicitor-General and senior officers. It will be some time before substantial amendments can be brought forward. However, there are two matters that are of immediate concern.

Firstly, as honourable members would be aware, statistics have proved what most of us have always believed, namely, that there is a close relationship between the consumption of alcohol by drivers of motor vehicles and the high incidence of death and injuries on our roads.

This Government has recently taken steps making it unlawful for a person to drive or be in charge of a motor vehicle when his blood alcohol concentration equals or exceeds 50 mg of alcohol per 100 mL of blood (that is, .05 per cent or above).

The Government proposes to take a further initiative in dealing with the lethal mixture of alcohol and driving by increasing the maximum penalty that can be imposed in serious cases of dangerous driving where, at the time of driving, the concentration of alcohol in the offender's blood equals or exceeds 150 mg of alcohol per 100 mL of blood (.15 per cent or above).

The Criminal Code presently provides that the offence of dangerous driving causing death or grievous bodily harm is punishable upon conviction upon indictment by imprisonment with hard labour for five years. It is proposed to increase the maximum term of imprisonment that may be imposed in such cases to seven years where the offender's blood alcohol concentration equals or exceeds .15 per cent.

The acceptance of the figure of .15 per cent in relation to blood alcohol concentration is consistent with the provisions of the Traffic Act under which a person with such a level of blood alcohol concentration is conclusively presumed to be adversely affected by alcohol. The relevance of the figure in this regard has also found general acceptance in medical circles.

Mr Speaker, it is considered that this amendment is most timely in view of the approach of the holiday season and will serve as a warning to motorists of the danger of combining the consumption of alcohol with the driving of a motor vehicle.

The second amendment proposed in respect of section 328A of the Criminal Code, that is, the dangerous driving section, seeks to clarify the situation in relation to the relevance of the consumption of alcohol in proving the offence of dangerous driving.

Pursuant to the section at present, dangerous driving consists of driving a motor vehicle at a speed or in a manner dangerous to the public having regard to all the

circumstances of the case, including the nature, condition and use of the road or public place and the amount of traffic which is on or might reasonably be expected to be on the road or public place.

For some time there has been some dispute in judicial circles in respect of whether or not the court can have regard to the fact that a driver was adversely affected by alcohol as one of the circumstances to be considered in determining whether or not he was driving in a manner dangerous to the public.

It is proposed to put this matter beyond doubt by adding to the circumstances which can be taken into account in assessing the manner of driving the factor of the concentration of alcohol in the driver's blood.

When viewed logically it is difficult to argue that this factor is not relevant in assessing the manner of driving, particularly when it is realised that medical tests have demonstrated that a person's ability to control a motor vehicle is significantly affected at levels of concentration of well below .05 per cent.

The second provision of the Criminal Code which is considered to require immediate amendment (namely section 628) deals with the excusing of jurors. At the present time when a juror has been empanelled he can only be excused from continuing to serve when he becomes incapable of carrying on as a juror. This provision is regarded as being too limited in its application as it does not take account of many valid reasons which jurors may have for seeking to be excused.

Recently, some trials have become very lengthy and jurors can be gravely inconvenienced, particularly where long-term arrangements made by them, which may or may not involve financial commitment, are thrown into disarray. It has been rightly pointed out in a recent English case that jurors are entitled to such consideration as the court can give them, provided the administration of justice is not adversely affected. It should also be borne in mind that an aggrieved and inconvenienced juror is not likely to be a good one. It is generally accepted in judicial circles that the existing provision is too narrow.

It is proposed to empower the court to discharge a juror who has been empanelled where there is, in the opinion of the court, sufficient reason for so doing. As is the case at present, the jury, in circumstances where any of its members have been excused, may continue to function provided its members are not fewer than 10. It is proposed that this provision will apply to trials which are already in progress when the amending Act commences.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr R. J. Gibbs, adjourned.

HOSPITALS ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Hospitals Act 1936-1982 in certain particulars and for related purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health) (12.28 a.m.): I move—

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

This Bill has been prepared for the purpose of amending the Hospitals Act 1936-1982 to provide for the inclusion of two new sections relating to the establishment of the positions of Chief Nursing Officer and Acting Administrator under the provisions of the Act.

It also amends a number of sections relative to the training of students in hospitals, regulations pertaining to the Auditor-General and the tabling of regulations and other subordinate legislation, the election and appointment of board members in special cases, contracts and amends a number of areas in respect of the financial provisions, including various machinery amendments.

The Hospitals Act in its present form provides that the Governor in Council by Order in Council may approve a hospital to be a training school in respect of all branches

of medicine or dentistry and such other branches of medicine or dentistry as are specified in the Order in Council and training that is ancillary to those branches.

It also provides that any student of a university who is studying medicine, dentistry or such other approved medical or ancillary course will be entitled to attend such portions of the clinical practice or departments of the hospital approved as a training school in respect of the university at which the student is studying.

In addition to universities, there are other educational institutions such as the Queensland Institute of Technology and colleges of advanced education whose students attend hospitals in pursuance of their training in courses including psychology and dietetics.

Legal advice obtained indicates that the Act as it presently stands makes no provision for the approval of hospitals as training schools for students attending these institutions.

In view of this an amendment has been included in the Bill to extend the existing provisions of the Act to enable hospitals to be approved as training schools for students attending colleges or other educational institutions as specified by Order in Council.

