

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 1984

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Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. H. Warner, Toowoomba South) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Eighth report 1984 of the Local Government Grants Commission, Queensland
Manager, Golden Casket Art Union Office for the year ended 30 June 1984
Queensland Film Corporation for the year ended 30 June 1984.

The following papers were laid on the table—

Proclamations under—

Acquisition of Land Act 1967-1977 and the State Development and Public
Works Organisation Act 1971-1981

Forestry Act 1959-1982

Orders in Council under the Forestry Act 1959-1982

Regulations under the Public Service Act 1922-1978.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Nurse Education

From Mr Prest (34 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will transfer all nurse education in Queensland to the higher education sector by the end of 1993.

Safety of Pedestrian Crossing, Stafford Road and Clifford Street, Stafford

From Mr Gygar (126 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take the necessary action to ensure that the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Stafford Road and Clifford Street, Stafford, be made safe.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

Questions submitted on notice were answered as follows—

1. Racing Development Fund

Mr WARBURTON asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing—

With reference to the latest Auditor-General's report on the miscellaneous departmental accounts and the accounts of statutory bodies and local authorities, which states that income of the Racing Development Fund is applied towards advances by way of special payments, grants or loans to existing racing revenues (*sic*) and proposed racing venues and, further, that payments out of the fund comprised grants of \$2,274,751, interest-free interminable loans of \$1,895,909, repayable loans and advances of \$2,499,307, and special payments of \$6,163,830—

What are the relevant data and information in respect of grants, interest-free interminable loans, repayable loans and advances and special payments in the following areas: (a) to which racing venues were these amounts directed and (b) for what specific purposes?

Answer—

The honourable member would realise that to extract the detail sought would involve a considerable amount of work. I will respond to the honourable member's question as soon as possible.

2. Advertising Signs on Railway Land

Mr BAILEY asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to his statement regarding upgrading of advertising signs on railway land prior to Expo 88—

Will there be a big financial outlay by the department on this work?

Answer—

The program that is being developed is for all advertising on railway land in the Brisbane area to be upgraded to a modern uniform standard by the beginning of 1988. Although the first priority is for the city area, there will at the same time be a progressive upgrading in country areas. A considerable number of departmentally owned signs require attention, but it is planned to have the upgrading program carried out without any significant capital expenditure by the department. In the past, the Railway Department has selected sites that warrant upgrading, and has invited proposals from advertising companies to carry out the work at their cost in return for being allowed exclusive advertising rights over the specified area. Further sites are being listed, and a similar process will be followed in these cases.

Without any requirement to spend its own money on this work, the department will gain an enhanced site, the public will see a much more attractive presentation than previously, and the advertising company will have its rights to the site preserved. It is one of those unusual situations in which everyone gains.

As to examples of the work of this kind that has gone on before—I can point with a good deal of satisfaction to the standard of advertising on Milton Road, Moggill Road, Wynnum Road at Morningside, and the Edward Street/Turbot Street corner, near Railway Centre.

3. David Sherwin Management Consultants (Qld)

Mr McLEAN asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs—

With reference to David Sherwin Management Consultants (Qld), a company which advertises regularly in daily newspapers a service for total job search management, resume writing, interview training and career training—

(1) Did this company approach his department to establish a classification of their services in relation to the Private Employment Agencies Act?

(2) If so, what were the findings and the reasons for such findings?

(3) Have any of the Government bodies under his control, including the Consumer Affairs Bureau, received any complaints in regard to the operations or charges of this organisation?

(4) If so, what was the nature of the complaints?

(5) Has there been, at any time following any such complaint, an inspection of the books or the operations of this company by his department?

(6) If so, what were the findings?

(7) Is his department aware of the charges and services of this company in regard to their newspaper advertisements?

(8) Is his department aware of the contents of the contract that is offered to applicants who answer this advertisement?

Answer—

(1) A company by the name of David Sherwin Management Consultants (Qld) did approach my department with a view to ascertaining whether its operations fell within the provisions of the Private Employment Agencies Act 1983.

(2) The licensing officer as defined by the Act ruled that, on the material provided, the organisation concerns itself with educating the unemployed on how to accept their situation, and how to plan for re-employment, job-seeking, etc. On this basis, the organisation would appear not to be in the business of procuring employment for persons or procuring employees for persons seeking to employ others. This function would appear to be handled by an associate company, David Sherwin Recruitment. Consequently, it was considered that the organisation was not bound to register as a private employment agent under the provisions of the Private Employment Agencies Act 1983. However, the organisation was instructed to amend its newspaper advertisements so that it could not be construed that the organisation was holding itself out to be a private employment agent.

(3) One complaint had been received by the Consumer Affairs Bureau.

(4) The consumer complained of an alleged misrepresentation of services and about the high cost of those services. Appropriate inquiries were made on behalf of the complainant. It is understood that the complainant had entered into a contract with David Sherwin Management Consultants (Qld). That company had made numerous efforts to educate and guide the complainant with particular emphasis on self-marketing techniques.

(5) No. However, inspections of both David Sherwin Management Consultants (Qld) and the associate company, David Sherwin Recruitment, have been scheduled within the next few weeks by inspectors appointed under the Act.

(6) Not applicable.

(7) The advertised services of the company have been the subject of correspondence between my department and the company. So far as the Consumer Affairs Bureau is concerned, the company is entitled to levy those charges that it considers appropriate for the services being offered. There is no reason at this time to assume that any misrepresentation has occurred.

(8) Yes. It spells out in considerable detail the services that are being offered by the company.

4. Alleged Offences by Police Officer

Mr McLEAN asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police—

(1) Is he aware of widespread reports that a police officer who is responsible for police campaigns amongst children has been rumoured to have been involved in activities which could constitute offences against boys and that pornographic photographs of this officer swapping uniforms with a male SEQEB employee and posing in handcuffs in a compromising position have been circulated?

(2) Have this officer's activities been drawn to the attention of his superiors without any action being taken, as these reports consistently claim?

(3) If so, what action will he take to ensure that this officer is placed in a position in which he can pose no threat to young boys?

Answer—

At the outset, I wish to apologise to the honourable member for the comments I made in answering his question yesterday. Regrettably, I did not hear the question correctly. The answers to the honourable member's specific questions are—

(1) Yes, but rumours concerning that incident are incorrect.

- (2) Action has been taken and is continuing.
- (3) The officer has been placed in a non-operational role.

5. Land in Town of Wunjunga

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police—

With reference to lands described as allotment 6 of section 6, allotments 2, 4 and 5 of section 7, allotments 1-3 of section 8 and allotments 2-8 and 10-12 of section 9 in the town of Wunjunga, parish of Upstart, county of Salisbury, local authority district of Townsville—

(1) Have any applications or requests been received by his department to extend permits to occupy into the area adjacent to such allotments or in any way alter the status of land presently regarded as being for rest and recreational purposes?

(2) If so, by whom have such applications been lodged?

(3) As such a proposal will be to the detriment of the area concerned, will he give an assurance that such proposals are unacceptable to his department and will therefore be rejected?

Answer—

(1) The allotments referred to are presently held under special lease tenure and border recreation reserve R.78.

No applications or requests have been received for any permits to occupy in respect of the recreation reserve (R.78) area. However, applications have been received for permits to occupy in respect of Crown land outside the recreation reserve area.

A proposal for the establishment of a marina and residential development on part of recreation reserve R.133, which is situated to the south of recreation reserve R.78, has recently been received and is being investigated. No commitment has been given to any priority lease, but the proposer may proceed with testing and design work if he so wishes, subject to any conditions that may be prescribed by relevant authorities.

(2) As indicated, no applications or requests for permits to occupy have been received in respect of the recreation reserve (R.78) area.

The applicant for the marina and residential development of part of recreation reserve R.133, adjoining recreation reserve R.78, is Holloway and McDonald, c/- G. R. D. Thomson, consulting engineer of Airlie Beach.

(3) Any development proposal in respect of recreation reserve R.78, and also any development proposal in respect of recreation reserve R.133 (to the south of recreation reserve R.78), will be fully investigated and considered before any decision is taken.

As a matter of policy, development proposals in respect of sensitive areas are always thoroughly and fully investigated before any decision is taken.

6. Workers' Superannuation Schemes

Mr NEAL asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs—

With reference to reports in the media of 13 November to the effect that the time is now right to set up a national workers' superannuation scheme—

Will such a move seriously disadvantage the obvious Queensland initiative in this area?

Answer—

I have read the article to which the honourable member refers. The Business Council of Australia believes that employers, unions and Government should be jointly consulted on the formulation of a national policy on superannuation. The Business Council of

Australia seems to be using a back-door method to join in the Labor Party's accord. The Business Council of Australia has already been rebuffed by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (Mr Willis) and, indeed, by the real ruler of this country, the ACTU, in being told it would not be consulted on the accord. It is about time that the Business Council of Australia woke up to itself and realised that it should not get into bed with the ALP. Furthermore, if it continues with its policy, it and this country will pay the penalty.

Australia cannot afford a national superannuation scheme at the moment. Australians are among the highest taxed people in the world at present and cannot be expected to be slugged with additional taxes to pay for such a scheme.

If the scheme is to be financed by employers, it will be another huge impost on labour costs—costs that no business in this country can afford; costs that will prevent business from employing people. Ultimately the costs will have to be passed on to taxpayers.

The superannuation hand-out to workers in the building industry—that is, the BUS Scheme—is costing every employer in the building construction industry \$11 per week per employee. The employees will not contribute anything.

The legislation that was recently introduced by my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General has been quite successful. The union movement has set up arrangements in Queensland in order to comply with the Superannuation Trust Funds (Protection of Employee Entitlements) Act 1984.

7. Moggill Road—Centenary Highway Road

Mr LICKISS asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing—

(1) When will that part of the Western Freeway between Moggill Road and Centenary Highway be open to traffic?

(2) Will this link in the freeway be open to two-way traffic or limited to one-way traffic until further roadworks are completed?

Answer—

(1 & 2) Two lanes of the project will be open to two-way operation by Christmas this year, provided there are no extended periods of wet weather.

8. Dredging and Earthworks, Moggill Creek

Mr LICKISS asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing—

With reference to "The Courier-Mail" article of 10 November entitled "Developer in Hot Water over Creek Dredging"—

(1) Is he aware that a great deal of concern exists in relation to the dredging and earthworks being undertaken on what appears to be Crown land adjoining Moggill Creek and from the bed and banks of Moggill Creek downstream from the traffic bridge on Moggill Road?

(2) Have permits for this activity been issued and thus approval given by the authority or authorities concerned—that is, Brisbane City Council and/or Water Resources Commission or Harbours and Marine Department?

(3) Is the work or project covered by an appropriate town-planning approval and/or has the land been zoned or rezoned to enable a planned project to proceed?

(4) Are the bed and banks of Moggill Creek or any adjacent Crown land in fact being used for extractive industry purposes and has any soil, gravel or sand been disposed of by sale, or otherwise, and to whom and on what authority?

(5) Are any royalties applicable?

(6) As considerable damage appears to have been done to the environment of the area and to the bed and banks of the creek, has an environmental impact study been undertaken and, if so, with what results?

(7) Have all necessary procedures and approvals been followed and given as required by law, sound town-planning and administrative practice?

(8) Was public advertisement duly made and were objections invited in relation to the project or was such action required by law?

(9) Will he, in the interests of sound planning and administration, have all the relevant matters investigated to ensure that all relative interests are considered?

Answer—

(1 to 9) I am aware that some concern exists in the area in question in relation to the matters raised by the honourable member. I am informed that the dredging and other works referred to are being carried out in conjunction with a proposal to establish a country club and recreation area on land adjoining Moggill Creek.

Inquiries made of the Brisbane City Council indicate that, at this stage, no applications have been submitted to that council in respect of the proposed development and no approvals have been granted by the council in respect of any works associated therewith. I am further informed that dredging activities in the area in question would be under the control of the Port of Brisbane Authority, and it is therefore suggested that the honourable member seek any further information he may require in the matter from the Honourable the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services.

Mr Lickiss: I refer those matters to the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services.

9. Assets Test

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Welfare Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs—

(1) Is he aware of the moratorium which has been imposed on Federal social security inspectors entering private dwellings seeking information in regard to the assets test?

(2) Is it purely accidental that this timing coincides with the Federal election and will the State Government do everything within its power to ensure that a person's home remains his castle, free from such abhorrent invasion of privacy?

Answer—

(1 & 2) I thank the honourable member for his question about the moratorium imposed by the Federal Government on inspectors from the Department of Social Security. It is a matter about which all senior citizens in our nation should be very concerned.

It is typical of the actions of the present Commonwealth Government that for election purposes it would impose a moratorium on social security inspectors entering pensioners' dwellings seeking information about the assets test. That moratorium will, however, soon disappear if by some unfortunate chance the ALP is returned to power in Canberra on 1 December. The assets test is another example of the Federal Government's total disregard for the plight of the elderly. With the ALP's continued onslaught on family life by its championing of deviant life-styles and deviant behaviour, support for the legalisation of prostitution and travelling rights for de facto partners of Federal members of Parliament, it is not unexpected that pensioners should be subjected to this form of harassment. The honourable member may be assured that the Queensland Government will continue to voice strongly its objection to any invasion of the privacy of the homes of pensioners in this State.

The Australian Labor Party assets test is a gross invasion of privacy. It discriminates against people who have scraped and saved during their lives and discriminates in favour of those people who have splurged. People who waste money are the ones whose interests

are looked after by tax-payers in the long term. Upon examination of the assets test, it can be seen that the family pet, the family tinnie, even the family poultry, the family caravan and family possessions are subject to Mr Hawke's test. In my opinion, every senior citizen in Queensland should be very very concerned.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Alleged Offences by Police Officer

Mr WARBURTON: In directing a question to the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police, I refer to his answer this morning about the activities of an officer of the Queensland Police Force. It was quite noticeable that the Minister made no commitment to keep this Parliament advised of action taken by police relative to this tremendously important matter.

I now ask the Minister: How long have senior police known about the constable's activities? Is it as long as three years? At the earliest, was it brought to the attention of police following a raid in 1982 by the Consorting Squad on a home unit owned by Mr Paul Breslin in Mary Street, Brisbane?

Mr GLASSON: I am not aware whether the period of three years is correct. However, it is some considerable time since suspicion arose in relation to the activities of the officer.

I can assure honourable members that every step has been taken by the commissioner and his deputies to delve into this matter. I would appreciate the provision of any evidence, regardless of where it comes from, that will either clear or, if the officer is guilty, convict him. My answer to the part of the question concerning the raid, is "Yes". However, I wish to point out that the rumours that have been spread about that raid are not correct in that specific instance.

Alleged Offences by Police Officer

Mr WARBURTON: My second question to the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police relates in part to the first question I asked him. Obviously, as a result of his answer——

Mr Lane interjected.

Mr WARBURTON: I am trying to ask a question, and the Minister is rudely interrupting me.

Mr Lane interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will ask his question.

Mr WARBURTON: It is obvious, from the Minister's answer, that senior police officers are at least knowledgeable about this serious matter and have known about it for some considerable time.

Government Members interjected.

Mr WARBURTON: I am asking the question.

Government Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will ask his question.

Mr WARBURTON: I am endeavouring to do so, Mr Speaker.

I ask the Minister: Why was no action taken when this matter was brought to the attention of the commissioner and other senior police? Why was the officer not transferred from his duties in the public relations section, which necessarily brought him into contact

with thousands of Queensland children? I suggest that the Minister ought to be in a position to answer that question today.

Mr GLASSON: This morning I spoke to both the commissioner and the deputy commissioner. Investigations have been taking place ever since the allegations against and rumours about the police officer first began. Yesterday in this Chamber it was alleged that certain people held photographic evidence. If that evidence is available, I appeal to those holding it to bring it to the notice of the commissioner or his deputy, who are in a position to take action. Accusations are being made against the police officer, and I want to see either his name cleared or his conviction and dismissal from the Queensland Police Force. I do not apologise for making that statement. If it is necessary, I will make an in-depth report of the actions taken by the commissioner and his deputy in endeavouring to have someone come forward with evidence. Someone is making accusations in the media and to elected members of the Legislative Assembly, but regrettably he will not come forward. Positive action has been taken by the commissioner and his deputy, in particular, in endeavouring to obtain evidence that will either clear or convict the officer in question.

Costigan Report

Mr NEAL: I direct a question to the Premier and Treasurer. In view of concern expressed by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the Costigan report, and the alleged lack of co-operation given to Mr Costigan by the Queensland Government, I ask: Has the Federal Government now released the full report and, if so, what is the Queensland Government's reaction to it?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Costigan has already admitted that the Queensland Police Force was very co-operative and generally did everything possible to assist and support him in his investigations. I am deeply concerned that the Prime Minister has not released the full report to the State Government——

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Why would he after your statement on Friday?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: He has something to hide.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Wolston under Standing Order No. 123A.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: I was going to say in reply to the honourable member that the Prime Minister obviously has something to hide. If he did not have anything to hide, why would he be keeping quiet until after the election about proposed legislation on Aboriginal land rights and the Bill of Rights? That is why he will not release the full details of the Costigan report. The Queensland Government has repeatedly asked him to supply the full report. I see the honourable member for Wolston making a gesture, and I assure him that the Prime Minister's actions will cause his own throat to be cut as well as that of the honourable member.

I am deeply concerned about this issue. I repeat that we have received no reply to the numerous requests we have made for the full text of all the investigations conducted by Mr Costigan and his findings. Up till now, neither the Government nor the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police has received the report. The Commonwealth Government is obviously trying to keep something back until after the Federal election. If it does not have anything to hide, it should let us have the full report.

Alleged Offences by Police Officer

Mr GOSS: I ask the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police: Is it correct that, when the matter involving the police constable referred to by the Leader of the Opposition was drawn to the attention of the Commissioner of Police and senior police after the

1982 Consorting Squad raid, the commissioner, in replying to complaints from other police officers about the matter, commented to the effect that he did not care about the officer's after-hours activities, because he was doing such a successful job in public relations?

Mr GLASSON: Once again, the honourable member for Salisbury has made certain accusations about what was said by the Commissioner of Police when the details of a raid that took place on a flat in Alice Street were drawn to his attention. If what the honourable member alleges is true, I can only repeat what I said in answer to the earlier question, namely, that I was aware of the accusations. However, no evidence was found in that raid to implicate the officer concerned.

I again appeal to any member on the Opposition side of the House who has evidence to please bring it forward—to bring it to the notice of the Commissioner of Police—so that appropriate action may be taken. I am not acquainted with the full facts of what happened yester-year. I repeat that investigations are in train, and they will be continued, to bring the officer to trial, charge him departmentally or clear his name. I again appeal to all members to play their part in this matter.

Alleged Offences by Police Officer

Mr GOSS: I ask the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police: Will he ask the commissioner, and inform the House, whether it is correct that the manager of a television channel sought an assurance some 12 months ago from the Commissioner of Police that reports concerning this constable were incorrect and that the Commissioner of Police gave that television station to understand that there was no foundation to the reports and that the police officer had a clean bill of health?

Mr GLASSON: The honourable member's question was fairly complex. I ask him to place it on notice so that the full facts may be brought out and relayed to the House.

Mr GOSS: I do so accordingly.

Ferntree Gully High School

Mr SIMPSON: I ask the Minister for Education: Did he see, in a recent issue of "The Bulletin", an article about a high school at Ferntree Gully, Victoria, at which the children run the school, write graffiti on the walls, misbehave and choose the subjects and so on? Do some of the staff members at that school regard what is happening as the Participation and Equity Program (PEP)? Could this be taken as an example of the sort of education program that the Federal Labor Government would want in the State of Queensland?

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr POWELL: I will wait, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr POWELL: It is a shame that the people in the gallery are not being treated to a little more decorum by members who could be considered to be grown up.

My attention has been drawn to the article that appeared in "The Bulletin" a number of weeks ago—

Mr Scott: For 20 minutes you will tell us all about it.

Mr POWELL: The honourable member finds difficulty in reading, so obviously he should listen or he will not learn about it.

The activities at the school at Ferntree Gully worry me quite a deal, and I think that they worry every educationist in Australia. As the honourable member for Cooroora suggested, a move has been made to introduce a laissez-faire education administration

in odd spots in Australia. It may be remembered that Victoria, being a Labor State, has gone in for such experimentation. In Queensland schools the tradition of decorum and respect for authority has been maintained so that Queensland children will not be subject to the type of nonsense that this Ferntree Gully school is promoting.

Mr Simpson: The parents are not happy about it.

Mr POWELL: The honourable member for Cooroora correctly says that the parents in the district are very upset. They are taking their children many miles from that school to other schools that operate on a more traditional base. I assure the honourable member and the House that schools in Queensland will not, under any circumstances, operate on the base of the Ferntree Gully experiment—and it is plainly an experiment. Children within Queensland schools will continue to be taught respect for adults and respect for authority.

One has only to consider the fiasco that occurred yesterday in Adelaide—in another Labor State—when people tried to stop the Premier and Treasurer from expressing himself in a free and proper manner on a public platform. That action is symptomatic of the experiments conducted in schools such as the one in Ferntree Gully where children are not taught to respect authority. Like the member for South Brisbane, they are not taught to sit and listen and to try to understand what a person is saying before they have their say. I assure you, Mr Speaker, and all honourable members that the Queensland education system will not fall for that type of experimentation, whoever introduces it.

The honourable member for Cooroora also mentioned the Participation and Equity Program and I do not know whether other honourable members are aware of it. Queensland did have a good system called Transition Education.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr POWELL: This is important.

That program had its genesis in the schools and was designed for those students who, having completed Year 10, sought additional skills before entering the work-force. That program has been replaced by the Hawke Labor Government with PEP—Participation and Equity Program.

A major bureaucracy has been set up to administer that program. Members of the State committee have been appointed because they are either female or members of trade unions or members of a so-called parent organisation. They have nothing to do with education, and the education of children is the last thing that the committee is concerned about.

Mr Price: Don't you want PEP?

Mr POWELL: No, I do not. I think that the Transition Education program was a far better program and did more for children.

The bureaucracy that has been set up at State level to administer PEP is reflected at regional and local levels. I acknowledge that the money for PEP has been provided by the Federal Government, but it is being wasted on seminars up and down this State at which the program can be discussed. Very little of the money is going to the schools where it is needed. The decision by the Federal Government to insist on target schools has disgusted honourable members of the Government and honourable members opposite. Because of the nonsensical categories into which the Federal Government wants to place people, PEP cannot be introduced across the board. PEP is a disaster. Money is not being spent where it should be. The Transition Education program, which was the forerunner of PEP and which had its genesis in the schools, was better.

Mr Price: Why did you drop it?

Mr POWELL: Because the Federal Government demanded that the Transition Education program be dropped. As usual, the honourable member for Mount Isa is speaking from ignorance.

The State Government would have continued the Transition Education program if the Federal Government had continued funding it in a sensible way. However, the Federal Government did not like the way in which the program had come from the schools. It wanted to impose all of its funny little rules and put people into categories. That is what the Queensland Government objects to; it believes that it is wrong. The experimentation being carried out at Ferntree Gully is exactly that sort of program.

Alleged Offences by Police Officer

Mr McELLIGOTT: In directing a question to the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police, I refer to answers that he has given this morning and ask: Is he telling the House that it is not true that in late 1982 the Consorting Squad raided a unit in Mary Street, Brisbane, and that police officers, including Detective Sergeant Pickering and Detective Sergeant O'Gorman, found a number of photographs, index cards and other information indicating association between a constable of police and Paul Breslin and involvement by Breslin in sexual activities with children or youths under the age of 17 years? On that raid did police discover photographs of a police constable and a SEQEB officer wearing each other's uniform with the police constable handcuffed on or to the bed?

Mr GLASSON: I did not indicate that a raid did not take place in 1982. I am well aware of the raid that took place in Alice Street. I have referred already to that raid.

I have indicated clearly that the photographs that were seized by police officers contain nothing that would implicate the police officer in question. As I said, I was aware of rumours; but in relation to that incident, there was nothing in those photographs that could implicate the police officer.

I make it perfectly clear to members of the Assembly that I have made no move on this matter. As Minister for Police, I am enormously concerned that accusations have been made in the manner that they have been. If they are true, it will concern each and every honourable member. I repeat that I am not out to cover up for anybody. If I can have the information from anybody that will either clear the officer or convict him—

Mr McElligott: Is the police officer in the photograph?

Mr GLASSON: I could not swear whether the police officer is in that photograph. There is nothing in that photograph that would indicate that the police officer could be charged with doing anything improper in relation to children and/or other officers. Those are the facts as they were given to me from the commissioner's office this morning.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Were they holding hands?

Mr GLASSON: The honourable member for Wolston is well aware of questions that were posed to him yesterday. I shall not repeat them in the House. I respect the confidence in which they were given between a police officer and the honourable member. If anybody has any evidence, will they please reveal it?

Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

Mr McELLIGOTT: In asking a question of the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, I refer to the Minister's answer of 13 November 1984 to a question on notice by the member for Ipswich in which he said that there was no report of discontent written and presented by the then Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation member David Jull. I now ask: Did Mr Jull write a letter, or was there any other form of communication expressing discontent with another QTTC executive? If so, what action has been taken on the content of that communication?

Mr McKECHNIE: I am getting a little sick and tired of these repeated attacks on the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, which has done so much to promote tourism in this wonderful State. As a matter of fact, it is well known that the Labor States are now copying the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation in its endeavours to promote tourism.

I do not intend to become involved in what is purely a management decision by the manager and the board of the QTTC in dealing with a few officers. Generally, the officers in the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation are a contented lot, and it is not my intention to intervene or even to ask whether or not such a letter exists.

Gympie General Hospital

Mr STEPHAN: With reference to the redevelopment project for the Gympie General Hospital, I ask the Minister for Health: Has agreement been reached on the final design, and when will tenders be called for the construction of this long-awaited project?

Mr AUSTIN: I have to advise both the honourable member for Gympie and the honourable member for Roma that this morning I approved the appointment of two separate consultancy groups to prepare strategic plans for the operation and development of new hospitals at Gympie and Roma.

Mr Scott: I hope you are not using the money for the Cooktown Hospital.

Mr AUSTIN: No, certainly not. Last week, when I was in Mossman, I announced that \$2m had been allocated to Cooktown, so there has been no prejudice.

I cannot, off the top of my head, give the exact budget figures, but I undertake to communicate to both the honourable members for Gympie and Roma the cost of the projects that have been approved. Once the project control groups and project managers have been appointed, only a very short time will elapse before those projects get off the ground and under way for the people in those areas.

Effect on Coal Industry of Strike by Railway Employees

Mr STEPHAN: In directing a question to the Minister for Transport, I refer to the continuation of strike action taken by employees in the Railway Department. I ask: At present, is there a strike in the Railway Department and, if so, does it affect the coal industry in any way?

Mr LANE: I have to inform the honourable member and other members of this Assembly that trainmen, members of the Australian Railways Union, the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen and the Queensland Railways Employees Union, at the Jilalan depot ceased work for an indefinite period from 12.1 a.m. on Tuesday, 13 November 1984, thereby halting all traffic, mainly coal traffic, on the Goonyella railway system. That strikes right at the heart of the economy of this State.

Mr Casey: Your department caused it.

Mr LANE: The honourable member is in favour of the strike. As he speaks for the Opposition in this Chamber, honourable members know that it is the Labor Party that has caused the strike in central Queensland.

Some months ago the department proposed that, in order to reduce costs associated with coal haulage in that area, trains between Jilalan and the unloading terminals be operated by two-man crews instead of the current three-man crew arrangement. The unions concerned put forward a counter-proposal that three-man crews be retained but that expenses be reduced by extending the return journey so that, instead of ceasing duty at Jilalan on the loaded journey, the crew continue through to the terminal, unload, and work the empty train back to Jilalan. Under normal circumstances, that return working can be completed within an eight-hour shift. However, when delays occur, that time may be exceeded, sometimes by up to nine hours a shift.

The Railway Award provides for trainmen to work for a maximum of 10 hours in a shift. They are used to doing that throughout the State. All the stoppages that have taken place this week were at Jilalan. A further meeting between the general manager in Rockhampton and union officials took place on Tuesday of this week. A combined union meeting was held the same afternoon, and members resolved to remain on strike until the department agreed to an eight-hour limit and also gave an undertaking that a three-man crew would be retained. In other words, they remained on strike all this week. They are striking at the very economy of this State.

As a result of the stoppage, many other employees cannot be gainfully employed. Consequently, arrangements were made for those men to be stood down after midnight last night. In fact, they have been stood down because of the bloody-mindedness of those prima donnas who sit up on those coal trains and know that, with the encouragement of the honourable member for Mackay, they can strike at the very economy and financial standing of this State at any given time. The honourable member for Mackay encourages them to do that. He should be ashamed of himself. He should resign as a Queenslander and go and live in some other part of Australia.

I can provide honourable members with some information about the hours worked by trainmen. The figures provided to me show that the average shift for all workings by those train crews is a mere 6 hours 54 minutes a day, and for coal trains working between Jilalan and Coppabella and vice versa, a mere 5 hours 19 minutes a day, for a full day's shift. The average earnings in the last tax year for drivers were \$39,013; firemen, \$32,672; and guards, \$36,159. Many decent Queenslanders would like to be earning half that amount—and would be willing to work a full eight-hour shift for it, instead of the miserable shifts that obviously some railwaymen work. The honourable member for Mackay should get up and support me on that.

Despite the high remuneration received by those trainmen, the department is obliged to pay them for 80 hours for the first 10 shifts worked. In many instances, the actual time on the job during those 10 shifts is as little as 60 to 65 hours a fortnight. The proposed extended workings would lift the average length of a shift for the Jilalan men from the current 6 hours 54 minutes to approximately 7 hours 20 minutes, for which they would be paid eight hours. They are on strike because they will not work a full eight-hour shift, despite the fact that they are paid \$39,000 a year.

Alleged Offences by Police Officer

Mr CAMPBELL: I ask the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police: If the photograph of the police officer found in the 1982 Consorting Squad raid does not indicate that an offence was committed by the police constable, does it show an association between the constable and one Paul Breslin?

Mr GLASSON: I do not know how members of the Opposition expect me to be a mind-reader. I have not seen the photograph concerned.

Mr Fouras: Why not? That is a good question. Why not?

Mr GLASSON: It is not a matter of "Why not?" Does the honourable member expect me to see the whole array of photographs taken throughout the police force?

Each and every honourable member and everyone outside should be concerned about the accusations that have been made. I repeat that no effort is being made either by me or by any member of the police force to cover this matter up. However, if this saga is allowed to continue in this Chamber, nothing will be achieved. I ask the honourable member for South Brisbane: What does he know about the photograph? Does he have a copy of it?

Mr Fouras: No.

Mr GLASSON: Right! Then how does he expect me to have a copy of it?

An Opposition Member: You have contacted him, have you?

Mr GLASSON: I will treat that statement with the contempt that it deserves. The honourable member should show more respect for the Chamber. I think that he owes an apology.

I repeat that any available information requested of me in relation to this matter will be passed on; nothing will be hidden. Honourable members on both sides of the House are concerned about the accusations that have been made. Any honourable member who is not concerned about them should not be in this place representing the people. This is a very serious accusation.

Mr Hamill interjected.

Mr GLASSON: If the honourable member took the marble out of his mouth, I might be able to understand him. Will the honourable member please give me an opportunity to answer the question?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Speaker, on a point of order, I draw attention to the proceedings.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier and Treasurer has risen to a point of order.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is disgusting and despicable that honourable members opposite who ask questions will not allow Ministers to answer. I draw your attention to this matter, Mr Speaker.

Mr Warburton: I rise to a point of order.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Speaker, I am on my feet on a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier and Treasurer will proceed with his point of order.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will warn any honourable member who interjects whilst I am on my feet.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Any honourable member who defies me whilst I am on my feet will be dealt with. I assure honourable members that I will take appropriate action.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! A point of order is being taken by the Premier and Treasurer.

Mr Warburton: On a point of order, Mr Speaker——

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Speaker, I am on my feet on a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier and Treasurer was already on his feet taking a point of order.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have already said that the Premier and Treasurer was on his feet taking a point of order.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is amazing that the Leader of the Opposition will rise to a point of order whilst I am on my feet taking a point of order. He is trying to instruct the House that I have no point of order.

Mr Warburton interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Scott: What is the point of order?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: My point of order is that I am amazed and distressed by the conduct in the House.

Mr Prest interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Port Curtis under Standing Order No. 123A.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Speaker, a moment ago I was saying that I am greatly disturbed by the way in which the conduct of Opposition members has deteriorated. They ask questions, but they will not allow Ministers to answer. They subject Ministers to a continual barrage of interjections. Such conduct is not in keeping with the traditions of this House. The conduct of honourable members opposite is a very grave reflection upon them. I appeal to you, Mr Speaker, to make sure that the situation in the House is such as to allow a Minister to answer a question in silence. That is in keeping with the traditions of this House. I have drawn your attention, Mr Speaker, to the serious situation that has arisen in this House.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I draw to the attention of honourable members the long-standing rule applying in the Parliament that the manner in which a question is answered—indeed, whether it is answered or not—is the prerogative of the Minister and cannot be dictated by the questioner. As I have said on other occasions, the Chair has no control over the contents of an answer given by the Minister, provided it conforms to the rules, which are, in effect, the same as those applying to the question asked. An answer to a question cannot be insisted upon if a Minister refuses to answer. I emphasise that point. I have taken note of the point of order taken by the Premier and Treasurer.

Mr GLASSON: With the greatest respect to the Leader of the Opposition, I say that in no way could it be construed from my comments that I was attempting to duck the question.

I turn now to the question by the member for Bundaberg. It is quite unfair and unreasonable that I should be expected to know what the photographs reveal. My knowledge of this whole sordid affair commenced only yesterday.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr GLASSON: I ask members opposite, particularly the member for Port Curtis, to wait for a moment. I am referring to questions raised in the House. They commenced yesterday, not before. This matter has come to the boil because a media person was arrested and charged. I repeat that there is no attempt by either me or the Government to hide anything in this sordid affair. One of two things will happen if evidence is produced that warrants a charge. The person will be either cleared or convicted. If he is convicted, he will be dismissed from the police force.

Mr Campbell: Would you like me to put this on notice?

Mr GLASSON: No.

Assistance to Sugar Industry

Mr CAMPBELL: In directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, I refer to the Government aid of \$30m to the sugar industry over the last three years. I ask: Has all of that \$30m been provided from State Government funds? If Commonwealth funds represented part of the announced \$30m aid to the sugar industry, what proportion was provided by the Commonwealth Government? Is it not true that millions of dollars

of Commonwealth Government money is included in the State Government's assistance to the sugar industry?

Mr TURNER: This issue has been canvassed over a considerable period. Amounts of money have been contributed by both the State and Federal Governments to assist the sugar industry in its present crisis. Yesterday I made a point about the amount of excise being derived from the sugar industry. As the member for Bundaberg should be well aware, \$50m is taken in excise by the Federal Government from the Bundaberg distillery, and another \$26m is taken from the molasses and spirits industry, bringing the total last year to almost \$80m.

Most, though not all, of the money allocated by the State and Federal Governments—and this matter seems to be conveniently overlooked by many people—is in the form of repayable loans, not gifts or grants. Much more could be achieved by the member for Bundaberg if he directed his attention to persuading the Federal Government to grant further assistance to the sugar industry. I emphasise that the excise from the sugar industry in the last 12 months of approximately \$80m ought to be taken into consideration.

Medicare

Mr BOOTH: I ask the Minister for Health: Prior to the introduction of Medicare, was any Australian who fell ill allowed 60 days worry-free accommodation in hospital? After that 60 days, was the patient allowed a wide range of bases, if necessary, on which to extend the hospitalisation without loss of benefits? Since the reduction to 35 days under Medicare, and the need to prove acute care, has the Minister brought to the notice of Federal authorities the great difficulties involved for patients and has he received a reply from the relevant Federal Minister?

Mr AUSTIN: The Federal Government is very concerned about the operation of the 35-day rule. To that end, the Federal Minister for Health, Dr Blewett, in an attempt to take some heat out of the issue, introduced legislation into the Commonwealth Parliament, after the Federal election was announced.

For the benefit of honourable members, I point out that the honourable member for Warwick was correct when he said that the 35-day rule was a 60-day rule under the previous Federal Government. However, the 60-day rule was accompanied by four conditions, which provided for certification by a medical practitioner that a patient should continue to be classed as an admitted patient if the patient could be designated as having an acute condition. Under the new 35-day rule, all of those conditions have been reduced by the Federal Minister for Health, Dr Blewett, in his foolishness, to one condition. So that the patient can remain in hospital, that condition requires a medical practitioner to certify that the patient is acutely ill.

The application of that condition has had a dramatic effect on many people in the community because medical practitioners simply will not take the chance of their definition of "acute" being declared to be different from the definition applied by Commonwealth health officers. As a result, great stress and pressure have been experienced by participants in the nursing home industry in Queensland.

I noted with intrigue that, in the policy speech of the Australian Labor Party, the Prime Minister quite deceitfully announced that \$300m would be applied to the care for the aged program. However, on the advice and evidence that I have, I have to say that the \$300m was also announced prior to the 1983 Federal election. At that time it was announced that the Federal Labor Government would boost funds to be applied to care for the aged in the community.

Surprisingly enough, before the Prime Minister's first Budget, he announced that another \$300m would be provided. I ask honourable members to bear in mind that none of the first \$300m had been spent up to the presentation of the Budget.

After presentation of that Budget, the Prime Minister had the opportunity, by presentation of the second Budget, to allocate funds for that purpose. Upon presentation

of the second Budget—surprise, surprise—an amount of \$300m was announced for the provision of care for the aged in the community. Following that announcement, only \$10m actually appeared in the Budget. Then—again surprise, surprise—the Prime Minister set the date for a new election. Knowing that care for the aged is a very, very sensitive issue in the community, the Prime Minister was advised to again announce the \$300m.

The result of all of that is that \$300m has been floating round the system. It simply does not exist. The public has not seen any evidence of this money. I will tell honourable members where the money is to be found. The money is already in the system, and it is grossly deceitful for the Prime Minister to suggest that there will be an extra \$300m. If one takes into account the \$10m incorporated in the Federal Government's proposed expenditure——

Mr Comben: Tell us about the \$600m.

Mr AUSTIN: The honourable member for Windsor ought to talk about that! He should go out and tell the public that he supports the 35-day rule and approves of the 650 names presently on the waiting-list for nursing home care. The honourable member has not the courage to support the policies of the Federal Labor Government.

I point out that I have not seen or heard one statement from that honourable gentleman about how wonderful the 35-day rule is, or how wonderful it is that names are on the waiting-list for nursing home occupancy throughout Queensland. The honourable member for Windsor has been silent—absolutely silent. I am intrigued by the fact that I have not seen a statement from Opposition members about how good the 35-day rule is. I suggest that they all know that it will have a devastating effect.

Mr Warburton interjected.

Mr AUSTIN: I have not seen a statement from the Leader of the Opposition, either, and I ask: Where has he been?

Although he has made many statements about other matters, he has not made one positive statement about what is happening to the elderly people in the community.

Mr Prest: But I have.

Mr AUSTIN: Yes, the honourable member for Port Curtis has made a statement. But what he failed to say was that he refused to lobby the Federal Labor Government on the necessity for nursing home facilities to be provided in his electorate. He failed to do that because he knew that the Federal Labor Government would not approve them.

I repeat that the Prime Minister's policy statement on care for the aged in the community is grossly deceitful. The people of Australia are entitled to know that the \$300m he purports to allocate is not extra money. The money already exists in the system, and the Prime Minister is merely regurgitating the \$300m, and has done so for the past 18 months. I believe that it is a public scandal that a Prime Minister of Australia can continue to announce the provision of such a large sum of money when it actually does not exist.

Assets Test

Mr BOOTH: In directing my second question to the Premier and Treasurer, I refer to frequent claims made by the Prime Minister about the assets test. He stated that there would be no inspection of pensioners' homes. I ask: Does the Premier and Treasurer know that that will be so? How can the assets of a pensioner be valued without an inspection?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Obviously what the Prime Minister has said is not correct.

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

Mr BOOTH: I place my question upon notice.

VOTE ON ACCOUNT, 1985-86

Mr SPEAKER read the message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that the following provision be made on account of the services of the year ending 30 June 1986—

From the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the sum of \$820m;

From the Trust and Special Funds, the sum of \$1,000m;

From the Loan Fund, the sum of \$70m.

Message referred to Committee of Supply.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House went into Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY

Resumption of Committee—Estimates—Thirteenth and Fourteenth Allotted Days

Estimates-in-Chief, 1984-85

Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts

Chief Office, Department of The Arts, National Parks and Sport

Hon. P. R. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon—Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts) (12.1 p.m.): I move—

“That \$3,367,000 be granted for ‘Department of The Arts, National Parks and Sport—Chief Office’.”

In 1977, the Queensland Government took the far-sighted step of creating this portfolio to bring under one Minister most aspects of cultural, recreational and sporting life in this State. Tourism has been added to the portfolio and, in the past seven years, the department’s budget has increased from \$25,149,118 to a total of \$88,627,200 this financial year. In terms of budget and total staff, the department now ranks as the ninth most important in the public service.

I am pleased to be served by a loyal, hard-working personal and departmental staff, which is headed by my new under secretary, Mr Allen Callaghan, who was deputy permanent head for five years.

Many honourable members may be unaware of the scope of the department’s responsibilities, which are, in alphabetical order—

- Assistance to local museums;
- Assistance to cultural organisations;
- Encouragement and assistance to sport;
- Environmental parks;
- Film Board of Review;
- John Oxley Library of Queensland History;
- Literature Board of Review;
- National Estate program;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Newstead House;
- Protection of flora and fauna;
- Queensland Art Gallery;
- Queensland Cultural Centre Trust;
- Queensland Film Corporation;
- Queensland Museum;
- Queensland Performing Arts Trust;
- Queensland Theatre Company;
- Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation;
- Raine Island Corporation;
- Sports and Youth Trust Fund;

State Library of Queensland;
State Archives of Queensland;
War Memorials Panel; and
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

As Minister, I administer 20 Acts of Parliament and represent the Queensland Government on the following ministerial councils—

Tourist Ministers Council;
CONCOM (Council of Nature Conservation Ministers);
SRMC (Sport and Recreation Ministers Council);
Cultural Ministers Council; and
Meeting of Ministers responsible for censorship.

I will now outline the solid progress that has occurred to date, and I do so in order of portfolio title.

Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

Tourism in Queensland has now reached a stage at which it can stand proudly beside other industries and claim to be making a major contribution to the development of Queensland. Tourism is the sunrise industry in the Sunshine State, and its rapid rise to importance in the past few years came about not by chance but by planned and deliberate strategy to take advantage of Queensland's unique attractions.

The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, set up in 1979, made it possible for a scattered group of individual entrepreneurs to be crystallised into an industry. The corporation is able to research tourist activities in Queensland, determine markets, discover tourist habits and their likes and dislikes and predict trends. The industry now is co-ordinated, with specific aims and objectives.

During the second half of 1983-84 visitor expenditure grew by 16 per cent, which, in real terms, is a growth of some 7 to 8 per cent.

It is very reassuring when large tourism investors such as Sheraton and Hilton are willing to invest millions of dollars in Queensland after very thorough research throughout the world. Tourism projects valued at \$2.5 billion are presently under way throughout Queensland.

It is no wonder that the new air corridors into the north of Australia have changed traffic flows and encouraged tourists to enter through the front doors of Australia rather than through the back doors of Sydney and Melbourne. Queensland now has the infrastructure to accommodate and entertain the international and domestic tourist, and has the campaigns to attract tourists. Now, as with many other industries, Queensland must turn to new technology to keep up with the demands of the consumer.

The corporation has developed the most advanced computerised booking and reservation system of its kind in Australia. Other States are negotiating with the corporation to buy the program. Western Australia and Victoria are connected to the Queensland system, and other States are expected to follow shortly. All 15 of the Queensland Government travel centres, and head office, are on line. The network services up to 100 000 requests a day, with an average response of less than five seconds. The reservations system allows customers to make instant bookings. It will soon be possible to issue airline tickets directly through the system.

The name "Queensland Government Tourist Bureau" was changed to "Queensland Government Travel Centre" to reflect the dynamic selling role played by the corporation's retail trading arm. During 1983-84, sales grew by 17 per cent to \$33.5m. Since the corporation was formed, average annual growth in dollar terms has been at the rate of 16 per cent, with commission earnings growing at 26.3 per cent.

While domestic tourism remains our highest priority on the international market, Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation representation overseas has been strengthened by—

Appointment of a second representative in Los Angeles;

Appointment of a representative in Singapore; and

Provision by the Premier's Department of a Japanese-speaking national in the Queensland representative office in Tokyo.

As well, an international packaging and incentive travel manager has been appointed, with the prime objective of breaking into the lucrative international incentive and convention market.

The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation now undertakes continuous marketing activities in Europe, the United Kingdom, North America, Japan, Singapore and New Zealand, and this year \$1.15m has been set aside for this activity.

Queensland has the fastest international tourism growth in Australia. Other States are restructuring their tourist promotions and following methods pioneered by the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. This aggressive approach will be pursued and \$2.55m has been allocated for domestic marketing to enable Queensland to cultivate this lucrative market on its doorstep. This year, tourist regions throughout the State will receive grants of \$585,000.

This year, the domestic marketing campaign will centre on major television campaigns, leading up to prime holiday season. The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has signed Miss Jacki MacDonald to spearhead these campaigns. The advent of the corporation's own film and production unit promises to provide a major impact on the domestic market. Radio and press will also be used to back up this campaign.

Last year, Queensland won an award for the top travel documentary of 1983, "Whitsunday Rising". The corporation is presently undertaking a full revision of all regional brochures and has commissioned the production of a "Queensland Book" for use by travel agents world-wide.

A capital expenditure of \$.7m has been allowed for improvements to Queensland Government Travel Centres round Australia. Major changes have, or will, occur at Townsville, Gold Coast and Melbourne. To increase the level of conversion of inquiries to travel centres into sales, a sales-incentive scheme is being implemented. Staff-training, as well, has been stepped up.

Legislation recently introduced into this House will enable the corporation to become involved in the development of tourist projects on a joint-venture basis with private enterprise. It is believed that this will ultimately result in development of new generation resorts of the type required by the industry of the future. The corporation will make a lead in this direction and encourage developers to venture into new areas providing the latest in world-class resorts for the Queensland tourist industry.

We all know the power of the tourist dollar and the effect that it has on our lives and the future of our children—particularly when it comes to employment. That is why the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has a budget of \$16,685,000 this year.

The major problem besetting domestic tourism in Australia is the air fare rip-off by the Federal Government.

In the past 20 years, domestic aviation has been a milking cow for successive Federal Governments. Every Federal Budget sees yet another rise in fuel tax, air navigation charges and landing fees, to the point where it is now cheaper for Australians to holiday in Fiji, Singapore, Thailand—anywhere, in fact, except in their own country. Never has any Federal Government—and the current one is no exception—acted to encourage Australians to see Australia first by reducing its tax rip-off from the tourist industry. Mr Brown can talk as much as he likes about domestic tourism but, until I see him stand

up and advocate reduced air fares in Australia by cutting the Federal Government's tax take, I will believe in this case that our koalas are the best political judges.

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service

As honourable members would be aware, the practical function of the service is the conservation and the enjoyment of the natural environment in Queensland. Legislative authority is derived from several Acts of Parliament.

A major task is the identification, declaration and management of suitable lands or adjacent waters as national parks. The overall aim of the service is to have significant national parks in all 13 terrestrial regions of the State and the Great Barrier Reef region. Approximately 61 772 ha of national park was gazetted last financial year.

Environmental parks, often with local authorities as trustees, preserve natural or near-natural areas less outstanding in size or natural attributes than national parks. About 423 ha of environmental park was gazetted last financial year.

The other major responsibility of the service is the care and protection of most of our wildlife in its habitat throughout the State. Consequently, education and information are essential for widespread public acceptance and implementation of the service's nature conservation role.

Since 1983, the service has undertaken a substantial restructuring program with the assistance of consultants from the Department of the Public Service Board and the department itself.

For management purposes the State was divided into four major regions and regional centres were established at Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Moggill in Brisbane. With the high level of delegation afforded to regional directors, most decisions can now be made at a local level and the regional centres will be better placed to meet the heavy public demands currently placed on them.

The management of financial operations of the service is undergoing major changes that are focusing on increasing efficiency and effectiveness through the implementation of new technology and operating procedures.

The service is also keen to encourage private enterprise to provide lodges and camping facilities in some national parks. For example, it was announced recently that White Industries Pty Ltd will build a lodge in Lakefield National Park.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service will receive an allocation from revenue funding of \$13,411,400 for this financial year. In addition, an amount of \$1,750,000 has been provided from the Loan Fund for such projects as capital works on parks and the acquisition of further land for park purposes. It is intended to utilise that allocation as follows—

\$250,000 will be expended on the development of access roads to national parks. This money will be paid to participating local authorities, which will be responsible for the carrying out of the actual roadworks.

\$600,000 will be provided for acquisition of land, including extensions to existing national parks in the Scenic Rim, Kondalilla and Green Mountains areas.

\$425,000 will be provided to erect information centres, barracks and residence on national parks.

\$475,000 will be provided for recreational facilities on national parks such as Jourama Falls, Eungella, Blackdown Tableland, Natural Arch and Lawn Hill Gorge.

It is pleasing that St Helena Island has been made a bicentennial project and will be brought under the control of the service.

In addition, considerable funding will be provided for groundsel control, the creation of fire-breaks and the upgrading of roads and walking tracks within national parks.

During 1983-84, Stage 2 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (the Cairns and Cormorant Pass section) was declared and will become fully operational during 1984-85. The far-northern section of the Great Barrier Reef—which includes an area extending from a position just north of Lizard Island to the tip of Cape York—will also become fully operational this year.

The maintenance of the marine park program will be funded equally by the State and Commonwealth Governments and, in the 1984-85 year, the State's contribution will be \$616,000. Consequently, additional officers will be appointed and additional office accommodation will be provided at Cairns and Rockhampton. New district offices have recently been established at Emerald, Charleville and Toowoomba and these offices are now fully operational. Plans have been drawn up for a major information centre to be built at Cardwell. Actual construction of the centre is expected to commence later in the current financial year.

During 1984-85, the service plans to implement major research programs on crocodiles and will continue to closely monitor kangaroo populations. The kangaroo management program will continue to be effectively administered.

Sport

I turn now to the Sport component of my portfolio. The challenge faced by society in the '80s is to equip its citizens to cope with changing technology in industry, fluctuating economic conditions, unemployment and manifestations of antisocial behaviour.

It is not too much to assert that regular participation in sport can alleviate some of our life-style's more unacceptable side-effects, whether it be by providing an outlet for tension or by contributing to the general health of the community.

Here I must pay tribute to the Queensland olympians, who acquitted themselves with such distinction in Los Angeles and gave the State so much cause for pride in their achievements. Queensland gained 44 places in the olympic contingent and these fine ambassadors were successful in winning one gold, three silver and seven bronze medals. As a Government, we will continue to give support to our top sportspeople to enable them to train and compete.

In Queensland, sport has been traditionally served by a legion of voluntary workers, who provide so much of the money and energy necessary to keep sport operating throughout this vast State. I pay tribute to these willing horses who are the backbone of sport in this State.

In 1972 this Government was the first in Australia to recognise that it had a role to play in assisting sport. Queensland was the pace-setter in Australia in providing the financial support on a regular basis to that vast volunteer army of sportspeople. This was the first Government to create an effective ministry and Department of Sport.

My department services the following eight measures of assistance in terms of the Government's perceived role in this area—

- (1) Subsidy assistance for the coaching of juniors in sport (\$1 for each \$4 expended by the sport, with a maximum of \$3,750 per club per sport);
- (2) Subsidy assistance for the provision of facilities for playing of the sport (\$1 subsidy for each \$5 expended by the sport);
- (3) Grants to the recognised State governing body of sport to assist in sending properly selected State teams out of Queensland;
- (4) Grants to the recognised State governing body of sport to assist with the staging of national and international events here in Queensland;
- (5) Subsidy assistance to the recognised State governing body of sport to assist with administration costs (\$1 subsidy for each \$2 expended by the State body, with a maximum limit of \$200 per week);
- (6) Subsidy assistance to the recognised State governing body of sport to assist with the employment of State directors of coaching (\$1 subsidy for each \$2 expended by the State body, with a maximum limit of \$200 per week);
- (7) Subsidy assistance to the recognised State governing body of sport to assist it in running seminars for officials, that is referees, umpires, administrators, coaches,

etc. (\$1 subsidy for each \$2 expended by the State body, with a maximum of \$3,500 subsidy payment in any one financial year); and

(8) Grants to gifted sportspeople (State open age standard).

The measures reflect a "greatest good for greatest number" philosophy and, at the same time, embrace the youth area of sport as a first priority. For example, last financial year, about 35 per cent of the assistance funds were directed to the youth area by way of coaching assistance. Additionally, new or additional facilities for playing sport were subsidised to an amount exceeding \$1.1m. Both measures were of benefit to sport at the grass-roots level in all areas of the State and have the important side-effect of providing facilities which become a focus for community life and activity. The capital facilities scheme must also contribute to employment opportunities.

The three levels of Government—Commonwealth, State and local—all have a responsibility to give assistance to sport. The role of each fits into a broad framework which sport readily understands and appreciates. It is a very logical pattern, as sport has the national, State and club framework itself. Hence, the Commonwealth Government should direct funds to national teams travelling to world championships; to sports administration costs at national body level; to the national high-performance sportsperson; and to international-standard sports facilities.

Complementing the Federal Government area are States with their individual sports assistance policies and programs. Mention has been made already of Queensland's eight measures and its "greatest good for greatest number" objective.

This Assembly can be assured that the Queensland scheme is the envy of both sport and government in other States of Australia, as it delivers the goods where they count—on the sports fields and in the stadiums. This is achieved with extremely low overheads and without a horde of academic advisers.

An examination of the annual reports of other States supports this view. Each has a large departmental apparatus with all the earmarks of a bureaucratic empire to deliver its sports benefits, all of which must be paid for at the cost of eroding the funds available to sport in total. I do not question the need for expertise and development of new techniques in sport, but I make the point that governments should assist sport to develop these itself and not attempt to play Big Brother by employing so-called experts to tell sport what to do.

Sport has the expertise, the knowledge and the will to direct its own course, and I know that that philosophy is appreciated by sport in this State. Labor would serve sport better by adopting similar policies, particularly at a Federal level. In this State, a staff of six personnel administers the \$4.7m scheme, every dollar of which goes directly to sport. With the assistance of the existing traditional sports governing body administrative structure, the full benefit is available to sport.

Local authorities throughout the State also have a role to play to assist sport at regional and club level, and there is evidence that progressive councils are doing much to foster the development of sport in their areas.

Turning once more to State funding—the Government's sports dollar is found from consolidated revenue and the Sports and Youth Trust Fund, which is revenue from soccer pools and Gold Lotto.

In 1984-85, it is proposed to expend \$4.7m in servicing the State's sports assistance scheme. Projected expenditure will be—

	\$
1. Junior coaching	1,050,000
2. Capital facilities	1,350,000
3. State teams travel	500,000
4. Staging national events	72,700
5. State administration costs	550,000

6. State directors of coaching	525,000
7. State seminars	100,000
8. Gifted sportspeople	475,000
9. Inland Talent Identification Scheme	60,000
10. Regional State championship subsidy . .	40,000
Total	4,722,700

The 80 sports played in all areas of the State will benefit on an overall "greatest good for greatest number" basis, with a small proportion of special funding for the shop-window of sport—the high-performance State and national champions.

Finally, a firm assurance is given that the State Government will not interfere in sport's traditional and constitutional role of implementing, either individually or collectively, its aims and objects. My department's record in the sports assistance area is a proud one, and that performance is unequalled in Australia.

The Arts

The scope and functions of institutions and activities associated with the arts, broadly defined, occupy a very prominent place in the life of the community and have increased markedly in recent years. They exhibit the greatest variety and are of concern to government at all levels. The principal areas covered might be defined as—

- Creative arts (literature, musical composition and visual arts);
- Performing arts (drama, opera, ballet and concert);
- Museums, galleries and other collecting institutions; and
- Libraries and information services.

It is now two years since Stage I of the Queensland Cultural Centre opened to the public. Stage I, of course, comprises the Queensland Art Gallery, Auditorium, car-park, Fountain Room restaurant, and Art Gallery cafeteria. As Minister for the Arts, I have been tremendously impressed by the enthusiastic acclaim with which the public has reacted to the provision of these magnificent facilities.

The Queensland Cultural Centre is a most ambitious project and, when completed, will equal anything of its kind in Australia and, indeed, the world. It is unique in that, unlike other centres, it brings together on the one site the complete range of the visual and performing arts, museum and library services. The centre is designed to serve the people of Queensland, not just the citizens of Brisbane.

The various institutional bodies comprising the centre will be engaging individually and collectively in a whole range of inreach and outreach programs. It is intended that, through the established tourist agencies, complete package tours can be arranged to enable people from country areas to visit the centre and enjoy its facilities in a very pleasant way. In reverse, the various institutions will be organising displays and exhibitions in the major provincial centres. Likewise, the Performing Arts Trust will be taking positive steps to encourage many of the artists who appear at the centre to extend their tours to other parts of the State.

I am sure all honourable members share the Government's confidence that, once the centre is fully operational, it will make a tremendous impact over the length and breadth of the State. The budget allocated to the Cultural Centre Trust for 1984-85 will amount to \$4,567,700.

The Queensland Art Gallery enters its third year of operation in the Queensland Cultural Centre very aware of the fact that it has become a vital force in community life. As the State centre for the visual arts in Queensland, the gallery continues to attract major international exhibitions drawn from art galleries and private collections throughout the world. Special exhibitions mounted regularly from the gallery's own collection are aimed at increasing the enjoyment and knowledge of visitors of all ages. Since its opening, almost 1.5 million people have visited the gallery. On a per capita basis, the gallery has the highest attendance rate of any State gallery in Australia.

The Queensland Art Gallery's activities extend well beyond the metropolitan area. The Extension Services Program takes exhibitions throughout the State, providing lectures, loan packages and consultancy services to meet the needs of Queenslanders living in regional centres and remote townships. Following the success of recent tours, a wider variety of exhibitions is planned for the program in 1984-85, with extensive itineraries.

The allocation for the Queensland Art Gallery for 1984-85 is \$3,092,000.

The Performing Arts Complex will be completed this year. There is no doubt that the people of Queensland will be provided with a centre unequalled in this State. Its geographical position on the south bank of the Brisbane River will provide the people of Brisbane with a unique arts landmark.

The Queensland Performing Arts Trust is looking forward to serving the cultural needs of the people of Queensland from this new complex, and its aim will be to continue to present quality performances of the highest calibre. Outreach programs will transport the arts to provincial people, while inreach programs will transport provincial people to the arts.

The Performing Arts Centre will be used for a wide range of activities from conventions, to pop concerts, to opera.

No complex of this magnitude is without problems, and during the year many have been faced and successfully overcome. Also, a number of projects essential to the opening have been undertaken—

Staff recruitment is continuing so that the required number of personnel can be achieved;

An industrial relations agreement is under negotiation; and

Appropriate ticketing for QPAT's box-office is being carefully examined.

Opening celebration preparations are well under way for 1985. I would suggest that this complex will be the last of its size to be built in Australia for many years and, consequently, it is intended that the opening festivities involve the whole of Queensland and reflect the State's unique character.

The Budget allocation for the Performing Arts Trust is \$3,435,000 this financial year.

The new Queensland Museum building within the Queensland Cultural Centre, Stage III, is scheduled for completion towards the end of 1985. Unlike other bodies involved in the centre, the museum must design and create the 5 000 square metres of prefabricated new displays prior to the move to ensure that its premier public function is re-established with minimal delay. At the same time, it is preparing for the transfer of its collection of more than 2 000 000 research and display items. That is a colossal task. Public attendances are being maintained but will be interrupted by the move during 1985-86.

Research by staff and associates into the animals of Queensland and its surrounding waters, the material culture and archaeological history of the Aboriginal and Melanesian peoples, the geology of the State (especially its fossil history) and the history of the technological development of the State is being maintained at a high level. The educational and research programs are supported by perhaps the best research library in the State and by the museum's extensive publication projects.