The Governor in Council by Order in Council may also declare a college or other educational institution or a course to be an approved college or other educational institution or course for the purposes of section 4A (4).

The amendment also sets out the entitlements of students enrolled in an approved college or educational institution whilst undertaking an approved course.

Two new sections have been included in the Bill relating to the establishment of the positions of Chief Nursing Officer and Acting Administrator under the provisions of the Act.

The duties of the position of Chief Nursing Officer have been spelt out. It is proposed to remove the duties in so far as the appointment, dismissal and other associated duties in respect of nursing superintendents from the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, and pass them on to the Chief Nursing Officer. The Chief Nursing Officer will also be directly responsible to the Under Secretary, Department of Health in relation to the formulation of policy matters in regard to nursing practice generally.

The second new section relates to the appointment of acting administrators by the Governor in Council by Order in Council. This section authorises an acting administrator, during the absence of the administrator, to have and discharge the functions and duties and may exercise the powers and authorities of the administrator.

Section 6 of the Hospitals Act requires that regulations made in connection with financial arrangements and matters relating thereto including amendments be first recommended by the Auditor-General. This approach in relation to the Act was generally followed by Government departments prior to the introduction of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977.

This particular Act incorporated the concept that each accountable officer was fully responsible for the management and control of his department's financial arrangements and following from this, the role of the Auditor-General in the framing of accounting regulations was a consultative one. To bring the Act in line with the requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, clause 7 of the Bill provides the necessary amendment to allow for the financial regulations to be brought under the control of the accountable officer. The Auditor-General's role in respect of these will revert to a consultative one.

A further amendment to Section 6 of the Act provides for the tabling of regulations and such other subordinate legislation within fourteen sitting days and brings the Act in line with the Acts Interpretation Act 1954-1977. The Solicitor-General has given several opinions to the effect that a hospitals board is not properly constituted unless there is a local authority representative on the board.

At the present time, there is one hospitals board which has no local authority representative owing to the fact that the affairs of the shire council are placed under the control of an administrator.

To overcome this situation an amendment has been incorporated in the Act to provide for the election or appointment of members to hospitals boards in special cases. The amendment will allow for the appointment of a qualified person, except for membership of a component local authority, to be the local authority representative on a hospitals board in situations where a qualified member, that is a member of a component local authority, is not available for appointment.

In areas where there is a group of component local authorities in a hospital district and one or more, but not all, are under the control of an administrator, the amended Act will provide that the representative on the hospitals board shall be a qualified person elected by the remaining local authority or authorities.

The Governor in Council has also been authorised to fill a casual vacancy on a hospitals board where no qualified person is available by reason that there are no members of a component local authority or authorities available for appointment.

Section 20 (5) of the Hospitals Act relating to the making of contracts has been amended to comply with instruction numbers 87 to 91, inclusive, pursuant to the Financial Administration and Audit Act. This will mean that a parallel relationship exists between hospitals boards and Government departments where the making of contracts for the execution of work or the furnishing of materials is concerned.

A number of amendments have also been made to the financial sections of the Act.

It will be noted that section 21 has been amended to bring it in line with modern drafting practices and where appropriate to provide amended investment powers which comply with the requirements of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982. Hospitals boards have also been exempted from the need to retain a special purpose fund except in cases where such funds have been made available.

The section of the Act dealing with trust funds has been reviewed and amended to simplify and expedite present procedures. Boards will be required to obtain the prior approval of the Minister only in cases where the amount of money to be applied is \$1,000 or more. Lesser amounts may now be applied in such manner as the board in its discretion thinks fit.

Section 22 (8) of the Act specifies the action required of hospitals boards if unforeseen and emergent or extraordinary circumstances arise which require a board to make a disbursement from its general fund that was not provided for in the budget or that would cause the budget provision to be exceeded. Boards are still required to make the appropriate resolution declaring that the disbursement is necessary. The amended section affords hospitals boards some relief from the existing requirement that there is a need in every such circumstance to obtain approval of the Minister to make such a disbursement that is not provided in the budget or excess disbursement before making it where the legislation refers to disbursement items of which there are 15.

To assist in this regard, the previously prescribed budget items are being defined as disbursement headings (3) and budget classifications (14).

The present wording of the Act creates an excessive work-load for both hospital and departmental administrative staff and the volume particularly makes it difficult to deal promptly with early processing, which is a requisite of the intentions of the Act as to the obtaining of the approval of the Minister before making the disbursement.

The proposed amendment will considerably reduce the work-load by providing that hospitals boards can by their own resolution, effect transfer from any surplus arising in any other budget classification of the same hospital service or undertaking of the board to achieve a sufficient sum in any budget classification or subdivision. This capacity, however, does not extend to boards being able to transfer from one hospital service or undertaking to another within the board's sphere of services.

Hospitals boards will still be required to obtain prior ministerial approval to incur expenditure where any disbursement heading is deficient or they are unable to transfer sufficient sums within budget classifications. This requirement will ensure that adequate central financial control is retained and the reduced number of required approvals will expedite processing.

Finally, the penalty for a disciplinary offence has been reviewed in line with modern times and has been increased from \$100 to \$500.

It will be appreciated that this Bill is of an administrative nature and is designed to continue the effective management of this State's hospital service to the benefit of all residents of this State.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Underwood, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12.36 a.m. (Friday).