I am sure that not many honourable members would be aware that over the past several years the museum has introduced a number of new initiatives, namely, an electronics section to develop the technological base for modern display, an information service to meet the increasing demands of the public for authoritative information on the museum's fields of interest (natural history, history and technology), a materials conservation section to ensure the preservation of items held and a maritime archaeology section to research and protect elements of the State's maritime history. Some of the

programs developed by the latter have been extraordinarily successful—for example, the excavation of the eighteenth century British frigate “Pandora” in the northern Barrier Reef waters.

The appropriation to the museum for 1984-85 amounting to \$2,866,600 not only recognises the need to maintain current levels of activity but also makes provision for an increase in base towards the level necessary for provision of services in the new building. In addition, an amount of \$90,000 has been provided as a special grant. This will enable the museum to continue the lease of storage space in Toowoomba to house the Cobb and Co. collection of horse-drawn vehicles until a display branch is established in that city (\$11,000); to purchase equipment items needed for research and display in the new museum (\$61,870); to contribute towards publication of results of several extraordinarily large research projects (\$7,000); to begin conservation of rare volumes in the library (\$1,200); and to assist with the 1984 season of excavation of HMS Pandora (\$8,930).

As promised by the Government, the subsidy scheme designed to match cash contributions to museum programs from the private sector on a dollar-for-dollar basis has now been implemented to the full extent of the \$100,000 per year promised. The scheme has been successful in encouraging such contributions from the time of its implementation in the latter half of 1983-84. Similarly, the Government has met another election promise and has increased the granting scheme for local museums from \$55,000 in 1983-84 to \$100,000 this year. Over the past two years, senior museum staff have visited nearly all of the more than 100 local museums in the State, providing advice on the scheme and giving assistance with their programs.

I now turn to the State Library of Queensland, which has an estimated expenditure of \$13,738,900 this financial year, and indicate that a major policy initiative of the State Government will be implemented by the Library Board. In line with the 1983 election promise, an additional \$900,000 has been made available for subsidies to municipal libraries, bringing the total subsidy allocation to \$6,935,000, an increase of 29.6 per cent. This will enable the subsidy limit for independent local authorities with populations of 10 000 or more to be raised from \$1.61 per capita to \$2.04 per capita. At the same time, smaller local authorities will be catered for by an expansion and upgrading of the alternative subsidy scheme. The population limit for this service has been increased from 6 000 to 10 000, enabling towns such as Stanthorpe, Roma and Charters Towers to enter the scheme. In addition, the eight local authorities in the central western regional library service based at Barcaldine will join the scheme from 1 January next. This will bring to 60 the total number of smaller councils in the scheme.

In addition, subsidy will be paid to Moreton Shire this financial year for the first time. The establishment of this service at Moreton will mean that only eight councils with a total population of 21 000 will not be providing a library service within this State.

As I have already mentioned, planning for the new State Library building, Stage IV, in the Queensland Cultural Centre is progressing, and the building is expected to be opened in 1988. Two major features of the building will be the John Oxley Library and the Arts and Music services.

The John Oxley Library of Queensland History is well known and will be located on the fourth floor of the new building. Funds have been increased by 20 per cent this financial year, enabling \$102,000 to be set aside for microfilming of Queensland natural historical records to make them more widely available without damaging the rare and fragile originals. All significant Queensland newspapers will be available on microfilm by the time the new library opens.

The Arts and Music services are less well known, having been in existence for only a few years. They will occupy a substantial part of the third floor of the new building and will complement the services of the Queensland Art Gallery and the Performing

Arts Complex. A sum of \$89,000 will be expended on special purchases for these collections.

To coincide with the new building, the State Library has begun a major internal review of its objectives, staffing, funding and future policies to provide a blueprint for library services in Queensland beyond the year 2000.

Finally, \$183,000 has been provided in this year's Budget towards additional operating costs of the Library's Computer system.

Last, but certainly not least, may I comment on the Directorate of Cultural Activities. This directorate, which was the first of its kind in Australia, provides general information and advisory services to the community and administers two financial assistance schemes. First, grants are directed to arts organisations in terms of well-established guide-lines and on the basis of programs that are designed to develop the arts and/or make the arts more accessible to all Queenslanders. In this respect, provision has been made for a total of \$5,713,000 for grants of this kind—an increase of \$701,000 on the 1983-84 allocation. The allocation is reflected in detail on page 65 of the Estimates of expenditure provided to this Assembly in the Budget papers. For the information of honourable members I seek leave to incorporate those details in this speech.

Leave granted.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE—1984–1985

65

TOURISM, NATIONAL PARKS, SPORT AND THE ARTS

Number of Persons			Code Ref.	SALARIES AND CONTINGENCIES		
1983-1984	1984-1985			Appropriation for 1983-1984	Expended 1983-1984	Required for 1984-1985
		DEPARTMENT OF THE ARTS, NATIONAL PARKS AND SPORT—<i>continued</i>		\$	\$	\$
		Cultural Activities	02			
10	10	SALARIES	01	209,900	217,369	239,000
		CONTINGENCIES (SUBDIVISION)—				
		Equipment and Incidentals	02	139,000	135,132	182,000
		Grants to Organisations—				
		Queensland Arts Council, \$565,000; Queensland Ballet Company, \$504,000; Queensland Band Association, \$20,000; Queensland Marionette Theatre, \$20,000; Queensland Symphony Orchestra, \$348,000; Queensland Theatre Company, \$740,000; Queensland Theatre Orchestra, \$800,000; Queensland Youth Orchestra, \$62,000; Australian Flying Arts School, \$92,000; Brisbane Arts Theatre, \$40,000; Brisbane Community Arts Centre, \$30,000; Brisbane Repertory Theatre, \$50,000; Childrens' Activity Groups Association, \$20,000; Crafts Council of Queensland, \$35,000; Institute of Modern Art, \$37,000; Jazz Development Fund, \$15,000; Lyric Opera of Queensland, \$1,074,000; Music Broadcasting Society of Queensland, \$20,000; New Moon Theatre Company, \$150,000; North Queensland Ballet and Dance Society, \$40,000; North Queensland Conservatorium of Music, \$55,000; T.N. Theatre Company, \$200,000; Warana Festival, \$280,000; Youth Ballet and Dance Development Fund, \$35,000; Australian Ballet Foundation, \$74,000; Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, \$48,000; Australian Opera, \$52,000; Musica Viva Australia, \$20,000; Organisations under \$10,000 and allocation to assist New Ventures, \$287,000	03 04	5,012,000 15,000	5,012,000 ..	5,713,000 15,000
		Cash Equivalent of Long Service Leave				
		TOTAL CONTINGENCIES		5,166,000	5,147,132	5,910,000
10	10	TOTAL	\$	5,375,900	5,364,501	6,149,000

Mr McKECHNIE: Grants to organisations receiving over \$10,000 towards their operating costs for 1984-85 amounted to \$5,426,000 and grants to organisations receiving under \$10,000 and allocations to assist new ventures amounted to \$287,000.

The amount of grants to professional organisations represents an increase of up to 53 per cent on certain individual grants made in 1983-84. These grants will allow these organisations to continue to provide Queenslanders with the cultural services so necessary to the continuing development of the high quality of life in this State. Included in the funding available for grants to professional organisations is an additional amount of \$300,000 by way of special enhancement, \$250,000 of which will assist certain major companies to upgrade their standards for performances at the new Performing Arts Complex.

The amount for grants to organisations receiving under \$10,000 has been increased by \$21,560 on the 1983-84 allocation. This will provide financial assistance to smaller arts organisations, and local authorities for community arts officers. Second, subsidies are also available towards the provision of facilities to house the arts. Properly constituted arts organisations may apply for a 50 per cent subsidy towards the erection, purchase, renovation or adaptation of a building. In a similar scheme, local authorities may apply for a 20 per cent subsidy towards the cost of providing major arts facilities for their communities. Applications under this scheme may be lodged at any time, funds being made available via the Cultural Capital Development Trust Fund.

Queensland Film Corporation

I turn now to the Queensland Film Corporation. Last year (1983-84) the big film in production in Australia was "The Coolangatta Gold"—\$6,000,000 worth of film activity centred on the Gold Coast. The world premiere of the film takes place in Coolangatta in two days' time—on Saturday, 17 November. That is one level of investment, effort and encouragement that is being provided by the Queensland Film Corporation. There are others.

A long-term training program in film and television productions has commenced in Queensland. That program is conducted in association with the Australian Film and Television School and is aimed at the reinforcing and upgrading the talents of Queensland folk now working in the industry. The Queensland Film Corporation has set aside a quarter of a million dollars to increase the competence and confidence of the young Queensland industry, which is hungry for assistance and recognition. That unique training program should go a long way towards satisfying both these needs.

As well, a further \$200,000 has been allocated from its 1984-85 budget to fund mini-creative development which may assist young film-makers. It will be a nursery situation similar to the system which, a few years ago, discovered the talents of Peter Weir, the director of "Picnic at Hanging Rock", "Gallipoli" and "The Year of Living Dangerously", Gillian Armstrong, the director of "My Brilliant Career", Phil Noyce of "Newsfront" and, more recently, Sophia Turkewitz, who wrote and directed "Silver City". All of those now internationally known film people were given their chance through the same type of system currently programmed by the Queensland Film Corporation.

Two major productions are now under way in Queensland. Morris West's "The Naked Country", starring Rebecca Gilling and John Stanton, is on location at Charters Towers. "Butterfly Island", a family-orientated TV mini-series, is shooting on Brampton and Hamilton Islands. It is being produced by the award-winning Brendon Lunney.

In all, 38 film projects are in various stages of development, with investment and assistance from the Queensland Film Corporation. Not all will reach fruition, but at least the corporation is giving an opportunity to those people—the writers and producers—to prove to themselves and to Queensland that they can deliver the goods.

The corporation is moving, too, into the education area, to prepare aspiring young film-makers for what they can expect when they graduate and move into the commercial world, and to show how the Queensland Film Corporation can help them.

In a matter of days, the second Chauvel Film Award will be decided and another talented Queenslander will be sponsored by the Queensland Film Corporation to attend a course in film discipline at the Australian Film and Television School in Sydney in 1985.

Rather than participate in the funding of the Victorian-based Childrens Film and Television Foundation, the Queensland Film Corporation prefers to place its funds directly into film and television production aimed at the children's area. That way the money goes onto the screen and is not swallowed up in yet another administrative bureaucracy. To date the Queensland Film Corporation has committed over half a million dollars to the development of children's film and television programs.

The Queensland Film Corporation has adopted a higher profile within the industry and communication between the writers and technicians has never been better.

The Queensland Film Corporation, its staff and the local industry are gearing up for a substantial increase in activity in the immediate future. All that bodes well for Queensland and justifies the faith that this Government had in its decision to set up the corporation.

I will now touch upon the Royal Queensland Theatre Company. The proud record of the company's progress during the 1983-84 fiscal year included: 711 performances (almost two a day) before 178 579 people throughout Queensland (7.38 per cent of the population). In 1984 the company sold over 77 500 tickets as a result of its new multiple choice subscription scheme. In association with the Queensland Arts Council, it has toured inland Queensland. The costs of such tours are heavy and the Government has recognised that by providing increased funding.

The company has an ongoing commitment to young people and this has been maintained not only through the Royal Queensland Theatre Company passport scheme but also through extensive touring by the Roadwork Theatre-in-Education Company, which travelled 49 218 km.

The opening of the performing arts complex will see the company playing in both the Studio Theatre and the Lyric Theatre. By granting a special enhancement of \$50,000 to the company to enable it to upgrade its ability to present productions in the new performing arts complex and to maintain its tours of Queensland, this Government has recognised the company's need to maintain its strength and vigour, and the necessity of not continuing to deplete its reserves.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I desire to inform honourable members that, on the Vote proposed, I will allow a full discussion of all of the Minister's departmental Estimates (Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds, and Loan Fund Account).

For the information of honourable members, I point out that the administrative acts of the department are open to debate, but the necessity for legislation and matters involving legislation cannot be discussed in Committee of Supply.

Mr UNDERWOOD (Ipswich West) (12.45 p.m.): Unfortunately, on behalf of Opposition members and Government back-benchers, I have to voice the usual protest about reports pertaining to the Minister's Estimates. A bundle of the reports was tabled yesterday, but several reports were not. To prepare for the debate today, members are faced with the task of reading hundreds of pages of reports. Because the Premier and Treasurer has refused Parliament the right to a public accounts committee, which could investigate the Estimates properly, back-benchers in general are forced to do the job.

The Premier and Treasurer is on record, both inside and outside Parliament, as saying that it is up to the members of Parliament to act as a public accounts committee. To enable them to do that, they should be given departmental reports much earlier than they are. Whenever the Opposition has tried to get information from the Minister about staffing and staffing problems in the Tourist and Travel Corporation, the Minister has side-stepped or refused to answer questions asked and queries raised.

Mr Menzel: Probably he has nothing to answer.

Mr UNDERWOOD: Does the honourable member believe that the Minister has nothing to answer? He should listen closely to my speech. Time is short and I do not intend to waste it on interjections.

On 13 November 1984, when the Opposition asked about staff problems in the corporation—and the corporation has serious problems—reference was made to what was termed the Jull report. In reply, the Minister said—

“There was no such report. Staffing matters are the concern of the board of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation and its general manager, Mr Pat King.

The staff of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation is working effectively, to such an extent that the Governments of the Labor States have now followed Queensland’s lead in converting their tourist corporations along the lines of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation”

As a follow-up to that, the Minister was asked a question without notice today, in which it was pointed out that he might have misunderstood the word “report” in the question. He was told that it could have been a letter—which it was—and/or some other form of communication referring to staff problems and the need to sort them out. The Minister said that he was sick and tired of the repeated attacks on the Tourist and Travel Corporation. The attacks are being levelled not at the Tourist and Travel Corporation but at the Government and the Minister who is responsible for the corporation. The Minister showed his total incompetence when he said that he was not interested and does not want to become involved. He should realise that he took a sacred oath on the Bible to look after the affairs within his portfolio. Twice today, the Minister said that he will not become involved in management decisions and that management is handling a few offices.

On reading between the lines, I believe it is obvious that the Minister knows that there was a letter, and that a report was made—I note that one of his officers is leaving the lobby to check that out—but the Minister said that there was no report. Why did he not come clean and say, “Yes, there are some problems, and we are tackling them.”? It was because he refuses to become involved. He is not doing his job. Quite frankly, the charge that Opposition members made when debating the legislation stands up, namely, that he is not doing the job, that he is incompetent and should be removed.

Previously, I quoted a statement that appeared in “The Sunday Mail”, and was attributed to the chairman of the corporation. I have in my possession another article containing statements made by the chairman of the corporation that back up the Opposition’s argument that the corporation and all other quangos should be properly accountable. The one way to do that is to have a public accounts committee.

The next article that I intend to quote appeared in a reputable magazine. It was headed, “‘Keep off’ call to govt”, and was in these terms—

“Sir Frank Moore, chairman of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, has warned governments to keep hands off tourism.

Speaking recently at the Ansett Travel and Transport Writers seminar Sir Frank said ‘tourism is too good an industry to be left in the hands of governments and bureaucrats to carve its future.

Politicians have recently discovered that tourism catches votes.

All states have started punching money into tourism bodies.

But it is far too important to take it out of private industry hands.

In Queensland, tourism has created 70 per cent of all new jobs in the last five years.”

Those were the comments of the man who is in charge of a quango that was set up by the Parliament. Recently the annual report was presented to Parliament by the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and the Arts. Sir Frank Moore has said that he wants

nothing to do with the Government. When will this quango be made more accountable to the Parliament? Something must be done about the attitude of the chairman of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. I defy the Minister to tell honourable members that the corporation is properly accountable and that he is fully aware of what is going on.

I turn now to the expenditure incurred by the Tourist and Travel Corporation. On pages 178 and 179 of the Auditor-General's report on the miscellaneous departmental accounts and the accounts of statutory bodies and local authorities for the year 1983-84 the statements of receipts and payments for the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation appear. Payments included salaries, administrative expenses—to which explanatory note 1 is attached—development of management information systems, publicity—for which note 2 is provided—special assistance and capital expenditure. Those payments totalled \$13,937,239, which is a handsome sum.

Explanatory note 1 for administrative expenses lists the allocation for wages, allowances and pay-roll tax for the year ended June 1984, as \$541,686. That is in excess of half a million dollars. For 1983, the allocation was \$478,430; for 1982, \$426,391; and for 1981, \$370,708.

I ask the Minister to make more details available of the activities and expenses described in the Auditor-General's report, because they all seem similar. The fees and travelling and promotion expenses for board members are listed in note 1. For the year ended June 1984, the fees were \$58,300, but for the year ended June 1981, they amounted to \$29,000. That is a hefty increase. Because I do not want to bore the Committee, I will not give the figures for the other years.

Note 1 reveals that for 1983-84 travelling expenses totalled \$225,963, which was a dramatic increase of almost 300 per cent over the 1983 figure of \$82,770. In 1980-81, the travelling expenses amounted to \$51,349. No explanation has been given for that dramatic increase. The only information is contained in the Auditor-General's report.

Mr Davis: What about the hospitality expenses?

Mr UNDERWOOD: The report contains many things that I could mention; I will just go through them.

In explanatory note 1 for the administrative expenses of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, the cost of outside services for the year ended June 1984 is given as \$90,186. For 1983, that figure was \$64,792, which is an increase of the order of \$25,000. No explanation has been given for that. Outside services for the year 1980-81 amounted to \$53,034. Until 1983-84, the cost of outside services toddled along at a similar rate, but a hefty increase occurred in that year.

An entry entitled "Other" appears under note 1. It is my understanding of reports that, under that entry, a few odds and ends that do not involve a significant amount of money are included. However, the entry that appears under "Other" in the explanatory note for 1984 is \$519,716. For the previous year it was \$420,956 and in 1980-81 it was \$296,638. Since the 1980-81 year, that figure has almost doubled to in excess of half a million dollars.

Under the heading "Publicity (Note 2)" the report reveals that for the year ended 30 June 1984 the expenditure on promotions was \$476,145. For the 1983 year the figure was \$252,848. In the 1980-81 report the promotions are not specifically outlined, so there is no figure that corresponds to those massive amounts of money spent in 1983 and 1984.

In 1980-81, expenditure on publications and brochures was \$345,634 and this year the relevant expenditure is \$483,435, which is actually a decrease from the \$631,507 that was expended last year.

I would not be surprised if honourable members and those who read "Hansard" are confused, because there is very little explanation for these increases and, in one case,

a dramatic fall. The Assembly needs this sort of information, particularly when the corporation is headed by a knight of the realm, a leading light in the National Party—in fact, a trustee of the National Party—who has put the fear of God into many small operators in the State. He does not believe in public accountability. In fact, the corporation was set up by an Act of Parliament. For those reasons, a parliamentary public accounts committee is needed and the Assembly needs some answers from the Minister about the business affairs of the corporation. So let the Chamber have a proper Estimates debate, Mr Minister, and let the Committee have some answers.

Unfortunately, time has got away from me drastically. The Opposition has raised the issue of staff problems, which fall under two headings. The first is the level of salaries, which are below those paid in a number of other tourist bureaus; the second is the staff ceilings that the State Government imposed five years ago. Those staff ceilings have absolutely hamstrung the operations of the centres of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, so much so that the staff of the centres are in a state of revolt. That has been evidenced both by the happenings surrounding the Jull report and, more particularly, by the rash of resignations and the burn-out of the officers of the corporation. Those excellent officers do a wonderful job. As I have previously stated, they work heaps of overtime and do not get paid for it.

The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation is Australia's third biggest writer of travel and it is the biggest writer of domestic travel in Australia. The salaries of the staff need to be increased so that they are comparable with those in other organisations. As well as that, more staff are needed. Although sales have reached record levels, the number of staff is declining. Previously in this Chamber, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise skited about that fact.

Clients who are wanting to come on a holiday in Queensland have been queued up outside the doors at the Sydney centre and down King Street, simply because that centre does not have sufficient staff. On one occasion 40 people were turned away. That is simply because the centre has insufficient counter staff. Honourable members know that if they enter a shop and the staff are too busy to serve them they will walk out of the door, go down the road and go into the next shop. In this case the people will be going to the agencies for the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Victoria or Western Australia. The corporation needs more staff.

This organisation should have some accountability; it should be put back on the rails. The centres should have more staff so that they have a chance to work properly and efficiently. The staff are working so hard that the management of the corporation is burning them out. But the Minister does not care; he does not want to know about the staff problems or about the 10 per cent loss in potential customers for the Queensland tourist industry. The Minister does not want to know about it. The centre in Perth has two people who are writing \$100,000 worth of travel annually, but the Minister does not want to know.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.

Mr UNDERWOOD: The Sydney office of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation is experiencing problems. On one occasion it lost 40 clients in one day. A large number of persons are involved when that figure is multiplied by the number of working days in a year. To a lesser extent, similar problems are experienced in the corporation's offices in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. A great deal of tourism is being lost, as well as a large number of jobs. The Queensland Government refuses to tackle the serious staffing problems. Compared with other States, Queensland has a lower salary structure and the employees in Queensland have a greater work-load because of the staff ceiling in this State.

It has been estimated that the loss of tourism to Queensland is 10 per cent of potential custom. The staffing problem exists not only in the travel centres but also in international offices. Internationally, there had been a growth of 300 per cent in tourism.

However, no additional staff have been appointed. Queensland nearly lost an excellent artist because of staffing problems.

On pages 4 and 5 of the annual report of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, honourable members can read for themselves about the amount of faith that the corporation has in research and regional development. It is vital to the future of the industry that research and regional development receive the highest possible support. Two persons are employed in that division, and it is drastically understaffed. Better facilities are needed for those who work on research and regional development. It is totally inefficient to subcontract labour, which is a completely unacceptable way in which to handle the matter.

Other States have been outbidding Queensland for staff. The corporation employed an excellent woman from Sydney who was paid an additional \$3,000 a year as well as a car to transfer to the Northern Territory Tourist Commission. A very good salesperson and marketing officer was lost. The corporation snaffled a marketing officer from Greyhound. That person, who could not tolerate the conditions under which he had to work, lasted only 10 months and was then employed by the Railway Department.

Queensland is facing a crisis in the tourist industry. It has been caused by the staff problems in the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, both at headquarters and at the travel centres, and is costing the Queensland tourism industry millions of dollars annually. Country and provincial operators are also suffering. I refer honourable members to the debate on the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation Act Amendment Bill, which took place earlier this year. The corporation is losing money because it must hire and retrain staff to fill the vacancies that have been caused by the resignations. Good staff, which has been obtained at high cost from other areas, are being lost. The staff are going to Queensland's competitors, such as the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Victoria.

In previous debates I have referred to the incentive system. There is conflict and discontent among the staff in the travel centres. Owing to a shortage of staff in the research and regional development division, the interdepartmental committees are virtually inoperative. Members do not have the time to attend meetings because of their involvement in other work. Although research and regional development is the life-blood of the industry, it is in a strait-jacket. The Minister told honourable members that Queensland was in front, but it is important for more money to be supplied, because the other States are fighting back.

An article in a reputable tourism publication headed "Northern Territory has big plans for \$8m marketing spend" states—

"The Northern Territory Tourist Commission will support its new Summer Action Package program with a \$2.4 million national television and press campaign."

It refers to the way in which the Northern Territory, with government support, is putting some effort into its tourism industry. However, Queensland is not doing that.

Last financial year Queensland experienced the second lowest increase in the percentage of funds provided to the tourism industry. Tasmania showed the lowest increase. Victoria spent an additional \$5.3m on its tourist promotion and industry. That was an increase of 39 per cent, compared with Queensland's 20.3 per cent. The increase in Western Australia was a dramatic 80.9 per cent. Honourable members should bear in mind the preparations that Western Australia is making for the defence of the America's Cup. Its allocation increased from \$6m to more than \$11m. The estimated expenditure in Queensland is \$12,685,000.

The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation will be left behind. Its staff are being bought off. It is losing its best staff, because it is not looking after them. They are expected to work under unsatisfactory conditions.

I turn now to the private operators in this State and quote an incredible statement by the chairman of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, Sir Frank Moore. He said—

“Mum-and-dad motels and tacky-tacky places won’t work.”

He said further—

“When people say what’s going to happen to the little bloke with the little old motel, my reply is that I have no intention of enshrining mediocrity so we can all go broke together.”

Is it any wonder that the private operators in Queensland, particularly the small ones, are worried about the corporation?

Time expired.

Mr MENZEL (Mulgrave) (2.21 p.m.): I have pleasure in speaking to the Estimates. I say quite sincerely that the Minister knows what he is doing, and he is doing an excellent job. I congratulate the Minister’s staff, who are doing a very good job for tourism, sport and the arts. It is unfortunate that the previous speaker condemned certain action taken by the Minister. Surely he could have found something good that the Minister is doing, because he is certainly doing many good things.

For example, the Minister and his department are doing an excellent job for sport. I, along with most Australians, believe that sport plays a very important part in the well-being of the community. The sporting subsidies given by this Government and administered through the Minister and his department are appreciated by the different sporting bodies. I know that my electors are very appreciative of them. The cheques that are presented to the different groups, to cover the cost of training and other sporting activities, are deeply appreciated.

Mr Yewdale: The Minister presents cheques in the electorates of Government members and not in the electorates of Opposition members.

Mr Prest: Put a bit of life into it.

Mr MENZEL: I point out for the benefit of the member for Port Curtis that I do my job as a member of Parliament. If I am called upon to present a cheque, I will do it. The Minister cannot present cheques all over Queensland. Perhaps he has asked Opposition members to do it for him on occasions and those requests have been refused. Regardless of a person’s political beliefs, if he is a member of a Rugby League club, a swimming club or a golf club, and he receives assistance from the Government, he appreciates what the Government is doing. It is immaterial who presents the cheque.

The new golf club at Babinda is coming along very well. The Minister has promised a subsidy of \$8,570 towards the golf club, and for that, I thank him. I was approached by Mr Ernie Rose, who is the fire chief in Babinda and a representative of the Babinda Golf Club, to ask whether the Government could give financial assistance to the club. For him I obtained information about eligibility for a subsidy from the department. Mr Stan Wilcox visited the golf club and explained to the members how to go about applying for a subsidy. The golf club applied, and I am pleased to say that it was successful.

Mr Prest: Didn’t you do it?

Mr MENZEL: The members of that golf club wanted to know every single detail about applying for a subsidy. How can I be an expert on filling out all the forms that relate to the 18 portfolios occupied by the Ministers? That is probably why he does not do anything else.

Mr Prest: If you can’t be nice, say nothing.

Mr MENZEL: Perhaps I am copying the member for Port Curtis. When I first entered Parliament, he was pleasant. He did not run people down. Of late, he has become nasty. It is good to see a smile back on his face.

Mr Underwood: This is your best effort.

Mr MENZEL: Today, we did not see the best effort of the member for Ipswich West.

Mr Underwood: You didn't give me long enough.

Mr MENZEL: If the member had asked, I would have moved an extension of time.

Some months ago the Minister undertook a northern tour with this parliamentary committee. He invited me to join him and I had great pleasure accompanying him through the Mulgrave electorate, which is one of the most picturesque in Queensland. It has beautiful landscapes and surroundings, particularly on the Atherton Tableland. The coast also has beautiful spots, which I will mention in a moment. Time did not allow the Minister to visit the coastal part of my electorate, but he spent time on the Atherton Tableland visiting Lake Barrine, Lake Eacham and the houseboats on Lake Tinaroo.

I congratulate Mr and Mrs Doleman for their houseboat venture. They will be an added tourist attraction. The return on their investment at this stage is probably not very high. People who are prepared to stick their neck out must be admired and they deserve as much Government support as possible.

The Atherton Tableland has many tourist attractions. Unfortunately, tourist travel agents and motel-owners in Cairns—I am not reflecting on you, Mr De Lacy—tell tourists visiting Cairns, "If you want to visit the Atherton Tableland, just take a day tour, because there is no decent accommodation there." It is unfortunate that that should be said. The Tableland has first-class accommodation. The motel-owners there are concerned that they miss a great deal of business.

Mr Yewdale: Do you know that Mrs Kippin said that she would never go to Townsville and would never advise anybody to visit Townsville as a tourist; that they should go straight through to Cairns?

Mr MENZEL: Who said that?

Mr Yewdale: Mrs Kippin, the ex-member.

Mr MENZEL: Did the member for Rockhampton North say, "The next member for Herbert"?

I am not aware of that. My opinion is that Cairns is preferable to Townsville. I support her statement.

Mr Yewdale: She said she wouldn't even land there.

Mr MENZEL: Sometimes the plane lands there on the way to Cairns. That would be the extent of my visit. I prefer Cairns any day.

The Atherton Tableland has a part to play in tourism in far-north Queensland. I appeal to tourist operators in Cairns to be more responsible and to give the tableland a go. The people on the tableland really cannot hit back. They cannot defend themselves. They have to sit and cop it.

Roads are very important to tourism.

Mr Prest: What about the Daintree road?

Mr MENZEL: I support the construction of Daintree road. Certainly, there are problems, but there will always be teething problems with a new road. I have not been on that road, but I have heard about it in the Parliament and have seen it on television. The rights and wrongs of building the road have been canvassed, and I am in favour of it. It is development. Where there are roads, people will follow, and that must create employment.

I was not in the Chamber yesterday when the Babinda bypass was mentioned. It will be very important to tourism, and to Babinda in particular. From the bypass, a better view will be obtained of Babinda, which is a beautiful little town. The present road is not only unattractive, but is also very dangerous. The new road will promote tourism.

Mr Prest: Are they paying those people whose houses have been resumed? Will they receive adequate compensation to build another house?

Mr MENZEL: Yes, they will.

The comments of the honourable member for Wynnum were unfortunate. I have always had a high regard for Mr Shaw. However, I suppose that mud is thrown round by members of the Opposition from time to time. He referred to the so-called deputy chairman of the National Party branch selling fill to the Department of Main Roads. That is absolute nonsense. This morning I checked with officers of the Department of Main Roads, and I was informed that no discussions had taken place in recent times about fill. In any case, I presume that the contract for construction of the road to Babinda would be open to tender.

I mention that the only occasion on which officers of the Department of Main Roads could remember fill being mentioned was some years ago. I will not mention the name of the person involved, but he always seems to have a big ALP sign in the front yard of his dwelling, which is situated south of Babinda near a small hill from which he could not obtain fill. I would be happy for honourable members to check this information. I was informed that, some years ago when the purchase and sale of fill was mentioned, the person concerned seemed to be quite happy. The honourable member for Port Curtis ought to be careful that there is no land deal scandal that involves the local ALP branch in Babinda. That is certainly not the case with the branch of the National Party in Babinda.

Mr Prest: Are you concerned about the residents of Babinda who would be displaced?

Mr MENZEL: As I understand it, the residents who have negotiated with the Government are very happy. I suggest that the honourable member for Port Curtis ask them himself.

I return now to tourism. Babinda has a good deal to offer the tourist. Babinda Boulders is a very important tourist attraction. Mrs Wyiskovitch owns land adjacent to the Babinda Boulders. I have assisted her in making an application for rezoning to the Mulgrave Shire Council to allow the erection of a tourist complex consisting of tea rooms, etc, at Babinda Boulders. Any honourable member who has been to the Babinda Boulders will realise the tourist potential of the area. I believe that a small sugar town like Babinda can benefit from developing a nearby tourist attraction. Employment opportunities can be generated, thus providing a means of diversification during the slack season of the sugar industry.

Mr Cahill: You have Bramston Beach as well.

Mr MENZEL: Yes. I was about to mention that.

Mr Prest: Oh, don't prompt him!

Mr MENZEL: I do not need to be prompted. The potential of the area as a tourist attraction is obvious. The Babinda Boulders has a great deal of potential because it is

a truly beautiful place. I hope that members of the Opposition are as serious as I am. It is unfortunate that Mr Shaw has left the Chamber.

Mr Prest: You chased him away. You were picking on him.

Mr MENZEL: I did not chase him away. In fact, I invite him to accompany me to the area of the Babinda Boulders. I will drive him there.

Mr McElligott: But would you bring him back?

Mr MENZEL: Yes, of course I would. Although he is misguided, he is not such a bad fellow. Perhaps under my guidance he could return to the straight and narrow—perhaps even join the National Party. If he did, there might be another member on the Government side.

I now wish to refer to the Eubenangee National Park. This matter has been mentioned before. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has constructed walkways and other improvements. I shall be quite candid about this. I feel—and I have always said this—that that is a waste of money. My opinion was sought some years ago about the construction of walkways in the Eubenangee National Park. Councillor Shirley Harwood of the Mulgrave Shire Council telephoned me about it. I informed her of my opinion straight-out. In my opinion, that is a waste of money. Unfortunately, Councillor Harwood did not agree with me. I regret to say that the National Parks and Wildlife Service went ahead with the construction of the walkways in any event. As far as I am concerned, they are a hazard to tourists because the area is full of snakes and crocodiles. Moreover, during the wet season, approximately 15 or 20 feet of floodwater lies there for weeks. The walkways are therefore of no use.

Any wooden buildings erected in the park would rot within a short period, and steel structures would rust. Because the grass grows so quickly in that area, it would have to be mowed regularly. I suppose some people would enjoy walking in the park, but I caution them against doing so because it is a dangerous place.

Bramston Beach is a developing area. I understand that, because of its great potential, the Government is in the process of opening up more residential development. I know that one company has spoken to the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police about its plans for some sort of garden development. It envisages a large tourist complex. The company deserves support, and it will certainly get support from this Government.

One thing about which I am concerned is the number of complaints that I have received about the lack of adequate road signs on the Atherton Tableland. This matter may not be the responsibility of the Minister. I have already approached the Main Roads Department about it. Strangers to the area who travel along a main road become confused by the number of side roads that lead off only to dairy farms and other properties. There are several routes from the coast to Malanda and Atherton and it is easy for tourists to become lost. Surely more can be done to provide clearly and easily understood road signs to assist tourists. Representations have already been made on the subject by the Atherton Chamber of Commerce, and I appeal to the Main Roads Department to do something constructive in response. Local residents and officers of the Main Roads Department stationed in Cairns all know where they are going, but a stranger to the area sometimes has to ask for directions, and quite often there is nobody to ask after normal business hours.

I compliment the Government for making a grant last year to the Millaa Millaa Museum. Millaa Millaa is only a very small township in the Mulgrave electorate, but its residents believe that it is an important township. They are proud of the many historical exhibits in the museum. When the Minister and Mr Callaghan made their northern tour, I made sure that they visited the museum and spoke to the people in charge. Mrs Tranter held a welcoming party and told them that the Government's grant provided a little extra boost and enabled the construction of shelving and the like in the building. The museum is already an attraction and could be developed even further.

That would enable the continual stream of tourists passing through the town to view a larger range of exhibits. The museum has a collection of Aboriginal and early settlement relics that would, I am sure, be of great interest to visitors.

I have seen a number of museums, and I am concerned that north Queensland does not have as many museums as, for example, Tasmania, New Zealand and other parts of Australia. The idea of a museum as a tourist attraction has not yet caught on in the north. Tourists can learn a lot from the unique life-style of the early settlers in the north, and the equipment that they used. The residents of Millaa Millaa have built up the museum. However, at present it is open only at odd times, so more should be done to try to have it open to the public at all times.

I now turn to Yungaburra, which is developing what might be called an arts centre. It has some very talented residents. The Yungaburra markets are open once a week. The town has shops similar to Naps Nest, which sell a wide variety of tourist attractions. Yungaburra, which is becoming a tourist town, has a beautiful old hotel that is in very good condition. I am sure that the Minister noted that when he and I had dinner at the Yungaburra Hotel and met quite a number of people.

Mr PALASZCZUK (Archerfield) (2.41 p.m.): It gives me pleasure to speak to the tourism Estimates. I will confine my remarks to the Tourism section of the Minister's portfolio. Before doing so, I pay tribute to the honourable member for Ipswich West, who is the Opposition's shadow spokesman on Tourism. I am on his committee, which meets frequently. The honourable member is genuinely concerned about all the areas covered by the Minister's portfolio. I compliment the honourable member for Ipswich West for the diligent way in which he handles this sensitive area.

I intend to deal with the way in which a family in Queensland is affected when it decides to go on a holiday. To me, as a family man, this is a very important matter. I was appalled when the honourable member for Ipswich West referred to Sir Frank Moore's statement about the mum-and-dad motels. I am certain that the majority of Queenslanders, who are very important to our tourist industry, believe as I do.

With the sharp decline in the mining industry brought about by lower world demand and crippling State Government charges, coupled with the very small industrial and manufacturing base of Queensland, the tourism industry is set to become the growth leader and the largest income-earner for the State. However it is time that we, as the elected representatives of Queensland, had a hard look at the industry and separated fiction from fact.

It is true that, over the last 10 years, the number of holiday visitors to Australia has shown a remarkable increase. The increase ranges from one of 51 per cent from New Zealand to a staggering increase of 394 per cent from Japan. After Hawaii, Australia is the next most popular honeymoon destination for the Japanese. The favoured months for these people are April-May and September-October. As was pointed out in "The Australian Financial Review" of Friday, 9 November, that is the result in part of the Japanese fascination with our animals, especially the koala.

Japanese developers have realised the potential and are actively investing in Australian holiday projects. They have interests in Gold Coast hotels and the Yanchep Sun City complex north of Perth. I should not forget Queensland's Iwasaki resort, which is one of the greatest myths of Japanese tourist investment in Queensland. The legislation was pushed through the House in the early hours of the morning, supposedly because it was urgent to commence the project and complete it. But what stage has it reached now?

At the Iwasaki resort's frequent opening ceremonies, people are constantly told that the project will mean that several jumboloards of jet-setting tourists will arrive in Rockhampton each week. I am sure that even the most fervent advocates of the project do not believe such rubbish.

At the present rate of construction, the Iwasaki resort will take a lifetime to complete. I suggest that some of the prospective Japanese honeymooners will be grandparents by the time it is completed, and that possibly their grandchildren will visit the resort as honeymooners.

Mr Stephan interjected.

Mr PALASZCZUK: I will take an interjection from the honourable member in a moment.

That Rockhampton is not an international entry port is often overlooked. At present, Queensland has three international gateways—Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. I am sure that the Federal Government will be seeking some return on its investment on the new Brisbane international airport before considering another international airport at Rockhampton.

Mr McKechnie: Do you know that he told me that we didn't deserve any, including the existing three?

Mr PALASZCZUK: Thanks to the Labor Party, Queensland has three international airports.

Mr Davis: He tried to get one at Goondiwindi.

Mr PALASZCZUK: The Minister could not get an international airport at Goondiwindi.

In the 12-month period ended December 1983, Queensland received 35 per cent of incoming tourist holiday-makers. However, those tourists did not come exclusively to Queensland. Most of them were on package tours that took in Sydney and, to a lesser extent, Canberra.

New Zealand, Australia's neighbour across the Tasman Sea, accounted for a 51 per cent increase in tourist traffic over a 10-year period. Unfortunately, New South Wales—in particular, Sydney—receives most New Zealand tourists. That is only logical considering that there are daily connections between Sydney and Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. Services between Auckland and Sydney are as frequent as three times a day. In summer, a daily flight is available between Brisbane and Auckland or Christchurch. However, in winter only three to four services a week are provided.

In winter the Gold Coast has proved very popular with Kiwis. It has often been suggested that the Coolangatta airport should be upgraded to international standard. Ideally, a planeload of sun-seeking Kiwis should come to Australia and a planeload of Australians should travel to the snow-fields of New Zealand. Qantas and Air New Zealand, which are the two major airlines servicing the routes between Australia and New Zealand, have shown a marked disinterest in servicing Coolangatta.

With the completion of the Gateway Bridge and the associated roadworks, the new Brisbane international airport will be only an hour from the Gold Coast. That will lessen the likelihood of Coolangatta airport achieving international status. I noticed with interest that Mr Bruce Bishop, the former Liberal member for Surfers Paradise and president of the Surfers Paradise Chamber of Commerce, made that point earlier this week and suggested that people involved in the tourist industry on the Gold Coast should realise it.

Holiday traffic from the United States of America increased by 78 per cent in the 10-year period 1974-84. Since the opening of the Townsville and Cairns international airports, Queensland is receiving its share of American tourists.

The Australian Tourist Commission has done a marvellous job in promoting Australia overseas and in encouraging Australians to see their own country first.

In this year's Federal Budget, \$22.8m was allocated to tourism. The Labor Party is the only political party that is really interested in tourism. During its period in office from 1972 to 1975, the Whitlam Government established a Ministry of Tourism under Frank Stewart. The Hawke Labor Government has shown its concern for tourist operators on the Great Barrier Reef by giving assistance by reducing the diesel tax.

Another great fillip for the Australian tourist industry was the decision by the Hawke Government to allow incoming travellers access to duty free shops at airports. Instead of carrying duty-free goods half way round the world, incoming travellers can now make their purchases at Australian airports. That means more revenue for Australia.

As the Minister would agree, the great success story of Australian tourist promotion has been the advertisements featuring Paul Hogan. He has sold Australia to the Americans and he has urged Australians to holiday at home.

Mr Underwood: Especially Queensland.

Mr PALASZCZUK: As the honourable member said, Queensland features prominently in the advertisements. They have been supplemented with the booklet called "Australian Made Holidays".

Independent market research has shown a remarkable 93 per cent public recall of the Paul Hogan advertisements. Bob Hawke's popularity runs second.

Mr McKechnie: Are you talking about in Australia?

Mr PALASZCZUK: Yes, in Australia.

Mr McKechnie: Do you know that—

Mr PALASZCZUK: I have too much to bring out today to be able to accept the Minister's interjection. I want to keep going.

One group of businessmen who do a great deal of harm to the tourist industry are the operators of souvenir shops. Most of the so-called souvenirs are plain rubbish produced in the labour sweat shops of Asia.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr PALASZCZUK: They are supported by the members on the other side of the Chamber.

The goods are bought at very low cost and sold at a very high price. How many times has this Assembly heard of stuffed souvenir animals that have been produced overseas and have been filled with used dressings and bandages?

Recently I saw in a souvenir shop a range of tea-towels that displayed the usual kangaroo, kookaburra and koala motifs. On inspection, I found that the only thing Australian about them was the animal design, which was done in Australia. The tea-towels themselves were made of the finest Czechoslovakian linen and were made in Hong Kong. So much for their being souvenirs of Australia!

Mr Borbidge: It might have something to do with the cost of labour in this country.

Mr PALASZCZUK: I am glad that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise has entered the Chamber. I am appalled that he is not higher on the list of speakers in the debate. I wonder what the problem is. Is it that the honourable member is breathing down the Minister's neck?

I do not know how traders have the gall to sell rubbish as souvenirs of Australia. It is high time that those responsible for enforcing the consumer affairs legislation investigated this downright deceit. Perhaps the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation would wish to comment on this matter. Japanese tourists are great ones for taking home loads of quality souvenirs. With the great increase in the number of Japanese

tourists, particularly honeymooners, the tourist industry has an obligation to ensure that they are catered for with very high-quality, genuine souvenirs, otherwise they may as well go to Hong Kong or Singapore, which are closer to Japan.

One of my constant criticisms of the Queensland tourist industry is its preoccupation with the wealthy overseas tourist at the expense of the family man. It is no use encouraging the family man to bring his family to see Queensland if the accommodation is right out of his reach. What he needs is a reasonably priced apartment, or similar accommodation, with the usual holiday amenities—a pool, close proximity to the beach or local tourist attraction and shops, and, preferably, location close to ground level. An apartment on the twentieth floor of a high-rise building and with an enjoyable view is all very well, but it becomes a nightmare for parents of small children. They spend most of their time ensuring that the children do not fall over the side and break their necks.

Caravan parks have become very popular, but they are not everyone's cup of tea. The holiday village concept is more suited to families and should be receiving more encouragement from the Government and the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation.

Mr Davis: Do you know that the Minister wanted to abolish wages, not penalty rates?

Mr PALASZCZUK: Is that right?

The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation should mount an aggressive campaign to get the majority of people in the south-east corner of the State to think big when they go on holidays and not monotonously drive to the south or north coasts. A spirit of adventure needs to be instilled into Queenslanders. The corporation should be encouraging Queenslanders to see their own State first, as it has so much to offer.

I certainly hope that, in the renovation of the old Commercial Bank building in Queen Street, the corporation has learnt from its mistakes. I suggest that the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs (Mr Lester) send his inspectors to have a look at the toilet facilities in the present office in Adelaide Street. Presently the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation is situated in a high-rise office block in the city, and the counter staff of the Queensland Travel Centre are in a congested office in Adelaide Street.

I agree with the Minister that other States have become aware of the benefit to be gained from adopting Queensland's attitude towards tourists. However, I point out that while those in the higher echelon of the Tourist and Travel Corporation are busy accumulating their fine china and silverware, the people who do most of the work selling Queensland are working in conditions that would not be tolerated in any other industry.

As I stated earlier, most of the population of this State is in the south-east corner. The people who reside in that area make their annual holiday trek to the Gold Coast or to the north coast. Insufficient facilities are provided. If those persons are game enough to venture farther, they are also faced with inadequate facilities. I suggest that the local towns and shires should provide more amenities for travellers.

Mr Davis: If they are National Party councils, they are too lousy.

Mr PALASZCZUK: The honourable member for Brisbane Central is correct.

I urge the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation to encourage and support the local towns and shires to cater for all types of tourists. Sir Francis Moore said that he does not worry about the mum-and-dad hotels and that he has no intention of enshrining mediocrity. Because of its climate, Queensland is a tourist Mecca. Many of Queensland's country towns have a great deal to offer the tourist. I think that the whole effort is unco-ordinated.

I suggest that Warwick is an area of great potential for day-trippers. Recently I visited Warwick. At the next election, my friend David Beddall will win the seat of

Warwick handsomely because the National Party has neglected the area. I am sure that the honourable member for Warwick would agree that the old flour mill should be restored. It is part of the city's history. It has created a great deal of employment in the area.

I remind local councils that they must first build other attractions to obtain the interest of travellers. Warwick has a great deal to offer. The drive through Cunningham's Gap is a wonderful experience. The Queen Mary Falls is a tourist attraction that, with some very sensitive promotion, would be a money-spinner for the district.

I suggest to the local council and the people of Warwick that they should not let the Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services (Mr Tenni) loose in the area. If they do, they will receive the unfavourable publicity that the Minister organised for the rape of the Daintree rain forest. He epitomises the National Party at its worst—"If it moves, shoot it, skin it and sell it; if it does not move, fell it or mine it".

Mr BOOTH (Warwick) (2.58 p.m.): In speaking to these Estimates, I intend to congratulate the Minister on many things that he has done, offer him some advice on others, and level some criticism.

The Committee has heard some biased presentations from Opposition members. I did not think that the member for Archerfield had such a mean streak in him. However, he will keep. Mr Beddall probably gave him his brief. Mr Beddall will regret that.

I thank the Minister for the many courtesies he has shown me in the year that he has held his important portfolio. His duties are many and varied. I also thank his staff, who are always accessible and pleasant. One can usually——

Mr Comben interjected.

Mr BOOTH: It is just the honourable member's bad nature that makes him think that way.

If the honourable member for Archerfield listens, he will learn that there are many attractions apart from the Queen Mary Falls, although they are one of Warwick's major assets. The honourable member said that the area could be developed. It has already been developed, but it has not been commercialised to such an extent that its attractiveness has been lost. The number of visitors to Queen Mary Falls increases every year. It is indeed one of the attractions of which the people of Warwick are very proud.

In presenting his Estimates, the Minister promised greater assistance to local museums by way of advice and funding. Advice is particularly important. Warwick has a local museum society. It has been very successful, and it has been a bit lucky. The majority of the society's exhibits are in their natural condition and are located in Pringle Cottage, which is about 100 years old. Some very capable people have promoted the society and kept it operating. It is not flush with funds, because it does not have sufficient visitors to its museum.

I pay a tribute to Mr Les Eastwell, who recently passed away. He was the chairman of the society, and he gave a great deal to the Warwick district while he held that position. He was not a young man; nevertheless, prior to his illness, he was almost able to keep up with young people. His passing was a sad loss to all those who knew him.

Mr Eastwell's place has been taken by Mrs Lorna Church, and I am sure that her input into the museum will at least equal that of Les Eastwell. She will give of her best during her time as chairperson. Mrs Church has the able support of an excellent secretary, Peter Brixey. Any additional help given to that museum will not be wasted.

The member for Archerfield was correct in saying that Warwick is becoming more popular as a tourist venue. The number of visitors is increasing. I suppose it is still fair to say that most visitors stay in Warwick for only about two or three days; nevertheless, their patronage is very important to the hotels and motels in the region.

I put on record that any funds allocated for country museums will not be wasted and that any advice given to them will not be wasted. I am sure that the Minister will pursue that matter. As I said earlier, advice is sometimes more important than funds; but they are necessary, too.

My electorate has also received great assistance by way of capital grants for sport. However, without being critical, I will suggest how the position might be improved.

The Minister said that one of the most important aspects of sport is that it alleviates tension and improves health. I agree with him. But another important aspect of sport—it is often overlooked today—is the fun and the good fellowship that it provides. That should never be lost sight of. When one reads the sporting section on the back pages of newspapers, one is led to believe that the only benefit to be derived from sport is the making of one's livelihood. I have no quarrel with those who are able to earn a living from sport. However, it should be remembered that sport enables people to enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr BOOTH: If honourable members opposite played sport occasionally, their livers would not be nearly as bad.

Warwick is fortunate in having three bowls clubs and, if not the best, one of the best golf courses west of the range. That variety of sporting activity is another reason for people to visit Warwick for the week-end. Elderly people can play bowls, and golfers of all ages are always welcome.

Grants to sporting organisations have been appreciated by the people in my electorate as well as by me. There are so many new clubhouses in my electorate that it would be difficult to enumerate them. Those involved in the clubs have had to raise a great deal of money. The assistance from the Government has been a big help and it has provided the spark for them to try harder.

I deal now with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mr Comben: Good.

Mr BOOTH: Yes, and it is something about which I may be critical.

Mr Comben interjected.

Mr BOOTH: I will pay some tributes, too.

I was delighted to hear the Minister say that support would be given for the construction of access roads to national parks. I have been saying that for years, but no-one ever listened to me. It appears as though the Minister has. Whoever he listened to, he is on the right track. If national parks are to be preserved, there should be access roads for people to get to them and enjoy them. National parks should not be destroyed, but there has to be accessibility. I commend the Minister for his move, although it may not benefit my area this year. I sincerely believe that the Scenic Rim has one of the greatest tourist potentials in south-east Queensland.

Mr FitzGerald: Hear, hear! It comes into the electorate of Lockyer.

Mr BOOTH: Yes. It touches on other electorates, too—Cunningham, for instance.

Mr McPhie: What about Toowoomba?

Mr BOOTH: Yes, Toowoomba is at one end of it. It is not my intention to prevent Toowoomba from sharing the benefits from tourism connected with the Scenic Rim. Mountain resorts overseas very often attract more people than seaside resorts. If there were better accessibility to the Scenic Rim, the number of people visiting it would increase significantly. Certainly, visitors must not be allowed to destroy it, and national parks officers are there to ensure that they do not.

Mr Comben interjected.

Mr BOOTH: No, they are stopping destruction.

The Minister said—

“\$600,000 will be provided for acquisition of land including extensions to existing national parks on the Scenic Rim, Kondalilla and Green Mountains areas.”

I am not opposed to acquiring additional land for the Scenic Rim, but I am dubious about whether it ought to have priority over the construction of access roads. As I am unsure, I will not be critical. However, I am delighted that the area is attracting the attention of the Minister's officers. I hope that access roads are built before too much money is spent elsewhere. If people are to be able to hike through the area—and that is the idea; there is to be a bicentennial park at the top of the Teviots—access should be provided in one of two places, either in the vicinity of Hell Hole in the Swanfels Valley or in the Emu Creek area. Road construction to both areas will be expensive and far beyond the financial capability of the council. I hope that the Government will be able to assist.

I commend the Minister for having all of the reports associated with his portfolio in our hands in time for today's debate.

Mr Underwood: Yesterday!

Mr BOOTH: Yes, and we have had time to study them.

I refer to the section of the 1983-84 annual report of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service on aviculture—

“There are approximately 3000 licensed aviculturalists and some 50 licensed dealers in birds throughout the State. During the year, representatives of the Queensland Council of Bird Societies and the Queensland Federation of Bird Dealers and Breeders sought various changes to the current policies and regulations which directly affect the activities of the hobbyist keepers of birds and bird dealers.

Regulations have been reviewed and amendments are to be recommended concerning procedures for intrastate movement of birds.”

In my opinion, there should be as little prosecution as possible of people who keep birds. Very few of them knock birds about. Very often the owners lose money. They have so many birds that they go broke feeding them. It is not in the best interests of the community to make criminals out of people who keep a few birds. I would certainly not approve of someone poisoning a large number of birds.

Mr Underwood: But it is legal.

Mr BOOTH: As the honourable member for Ipswich West points out, unfortunately to some extent it is legal if a large number of birds become a pest. However, it should not happen. The Government should be very careful about prosecuting people who have done very little harm.

It is not easy to devise ways of relaxing the restrictions and not being too harsh. I suggest that some permits should be allowed for the export of some birds.

Mr Comben interjected.

Mr BOOTH: I cannot see any reason why that should not be done.

Mr Comben: Oh! What about parrots?

Mr BOOTH: I put it to the honourable member for Windsor that no-one was surprised or disappointed about koalas being sent to Japan recently. They were transported under good conditions and, when they arrived, they were quiet animals.

Mr Prest: But they went over on a circus.

Mr BOOTH: That event may result in benefit to Queensland. Anyway, what is wrong with some parrots or some other species of birds being exported if special permits are obtained to export them. I cannot see anything wrong with that. In fact it may stop people from engaging in illegal activity, and it may also bring the price of the birds down. If the Government issues special permits for the export of these birds, the price would be reduced and it would be in the best interests of all concerned.

I now turn to the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. I do not think that the Minister will enjoy hearing what I have to say, because I intend to quote a letter that was published in "The Courier-Mail" today. However, the honourable member for Windsor might enjoy it.

The executives who carry out the work of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation are experts in their field, and would be of great assistance to the corporation. One thing that must be remembered is the importance of the young males or females who are in charge of business at the front counter. They are the people who answer the questions. I shall now quote the letter that appeared in today's "Courier-Mail"

Mr Comben: The letter did not state whether the people were young or old. In fact, they could have been old.

Mr BOOTH: Yes, they could have been old.

The letter is very interesting but, unfortunately, very upsetting for me. I intend to read it because it illustrates that there are some weaknesses in the system. My attention was drawn to the letter because it mentioned Warwick. I thought it was a letter from a person in my home town, but I discovered that it was from someone in Clem Court, Warwick, United Kingdom. It reads as follows—

"I have read, with interest, the reports in your newspaper of attempts to attract tourists from Europe to Queensland, and as a visitor would like to offer some constructive criticism.

If you really want to encourage tourists, forget about the bikini clad 'girls, girls, girls'.

Europeans can see plenty of them at home of better shape than those I saw on the beach at Caloundra recently."

Mr Borbidge: He should have gone to the Gold Coast.

Mr BOOTH: At least he made one point—they are all the same, wherever you go. The letter continues—

"Most Europeans have saved hard to pay their fares to visit Australia and are interested in the history and culture of its people.

On arrival in Brisbane last month I went to the Town Hall hoping to find an information bureau. After wandering round for some time I approached a gentleman in a small office and posed my question. He said there was no such office in Brisbane.

I then asked if he could direct me to the British Airways office, he had no idea where it was. He called another man who thought it was 'somewhere up there', pointing to Adelaide Street. I eventually found it.

As a lifelong resident of Warwick, UK, I would like to visit Warwick, Queensland, so I ventured into the Queensland Tourist Bureau and asked a young lady behind the counter if she could tell me how to get to Warwick. Her reply was 'where's that?'

I asked a second girl. She told me that the only public transport was a bus which left Brisbane at 4.30 p.m. en route to Sydney. Realising I would have to stay the night if I was to see anything of Warwick, I asked if she had any information about hotels there, to which her answer was a brief, but direct, 'no'.

I went on to the railway station and approached a gentleman reading a newspaper at a smart desk. I asked about trains and fares to Sydney. He said the only train left at 4.30 p.m. He obviously resented being disturbed and did not know what the fare was. I visited two travel agents. Neither knew anything about Warwick. One said they could book me an air ticket to Sydney; the other was only interested in package holidays.

Another place I would like to visit is Wolston House, so named after a village within 12km of Warwick, UK, and which I was told belongs to the National Trust:

The lady at the National Trust who answered my phone inquiry was very helpful, and was able to tell me opening times and days, but did not know the admission charge, and her version of the history of the house varied somewhat from that in *The Illustrated History of Brisbane* by Hector Holthouse.

So my advice is, if you really want to attract tourists from Europe, firstly, see that your public servants are better informed, and secondly, emphasise Queensland's natural attractions, such as its open country and parks in and around Brisbane as Britain is rapidly losing what is left of its own open spaces to building developers and motorways."

For the benefit of anyone who receives advice similar to that received by that gentleman, I point out that Warwick has so many hotels and motels that I do not have enough time to list them. A new motel is completed almost every year.

The Cherribah resort is one of the largest resorts in inland Queensland. I urge the Queensland Government Travel Centre to ensure that the young people who serve the public are properly trained. The gentleman who wrote the letter to which I referred may have been unfortunate, and I am prepared to believe that he was, but, nevertheless, the centre should ensure that it properly trains its staff who deal with the public.

The honourable member for Mulgrave mentioned the need for clear road signs, and I agree with his comments. Although local councils and the Main Roads Department usually do the right thing, all too often somebody comes along and shoots holes in road signs or pulls them down. But by and large the area that I represent is well sign-posted. I thank the Glengallan and Rosenthal Shire Councils for their work on road signs.

I now want to say a few words about sport and, in particular, voluntary workers. The Minister said that, without voluntary workers, sport could not continue, and I agree with that comment. Most voluntary workers enjoy the work they do and the Government should not try to stop them. Instead, it should do all that it can to provide them with the necessary advice and back-up.

Much has been said about financial assistance to sport. The Government could do a little more to support regional competitions, particularly for team sports. It is very expensive to send a team from Warwick to Cunnamulla or Roma. Roma is famous for its Rugby League competition, and a little financial support would help it enormously. The St George Cup Rugby League competition has been famous for about 30 years but there is a possibility, because several teams have pulled out, of its not being able to continue this year.

Time expired.

Mr VEIVERS (Ashgrove) (3.19 p.m.): I am delighted to have the opportunity to make a contribution to this debate on the Estimates for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts. I support the very well prepared and researched speech made today by my colleague the member for Ipswich West. Because many of the aspects of this portfolio were covered during the recent debate on the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation Act Amendment Bill, I will not repeat all the remarks that I made during that debate. Today I will concentrate on what is now a very large and important department under the Minister's control. I must compliment all honourable members on the quality of the debate and the interest they have shown in the issues that have been raised.

If members look round the Chamber, they will see that there are some noticeable absentees, and they are the Liberal Party members. I caught a glimpse of one Liberal member walking through the Chamber a minute ago. Honourable members will note that the Liberals have decided that this debate on an important part of Queensland's economy is not very important. One Liberal member has just walked into the Chamber. The lack of attendance by the Liberals indicates what the Liberal Party in Queensland thinks about the portfolio and the second largest industry in the State. The Minister told us—and I believe him—that tourism is now the second largest industry in Queensland and the State's largest employer. During the recent debate on the Tourist and Travel Corporation legislation, the Liberals had two bob each way. They did not know where they were going.

Mr Underwood interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: Yes, they were contradicting themselves. They did not know where they were going, so obviously they have decided not to take part in the debate this afternoon.

Honourable members should think well about the scope of the Minister's portfolio of Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts. If they do so they will realise that, in this day and age in Queensland, each section of his portfolio is very important, because each is concerned with issues affecting the quality of life. For young people particularly, those issues are becoming evermore important. The Minister has a large, complicated portfolio, and the National Party Government, in its own right, has not recognised its importance.

The Government should devote much more thought and effort to the combination of responsibilities shouldered by a Minister with this portfolio. This afternoon it is not my role to say what that combination should be, but the Government should look very closely at the responsibilities shouldered by the Minister, and their priorities compared with the general Government priorities.

This afternoon I will deal mainly with sport and recreation. I will not get into deep water and make predictions about matters of national importance, but I will say that I noted that the Minister virtually commended the Federal Government on its activity relative to sport and recreation. He levelled very little criticism at the initiatives of the Hawke Labor Government and particularly the Minister for Sport (John Brown) and other speakers have referred to their very good work. Quite frankly, no other Federal Government has given more assistance. No other Federal Government has had a Minister for Tourism and a Minister for Sport. The emphasis placed on these matters is well known to all Australians.

The Queensland Government should look closely at the Department of Sport and the Queensland Recreation Council which, at the moment, come under different portfolios. The Department of Sport is controlled by the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, and recreational and fitness matters are controlled by the Minister for Welfare Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs. Other States have all facets of sport and recreation under one umbrella. In my opinion that is very desirable.

The splitting up of sport and recreation into separate portfolios has an historical but mainly political basis. When the National/Liberal coalition Government was in power, both parties wanted an input into sport and recreation because of the political advantages to be gained from being associated with those activities. I am sure that every politician recognises that votes can be obtained by supporting sport and recreation. Over many years, the National and Liberal parties vied for control of the administration of sport and recreation. Consequently, the main emphasis that should have been placed on sport and recreation was split between two portfolios. It is time that all aspects of sport and recreation were put under the umbrella of one department. The Government must broaden its emphasis on sport and recreation.

All sporting and recreational organisations experience financial difficulties.

Mr Lee interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: I will inform the honourable member about what is necessary. Many sporting bodies and recreational organisations are in desperate financial straits.

An ever-increasing need exists to promote the importance of recreational pursuits because of the physical and psychological benefits that can be gained by individuals and by society. From the Minister's speech I noted that he is aware of the importance of sport and recreational activity. Too much emphasis can never be placed on the importance of such activity and the community needs to be told of the benefits that can be gained.

The role of a reorganised—if I can use that term—department of sport and recreation would include a number of things. I am not critical of the present Department of Sport, because, as I mentioned in my maiden speech in this place last year, I have been associated with officers of that department for some time and I know that the help, information and service that they provide throughout the State has always been good. I speak about what the role of the department as such should be; I do not level criticism at the officers of that department.

The departments that administer sport and recreation should be reorganised in a broad sense. Sport, recreational and leisure activities should be fostered, promoted and developed to provide necessary support in consultation with sporting, recreational and leisure bodies. Sporting bodies do not like a great deal of Government interference. That has always been the case, and I can understand why.

The role of a combined department of sport and recreation would be to provide the necessary support and encouragement to sporting bodies and to have consultation with them on development policies. Because of the very small number of staff available at present, the department's role cannot be played properly. I understand that economic matters must be considered, but efforts should be made to increase support for sporting and recreational bodies.

The new department would have to administer the allocation of budgeted funds on a fair and equitable basis and to administer the Queensland Recreational Council, which, at the moment, is being done on a reasonably fair and equitable basis. I will have some further comments to make later about the overall financial needs of sporting bodies and recreational organisations.

The role of the department should be to promote the need for all Queenslanders to participate in some form of sport, leisure or cultural activity, whether it is competitive or non-competitive, whether it is for individuals or teams and whether the sport or recreation is of a skilled or unskilled nature. Greater emphasis should be placed on the promotion of participation at any level, whether it be competitive or recreational.

A great deal of emphasis needs to be placed on educating the community that, irrespective of age, participation in some form of sport, recreation or, for that matter, leisure activity is essential not only for an individual's physical well-being but also for the mental health of the individual and society as a whole.

In the pursuit of those aims, co-operation between all levels of government—Federal, State and local government—is necessary. I think the Department of Sport recognises that. The department also needs to liaise with other Government departments, particularly the Education Department. I know that over recent years efforts have been made in that direction, but they leave much to be desired. To assist in the implementation of all policies in relation to sport and recreation, the education system and the Education Department itself should be very heavily involved. Because education revolves around young people, policies are needed to develop the young people of society for their future well-being. The department needs to assist sporting organisations in their own right to train and develop coaches under the existing national coaching accreditation scheme. I am delighted to see that that is presently under review. A number of sports have levelled criticism at the implementation of that scheme. Queensland probably had greater difficulties in conducting the accreditation scheme than most of the other States.

Queensland has a desperate need for research assistance to sport and for setting up a co-ordinated system of helping sports in respect to the supply of resource material. The departments of sport and recreation in the other States have research facilities. For example, I know that Western Australia has an excellent research department that assists sports. It does not tell the sports what to do and what not to do, but it gets involved and provides the kind of back-up activity that is very necessary right across the broad spectrum of sport. Every Queensland sport is desperately short of that sort of assistance.

Mr De Lacy: What are we going to do about the West Indies cricket team?

Mr VEIVERS: I mentioned earlier that I wasn't going to pick my team.

Mr Palaszcuk interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: If I could get some leave from this place, I would be fit enough for a day; but five days would worry me.

The annual report of the Department of Sport, which was distributed yesterday, mentions the financial assistance that has been provided. In the years following 1972-73, when the present scheme was introduced, significant increases occurred. Generally, recognition is given to the fact that the scheme has provided a good measure of assistance to sporting organisations throughout the State. The Labor Party recognises that and has never been over-critical of the type and the method of assistance. However, the Labor Party is now very critical of the level of financial assistance. In 1972-73, the amount provided was \$117,000 and in 1983-84 it was \$3,835,000. I admit that over the years that is a great deal of money, but, because of inflation and other factors, it is a very small amount, especially in comparison with what is spent in some areas. Honourable members will recall my comments about the amount of money that the Government is spending on racing. The Opposition does not knock that. Good facilities need to be provided for the followers of that industry; but there is no degree of fairness between the relative amounts that are expended.

Many sports have been highly critical of the Government cut-backs in two of the vital eight measures of assistance given to sport—that is, the coaching of juniors and the provision of facilities.

Until three years ago, the level of subsidy for the coaching of juniors was 50 per cent. Since then that subsidy has been reduced to 25 per cent. The cut-back in the subsidy for the provision of facilities has been reduced from 33½ per cent to 20 per cent. In view of what has happened and the degree of assistance that has been given to the racing industry, that is shameful.

Honourable members will recall that reference has been frequently made to the erection of a sports house in Queensland, including a hall of fame. Honourable members would know that it is Labor policy to implement that scheme. Frequent reference has been made to it by the Government. It was referred to in the Government's policy speeches in the 1980 and 1983 election campaigns. Of course, nothing has eventuated. The need to provide such a facility for the benefit of all sports in Queensland is great. A sports house would help the poorer sports that find it difficult to provide the administrative back-up that is needed. It would provide a central point from which sports could operate. It would also provide a central location for all sports throughout the State.

Many people are confused about the exact nature of a sports institute. Many people think that it is merely a building. That is not so. A sports institute is a combination of facilities and expertise. I again compliment the Federal Government for its co-operation with the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government. The Australian Institute of Sport has been extended in Queensland to include diving and squash facilities in the sporting centres in Brisbane. That is an excellent idea. Queensland has waited for a long time for those initiatives to be implemented. The facilities for those sports are available in this State. The Queensland Government has not shown enough initiative to ensure

that those excellent facilities are utilised correctly. An institute of sport would enable the development of the best coaching personnel in this State and provide back-up coaching, facilities, research and sports medicine. The Australian Institute of Sport is not located in a particular building. Sporting activities can take place in various facilities in Brisbane or in other places throughout Queensland. Queensland has a desperate need for those services in all areas. The elite sportsperson is not the only person who should be catered for. One of the dangers in society is to allocate too much money to the top level. Too much money is spent on providing facilities for the elite sportsperson so that he has the best opportunity. Honourable members should always be conscious of the need to encourage young people to play sport. The recreational role, participation and enjoyment should not be forgotten.

Time expired.

Mr LINGARD (Fassifern) (3.37 p.m.): Like the honourable member for Ashgrove, I wish to comment on the extent of the portfolio that honourable members are discussing today. It is very extensive and, as has been mentioned, it relates to cultural organisations, encouragement and assistance to sport, environmental parks, the Films Board of Review, the Literature Board of Review, parks, wildlife, flora and fauna, the Queensland Art Gallery, the Queensland Museum, the Queensland Theatre Company and the State Library. In all, there are 20 areas of ministerial responsibility.

Today I would like to refer to encouragement and assistance to sport. At present, I am chairman of a very active committee of sport which has made many representations to the Minister. Before discussing it, I believe that all honourable members should realise exactly what happens with the Department of Sport and the Government's role in it. Not enough credit is given to the State Government which, in 1972, developed the Ministry of Sport and also created the position of a Director of Sport. It saw three immediate areas of sport—the Commonwealth area, the State area, and the local area, and they were clearly defined. They should complement one another. The Commonwealth should handle everything on the national level. However, the local councils should do as much as possible to develop sporting facilities.

There are these distinct State levels—the school curriculum, recreation and the department, which has the responsibility for the encouragement of sport. I do not think that many people realise the fantastic developments that are taking place in the sporting aspects of the school curriculum.

Until recently, each sport within the school curriculum was handled by a group of people who called themselves an association. As an instance, the Squash Rackets Association of Queensland ran squash in the State. When it was looking for a State team, it sent notices to schools requesting that students desirous of being in the State team congregate at a certain point. If it turned out that Cairns did not nominate anyone for the State team, the association would not really worry. If Townsville was weak in squash-playing the association would not really worry about that either, because it still ended up with a State team.

The development of sport has now been taken over by each of the regional areas. With the addition of Cairns, Queensland now has 10 regional areas. Each of them has a regional sports officer, who is responsible for developing each of the 16 or 17 sports in the sports program of the school curriculum. So each of those regions would run its own zone sports and select its own regional teams, which would then compete on an intrastate basis. A State team would be selected and finally an Australian team would be selected. More and more students are being given the opportunity to develop their sport in a region, at a State level and now an Australian level. More and more students are becoming Australian under-17 representatives for Rugby Union, Rugby League and other sports. What is happening in the school curriculum will be looked back on with pride. The GPS competition and The Associated Schools (TAS) competition are of a magnificent standard and are second to none in Australia and the world.

The member for Ashgrove commented on recreation. Perhaps there are reasons why recreation and sport should be under the same Minister. However, the Department of Welfare looks after the interests of recreation for those in country areas and it has done an excellent job.

I turn now to the encouragement of sport. The department recognises 79 sports. As can be seen from the Minister's report, \$4.7m has been allocated to them. It is a weakness of the present program that clubs have to apply for funds. People who have the academic ability to prepare reports and applications for money get the money. Unfortunately, the sports of people who do not know how to apply will not be developed. That happens not only at the State level but also at the Commonwealth level. Schools, because of the school-based curriculums, have to apply for the money that is available. Of course, when they complain that they do not have any money, people say, "All you have to do is apply for that particular amount of money and you might be able to get it." The Government has to be very careful in making grants and very careful that the sports that are not active are developed.

I refer to the eight areas of sport to which money is allocated. In 1972, \$8,600 was allocated to junior coaching. In 1984-85, the figure is \$1,050,000. Subsidy approval follows the applications which come from these particular groups. The subsidy may be paid direct to clubs or the State governing body. Payments thus flow to all areas of the State.

I turn now to capital facilities. In 1972, the amount provided was \$58,000. In 1984-85, \$1,350,000 has been set aside. The guide-lines require that the project must be for the playing of sport. I agree with that. If it is for the development of a golf club, the project must be for everything that is relevant to the playing of golf. Bar facilities, for instance, do not attract subsidy. As the honourable member for Ashgrove said, it is unfortunate that the subsidy is not more generous, but the Government must live within its means. If it is to spread the money more widely as it receives greater numbers of applications, the rate of subsidy must be decreased. The programs ought to be viable. Sporting bodies cannot expect to continue receiving 50 per cent. They must be told, "We will get you off the ground, but the program must be viable." That is what must be encouraged.

The third facet is State team travel. Grants are made to State sporting bodies to assist to send properly selected State teams out of Queensland. The amount provided in 1972 was \$37,000. This year it is \$500,000. The grant is made to the recognised State governing body.

Grants are made also to assist State sporting bodies to stage national and international events in Queensland. In 1972, \$13,000 was allocated for that purpose. This year the amount is \$72,000. The policy is that a national event must have a minimum of four States and Territories competing. For an international event, there must be no fewer than three countries competing against the Australian team. It is a broad policy, and exceptions have been made.

The fifth facet is State administration costs, which attracts a subsidy of \$1 for every \$2. Administrative costs are defined as staff salaries, printing, stationery, audit fees and vehicle allowances. The administrator can be either full-time or part-time. In 1972, \$69,000 was allowed for that. This year, 1984-85, \$550,000 has been provided.

A subsidy assistance is granted to State bodies to assist with the employment of State directors of coaching. The department sees the duties of appointees covering four broad areas: encouragement of participation in sport; development of coaching programs; promotion of the sport to the general public and schools; and implementation of any development plan for the sport. That is an excellent program. In 1977, only \$11,000 was provided for that. This year, \$525,000 has been allocated.

Subsidies are provided for State-run seminars for officials such as referees, umpires, administrators and coaches. In 1977, only \$6,000 was set side. The amount for 1984-85 is \$100,000.

Finally, there is the program for gifted sportmen. I appreciate the comments of the member for Ashgrove about that. The department has been responsible for some excellent programs. \$250,000 was provided to allow special attention to be given to 10 sports for the Olympic Games. Excellent results were achieved. The Target '84 program assisted Queensland swimmers to gain 16 out of the 31 places in the Olympic team. A concentrated development project in Rugby Union resulted in Queenslanders filling 12 places in the Australian under-21 team that toured New Zealand. Three of those men are on the present Wallaby tour. In canoeing, the department has worked very well. This State's representatives filled six of the 12 places in the Australian team for the world titles. Three Queenslanders reached the finals. A Queensland squash player became the first junior to be ranked in the top eight in Australia and in the top 16 in the world.

Mr Borbidge: We must be doing something right.

Mr LINGARD: The results are excellent. There are others to follow. For the first time ever, two Queensland rowers gained places in the Australian eight. The Queensland women's hockey team has won seven of the last eight Australian championships. Queensland had two water polo representatives in the Olympic team. Anyone who has been following the golf recently knows how well Queensland's junior golfers have been progressing. The program for gifted sportmen in that field has been excellent.

I commend the Minister on the introduction of a supplementary measure this financial year—the inland sports talent scheme, or the regional talent scheme. It will operate through 22 area committees of recreation, each of which will identify programs and submit proposals to the department.

I am very happy—and my committee is very happy, too—with the way in which the Gifted Child Program has operated in Queensland. The department is encouraging each of the 79 affiliated sports to run its own Gifted Child Program. Care must be taken to ensure that the program continues to run within affiliated sports areas, because the Government does not wish to take different people away from sport and develop their sporting skills in what might be referred to as an institute.

I am not criticising the Australian Institute of Sport. I believe that the Australian Institute of Sport must be supplemented in its activities, because many problems are encountered in running an Australian institute. Many Queensland swimmers have realised that when they have trained there. Steps must be taken to ensure that the Gifted Child Program is confined to affiliated sports.

Representations have been made to the Minister by members of my committee for what might be termed either a sports house or a sports development centre. Members of the committee are concerned that not all of the 79 sports to which I have referred include the development of gifted child programs. There might be only a dozen such programs. There should be a group of people or a board that can make sure that the whole 79 sports areas develop meaningful programs. If a sports house, or a sports development centre, was established, the board or group of people could set up a centre that would provide a means of disseminating sports information. Information about sports techniques could be acquired and evaluated and then disseminated in the areas of sports science and sports medicine. The centre might also be able to conduct seminars for coaches and administrators as a means of upgrading the standard of work carried out at the basic level of sport throughout Queensland.

In addition, such a centre might be able to develop programs of talent identification culminating in localised development programs and the establishment of live-in sports clinics for young sportsmen and sportswomen who demonstrate a potential for developing their sports skills to a national and international level. The centre could assist all State teams by providing them with an opportunity to take part in training camps prior to the staging of national competitions.

A program might also be designed to assist the efforts of high-performance sportspersons who may need encouragement and assistance to reach high levels in their particular

sport after they leave school. I am pleased to inform honourable members that the Minister received the committee's deputation with interest and has promised to do whatever he can to try to develop such a program in the allocation of funds for the next Budget. I believe that the proposals I have mentioned are extremely important.

I wish to refer also to the role of organisations called COHAT or COTAH in the new seven-storey building in Merivale Street, South Brisbane. COTAH stands for College of Tourism and Hospitality. COHAT was changed for obvious reasons. The establishment of COTAH was achieved at a cost of \$12m, and the college will be opened by the Premier and Treasurer on Friday week, 23 November 1984.

It is a college set up to instruct students in courses relating to the hospitality and tourism industries. It is fantastic that the college offers courses such as the Hospitality and Catering Certificate Course. That course is designed to assist students who aspire to work in the operational areas of the hotel and catering industry in a supervising or junior management capacity. The courses provide students with skills that are necessary to operate efficiently in the performance of those duties in the industry. Students can develop supervisory skills and techniques that will enhance their career-path opportunities in supervisory positions.

Students can acquire skills in cookery, food and liquor service, and in the front office and house-keeping areas of the hotel and catering industry. They can also develop a sound working knowledge of accounting, communication, legal aspects and organisational techniques.

I recently had the pleasure of inspecting the COTAH establishment, and the developments that have taken place there are amazing in areas such as cookery training and hands-on computer training, which is available to all of the students. By referring to the brochure, I point out some of the other courses that are being offered to students: Restaurant Practices Course; Hotel and Catering Practices Course; Hospitality and Catering Certificate Course; Wine Service Training; Bar Attendants Course; Room Attendants Course, for which a complete motel room has been set up in the training venue; Cocktail Bartenders Course; Hotel and Motel Reception Course; Advanced Food Service Course; and Fellowship Certificates in Hospitality or Tourism Management. There are also courses in catering and travel agency courses. Students are instructed in the workings of a travel agency and the operation of computers, as well as techniques to be applied to dealing with members of the public and inquiries.

There are six special courses for which students can enrol at COTAH. It is a TAFE college and is being funded by both the Commonwealth and the State Governments.

Firstly, there are prevocational courses that provide full-time programs of 36 to 42 weeks' duration. They develop a range of skills and expertise in vocational areas. Secondly, there are full-time pre-employment programs of varying duration that prepare students to gain employment in many areas. Thirdly, there are service and miscellaneous courses that cover a wide variety of occupations and enable people to upgrade their skills. Fourthly, there are trade (apprenticeship) courses—for instance, trainee chefs attend for seven weeks—and advanced trade (post-apprenticeship) courses that develop and extend specialised skills in chosen fields for people with experience in the workforce. Fifthly, technical and paraprofessional courses are offered full-time and/or part-time. They are available for part-time evening study so that a person may improve his education while employed in a full-time occupation. Sixthly, there are extension program and enrichment courses that are recreational in nature and are established to meet community needs.

It is a magnificent concept and will certainly assist our tourist industry, which, as everyone accepts, needs a little bit of an uplift in certain areas because people have now become used to Queensland being a great tourist State. The Government is quite obviously responding to the increased demands from the tourist industry. I congratulate the department on its efforts.

Mr CASEY (Mackay) (3.57 p.m.): So far, the debate on the Estimates of this portfolio has been a very wide-ranging one. And so it should be, because it covers so many aspects of the everyday life of all Queenslanders. Consequently, it has been very interesting to hear some of the points made by different members. I generally agreed with the thrust of the remarks made about the growth of the tourist industry in Queensland, the great potential for future growth, the needs of the tourist industry and what a great boon it has been to Queensland's economy.

However, I believe that there is one area in which this State is clearly being left behind by the rest of Australia and by world trends. The blame for that must be laid directly at the feet of this Government and its policies. In deference to the Minister, I must say that his department is not at fault, but, at the same time, his department has been one of the worst affected by what has happened and it should really have put pressure on the Government in order to get things moving. I am referring, of course, to train travel.

My greatest criticism of the Government is that in recent years it has concentrated on acquiring the best available rolling-stock and locomotives in the world. It has acquired extremely modern rolling-stock for the electric train services in the south-east corner.

Mr McKechnie interjected.

Mr CASEY: The under secretary did not give me a brief.

Mr McKechnie: At least we've got something in common.

Mr CASEY: That is true. I congratulate the under secretary on his appointment and on the keen interest he takes in train travel throughout the State. I know that he will take on board the points that I make here today. I hope that he and the Minister will really make a positive effort to get the Government moving in the right direction so far as train travel is concerned.

As I said, unquestionably there has been a concentration on coal and grain haulage. Queensland has the most modern rolling-stock to be found anywhere in Australia, yet its basic passenger trains are now more than 30 years old. Members might be surprised to learn that the Sunlander came into service 30 years ago. I am sure that the Minister would not drive round in a 30-year-old car and Government members would not travel in a 30-year-old bus, yet the Government expects the great majority of rail passengers to travel on a 30-year-old train. In fact, the position is even worse than that, because at holiday and other peak times there are insufficient carriages to accommodate all the families wanting to travel by train. The Government proclaims this as the Year of the Family, but when families want to travel at peak times additional trains have to be put on. Out come the second division trains, and even, on occasions, the old third division trains. The Railway Department drags out the old wooden carriages with their sprung leather seats. Members know that they are more than 50 years old. Some of the older carriages date back even further than the "Sunshine Express" days of the 1920s. Train buffs enjoy travelling in the older carriages, but most travellers do not. Travellers usually expect comforts similar to those that they see on TV depicting other parts of Australia and the world.

Trains, second only to cars, are the biggest movers of tourists and travellers in Queensland. That is a world-wide trend for tourists travelling from one place to another.

A resurgence in train travel is taking place through the world. People are taking a greater interest in train travel than they have since aeroplanes came into their own, thanks to the rapid movement of people during the Second World War. All the old train buffs are really delighted with the resurgence in train travel, but passengers and tourists want comfort when they are on the move. The daylight rail tours have been very successful. Obviously the passengers want to look at the scenery. Rail travel provides an excellent opportunity for people to sit back, relax and watch the scenery.

Train passengers are no different from airline passengers, bus passengers or any other passengers. Passengers on popular Pacific cruises are waited on hand and foot by cabin staff and crew. Airline passengers are looked after by the cabin crew—the people “up front”, as I call them. I am afraid to say that the Queensland Railways do not really give passengers the service that they deserve.

Each coach car on trains such as the Indian Pacific has a steward to look after the wants and needs of the passengers. In Queensland, a couple of conductors look after all the carriages on the train. Without dobbing anyone in, I am sorry to say that many of our conductors are not properly trained to carry out the work they do. They are more than ticket-punchers. They are there to look after the wants and requirements of the passengers. To start with, their number is insufficient, as is the service they provide. On the Australian National Railways, the service provided in dining and lounge cars is excellent. That is not so in Queensland.

Without being critical of individuals, I must be critical of the lack of training and supervision given to people who work on our trains. Recently, I received complaints about drunkenness among conductors on our trains. Employees drink on the job in all industries; but surely a check system can be provided by the Railway Department to control that. I have also received complaints about people who are supposed to be providing service on a train insulting women passengers. The Government cannot tolerate that. If that happens, the Government cannot expect to encourage people to travel by train.

When the Sunlander or the Capricornian leaves Roma Street, the club car is often not unlocked until the train is 20 to 30 minutes out of Roma Street. If people are to be encouraged to travel by train, the Government must allow them to use facilities that are freely available on passenger boats and aircraft. For instance, as soon as the “No smoking” sign is turned off in an aircraft, the passengers can have a drink served. Why is it that something similar cannot be done as soon as a train leaves Roma Street Station?

The number of hot meals available on trains is inadequate. If a person was sitting in seat No. 7 towards the front of an aircraft, and only the first six passengers received a hot meal because the plane carried only six hot meals, that person would not fly with that airline again. He would not accept that it was just his bad luck. If a person pays for a meal, he is entitled to that meal.

If enough meals to feed all the passengers can be crammed into a plane and heated in microwave ovens, surely the same thing can be done in the big dining cars on trains. However, a woman complained to me that not enough meals were provided on the Capricornian heading south out of Rockhampton. She was told that only six meals were on board and that they had all been sold. She told me that when she made her inquiry, there was not a long queue in the dining car. I do not know who received the six meals.

The provision of food has been made fairly simple. Queensland's hospitals use frozen meals that are prepared elsewhere. All that is needed are refrigerators and microwave ovens. They would not take up a great deal of room on a train, which has more space than an aircraft. The airlines fit them in without any problem.

Conductors and porters do not help elderly ladies with their ports on and off the trains any more. They do not lug the suitcases down the carriage and onto the platform for them. What has happened to the red cap porters? The airlines provide a service. Perhaps because of the Premier's aversion to anything red, red cap porters have been done away with. They used to help people getting out of trains onto platforms, and used to wheel the passengers' bags off the platform or onto the train. Honourable members should have a look at their own railway stations. Pensioners and elderly people now struggle with their ports after a holiday or a visit to friends. The red cap porters could still assist people on platforms.

I am speaking about the level of comfort provided on Queensland trains. For example, the most restricted liquor trading hours in Queensland apply to train services. Club cars and dining cars were introduced to allow passengers to have a drink with a meal or while they are travelling in comfort watching Queensland's wonderful scenery. It is a marvellous experience to be able to sit back after lunch on a train and look out at the wonderful scenery such as the magnificent seascape at Clairview. However, passengers cannot sit back and have a drink in comfort watching the scenery and enjoying the conviviality of friends. It is even worse at night. The Indian Pacific has a piano bar in which passengers can enjoy the company of fellow-travellers. That is very enjoyable. That kind of thing cannot be done in a car or on a bus rattling over the State's bad roads. However, the opportunity is open to provide such a service on Queensland's trains.

Mr Innes: Are you suggesting that the guard have an unlimited licence?

Mr CASEY: That may be so.

The type of service that tourists want, require, expect and receive on trains in other parts of Australia and throughout the world should be provided on Queensland trains.

Mr Shaw: Do you think it would be a good idea if we had non-smoking carriages?

Mr CASEY: I do not know, because the air-conditioning on trains gets rid of much of the smoke.

If passengers want to relax as they would usually do in their leisure-time, they should be able to. The facilities should be provided.

Service on Queensland trains leaves much to be desired in other respects. For example, a morning cup of tea is given on a random basis. Some people who order a cup of tea do not get one and sometimes other passengers who have not ordered a cup of tea are wakened in the morning and given one. I have received a complaint to that effect.

It is not easy to get a drink of cold water from the fountains at the end of the carriages. Something is radically wrong with supervision in this regard.

I wish to show to the Committee something that I have wrapped up in a Queensland Railways napkin. These cups came straight out of a holder on a carriage of the Sunlander. I ask honourable members to have a look at them. Which honourable member would like to have a drink of water out of one of them? They are absolutely filthy! That is how they were presented on the train. The person who brought them to me took one, saw it was so dirty, and kept on going. I do not know how long all of these cups were on the carriage, but certainly not too many people would want to drink water out of them. How can tourists be expected to enjoy travelling on trains in this State when cups like that are provided? If the cups are dirty, imagine what the toilets are like!

That is an example of the standard of service given to tourists in Queensland. It is just not good enough, and I think that the Minister would agree with me. No honourable member would take people into his home and give them a drink of water out of a dirty cup. However, that is what travellers on the Sunlander are expected to drink out of.

Successful tourism means service. Unless that service is provided, the State's tourist industry will not be successful. Proper supervision and proper training are needed for those engaged in the tourist industry. It is not simply a matter of providing great new training establishments, such as were mentioned by the member for Fassifern; it is the simple things, like a properly trained cleaning staff to keep trains in a good state of cleanliness.

The staff of the refreshment rooms in Queensland are as good as any that I have struck in the catering game. I must be honest, however, and admit that the best opportunities that that staff have to display their talents of service are at functions run

by the Minister for Transport or the Commissioner for Railways. At those functions they have provided to guests a catering service as good as that in any hotel in Queensland. Unfortunately, the guests that the State invites onto its trains do not get the same service. The Government must consider upgrading the service provided on trains so that it is equal to that provided at ministerial functions. Queensland has only 12 refreshment rooms left, and they are operated by a mobile staff. According to the annual report of the Railway Department, the annual revenue of refreshment rooms is \$3.5m. That is a big turnover for any catering team. With that type of turnover, the Government should ensure that an adequate service is provided to train-travellers. The cabin staff in an aeroplane are the staff up front, and the railways should be no different.

I could speak on many other aspects of the tourist industry, but I know that some of my colleagues have particular reasons for wishing to speak in the debate so I will cut my time short. I ask the Minister and his department to take my comments on board so that somebody somewhere in the State is really fighting for train-travellers and trying to bring Queensland into the 1980s and matching the standards set in other countries in which train travel is amongst the best available. If a proper service is given to people who want to travel on trains, they will come back in droves to the Queensland Railways and provide income for the Government.

Mr SIMPSON (Cooroora) (4.14 p.m.): I have pleasure in supporting the Minister's Estimates. What a varied, interesting and complementary portfolio it is. All the individual parts of it have a direct relationship with tourism—National Parks, Sport and The Arts.

Queensland is the trend-setter in tourism in Australia. If it wishes to maintain its edge in innovation, the tourist industry should adopt, in the State's primary and secondary schools, positive educational programs in courtesy, politeness and helpfulness. Students must be taught that a smile can be very much the basis of a successful tourist industry and can encourage satisfied tourists to return.

That will be more essential for them in the future than the set courses with which honourable members would be familiar. If the tourism industry is to be successful, attention should be given to other matters. The tourist should be satisfied so that he returns home and promotes the area that he visited.

A number of boards have been established. Some become a little parochially zealous in the promotion of their own particular area and forget that they should be part of a co-operative team effort that complements the work that has been done by the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. Queensland has set an example for the other States, which recognises that jobs are created in the tourist industry.

Far more co-operation is needed in other areas if Queensland is to produce a satisfied tourist as an end product. Most tourists coming to Queensland travel by road and they continually complain about the lack of adequate road signs.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr SIMPSON: The member for Brisbane Central would realise that, when people come to Brisbane, they find that there are inadequate road signs directing them to the Sunshine Coast. People continually become lost. That is partly because there is no connection between the South East Freeway and the freeway at Bald Hills.

Mr Davis: That will change very shortly.

Mr SIMPSON: I look forward to receiving the honourable member's support.

The Commissioner of Main Roads thinks that a person will go through Fortitude Valley, to the Gateway Bridge and then go north. For the tourist, that is just not on.

Complaints have been made about the standard of Queensland roads when they are carrying very heavy traffic. A two-lane highway can be satisfactory if due care is taken. When caravans and slow-moving motor vehicles use the roads, other drivers become

impatient. They take risks, and that results in many deaths on the roads. The Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing is doing a great job to overcome that problem by providing four lanes and a new alignment for the highway through the forestry area from Beerburrum Creek to the Caloundra turn-off. That will alleviate the problem. If Queensland is to cater for the international tourist, road signs need to be provided in other languages. International signs should be utilised more frequently.

Earlier this year I conducted a study tour overseas. I examined the use of reflectors to keep animals off the roads. I hope that the Minister will examine the studies that have been undertaken in Europe to save not only the fauna——

Mr Davis: In what countries were they undertaken?

Mr SIMPSON: Holland and Austria.

Mr Shaw: How does one get onto the study tours?

Mr SIMPSON: The honourable member would have to pay for them himself, as I did. It is surprising how many people believe that members of Parliament go on junkets at the expense of the tax-payer. I am pleased to inform them that that is not so. The study tour to which I referred was paid for by me.

Red reflectors that reflect the headlights of motor vehicles will keep away from roads in national parks and in country areas animals such as kangaroos, horses and cattle.

International signs are needed to enable tourists to get to their destination without any trouble. A new look also needs to be taken at the facilities for liquor and other beverages that are provided for tourists who arrive in this State at all hours of the night. They should be catered for more adequately.

When reference is made to international tourist resorts, people turn off. To them, the term is obnoxious; it has the connotation that the resorts are only for the idle rich and not for Australians. The term used to apply only to international tourist resorts overseas. Perhaps the use of another term would do away with the hang-ups about international tourist resorts.

The establishment of international tourist resorts in this State should be encouraged, and I am not referring to their establishment just by the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. In fact, I think that it would be the first body to encourage private enterprise to establish such resorts.

Mr Davis: The Minister wants to abolish penalty rates and replace them with tips.

Mr SIMPSON: The Minister does not favour tipping, and I agree with him. Pay rates in the tourist industry must be based on work performed for 40 hours a week on 7 days a week, not on work performed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Mr Borbidge: Even the Federal Labor Minister has acknowledged that fact now.

Mr SIMPSON: That is very interesting. It means that the Socialist Labor Party is divided on this issue. We know what koalas do to some members of the Labor Party, but they are slowly being educated. In 1927, the Labor Party in Queensland wanted to wipe out koalas. Slowly but surely, the members of the Labor Party, through Mr Brown, are being educated. They are starting to accept the fact that koalas are better than kangaroos at promoting Australia internationally.

Mr Shaw interjected.

Mr SIMPSON: Even though the socialists in the Labor Party campaign under the Australian flag, they want to do away with it. We do not want to change the flag because we are proud of it.

Mr Kruger: You remind me of a wombat.

Mr SIMPSON: I will have to take that interjection. When I look across the Chamber at the honourable member, I cannot help but feel that he is a friendly wombat and that he might be able to be used to promote something. I am sure that he could come out of his burrow and do something more positive to promote tourism in this State.

What are needed in this State are complete tourist centres that provide facilities for every type of sport. People would not have to move outside such a centre to get a complete holiday. It should not be situated in cities, because a large area is needed for an 18- or 27-hole golf course, tennis courts and swimming and sailing facilities. I am thinking of an area of 100 acres, that should be well-serviced to enable tourists to get there. That restricts the number of sites available for such centres, but there are people in my electorate who are interested in that sort of a venture. That is the way in which tourism will go in Australia. Such centres should be of an international standard and should not be available only for international tourists; they should also be available for Australian tourists, and that is very important.

The international airport in Brisbane is a disgrace. I am worried that the new airport will not be completed in time for the great event that will happen very shortly, that is, the holding of Expo 88 in Brisbane. Everything possible must be done to encourage co-operation from the Federal Government to have it finished by then.

Mr Kruger: Why don't you co-operate with them?

Mr SIMPSON: The wombat has come out of his hole again.

Mr Borbidge: He is saying that the reason the airport will not be finished is that we will not co-operate with the Federal Government. It is political persecution.

Mr SIMPSON: The Federal Government uses politics to deny the young people in this State a job.

Mr Kruger: Your Government has been in power for years.

Mr SIMPSON: The runs are on the board for the State, particularly in tourism and national parks. Queensland's national parks are the envy of every other State in Australia. On the other hand, I remind honourable members of the rabble who claim to be defending Queensland's natural resources.

The Federal Government ought to be positive. It emphasises its CEP scheme, but it should be investing money overseas in the promotion of tourism. There ought to be a co-ordinated approach, with package tours arranged. Literature ought to be widely distributed. Paul Hogan's advertisements in the United States were a great success, but they were not as effective as they could have been because the brochures were not available when they were first screened. That is regrettable. There ought to be positive encouragement by the Federal Government through lower airline costs, landing fees, navigation fees and so on.

Mr Borbidge: They are the highest in the world.

Mr SIMPSON: Yes. What is the Federal Government doing? Members opposite ought to hang their heads in shame. There is no initiative.

Mr Palaszczuk: Did you hear Mr McKechnie's speech?

Mr SIMPSON: I did.

Mr Palaszczuk: You are contradicting what he said.

Mr SIMPSON: I am not. The member for Archerfield had better read his speech. Honourable members opposite should co-operate by talking to their Federal Labor

colleagues. After 1 December, it will not matter, because the people will have got rid of Labor and there will be positive ideas in Canberra to complement this State's initiatives.

Mr Kruger interjected.

Mr SIMPSON: Tourism is the biggest business in the world. Queensland is not getting its share of the international tourist trade. All honourable members must promote Australia positively, but perhaps a little differently from the way in which some of us imagined. When I went overseas, I thought of promoting the State's wonderful beaches and its beautiful girls. "That is the way to promote tourism in Australia", I thought. Frankly, it is not. With the exception of the Japanese honeymoon trade, most tourists coming to Australia are affluent. Europeans and North Americans do not come to Australia for the beaches. There are any number of beaches closer to them than those in Australia, so the beaches are not a positive attraction for them. It is necessary to promote Queensland's Barrier Reef and Australia's unique fauna, concentrating on the koala. It is cheaper for tourists to travel to Queensland than to elsewhere in Australia. Queenslanders are friendly people; this is the warm Sunshine State. They are the attractions that are turning overseas people on.

I interviewed people from the first direct Qantas flight to north Queensland and sought their reaction to being in Australia. The majority were turned on by Australia. There were a few criticisms of the Barrier Reef. There is not sufficient time to enjoy the Barrier Reef in favourable weather at the right tide times, when the water is clear. Those tourists said that what attracted them to Australia was not the beaches, which are continually publicised overseas, but the open spaces, the Barrier Reef and the unique fauna. It is a bit like preferential voting. If one does not win the first vote, one has to try to win the second.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr SIMPSON: Opposition members may laugh because they do not know what international tourism is about. It is cheaper to visit a country that is closer, and that is where they will go. Then, when people have savoured the delights of travel, it is probable that they can be encouraged to look for new horizons. The Government ought to promote the tourist attractions of this State in a positive way.

The tourist industry in Queensland has links with overseas operators who run successful tourist ventures in other countries of the world. I point out to honourable members that the international tourist trade is worth over \$9,000m. Therefore, Queensland's resources will have to be presented in a positive way.

I have dwelt so long on tourism that I can now spend only a short time discussing sport. Queensland's record of sporting achievements has already been mentioned by other Government members. I point out to all honourable members that, in sport, the Queensland Government is an innovator and the runs are already on the board. The performance of Queenslanders in the Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games provides proof of that. Encouragement of local and regional talent is a positive move towards encouraging the decentralisation of sport.

When attention is turned to performance levels in particular areas, it is amazing how one area can shine in sport. General interest and specific support from parents and interested groups are partly responsible for that, and those members of the community ought to be congratulated and encouraged.

I point out to honourable members that the BMX world champion, Tyrone Benson, is an ambassador for tourism. He won the world championship in Europe, but he lives in Nambour. When accompanied by his parents, he travelled to Europe, and he promoted the tourist attractions of Nambour. I should add that without the positive financial encouragement of this Government, he would not have been able to take part in the world championship.

Mr Prest interjected.

Mr SIMPSON: In common with Government members, the honourable member for Port Curtis can be proud of that program.

I now refer to the Australian Indoor Bowls Junior Champion, Joanne Williams from Cooroy. The performance of the team from Cooroy in indoor bowls is incredible. Some of the metropolitan members of this Assembly would be aware of the competition that was held recently in conjunction with the Warana Festival, and it was the team from Cooroy that won most of the prizes—little old Cooroy! That was an incredible performance.

Another honourable member mentioned research, which I am sure is of interest to the Minister. A badminton team from Cooroy took part in badminton competitions as part of the Warana Festival, and that team also won most of the prizes. On an area basis, how does that come about? It is a phenomenon which, on a per capita basis, does not make sense. Obviously, there is an ingredient that should be capitalised on. I ask the Minister to research it and follow it up. A decentralised approach to sport should be continued, and that is one positive move which can be made by the Government of Queensland.

I promote the projects of arts and historical societies. I appreciate the work of the societies that are active in my electorate. I refer to the Maroochy Historical Society and, in particular, to the Cooroorra Historical Society at Pomona, which does a wonderful job in preserving for posterity and displaying artifacts and old records. Such societies are important because they preserve part of the State's heritage, and heritage is something that can be promoted as an aspect of tourism. The Government has a responsibility to encourage the preservation of the history and heritage of Queensland for the benefit of our children.

I support the Estimates presented by the Minister.

Time expired.

Mr McELLIGOTT (Townsville) (4.34 p.m.): I shall direct most of my comments in debate on these Estimates to the subject of sport, but, before doing so, I will address some remarks to other aspects of the Minister's portfolio.

Last Friday, along with other honourable members, I was fortunate to attend the official function that marked the handing over to the Government of the Queensland Cultural Centre complex. I was very impressed by the grandeur of the arts complex, and I congratulate those responsible for its design. I am sure that the construction and operation of that complex will make a significant contribution to culture in Queensland. However, it will require a very conscious effort on the part of the Government, because it will have difficulty in convincing the people of north Queensland that they will benefit from the complex. I know that, handled properly, it does have that potential. I imagine that it could, for example, be used as the home base for a whole range of cultural groups and societies that could sponsor culture generally throughout the State. But to be frank and honest about it, very few north Queenslanders will be able to attend activities in that complex. Recently, the Minister spoke about some activities being made available free of charge. Although that sounds attractive, they will be available only to people located in and around Brisbane.

The other night I smiled when I heard the member for Aspley say that the Townsville Civic Theatre was the only other theatre that, to his knowledge, could compare to the complex on the south bank as regards a working theatre. He went on to say that it was another Queensland Government project. The Townsville City Council would be very grateful if the Queensland Government would take over that project and perhaps meet the interest and redemption payments and the operating losses of the theatre. Admittedly the Government did contribute a one-third subsidy of the order of \$1.2m, but the

Townsville City Council, which designed and built the theatre, operates it at a substantial cost to the rate-payers of Townsville.

I turn now to the area of national parks and express my confidence in and thanks to the excellent officers who service the National Parks and Wildlife Service in north Queensland. In my days in local government I had the opportunity to act as chairman of a joint management committee that managed the Townsville Town Common Environmental Park. Certainly the assistance and support that I got from the service was first-class. However, on behalf of those officers, I do make a plea for better working conditions. The very poor salaries paid to those people never failed to amaze me, and I do not know why some of the lower level officers in the service applied for their jobs. I can only assume that it is their dedication to the environment and the flora and fauna of our State that encouraged them to take jobs with the service. They are shockingly paid. They do not enjoy what I would regard as reasonable working conditions in regard to the provision of equipment that one would expect in this day and age.

For example, although 70 per cent of Magnetic Island is national park, I remember when the Townsville City Council had to provide a vehicle for the ranger on the island. I would have thought that that would have had some priority for the supply of proper equipment. The Townsville City Council also had to build fire-breaks on the island. Because of lack of equipment and personnel, the service was not able to provide them. So I make a plea to the Minister to have a good look at the salary ranges for officers in the service. They play a vital role in this State. Let us face it; irrespective of political philosophies, people are more concerned about the environment today than they were, and therefore officers in the service, who have a very important role to play, should be looked after accordingly.

I am also concerned about what I would call the politicising of the service. The best example of that was the recent debate that occurred about the Cape Tribulation National Park. I do not want to debate that again this afternoon, but it seemed to me that the very people who ought to have been able to advise the people of Queensland on the environmental aspects of that debate were clearly expressing the opinion of the Minister, if not of the Government. I felt that that was an ideal opportunity for expert advice to come from the service but, because of its politicisation, that advice was not forthcoming.

Finally on the subject of national parks, I appeal to the Minister to proceed, if at all possible, with the concept put forward by the Townsville City Council in regard to the development of the new facility at Cape Pallarenda. If the Minister has been there, I am sure he would agree that it is a very interesting area, not only from an environmental viewpoint but as a historic link with the war-time activity that took place in Townsville. The war-time facilities that remain could be preserved and used as a tourist attraction, as well as providing an ideal site for the new northern regional offices of the service. I see that the Minister is nodding his head. I hope that he takes those comments on board. The concept has been talked about for some time. In years gone by, I remember talking to Dr Saunders about that concept.

Mr McKechnie: So that the honourable member may know, I point out that we plan to redevelop the area in a way that I am sure he will like. It will be done conservatively.

Mr McELLIGOTT: That is excellent.

My final commercial, if I may describe it in that way, relates to the vacancy on the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation Board, if it still exists. The Minister will recall that the Opposition attempted to amend the legislation so that regional representation would be provided. If Mr Borzi's position has not been filled, I make a strong plea for his replacement to come from north Queensland because, in tourist promotion, regional representation is necessary. If I were to drop a name, I would recommend Mrs Peg Hayles for the position. She is not a member of the Labor Party and, so far as I

know, she is not a Labor supporter. However, she has extensive expertise in tourism, she puts her point of view very strongly and, if she were to be on the board, I am sure that she would represent north Queensland very well.

I think it was the honourable member for Ashgrove who referred to the substantial tourist traffic on our roads. In the past two years, a dramatic improvement has taken place in the roads in north Queensland. That improvement is attributable mainly to the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program. In two years, the allocation in road funds has increased by 46 per cent. Anyone revisiting north Queensland and travelling on the roads notices a substantial improvement. They are easier and safer to drive on.

I join with the member for Mackay in asking for improvements in the railway services. I intended to speak in some detail on the matter but he covered it fully. The only comment that I will make concerns railway stations generally. I am sure that the Minister will agree that, although much discussion has taken place about airports, our railway stations do not present a very attractive image. Their appearance could be altered substantially without the expenditure of a large sum of money.

It is timely for the Government, as the responsible body, to conduct an inquiry into sport in Queensland. When I say that, I am not being detrimental to sport in Queensland. I am sure that all honourable members appreciate that sport in Queensland and Australia has developed on an ad hoc basis. No in-depth study has been undertaken. Sport overseas has been looked at but, generally speaking, sport in Australia has developed on an ad hoc basis. It has been controlled and directed mainly by volunteers. Although most of them have done a remarkable job, they have not had the necessary expertise or the opportunity to travel overseas to see what is happening. While we are still rejoicing about the relative success that we enjoyed in the Commonwealth Games and the more recent Olympic Games, it is time to make an in-depth study of where sport is going in Australia, and, in this context, where sport is going in Queensland.

Two matters relative to the organisation and operation of sport in Queensland concern me. The first involves the increasing dependence by sporting bodies on the sale of alcohol to finance their operations. Before any honourable member starts jumping up and down, I point out that I do not intend to argue that alcohol should not be available at sporting venues. By the same token, I will not argue about the sponsorship of sport by breweries. In the light of the image that sport and recreation seek to promote, it is a matter of concern that most sporting bodies are almost entirely dependent on the sale of alcohol to finance their operations. As an example, I refer to the balance sheet of a major organisation in Townsville that does not really control sport. The association provides sporting facilities. It has an annual income of \$60,000, 64 per cent of which comes directly from the sale of alcohol. With such a dependence on the sale of alcohol, the potential is always there for very severe problems to surface.

I will refer at random to a couple of newspaper clippings on this subject. One refers to a brawl at a grand final in Townsville at junior level of a particular code of football. The referee finally had to abandon the game because all 26 players and a number of spectators were involved in an all-in melee. The report states that—

“As Hensler left the field he was jostled and abused by supporters and a stubbie of beer was tipped on him by a spectator sitting on the balcony of the clubhouse.”

I remind the Committee that that occurred at junior level.

A report appeared in “The Courier-Mail” of 20 September that the drunken behaviour of players from a club in a particular code forced the cancellation of its annual presentation of trophies. At a grand final that I attended in Townsville this year, I was horrified when a number of people who had spent the afternoon at the bar physically attacked the referee at the conclusion of the game.

I admit that those incidents occur anywhere and I do not suggest that alcohol should not be served at sporting matches. However, I feel that it is against the spirit of sport

and recreation for organisations to be dependent solely or almost entirely on the sale of alcohol.

Other honourable members mentioned the very large number of people who take part in non-competitive sport in Queensland. Their needs are not being catered for entirely. In my opinion, two tiers or levels of sport will need to be established in the near future. One tier will create opportunities for elitist or professional sportspeople who are paid \$65,000 a year. On the other level, routine or basic facilities and skills preparations should be provided. The Government should play a greater role than it does in that regard.

I have observed that the major sporting organisations in Queensland are determined to build Taj Mahals in Brisbane. I am referring to Lang Park, the 'Gabba Cricket Ground and Perry Park. Those establishments cater for professionals but do not provide for the average sportsmen and sportswomen in the provincial areas of the State.

I am aware of a very determined effort by the Townsville Cricket Association to have a Sheffield Shield match played in Townsville. Such an event would make a tremendous difference to the promotion of cricket in north Queensland. It would be well supported and if the Queensland Cricket Association is serious about promoting the sport, it will give that idea serious consideration. However, I have been told that the Queensland Cricket Association must pay to the Queensland Cricket Ground Trust \$180,000 per year in rental. The cricket association argues that, because of the enormity of that rental, it cannot afford to play cricket matches away from the 'Gabba. I suggest that the State Government has a role to play to ensure that sport and sporting opportunities are available right across the State.

I have an inquiry about the \$100,000 that has been provided to encourage the promotion of State championships in isolated areas. I do not really understand what the Government's intention is, and I would appreciate a comment from the Minister. I have travelled round this State for 25 years and I do not know of any host organisation that runs State championships at a loss. The Government will not really support or assist the host association with this allocation. Does the Government intend to provide funds for people from the south-east corner of the State to attend State championships in isolated areas? The Government should contribute to the travelling costs of people from isolated areas to State championships that are held in Brisbane. If it does not, it will have a revolution on its hands from sportspeople in the remote areas.

One of the very real concerns of sporting people in provincial areas is travelling costs. As the Minister knows, those people who are fortunate enough to have the talent to excel in sport face tremendous difficulties and high travelling costs if they are to take part in a competition of high standard.

The honourable member for Fassifern mentioned the opportunities now available in schools. However, if a schoolchild is fortunate enough to be selected in one of the Queensland teams about which he spoke, the child's parents have to find approximately \$800 to send him to Brisbane from Cairns, Townsville or Mount Isa. If the Government wishes to make available funds to send people from Brisbane to isolated areas for State championships, it should consider travel in the opposite direction, as well.

I have been spreading the message in my electorate that sporting people should demand more. I know it is easy to say that, but in the past too much has been asked of volunteers. Everywhere I go I find that organisations are having great difficulty in obtaining enough volunteers. Most of them are simply burnt out. Some assistance is needed. I am not competent or qualified to say what form that assistance should take, but some sort of investigation or inquiry is needed to ascertain what direction sport is to take. I am not talking about huge sums of money but, during the Minister's speech, he mentioned an allocation of \$4.7m to sport. That sounds like a great deal of money. However, the allocation to The Arts is \$33.4m. That sum comprises only the major allocations for the Queensland Cultural Centre, the Queensland Art Gallery, the Performing

Arts Complex and the museum. It does not include a number of minor subsidies and grants available to people in artistic and cultural pursuits.

Prior to the election of the Whitlam Government in 1972, Governments believed that public funds could not be used to support those sorts of activities. The Whitlam Government made funds available and successive State and Federal Governments have done the same thing. The time has come for sporting people to speak up and demand more. I do not suggest that the amount should be \$33m, but the Government should no longer expect volunteers alone to carry the burden. A tremendously big job has to be done.

Unfortunately, to receive support even for their very basic operations, sporting organisations are becoming increasingly dependent on the sale of alcohol. That is not desirable. Assistance from other avenues is needed.

During my years in local government, I spent a great deal of time looking at the operations of sport and recreation departments in other States. The Queensland procedure is probably the best. The pattern of the old National Fitness Council area committees is probably the best way to assist sport and recreation throughout the State. I join with the honourable member for Ashgrove in urging that recreation be taken from the portfolio of Welfare Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs and included in the Sport section of this Minister's portfolio. I suggest that the responsibilities and personnel of the network of area committees should be expanded so that sport can be taken into their operations. That is an ideal set-up that combines the facilities, the research potential and the expertise that are available in the State Government area with the local input from the local government and sporting group representation on those committees.

I agree that sporting bodies and sporting administrators do not like to be told how to do their job, but they need more support than they are receiving now. It is time that the provision of sporting opportunities was brought into the twentieth century. Holland, for example, has 32 synthetic hockey fields. At this stage Queensland has none, although one is in the pipeline. That is an example of the level of support given to sport in overseas countries and compares more than favourably with what is made available in Australia. I do not suggest that the Government has to provide those sorts of things immediately, but it has to do better than it is doing. An in-depth look is needed. The Government should not assume that what has been done in the past is good enough, and continue on the same path.

Time expired.

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise) (4.55 p.m.): In speaking to the Estimates before the Committee, I firstly commend the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts for the great activities that he has presided over in recent times and, indeed, for his dedication and very efficient approach to the job. It is also appropriate to congratulate Mr Allen Callaghan on his promotion to the position of under secretary and also Mr Stan Wilcox on his recent promotion in the department.

It is of note that during this debate there has been no criticism of any real substance. Indeed, many constructive suggestions have been made from both sides of the Chamber although, as my friend the member for Lockyer said, there has been some nit-picking. Generally, the debate has been constructive, and recognition has been given to Queensland's achievements. The Government has been a Government of performances, not a Government of promises.

I was interested to hear some of the comments made earlier this afternoon by the honourable member for Townsville about the Queensland Cultural Centre. It is a magnificent project of which the Government, the Parliament and the people of Queensland can be very proud. It is proof positive of the Government's dedication and commitment to the arts in this State. At a time when the Queensland Government is increasing its funding to the arts, the Federal Government has actually reduced its funding to major companies. I commend the Minister and the Government for their actions.

I am very pleased that a room at the Performing Arts Complex has been named after the late Gladys Moncrieff. That is a very worthwhile and a most popular decision. Gladys Moncrieff, in her later years, had a very close association with Surfers Paradise and the Gold Coast.

I was also interested in the contribution of the honourable member for Mackay. He said that train services should be improved to develop the tourist industry in Queensland. The Indian Pacific is Australia's major tourist train. Looking at the Blue Train in South Africa, it becomes obvious that rail transportation of a very high standard has a very important role to play in the development of a tourist industry. I hope that the Government will give consideration to examining the feasibility of a high-standard train, along the lines of the Indian Pacific or the Blue Train, which could travel between Brisbane and Cairns. It would have enormous potential in the tourism industry in this State. It could create many jobs and a great deal of interest. I ask the Minister to suggest to his Cabinet colleague the Minister for Transport that that suggestion is worthy of consideration.

It is of note that by 1986 tourism will be worth about \$4 billion a year to the Queensland economy. It is presently Queensland's No. 2 industry. By 1990 it will be the No. 1 industry. Previous speakers have said that the Government, through the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, has been the pace-setter in Australia's tourism growth. For the benefit of the member for Brisbane Central, I point out that it is no mean feat that last year Queensland achieved 76 per cent of the total growth in Australian tourism. That is a most dramatic confirmation of the Queensland Government's commitment to tourism and its success in providing the best possible economic climate for the industry to grow and for jobs to be created.

In fact, the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has become a model for the restructuring of State tourism commissions throughout the country. A succession of State Labor Governments has followed Queensland's lead.

Mr Davis: Are you quoting from the Boeing report? Every time you get up you speak about that report.

Mr BORBIDGE: I am pleased that the honourable member has referred to the Boeing report. He is obviously not aware that the growth in the tourism industry in Queensland has exceeded the projections of the Boeing report. For the honourable member's information, I point out that I am quoting from more recent statistics. An additional 15 000 jobs have come on stream in the five years since the establishment of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation.

The annual report of the corporation states—

“During the first four years of the Corporation's existence, tourism in Queensland grew at the cumulative rate of 32 per cent—double the national rate.

In June this year tourism projects committed or under construction were valued at \$2.2 billion out of an Australia-wide total of \$7.1 billion.”

I make the point that that level of investment is the highest of any State or Territory in Australia.

The report goes on to state that, from research conducted over the past two years, it appears that the Commonwealth Games provided approximately 1 million visitor nights, and injected about \$110 million into the State's economy. Considering the impact of what was a 10-day event, the prospects for Expo 88 are most encouraging, particularly when the magnitude of a six-month event and the activity required for its preparation are taken into account. Expo 88 is an example of this Government's commitment to economic growth—providing more jobs and promoting tourism in this State. The prophets of doom on the other side of the Chamber will, in time, be proven very wrong indeed in a devastating fashion.

Tourism is the life-blood of the Gold Coast, which is entering a new stage of development. I shall refer to the tourism-related projects that are under way in the greater Gold Coast region. The Holiday City Hotel, which will cost \$70m, will create 1 000 jobs. The Surfers Paradise Hotel redevelopment in the Paradise Centre will cost \$80m and will create 600 jobs. The Daikyo Kenko Hotel will cost \$60m and provide 600 jobs.

Now I will look at some of the projects in the Albert Shire. The Jupiter's Casino and Conrad International Hotel is the largest privately financed development project in Australia today. It will cost \$175m and provide 2 300 jobs.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr BORBIDGE: I can see from the interjections by honourable members opposite that the Labor Party is not particularly interested in job creation and generation.

I will mention a few other projects. The Hope Island Sanctuary Cove Marine Resort will cost \$200m and provide 650 jobs. Announced but not yet approved is the Hope Bay Marine Resort, which is estimated to cost \$150m.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr BORBIDGE: Perhaps the honourable member for Brisbane Central should visit the Gold Coast some time. I would be delighted to show him round. He might learn something if he got out of the very limited area that he seems to haunt.

Mr McKechnie: You would have to pay for his lunch.

Mr BORBIDGE: As the Minister says, I would probably have to pay for his lunch.

No other region in Australia—certainly in the Labor controlled States—can match this avalanche of development, estimated by the Commonwealth Employment Service to have the capacity to create up to 12 000 new permanent jobs directly and indirectly in the greater Gold Coast region by 1986. I am talking about real jobs, not artificial jobs created by a Federal funding program. Real jobs will be created in the tourist industry. People have confidence in the tourist industry because of their confidence in this Government's policies and, indeed, in this Government.

It should be noted that over the past five years Queensland Government Travel Centre earnings have increased by 78 per cent in real terms, while sales have increased by 23.2 per cent. The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation's budget allocation of \$12.7m represents an increase of 20 per cent and will bring its total expenditure this year to \$16.7m.

The Queensland tourist industry must accept that Australia is now competing with the United States, Hawaii, the South Pacific and South East Asia for the domestic and international tourist dollar.

I was very pleased indeed when the honourable member for Cooroora and the Minister made mention of the high cost of domestic aviation. Mention was made of fuel taxes, air navigation charges, landing fees and airport terminal rentals, which in this country are about as high as anywhere else in the world. If the Federal Government wants to get fair dinkum about tourism, then, as the Minister suggested, it will have to stop using the aviation industry as a milking cow for its high tax, big Government policies.

The domestic airlines should give further consideration to a direct air link between the Barrier Reef and the Gold Coast. As the casino and other major developments on the Gold Coast come on stream, and with the opening of the new international airport at Cairns, it will be increasingly important to have a direct air service between these two major tourist destinations.

I take this opportunity to commend the Minister and the Government for their continued opposition to ignorant and naive proposals for tourist taxes and bed taxes

that are put forward from time to time, usually by local government representatives with close political associations with the Labor Party. In common with the Minister, I remain of the view that such proposals can only jeopardise and undermine the confidence in the tourist and hospitality industry, which the Government has worked so hard to create and has created so successfully.

Industry training is vitally important and is now generally recognised. I join the honourable member for Fassifern in commending the Government for the new college of hospitality and tourism in South Brisbane and its sister college, which is to open shortly in Townsville. I contrast that very real commitment by the Government to industry training with the recent vague statement by the Federal Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism (the Honourable John Brown) that there should be a school—just one—for tourism excellence, probably located in Canberra.

Mr McKechnie: What a silly place to locate it.

Mr BORBIDGE: I could not agree more.

Mr McPhie: There is not much excellence down there.

Mr BORBIDGE: Indeed not!

The Federal Minister's remarks are out of date and out of touch. It is noteworthy that 30 per cent of all new jobs in Queensland over the last four years have been created in the tourist industry. Although much remains to be done with industry training, the general standard of service in the tourist industry in Queensland is as good as and in many instances better than that overseas.

The emerging understanding by Federal Government Ministers—I name Senator Button and the Honourable John Brown in particular—and responsible elements in the trade union movement of the job-creation limitations created by the existing penalty rate structure is cause for optimism. I note the recent statements by the Minister and by the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations about the matter. The existing penalty rate structure must be reviewed as a matter of urgency. Anyone, including this State's industrial tribunal, who advocates a continuation of the present outmoded and outdated approach is ignoring the facts of life in the industry in the 1980s, and ignoring them at his peril. No longer can we afford to bury our heads in the sand on the matter of penalty rates. The present system is costing jobs, threatening job security and limiting job creation.

Mr Davis: What would you replace penalty rates with?

Mr BORBIDGE: I welcome the interjection from the honourable member for Brisbane Central. I again make the point that the Federal Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism and the Federal Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Button) are both on record expressing concern about the job security and job creation ramifications of the existing penalty rate structure. It is a great shame that the State Opposition is not prepared to support the Government more actively in the interests of job creation.

Mr McKechnie: He is more worried about his endorsement. He is being opposed by one of those left-wing extremists. Did you know that he will lose his endorsement?

Mr BORBIDGE: We know that Labor Party members in the Parliament become very nervous at preselection-time.

I touch briefly on the activities and achievements of the Queensland Film Corporation. Since 15 December 1983, it has been my privilege to be a parliamentary representative on it. At a time when the Australian Film Commission and similar bodies interstate are under increasing criticism for their funding of radical, left-wing extremist groups, it is relevant to place on record the not inconsiderable achievements of our own film corporation.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member is so out of touch. He would not have a clue what is going on. I suggest that he listen very quietly and attentively.

The major film production in Australia during the past 12 months has been "The Coolangatta Gold" which was produced on the Gold Coast. The world premiere of that film will be held at Coolangatta this Saturday evening, 17 November 1984. Production of the film represents an investment of \$6m and it is important to remember that it was made possible by people who were initially supportive enough to get it off the ground. Although the Hoyts/Edgley group subsequently took up the running, it was the Queensland Film Corporation that was closely involved in developing the concept to the stage at which it could be turned over to the industry. Two major productions have been commenced in Queensland recently.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr BORBIDGE: I do wish that the honourable member for Brisbane Central could contain himself. After all, he asked me what the Queensland Film Corporation was doing and I am trying to tell him. Now he is attempting to stop me, and he cannot have it both ways.

The two major productions are "The Naked Country", a film based on Morris West's book produced on location in Charters Towers' and "Butterfly Island", a mini-series set in northern Queensland. Production of "Butterfly Island" is presently under way.

In addition, the QFC has created the Queensland Screen Training Program in association with the Australian Film and Television School. Approximately a quarter of a million dollars has been set aside to establish the program and a further \$200,000 will be spent on creating development projects to assist young film-makers. For the information of the honourable member for Brisbane Central, I point out that that is what the QFC is doing.

With the support of the Queensland Film Corporation, 38 projects are presently at various stages of development. Some will succeed, some will not.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr BORBIDGE: Is the honourable member criticising "The Coolangatta Gold"?

Mr Davis: I have not seen that film, but I saw a different example five weeks ago.

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member for Brisbane Central sometimes thinks that he has a starring role in this Chamber, but his performances often fall short of the mark.

The Queensland Government, through the Queensland Film Corporation, is providing a very important opportunity for the State's film industry and for all people who are involved in aspects of training and teaching. As well, the Government is funding such important skills as script development. I inform the committee that, to date, over \$500,000 has been committed to the development of film and television programs, and I commend the work of the corporation and various members of the board under the chairmanship of Mr Allen Callaghan.

The increased allocation of \$4.7m for sport includes \$750,000 as part of the Government's election commitment to inject \$2m extra into sport during the life of the present Parliament. That is another election commitment that has been honoured. In fact, unlike the Federal Labor Government, the Queensland Government has honoured almost all of its election commitments that were made approximately 12 months ago. Indeed, the departments administered by the Minister have not been overlooked. A substantial increase in funding has been allocated for tourism and, despite a reduction

in arts funding by the Commonwealth Government, a substantial increase has been granted to the arts. The Department of Sport has also received a sizeable increase in funds.

In this debate on the Estimates, I would very strongly support the Minister. I congratulate him and the officers of his department on a job well done in what is at times a diverse and difficult portfolio.

The debate serves an important purpose by allowing honourable members from all areas of the State to make a contribution. It is important to note that, generally speaking, contributions have been positive and constructive. That means that the Minister and his departmental officers have the very active and strong support of this Committee.

Mr EATON (Mourilyan) (5.14 p.m.): I commence my contribution to the debate on the Estimates by thanking the Minister and the officers of his department for the help and advice that they have given to me as the representative of an area that has a very high tourism potential. I have often had negotiations and discussions with the Minister and his departmental officers. They have all been exceptionally kind to me, and very helpful and informative. Although I have not been able to get much money out of the department for my area, the officers have always been helpful in other ways. I hope that they continue in that vein, because I will be back to see them from time to time.

These Estimates cover activities all over Queensland. Members are a little parochial and work the parish pump for their own electorates. I am very fortunate to represent what many people see as one of the most richly endowed tourist areas in Queensland. If the Minister can spare a day or two—he would actually need more time than that—I would like to show him round not only my electorate but also the adjoining electorates of Hinchinbrook and Mulgrave, all of which have great tourist potential. Although they continually read, in speeches in this place and in the newspapers about that potential, the residents of the area regard it as a myth. People who visit the area heap praise on the tourist industry and the people involved in it, but development has for many years been at a standstill. None of the development that residents want to see take place has actually occurred, despite the expenditure figures in the department's annual report and the Budget papers.

I know that money is not the answer to everything, but I would like the Government to allocate more money to the Minister's portfolio. If money is spent wisely on tourism it will be of great benefit to Queensland, and particularly to north Queensland, which is still regarded by some as the wilderness of Queensland. A great many people still do not know that people who live north of Mackay are civilised. When anyone refers in general terms to north Queensland, most people think that he is referring to the area just north of Mackay and they forget about the rest.

I know that the Mackay area contains some wonderful tourist attractions. As a matter of fact, the film "Butterfly Island" is being made in that area at the moment. I had hoped that it would be made in my electorate, but the company that originally was to produce the film sold the rights to another company, and it saw fit to change the story and decided to make the film in the Mackay area.

I am sure that if a successful film were made in my electorate it would be a great boost to the tourist industry. When people see a film of great distinction they like to visit where it was made to see the scenery for themselves. That is one of the reasons why officers of the Queensland Film Corporation and I have done everything in our power to have films made in my electorate. Unfortunately, the electorate faces the natural hurdle of distance, and transport facilities are not as good as they are in the south-east corner. That is one of the disadvantages in film-making that is faced by the north. I hope that those problems can be overcome, and I know that the Minister would like to find a solution to them.

I want to continue on the subject of the tourist potential of my electorate. It is referred to glowingly not only by politicians but most other people who visit it. I have spoken to people from all over the world, including those from Europe, America and other Australian States, who are involved in finding locations for films, and they have all said that it is a great area, that they will keep it in the back of their minds, and that they hope they can come back some day and make a film there.

The tourist industry must be promoted on the basis of local attractions. There is some dissension about the tourist industry in the north at the moment. Following the opening of the Cairns International Airport, tourist operators outside the Cairns area believed that Cairns tourist operators would attempt to prevent tourists from spending their money outside Cairns. But the Cairns tourist operators have been a little disappointed, and perhaps rightly so, because tourists arriving through the international airport from America and other places have not been patronising the local hotels, motels and restaurants, as it was thought they would. The tourists taking advantage of the cheap fares offered to promote the international airport and allow the airlines to open up Cairns as a tourist route were not looking for overnight accommodation and were leaving Cairns almost immediately. I believe that one group immediately looked for cheap accommodation for the night and, next morning, unpacked and assembled compact push-bikes and took off for the backblocks or travelled up or down the coast. I can understand the disappointment of the Cairns tourist operators.

I have a couple of tourist brochures published by shire councils in my electorate. The one I have in my hand depicts three attractions in the Herberton shire. The Herberton Museum is, one might say, a one-man project. The man who runs it has spent virtually a lifetime in developing it. Because he had to leave his normal work to concentrate on restoring some of his museum pieces, he has to charge a small admission fee, which means that he does not qualify for a subsidy. All visitors to the museum are very happy with what they see and are very surprised by the low admission fee. The Government should give more help to people in his position. Because the department is controlled by the Act, it cannot always do what it would wish.

Ravenshoe has many tourist attractions. It is known as the timber town of the north. At the front of the sawmill a very large log is on display. The Millstream Falls on Archer Creek are a tourist attraction. The area abounds in old tin mines. The hot springs are another attraction, where people can enjoy a cold beer on a hot day, or simply a hot bath.

A Mr Bill Brotherton, who calls himself a beach-comber, has one of the best private collections of driftwood, minerals, insects, camp ovens, stoves, Mrs Potts irons, snakes, beetles and bugs in bottles to be found anywhere in Australia. He does not advertise his collection, which is all kept at his home. Visitors sign a book. He is proud that the Premier and Treasurer was a visitor and he shows other visitors the Premier's signature. I understand that Malcolm Fraser has also been there. More publicity should be given to such tourist attractions.

During the luncheon recess, I visited the Queensland Travel Centre to see whether the service it offered had improved. When I spent two weeks in Western Australia, mainly on a primary industry tour, I went to many rural townships with populations of 150 to 200 and I found tourist information signs on offices that were open sometimes from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At those places, a map on the door, with a note, explained that if visitors followed a certain route they would find someone who would be able to help. On other occasions, visitors were asked to dial a certain telephone number to contact people who would be very happy to help.

The Western Australian Government helps those little places, and Western Australia is a little ahead of Queensland in that way. I hope that the Minister will investigate the Western Australian system of helping people in such areas who are trying to attract tourists.

Wherever I went in Western Australia, from Albany in the south to the Ord River Scheme near Wyndham, I noted that, whenever I told people that I came from Queensland, they would ask me about the accommodation available here and whether dogs were welcome. At Kununurra I spoke to a young couple in a shop who wanted to drive to north Queensland. Many Western Australians long to drive across to North Queensland particularly to see the Great Barrier Reef, the rain forests and the other tourist attractions. Most Western Australians know that, if they travel via the top end, only 140 miles of gravel road has to be traversed between Perth and Cairns. Many of the Western Australians to whom I spoke wanted to visit Queensland.

I was very disappointed that no matter where I went in Western Australia—even to the office in Perth of West Australian Travel, as it is called—I could not find a booklet or brochure on Queensland. The manager was on holidays, but the relieving manager, who had been to Queensland, agreed with me that not one brochure on Queensland was available. Because he had been acting in the job for only a week, he called on another member of the staff to speak to me. I was told that a letter had been written to Queensland, but that no reply had been received. I was very disappointed to hear that, because wherever I went in Western Australia, people told me they were wanting to visit Queensland—particularly north Queensland.

A week after I returned to Queensland, I went into the Queensland Travel Centre and found a couple of photographs of islands in the Whitsunday group. The Queensland Travel Centre also had a photograph of Dunk Island, which is in north Queensland, but that was all that I could find about north Queensland. I am pleased to say that today, when I returned to the centre, I noticed that much more information about north Queensland was available.

I honoured the promises that I made in Western Australia. I told people that, if they would give me their address, I would send them some brochures on north Queensland when I returned home. However, they had the cards of a number of prominent people who had promised them the world but had not done anything. I was under pressure to honour my promises so that I did not join the category of prominent people who had left their calling cards but had done nothing more.

Mr Davis: Was the Minister's name amongst them?

Mr EATON: No, the Minister's name was not. I am sure that he would have sent some information back to Western Australia.

I gave the addresses of the Western Australians to tourist industry people in north Queensland. A conference on tourism has since been held in Perth and the delegates from the North Queensland Tourist Promotion Bureau took boxes and boxes of information about north Queensland to that conference. That information went within days. That bears out what I have said; Western Australians are hungry for information, particularly tourist brochures, on Queensland.

I have with me today a number of brochures, including one about Innisfail. That area has many tourist attractions such as rivers, tea plantations and mountains. On the brochure, photographs appear of the Joss House, the harbours and the beaches in the area. The loveliest beaches in the world can be found on the far-north coast of Queensland—from Cardwell to north of Mossman and almost to Cooktown. Rain forests come right down onto the beaches and, when driving through the area, one can see mountains on one side of the road and ocean on the other. Many people comment about that. Perhaps the Government could promote that area more.

I have with me also brochures on the Cairns International Airport and the Great Barrier Reef. Enlargements of photographs in these brochures could be displayed to arouse interest. I was very disappointed with the Queensland Travel Centre. I realise that space is limited in that centre, but photographs should be displayed of each region, such as south-east Queensland, Brisbane or central Queensland, to attract attention to those regions.

The booklets and brochures that I have with me seem to be available only in north Queensland. I know that it costs money to distribute them right throughout Queensland, but they do attract people to the area. Everyone who sees the brochure that I have with me today about the Barrier Reef wants a copy, and it has cost me a fortune giving them away. Photos similar to the ones that appear in those brochures could be enlarged for display purposes.

Money would be better spent in that way than on overseas expeditions, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Those expeditions turn out to be glory-hunting trips for egotists. The delegates are feted and waited upon, drink a lot of beer, and usually have a good time. But not too many tourists are attracted to Queensland. It may be one of the hazards of the game that money must be spent to attract tourists. More of that money should be spent in Australia.

I discovered from my trip to Western Australia, where good records are kept, that 90 per cent of tourists in Perth are Western Australians. Western Australians are very helpful to each other and they draw people to areas of their own State. Queenslanders are inclined to be parochial. If one man does not have the goods, he does not say, "Go up the road, because Charlie Brown has them." If Queenslanders do not have what a person wants, they will not help him get it from somewhere else.

Today's tourists are not fools. If they were, they would not have the money to be tourists. Tourists spend their money wisely and look for bargains. Many business people think that every tourist is filthy rich and can throw his money away. He is not. He is a very astute man, and he is looking for value for his money. That is why he can afford holidays. That has to be impressed upon motel operators and many others in the tourist industry.

A great number of people want to buy a little motel or other business somewhere, build it up a little and sell it for a fortune so that they can retire. They are not prepared to do the hard work, make a contribution to the industry and stay in the area. Some hotel and motel-owners are fly-by-nighters. Many people are looking to the tourist industry to make a fast buck for themselves. They are not prepared to provide the type of service that people are looking for. Not everybody is looking for a gold-plated bed to sleep in at night and all the other luxuries; they want value for their dollar. That means that they are looking for, and are prepared to pay for, an acceptable standard of accommodation.

I have in my hand a brochure put out by the Cardwell shire which contains photographs of cassowaries, flowers, the reef and fishing. Another brochure is about the Atherton Tableland area. It mentions the Herberton and Yungaburra shires and the Chillagoe Caves. I am quite prepared to give these brochures to the Minister for him to peruse.

Mr McKechnie: I have seen most of them.

Mr EATON: Just in case the Minister has not seen some of them, I am prepared to give them to him.

Today people are persuaded to buy an article because of its looks. An instance is television advertising. When families go to do the shopping they invariably come home with some rubbish. When asked why they bought it they say "It was advertised on TV. It is supposed to be good." Usually it is not worth two bob. That is certainly what happens when my family goes shopping.

People are attracted by the look of an article, so the attractions of this State have to be portrayed in such a way that people's interest is aroused. That is why the Government will have to obtain a bigger office for the Queensland Travel Centre. When I went to that centre in my lunch-hour, I was fairly disappointed. I found that, because there are not enough of them, the staff were flat out. I even went into the booking office and saw that the staff were talking to customers at tables. It is pleasing that the centre is getting the business, but I am a little disappointed that the people who go to that centre already

know what they are looking for. They do not enter that office with the thought of going to Bribie Island and leave with the idea of seeing the rest of Queensland. When people walk into that office they should be given a choice.

Mr Lee: Are you talking of the types of displays that newsagencies have for greeting cards?

Mr EATON: Perhaps something like that would do. Whatever comprises the display, it has to be attractive.

If the photographs contained in these brochures were enlarged, they could be put on walls to attract people's attention. The Queensland Travel Centre does not have a display that attracts people's attention. I know that the centre is only a tourist booking office but, to me, it hit the bottom of the list. The staff in that office, who work flat out and do a good job, need a bit of background material. I must admit that, because they were so busy, I did not have time to talk to them.

Mr McKechnie: One of the problems in the Brisbane office is that it has had a terrific growth. I am aware of that and I will quote some figures later in the debate.

Mr EATON: That reinforces my argument that a bigger office is needed.

I would like the Minister and perhaps some of his senior officers to come for a tour through the north to see its attractions at first hand. I am prepared to make myself available and bear the cost so that they can meet the people involved in the tourist industry in the area. As is often said: seeing is believing. The area is large and has a vast number of attractions. The average tourist who comes to north Queensland flies up in the belief that he can see in three days everything that he has heard about. That cannot be done. He will spend one day on Green Island, one day on the Kuranda railway and on the third day he will have to make a choice between going to Mossman, the Atherton Tableland or to the Innisfail area. In fact, it is impossible to see everything in north Queensland in a week. That sort of knowledge must be made available to the people in the industry. That is why I am prepared to offer my services to the Minister and his staff. I could take them to the Koombooloomba Falls and the Tully Falls.

Time expired.

Mr STEPHAN (Gympie) (5.35 p.m.): I have great pleasure in taking part in this Estimates debate. At the outset I congratulate the Minister on his elevation to the Ministry and on the work that he has done since then. Since he first took over responsibility for the portfolio he has displayed a willingness and an ability to do the research and study necessary to come to grips with it.

I congratulate him on that and on his willingness to listen to the requirements and suggestions of back-benchers. I thank the departmental personnel, some of whom are sitting in the lobby. I refer particularly to Allen Callaghan, Stan Wilcox, Dr Graham Saunders, Sir Francis Moore and Pat King. They are outstanding gentlemen. They are persons to whom members frequently take their suggestions and a great deal of assistance is provided by them.

I thank the honourable member's former secretary, Wendy Bullock. She provided a great deal of assistance to the officers and me in Gympie. Wendy was a great asset to the department. She was able to provide the appropriate answers. I place on record the assistance that she provided.

Having listened to Opposition members, I wonder whether they are afraid of success. The member for Archerfield criticised the Iwasaki development in central Queensland. I gained the impression that Opposition members do not want that project to succeed. I think that they hope that the project will not go ahead so that they will be able to say, "I told you so." That is the cry that I have heard during the five years since I was elected to this Assembly. Despite the development that has taken place in that locality,

the cry is made that the project will not succeed and that it is a big con job. Opposition members seem to lose sight of reality. They forget that nobody wanted that land. Before development work was carried out, it was swampy, waste country.

Mr McKechnie: The member for Nudgee is an exception.

Mr STEPHAN: The member for Nudgee is certainly an exception. I believe that he will be the next Leader of the Opposition.

Mr McKechnie: He is about the right calibre.

Mr STEPHAN: He is the right calibre. He is moving along the front bench quite well.

Mr Scott: Mr Warburton will be Premier; that's the next move.

Mr STEPHAN: Is there to be a split? I was talking about the Leader of the Opposition. It appears that there will be another split in the Opposition ranks. That seems to happen from time to time.

The Minister has a large range of responsibilities. As a member of Parliament, I have contact each week with people in the department over which the Minister has jurisdiction. I refer to the Queensland Cultural Centre, the Queensland Museum, the Department of Sport, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. All honourable members use the services of those departments to achieve a better life-style for themselves and for the people who live in their electorates. Each department plays an important role in improving that life-style.

The Cooloola National Park and the Mount Bauple National Park are located in my electorate. There was a great controversy over the establishment of the Mount Bauple National Park. A great deal of work must be done to maintain and develop the national park so that it can be utilised by bush walkers and campers. National parks provide a number of interesting features. I hope that national parks become more accessible to the public. It must be borne in mind that the number of people who want to walk day after day is limited, so the use of vehicles must be encouraged. However, care must be taken to ensure that the natural environment in national parks is not destroyed.

In his presentation of the Estimates, the Minister stated—

“\$250,000 will be expended on the development of access roads to national parks. This money will be paid to participating local authorities, which will be responsible for the carrying out of the actual roadworks.”

Since I became a member of this Assembly, I have noted that the Widgee Shire Council has shown a great interest in the Lake Freshwater area of the Cooloola National Park. The council is interested in developing that area. It is providing access so that vehicles can get into that Lake Freshwater area, which is a naturally beautiful spot.

The Minister mentioned that \$425,000 will be provided to erect information centres, barracks and residences on national parks. I might be dwelling on Cooloola too much, but I believe that the wheels are turning slowly to have an information centre established near Rainbow Beach, which is close to Cooloola. Tourists need an information centre to find the location of beauty spots, whether there are tours to those areas or whether there are walking tracks that they can use.

In addition, the Minister said that considerable funding will be provided for groundsel control, the creation of fire-breaks and the upgrading of roads and walking tracks within the national parks. On a number of occasions, I have received complaints about groundsel control in national parks. Groundsel is a noxious weed, and it has been declared as such for a long time. There has been some success but not a great deal in eliminating groundsel. It is found in national parks and forestry areas and on private property.

Mr Lee: Haven't they got a beetle for that?

Mr STEPHAN: Yes, there is a beetle. However, a great deal more research is required.

Mr Lee: It could be like the cactoblastis.

Mr STEPHAN: It is a bit like the cactoblastis. It was a long time before success was achieved with the cactoblastis. Experiments are being carried out with a number of beetles, and I have no doubt that, in time, a beetle will be found that will do a better job than the present beetle. I commend the department for the work that it is doing in that respect. In the meantime, the groundsel problem cannot be ignored. One cannot simply say, "The groundsel bush will go away and we will not do anything about it." In particular, I have received criticism about the control of groundsel in areas for which the department is responsible.

I turn now to sport and sporting activities. Previous speakers have also mentioned sport. If anything has been done to encourage and increase the ability of Queensland sportsmen to take part in sporting fixtures, it has been the provision of subsidies by the Government. The Minister mentioned that \$1,050,000 has been provided for junior coaching, \$1,350,000 for capital facilities, \$525,000 for State directors of coaching and \$475,000 for gifted sports people. That has gone a long way towards helping not only the sports people concerned but also sport generally. It has helped those people who have spent a great deal of time in assisting their fellow sportsmen.

Criticism was directed at the Government over its failure to contribute to the costs incurred by Queensland sportsmen competing in the Para Olympics. \$13,000 was granted to them to compete in the paraplegic and quadraplegic games in Sydney in January. Usually when a person is nominated as an Australian representative, the Australian Government accepts the responsibility.

A maximum of \$3,750 is available for clubs for junior coaching. A couple of grants have been made to the Gympie area this year under that scheme. I thank the Minister and the department for that initiative. The assistance is appreciated by the clubs and by the players.

There is no doubt that tourism is Queensland's growth industry. At times, one tends to take the State for granted, perhaps because it has such a wonderful climate. People enjoy the State's facilities in their spare-time. However, those involved in the industry are certainly not doing so in their spare-time. I become frustrated by such impositions as week-end penalty rates. Support is growing for the monitoring of penalty rates with a view to reducing their impact. The tourist industry must be made much more competitive to encourage tourists to come here from overseas. The industry will not progress as quickly as we would like unless we bear in mind comments such as those made by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs (Mr Lester) and the Federal Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism (Mr Brown).

Queensland is noted for its natural beauty and for the friendliness of its people. This State can hold its head high and develop its tourist industry with confidence. Tourism has the capacity to generate thousands of new jobs. It is a very important industry in the Sunshine State. Grants to regional tourist associations will be boosted by \$100,000 to \$555,000—an increase of 22 per cent on the previous year. A new region will be created to incorporate the shires in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

That brings me to representations that I have received in my own electorate. For some time, the Gympie/Rainbow Beach area has been seeking recognition as a tourist region. I remember the Minister making the comment that, if he granted that request, many other regions would be making similar applications. In view of the establishment of a new region in the Gulf of Carpentaria, I remind the Minister of the application by those in the Gympie/Rainbow Beach area.

It is heartening to see the number of overseas tourists being encouraged to visit Queensland, and 15 per cent of all overseas tours from the United Kingdom are to this State. North America has been given top priority for promotion. The Government must ensure that the State receives the greatest possible benefit from promotions there by the Australian Travel Corporation, which have been extremely successful.

The Australian market cannot be ignored. Promotions by the corporation were evident at the Adelaide Expo, the Sydney Holiday and Travel Show, the Northern Territory Expo in Darwin and the Queensland Holiday Roadshow to the five Victorian provincial centres of Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton and Albury. All Australians must be reminded of Queensland's tourist potential. Once people come here, they will not be disappointed.

Libraries, too, are included in the Minister's portfolio. In recent times, the demand for library services has increased, possibly because more books are being read now than over the past five, 10 or 15 years. That is probably because television has lost some of its popularity, and people are reviving the enjoyment of sitting down and reading a good book.

Library services throughout various parts of the State are inundated with requests for an increased lending volume. The fundamental problem that confronts the State Library and libraries generally throughout the State is poor accommodation, which makes it difficult to cope with the ever-increasing demand.

The State Library has been encouraged by the Government's promise of a new building that will constitute the fourth stage of the Queensland Cultural Centre complex. The date set for the opening of that new library is looked forward to by everyone and particularly by those concerned with the provision of library services.

The story about library services is repeated throughout Queensland. Library facilities, even in provincial areas, are not adequately coping with the demand that has been generated. I would like to engender some support for the provision of adequate library services, not only from the Queensland Government but also from local people who use libraries. I encourage them to contribute to libraries and to contribute to the funds set up for the purchase of library books.

The State Library of Queensland has an estimated expenditure of \$13,738,900 for this financial year, and that indicates a major policy initiative by the State Government that will be implemented by the Library Board. In line with the 1983 election promise, an additional \$900,000 will be made available for subsidies to municipal libraries. That will bring the total subsidy allocation to \$7m, which represents an increase of 29.6 per cent. As the Minister said in introducing his Estimates, that will enable the subsidy limit for independent local authorities with populations of 10 000 or more to be raised from \$1.61 per capita to \$2.04 per capita. I know that members of the Library Board look forward to that and will be greatly appreciative of the increase in expenditure that forms the basis for that initiative.

I cannot fail to mention the opening of the new Queensland Cultural Centre, and highlight the benefit that this will bring not only to residents of Brisbane, as has been stated, but also to residents of the northern parts of the State. The benefit will probably be concentrated in the south-east corner of Queensland, but it will actually extend a lot farther than that. The Queensland Cultural Centre will certainly be available for use by people throughout the southern region of Queensland, and to a large extent it will also be available to others. The Queensland Government can be justifiably proud of the new Queensland Cultural Centre, because it has been well constructed.

Another benefit that the cultural centre will provide is a venue for local amateur groups, which are to be found in almost every centre in the State and in the suburbs as well in the provincial cities. Those groups are doing a tremendous job in furthering the interests of the performing arts. Country groups that can find time to visit the centre,

as I am sure they can, will be able to see some of the facilities that are available here in Brisbane, and that will probably urge them on towards greater achievements.

Many enthusiastic and capable people give their time voluntarily to the activities undertaken by those groups. They have a great desire to assist in developing this area of the arts. I compliment them for the hours and hours that are spent in training for the presentation of a show. If there is any indication of the change in the general attitude towards culture, it can be observed in the support and interest that is directed towards various forms of the arts, such as painting, floor shows and dance troupes.

I am very proud to be associated with the arts councils, particularly the one that is located in Gympie. The honourable member for Aspley is not present in the Chamber, but I am sure that he would add his praise to that which I have expressed.

Time expired.

Mr SMITH (Townsville West) (5.54 p.m.): My comments of these Estimates will be confined to the arts and cultural affairs portion of the Minister's portfolio. It was informative to hear the honourable member for Gympie say that he had some association with the Queensland Arts Council. I thought that very few Government members had any interest at all in the arts.

Queenslanders can, and should, look with pride at the magnificent complex on the south bank of the river in this city, but they should remember at all times that the imagination, the foresight and the will that produced that great complex did not come from the National Party side of the previous coalition Government.

The majority of Ministers in the present Government remind me of the people who, a few years ago, drove those huge American cars with fins that one would only expect to see on a marauding shark—that probably is more than a fair comparison—because if those people were not uncouth, they at least exhibited an ostentatious outlook which evidenced the pretensions they held about themselves.

Queensland now has a complex with magnificent potential—regrettably in the hands of a Government of Philistines. Carrying the totem-pole for this tribe is a Minister—I regret having to say this—who is a card-carrying member of the League of Rights.

I confidently believe that I have established a reputation in this place for moderate expression and for recognising the genuine interest of members from all sides of the Chamber and, indeed, that I have exhibited a willingness to exchange experiences and discuss mutual problems. Rarely do my criticisms of any Minister go beyond his direct administrative performance.

In the case of the present Minister, I contend it is a tragedy for Queensland, particularly its artistic community, that the most cretinous of the troglodytes in the Ministry—and I do not apply that expression to the entire Ministry—has been given the responsibility for such a sensitive area.

Sadly, the Minister is a true archetype of the most extreme elements of the National Party, totally unaware of the thinking of the mainstream in the community, let alone those who have a particular sensitivity towards cultural interests.

It is a great credit to the people of Queensland that the standards and level of cultural activity are so high, given the paucity of Government support, both directly and indirectly.

Recent figures show that Queensland, in terms of per capita recurrent funding, ranks sixth among the six States and two major Territories of Australia.

This Government cannot refute my assertion on the basis of population, because the two smaller States of South Australia and Western Australia have a considerably higher funding level.

The simple fact is that this Government and its Ministers are insensitive to the cultural needs of the community.

Mr McKECHNIE: I rise to a point of order. I was trying to be very helpful to the honourable member for Cook and discussing an electorate problem with him when the honourable member for Townsville West began to speak. It has been brought to my attention that he claimed that I am a card-carrying member of the League of Rights. I am not. I find that remark offensive, and I ask him to withdraw it.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Booth): Order! The Minister asks for the withdrawal of that expression.

Mr SMITH: Yes, I do so accordingly.

Although the Premier and his Ministers can look out onto a magnificent edifice on the south bank and hold it up as evidence of Queensland's pre-eminence in cultural affairs, there is a well-justified feeling of desperation among the State's performing arts companies that the hiring charges for the use of the complex's theatres will be so high that the companies will not be able to afford the use of these magnificent facilities.

The Queensland companies are now faced with the situation that, with the exception of the Lyric Opera, and later the Queensland Theatre Company, they will effectively be shut out and the great danger exists that only the touring national companies will receive the benefit of the huge investment that has been made over recent years.

I draw attention to the Minister's reply to the member for Aspley, I think on Tuesday—incidentally, I acknowledge that he is a genuine supporter of the theatre—when, rather than answer a serious and legitimate question on seat costs, he went on at great length about peripheral matters.

That response, I suggest, did reveal that the use of those theatres for genuine artistic purpose is not a high priority of the Minister.

I can only presume that his first priorities for the use of the venue will include National Party election launches, mass rallies of the League of Rights and the Festival of Light.

Mr McKECHNIE: I rise to a point of order. The Opposition speakers have generally been pretty good in debating the Estimates, but this chap is really saying things that are offensive. Of course I am concerned about the theatre generally. In my answer the other day I even said that some of the performances would be free. I ask the honourable member to withdraw the remarks. I find it offensive for him to say that as Minister for The Arts I am not interested in the genuine theatre. It is offensive.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister has asked for a withdrawal.

Mr SMITH: I do so accordingly.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.

Mr SMITH: The Minister was not very happy about some of the remarks I made before the recess. The blunt truth, which I challenge the Minister to deny in his summing-up, is that this year the performing companies, with minor exceptions, were not given any increase in funding. In dollar terms they received an extra 8 per cent, which barely covered inflation. They also received a once only enhancement grant to provide funds to perform at the official opening season of the Performing Arts Complex in April next year. That will certainly soak up the extra meagre funds that they were given. After that, they are strictly on their own.

Mr McKechnie: What does the Federal Labor Government do for the arts?

Mr SMITH: I will come to that. If the Minister keeps his ears open he may learn something. Indeed, I will contrast the performance of the State Government with that of the Federal Hawke Government, which increased its level of support by 14 per cent in monetary terms to \$43,580,000, as the second step in restoring funding to the 1975-76 level in real terms.

Mr McKechnie interjected.

Mr SMITH: I have a great deal to say. I will not accept the Minister's inane interjections.

The real increase this year in the Hawke Government funding was in excess of 9 per cent. That performance is very different from the record of the Government of this State.

Governments at all levels must accept the fact that the gap between earned income and expenditure of performing arts organisations is likely to widen. That is a pandemic problem and is not peculiar to Queensland. It is caused by the labour-intensive nature of the industry. It is therefore likely that all performing arts bodies will require increasing subsidies as the years go by if they are to even maintain their current programs, let alone increase them. Most companies would welcome the idea of guaranteed triennial funding. That would enable them to plan ahead with greater surety. Obviously that is particularly important to opera companies for which leading singers are engaged years ahead.

Inflation in the arts generally runs higher than in the general community. For example, the latest communication from advertising agents such as Ogilvy & Mather reveal that all stations are likely to increase their rates by 20 per cent or more in 1985. Traditionally, press rates rise by 10 per cent as from 1 March each year and, indeed, the "Daily Sun" has set an additional half-yearly rate increase of 10 per cent so that, at best, an increase of 10 per cent and, at worst, 12 per cent should be expected over the next 12 months. The costs in radio stations fluctuate because of ratings. At the moment, it is said that production costs are static, but there have already been varying price increases through higher material costs such as paper stock and photographic charges.

The cost of touring such a huge State as Queensland is very high. It must be borne in mind that a number of centres have a declining population. In other words, touring will always involve major losses if companies are to take quality work to country areas.

In the past 10 years, new theatres have been established, to some extent with the aid of the State Government, but with much heavier funding by local authorities, at Gladstone, Rockhampton, Ayr, Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns. As a result, audiences in these centres have since multiplied five times. Two of the theatres—the Civic in Townsville and the Pilbeam in Rockhampton—are larger and offer better facilities than any theatre currently operating in Brisbane. That will be so until the new centre at South Brisbane opens. Buildings alone will not make live theatre operate at its best. The local councils and communities of the north have made sure that their theatres are full of theatrical product and audience.

Although the number of performances and the size of the audiences have increased spectacularly in the north, the number of productions emanating from Brisbane has declined. That can be attributed mainly to two factors—the lack of State and Federal support, although the lack of Federal support has been corrected, especially for touring, and the apparent inability of most Brisbane-based companies to mount a viable tour.

The managements in both Rockhampton and Townsville have told me that they have had more dealings with southern-based theatre companies and producers than with Brisbane companies. That is sad.

I take the view that State companies, as part of the conditions of their grant, should be required to undertake work in regional Queensland. If grants cannot be increased to

allow for this, Brisbane seasons should be reduced and the funds that are saved should be put towards touring costs.

A commitment should be made towards training by the establishment of master classes for local people wherever tours are undertaken. Brisbane people have ready access to such tuition, but regional Queenslanders are deprived of this expertise.

Token visits by organisations achieve little. The annual visit of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra to Townsville should include at least two different concerts and suitable master classes for local musicians. That would have a lasting effect on the cultural life of that city.

Many State companies claim that it is financially impossible for them to tour; yet the Queensland Ballet Company tours successfully. Why is that so?

Many local authorities in regional Queensland actively support shows in their centres. This initiative is now being used against the councils. More and more companies that play in Brisbane without any support from the Brisbane City Council expect support from councils in regional Queensland.

Arts funding is a question of balancing the diverse needs of the community. Although it is easy to say that, because twice as many people attend one form of the arts than another, that form should receive twice the funding, in practice that is not possible. Many minor art forms, to operate at minimum levels, need a higher level of funding.

I am fairly unhappy with the way arts funding is distributed. A central arts advisory body separate from the Government should be established to advise the Minister on the distribution of funds. I am saying that everything in the garden is not rosy.

I was also told the other day that Victoria has moved into regionalisation. Although lessons are still being learnt, the move has probably been without detriment to the arts. A need exists to rationalise the use of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Theatre Orchestra because I feel that they are difficult to afford.

Although I will not deal with the funding of individual companies, I do have a responsibility to my constituents and to the north Queensland community to draw attention to the petty politics played by the Minister.

I must say that, whatever criticism of the Premier I may have, I regard him as a ruthless but shrewd political operator. For that reason I have no hesitation in nominating the Minister for The Arts for the top of the ministerial hit parade. It is well understood that the Premier and Treasurer will reshape his Ministry in the new year. The worst-kept secret in Parliament is that the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, and one other Minister, will be dropped from the Ministry and other less dramatic changes will be made.

Mr Underwood: Did you know that Mr Tenni wants this job?

Mr SMITH: I have heard that.

The Minister should be dropped. Examples can be found every day of Government pork-barrelling in electorates, with some attempt by the responsible Minister to provide an accompanying rationale.

The Minister for The Arts has attempted to curry favour with the Premier and other National Party bosses by dropping the Florence Bay tourist proposal on Magnetic Island near Townsville. He clumsily attempted to shift the blame on to the Labor city council of Townsville, my parliamentary colleagues and me.

Whilst I have been in this place, I have not seen any other Minister behave so outrageously or to show such political naivety. Incidentally, this tactic has been ridiculed by all sections of the public and the media, and by some of the Minister's colleagues.

As an encore to this outrageous action, he intervened in a Cultural Activities Branch funding recommendation for the North Queensland Ballet Company and, as a result,

instead of that company receiving the increase that it had been promised for part of its development, its funding was restricted to the inflationary increase of 8 per cent plus an inconsequential additional sum as part of the enrichment allocation.

That was clearly the act of a petty individual who thought that, by penalising a Townsville-based company, he was in some way retaliating against the city for its rejection of National Party representation.

A secondary motive might well have been that changes to the board of the North Queensland Ballet Company have made it a far more vibrant, representative and responsible organisation, and not a creature of ministerial whim.

Mr McKECHNIE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member said that I retaliated against Townsville for its lack of National Party representation. I find that offensive, because I did not do that. I ask him to withdraw the remark.

Mr SMITH: Because the Minister is taking up my time, I will withdraw it. Although the Minister will have an opportunity to speak later, he does not like to hear the truth.

Mr McKECHNIE: I rise to another point of order. The honourable member withdrew his remark and then said that I do not like to hear the truth. That is not an unequivocal withdrawal, and I ask that an unequivocal withdrawal be given.

Mr SMITH: I, of course, made an unequivocal withdrawal.

Mr McKECHNIE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member did not withdraw the comment that I asked him to withdraw.

Mr SMITH: I withdraw.

Those actions had a sequel, and it is important that the reasons for that sequel are understood by fair-minded people in the cultural community. The Theatre Board of the Australia Council was well aware of the funding for the North Queensland Ballet Company that should have been forthcoming from the State Government. When that support was not forthcoming, the board essentially played the role of filling the breach. If the Minister cared to exercise his brain at all, he would realise that if State funding had been fairer it would not have been necessary for the Theatre Board to provide \$78,000 for the North Queensland Ballet Company. Although that is not a great sum, when taken in isolation it is certainly generous when compared with the \$139,000 made available for the Queensland Ballet Company. The action of the Minister was well and truly check-mated, and, although I will never know for sure, it occurred to me that the Queensland Theatre Company, as a statutory Government body, may have been the net loser if the Theatre Board was in fact intent on giving the Minister an artistic rap over the knuckles for his heavy handedness.

Now that I have provided something for the cultural community to ponder, let me hasten to add that it is not my wish to see the Queensland Theatre Company denied additional theatre funding. It will continue to have my support and, indeed, I undertake to make representations along those lines. At the same time, I trust that the pettiness that prevailed with respect to the north Queensland organisation will not be repeated.

Before I leave the subject of the traditional arts, I should serve notice that the boards of both ballet and opera companies, be they in north Queensland or in Brisbane, must be broadly representative, effective and, even more importantly, professional in their dealings with their own management staff and artists, as well as with private sponsors and the various Government agencies. If those criteria are not being met, the State Government, as the major funding authority, has a responsibility to bring about change when change is needed.

To elaborate a little further—in fact, further than I intended to go—although I am very supportive of north Queensland companies, as I think has been adequately demonstrated over the past years, I am concerned that the best decisions for Queensland as

a whole have not always been taken. Very briefly, it seems to me that organisations such as the North Queensland Opera Company should be able to rely more on, and, indeed, use some of the facilities and talent available from the major opera company in Queensland. It is not unreasonable to expect that there ought to be a greater level of exchange between the North Queensland Ballet Company and the Queensland Ballet Company, including the opportunities for exchange of both artists and technicians.

The New Moon Company has certainly achieved an excellent reputation for its work both in north Queensland and in the far-away centres in which it has performed. Now that that company receives a reasonably high level of funding from Federal, State and local government sources, it is time to insist on a reduction of the number of performers brought in from the southern States at the obvious expense of work opportunities for local artists.

I never fail to be surprised by the fact that so few people in Government appreciate the contribution to the economy of investment in the performing arts and its significance in terms of employment opportunities. It can well be argued that there is a realistic investment return, or a multiplier, in excess of five. In fact, using the derived economic multipliers, it is correct to say that, for an investment of about \$2m in performing arts companies in 1983, something in excess of \$11m of economic activity was generated—a not insignificant boost to Queensland's economy.

I have in my possession a table that sets out in detail the level of patronage, and the economic effect of that patronage, for the year ended 31 December 1983. I seek leave of the Committee to have the table incorporated in "Hansard" so that members will have the opportunity of familiarising themselves with the importance of this industry.

Leave granted.

THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THEIR ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
WIDER COMMUNITY

CAPPA MEMBERS

YEAR ENDING 31/12/83

BOX OFFICE INCOME	\$	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE \$
Queensland Theatre Company	690,000	1,881,000
Queensland Ballet Company	389,000	1,024,000
Queensland Theatre Orchestra	16,000	694,000
T. N. Theatre Company	126,000	369,000
New Moon Theatre Company	172,000	535,000
La Boite Theatre	146,000	317,000
North Queensland Ballet Company	74,000	210,000
Queensland Marionette Theatre	11,000	30,000
	<u>\$1,624,000</u>	<u>\$5,060,000</u>
*(i) Box Office/Ancillary spending $\times$ 1.06	=	\$1,721,440
(ii) Companies' spending and ancillary	=	\$6,781,440
(iii) Impact on Queensland economy $\times$ 1.6	=	\$10,850,304
(iv) Impact on Australian economy $\times$ 2.1	=	\$14,241,024

Attendances	Company	†Nos. of weeks direct employment for workers and staff
173,000	Qld. Theatre Company	2,841
72,000	Qld. Ballet Company	1,380
20,000	Qld. Theatre Orchestra	1,880
23,000	T.N. Theatre Company	844
20,000	New Moon Theatre Company	520
41,000	La Boite	592
T.B.A.	North Queensland Ballet Company	431
6,000	Marionette Theatre	53
<u>355,000</u>		<u>8,541</u>

* Using Canadian derived economic multipliers.

† Does not include contractors or theatre venue staff, etc.

25th May, 1984

Mr SMITH: I now move to a question not so much about funding but about the basic recognition of the importance of the arts and culture in the community and the poor recognition of that by government generally in past years. An interesting fact is that although some of the world's most notorious people, both in a criminal and a political sense, have been great acquirers and hoarders of art treasures, reactionary governments tend to be unsupportive of the arts.

Time expired.

Mr McPHIE (Toowoomba North) (7.30 p.m.): I was surprised at the complete lack of understanding displayed by the honourable member for Townsville West in his speech. His misinterpretation of facts staggered me. The Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts is one of the most capable Ministers in the Government. He is doing an excellent job. I cannot understand why Opposition members would make such remarks. The member for Townsville West was a one-off speaker from the Opposition, because most of the other Opposition speakers complimented the Minister and recognised the good work that he is doing.

Mr FitzGerald: He is the only knocker over there, really.

Mr McPHIE: He is tonight. Often there are other knockers on the Opposition benches.

Mr McKechnie: He was the only Opposition member who became personal. One of his colleagues told me that if his brains were made of ink he would not have enough for a full stop.

Mr McPHIE: That would be a fair and accurate description of the honourable member.

The responsibilities in the Minister's portfolio include tourism, sport, national parks and the arts and cover a wealth of interest throughout the State. I compliment not only the Minister on the way in which he has handled his portfolio but also the Minister's predecessor (Mr Tony Elliott) for instituting the initiatives that were handed over to the present Minister. The Minister's appointment coincided with my election to this Assembly.

I have watched with interest how the Minister has grown in stature. He has matured in office. He is doing an excellent job. I am sure that all the honest members in this Chamber—even the member for Cook (Mr Scott)—would agree with those comments.

Tourism is the glamour area in the Minister's portfolio. The best known glamour areas in the tourism industry would be the Great Barrier Reef, Surfers Paradise and the area surrounding the Carnarvon Range. The Atherton Tableland, all the coastal areas, Cape York and the Gulf country are other important tourist areas. The honourable member for Mourilyan provided a good description of all the tourist assets in the north.

Mr Borbidge: Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, too.

Mr McPHIE: Toowoomba will be mentioned.

The member for Cook would agree that Cape York has tremendous tourist potential that could be developed by Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. I am sure that that is an area to which the Minister will give consideration in the future. There is a host of other tourist areas inland, such as the opal fields at Quilpie, the vast channel country which can be developed and made into tourist attractions for overseas as well as Australian visitors, the vast cotton areas at St George, and the big irrigation scheme there, and the attractions at Roma and Miles. In addition, there are Toowoomba, the Brisbane area and Moreton Bay. There are individual centres that are tourist attractions in their own right, such as the Stockman's Hall of Fame, the Jondaryan Woolshed and nearby Brookvale Park where just about every type of acacia that can be found in Australia is grown, the Stanthorpe vineyards and the local tourist attractions on the Darling Downs.

Although I represent the Darling Downs area, I have been to Mount Isa. I first visited Mount Isa in 1949. I know what a great attraction it is. I returned to that city in 1978 and went to the full depth of the mine on a proper tour with the mines staff. That is a big attraction in Mount Isa. Later I will refer to some other attractions. The mining industry has great potential for tourist development. Power houses are tourist attractions in their own right.

Big events, such as the Commonwealth Games, attract many people to the State. Overseas visitors were attracted to this State in their thousands. Expo 88 is the next big event scheduled for Queensland. It will be a large exposition. Its management has been overseen by the Government. Brisbane will be hosting the Olympics in 1992. The Brisbane City Council will have the backing of the Queensland Government. Queensland will be the show-place of the world. Many annual events take place on the Great Barrier Reef and along the coast. Brisbane also has the Exhibition and Warana. The two biggest events in inland Queensland are the Toowoomba show early in the year and the Carnival of Flowers, which attracts many people, in the latter part of the year. Associated with the Carnival of Flowers is a big travel exposition, which was run for the first time this year and was a great success. That exposition will continue.

There is tremendous scope for more development. The Peninsula area, which is represented by the member for Cook, has great potential. I have spoken to the member for Mount Isa about the prospects for western Queensland. The member for Warwick mentioned what could be done in the area surrounded by Stanthorpe, Warwick, Goomburra Valley, Toowoomba and the top part of the Lockyer Valley.

I am pleased that the Minister is taking the initiative and is setting up tourist facilities. I will speak on that matter later.

Shortly, big development will occur when the bridge is built to Stradbroke Island. The area will be opened up to everybody, as it should be. We on the Darling Downs might be one-eyed about the beautiful countryside and wonderful weather——

Mr Littleproud: And the Golden West.

Mr McPHIE: And the Golden West, yes. One day I was yarning to a tourist entrepreneur from the Gold Coast. As a result of that discussion he went back to the Gold Coast and established two, three and four-day tours from the Gold Coast to the Darling Downs. Many Gold Coast visitors come from interstate. Instead of only sitting on the beach during their stay, they now have an opportunity of going inland and seeing a bit more of Queensland. And there is a good deal to see.

I know that there are problems. The previous speaker dealt with a few of them.

I am apprehensive about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, which was set up a few years ago. The concept is excellent. The conservation aspect of it is excellent. However, if bureaucracy is allowed to go unbridled, it will probably ruin the whole thing. Embargoes will be placed on people going to certain areas. I know that some areas must be protected. I was instrumental in working out the protection criteria to prevent aircraft flying over certain areas. I also worked out the criteria to allow aircraft to fly over certain areas under particular circumstances. The old bureaucratic finger could be pointed at that marine park and destroy it completely for the people of Queensland and Australia.

The Minister mentioned air charges, and I wholeheartedly agree with what he said about them. Air navigation charges, landing charges and the fuel tax relative to the operation of passenger aircraft are absolutely outlandish. Those charges are increased in just about every Federal Budget. Not only the Hawke Budget, but also previous Federal Budgets whacked the aviation industry. Those charges are passed on to the tourist. The tourist comes here and spends his dollars, and the Federal Government taxes him. It is double dipping, and, if that practice continues, it will cripple the tourist industry.

The Minister mentioned penalty rates. I wholeheartedly agree with what he said. It is not a case of doing away with penalty rates and making the people who work in the tourist industry put out their hands for tips. That is not the intention. That is not the way in which Australians operate.

Mr Scott: Tell us what you are talking about.

Mr McPHIE: It has been explained to Opposition members often enough.

The Government does not believe in penalty rates for the tourist industry, because it operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It has to provide a service at a reasonable price, and tourist entrepreneurs and the people running tourist resorts cannot provide the services because they have to pay time and a half, double time and even triple time. The Government wants a flat rate in the tourist industry and it wants people to work shift work. I did that for years, but I received no penalty rate. It did not hurt me. Allowance is made in setting wage levels. The wage is not calculated on a basic rate without penalties or overtime. If that were done in the arbitration commission, it would work quite successfully. It would allow the tourist industry to remain on a sound financial footing.

Mr Underwood: Would you increase the wages generally?

Mr McPHIE: I would not, and the member for Ipswich West knows jolly well that I would not. The wages must be reassessed if penalty rates are removed. The Government would accept that. The name of the tourism game is to attract people to resorts. It is necessary to attract not only Queenslanders but also people from interstate and overseas. The portfolio has enjoyed a number of successes since the Minister was given responsibility for it, and there will be many more of them. Enterprise and enthusiasm are shown by the Minister and by his staff at all levels. The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has attractive offices all over the State. International flights are arriving in Queensland in ever-increasing numbers. Cairns and Townsville now see international arrivals. When the Iwasaki resort becomes operational, international flights will arrive at Rockhampton. There will be no problem with that airfield. With the exception of health and customs manpower, Rockhampton has all the facilities to cater for international flights.

A number of other portfolios provide support for the tourist industry. I refer to the portfolios of Water Resources and Maritime Services, headed by John Goleby, and Transport, headed by Don Lane. The Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services (Mr Tenni) has released the Sunmap series. The Honourable Russ Hinze has a very important responsibility with the State's roads. One source of tourist potential that has not been properly tapped, as I mentioned a moment ago to the member for Mount Isa, is the responsibility of the Honourable Ivan Gibbs. He ought to be providing more opportunities for tourists to inspect mines. The big open-cut mines are far easier to inspect than the underground mines. The State's massive power stations ought to be encouraging controlled and regulated visits by tour parties. Those projects have a tremendous potential for tourism.

I turn now to sport. The Government has given strong support to sport of all types throughout Queensland. I thank the Minister for the help that he has given to the sporting bodies in Toowoomba, not only for coaching but also for the provision of facilities. When it has been my pleasure to hand cheques over to organisations, they have been delighted. They appreciate the help. They make excellent use of the facilities and take full advantage of the coaching.

Mr Jennings: It is a very good principle.

Mr McPHIE: It certainly is.

The member for Warwick mentioned that the department ought to give greater support to regional sporting competitions, especially those for youngsters. I support that approach.

The member for Ashgrove said that the Government should not cater only for the elite. I do not think that the Government is catering only for the elite. The honourable member was one of the elite, as were the member for Mansfield (Bill Kaus) and the member for Fassifern (Kev Lingard). The three of them were elite sportsmen. They would all agree, I am sure, that the Government's support extends to every level of sport throughout the State. The sporting elite are not selected for individual treatment.

The program has been extremely successful and has thrown up a number of top athletes. Swimming and athletics have risen to great heights from a small base. Departmental support filters down to the small local clubs. The competitors who excel eventually come out on top. That is how Queensland's Olympians were discovered. It will happen again in 1992.

Mr Jennings: The junior sporting levies are fantastically good, aren't they?

Mr McPHIE: They are. The bad egg in the basket that I would like to talk about is the Commonwealth's attitude. The Institute of Sport is excellent. The diving and squash sections of the institute are in Queensland. Queenslanders would be delighted to have more sections of the institute up here and help to turn out top Australian athletes.

Why give way to the minority of bigoted pressure groups, as the Commonwealth Government has by banning cigarette and liquor advertisements? Australian sports have received tremendous financial support from that advertising. Without the money provided by that sponsorship, sporting facilities and sporting abilities will decline. I hope that no bans on advertising of those products will be imposed in Queensland, because support from those industries is essential.

Mr UNDERWOOD: I rise to a point of order. The Commonwealth has not applied any bans to cigarette and alcohol advertising.

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

Mr McPHIE: I accept what the honourable member for Ipswich West has said. Discussion has taken place about supposed bans because a ban was imposed by the Labor Government in Western Australia. Although bans that will apply to cigarettes and alcohol are being discussed at the moment, the honourable member is correct in saying that they have not been implemented.

I now criticise the Federal Government for taking support for sport too far. I do not refer to the Prime Minister's going to every sporting event and crying his heart out; I refer instead to the \$30m that has been allocated towards the defence of the America's Cup.

Mr Jennings: What about the cost of the purchase of "Australia II"?

Mr McPHIE: I was about to refer to that. The point I make is that \$2m was paid by the Federal Government for "Australia II". However, it would not contribute \$5m or \$6m towards Expo 88, with all the potential benefit that such a trade exhibition has in both the short and long terms. The Federal Government ought to be condemned for supporting an international sporting event rather than an international trade exposition.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr McPHIE: I am not sure whether help can be given to many people. In any event, I do not know whether the Minister can offer assistance to the Australian test cricket team in about two weeks time. I fear that he will not be able to.

Mr Littleproud: Did the Australian Prime Minister go to the dressing room and congratulate members of the team?

Mr McPHIE: On that day, he would have been crying in the corner. I think he would have been the only Australian supporter.

An excellent service is being provided State-wide by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I congratulate the Minister and officers of his department on the initiative taken by this Government in opening national parks to tourism and in developing facilities in national parks. Officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service are very dedicated, and it is a shame that more funds cannot be allocated to increase staff numbers. I hope that establishment levels will be examined for the future, and I am sure that there would be no shortage of volunteers for jobs in that particularly enjoyable area.

There are many facets of the arts, and the various forms of the arts are being supported in every way by the Minister and his department. In particular I congratulate him on the construction of the Performing Arts Complex that was accepted by the Government recently. That development is on the south bank of the Brisbane River and it will be complemented by the Queensland Art Gallery, the Queensland Museum and the State Library when the structure is completed. The Queensland Cultural Centre will be the envy of other Australian State capitals. Great credit should go to the Government and to all the people who have been involved in the construction of the centre.

However, I ask the Minister to remember that not everything begins and ends in Brisbane. I realise that Brisbane is the State's capital; but I do urge the Minister not to forget that Queensland is the most decentralised State in Australia. Outside of the metropolitan area, cities with a large population are spread throughout the State. People in provincial cities and country centres would appreciate being given an opportunity to attend some preforming arts productions. Although some theatre groups and performing arts groups do tour the State, it would be appreciated if more of them were able to do so. I stress that the provision of more subsidies or grants for the building of performing arts centres would assist greatly in the development of the arts in provincial capitals. Unfortunately, at present the task is tremendous and beyond the capability of most local authorities and city councils. I trust that the Minister will give serious consideration to that.

In conclusion, I congratulate the Minister on the excellent performance of the tasks associated with his portfolio. Those remarks apply also to his staff, who are always helpful and courteous. I encouraged the maintenance of that standard of helpfulness over the past year, and I look forward to the future, which is sure to bring bigger and better initiatives.

Mr PRICE (Mount Isa) (7.50 p.m.): I noted the words of the honourable member for Toowoomba North and congratulate him on recognising that there are some cities west of the coastal regions. However, I am sure that, being a resident of Toowoomba, he would appreciate the opinions of somebody from farther west who represents the people of the real outback.

As to his comments about the Federal Government and its gambling \$30m on a yacht race in Western Australia as against Expo 88, I can only say that Mr Hawke always backs a winner. That is obviously why he gave the greater amount to the yacht race.

Mr McKechnie: Why don't you stand up for Queensland?

Mr PRICE: That is exactly what I am doing now. I am about to tell the Minister some things he does not know about Queensland. He does not give the north west the recognition it deserves. That is certainly the impression I get of the recognition given to the north west by the people from the south-east corner of the State.

Much has been said in this debate about the tourist potential of our State. Undoubtedly Queenslanders live in one of the world's beauty spots. Unfortunately, attention is heavily focused on the obvious, and development is much more rapid in the coastal regions and the south-east corner of the State than in the north west. I believe that the north west has the greatest tourist potential of any part of the State, but it goes unrecognised. I refer to the Wellesley Islands, including Mornington Island, which have the best fishing in Australia. A good deal is said about marlin-fishing off Cairns, which certainly attracts the international tourists and the money that comes with them. Unfortunately, they cannot be attracted into the southern Gulf. I doubt whether there is a better fishing spot in Queensland than the Wellesley Islands. One has almost to stand behind a tree to bait one's hook.

The far-northern section of the Wellesley Islands includes Mornington Island itself, and the other principal islands are Denman Island, Bentinck Island and Sweers Island. Sweers Island is rather special to the larger communities in the north west because it is the Mecca of week-end fishermen, particularly those from the Mount Isa and Cloncurry regions. A rather rough airstrip has been built and fishermen fly into the island for the week-end. The fishing is excellent, so much so that on quite a few occasions fish have had to be thrown off the aeroplane to enable it to get off the ground.

The interesting point is that at the moment Sweers Island is not incorporated in any shire in Queensland, and it is very important that its incorporation into a shire be looked at as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, Sweers Island was caught up in a recent dispute. At the time of the setting-up of the Mornington shire, the Government decided

that Sweers Island would be the site of an international tourist resort. Tenders were called, but, unfortunately, none were received and so nothing has been done with the island. I believe that it is still an ideal spot for an international tourist resort one day. There is a surveyed township on the island, and some blocks are privately owned.

As soon as the news was broken that an international resort was planned for the island, the shires councils of Mornington and Burke both wanted it incorporated in their shire. When the resort idea fell through, the Burke shire's plan also fell through. Mornington shire has a special claim to Sweers Island. Apart from the fact that the island is part of the traditional land of the Aborigines who live in the Wellesley Islands, it also provides basic economic support for the islanders.

The Aboriginal reserves in the region are closed shops, that is, they have the right to determine who goes on to the islands. In my opinion, tourism inevitably will become a part of the economic base to provide self-sufficiency in the region.

Mr Simpson: What fish do they catch there?

Mr PRICE: Mornington Island has a little jetty that extends into the channel that runs between Denham Island and Mornington Island. Recently, when I flew up with a party for the week-end, I saw a lass who had thrown out her line and pulled in a Spanish mackerel. She did that merely by throwing her line straight off the jetty.

One tourist attraction could be the natives catching dugong.

Mr Scott: I would not tell them any more, otherwise you will never get them out of your electorate next winter.

Mr PRICE: I will not take that further.

Mr Innes: You will get into far less trouble on a jetty than in a boat.

Mr PRICE: That could well be so.

When the natives catch a dugong the approach is quite different. A line is thrown out and the dugong takes the bait. The natives do not pull the dugong on board to let it die. They hold it under water by the tail so that it drowns. Dugong are protected and the natives catch them only for special occasions such as dance festivals.

The huge turtles which abound are quite easily caught. They, too, are protected. Only the natives catch them.

If the Minister is to take an active interest in this area, the first priority should be to try to get the island incorporated into the Wellesley group, and into the Mornington shire, so that, eventually, the people can consider the economic possibilities of development. That will ensure the co-operation of the black community.

The native handicrafts from the area are sold extensively on the east coast of Australia. Young people on the island should be encouraged to produce arts and crafts. Arts and crafts made by the Mornington Island people are famous. They are shipped to Cairns and, as I said, sold in many places on the east coast.

The island women are considering producing cloth imprinted with native designs. Some of the designs are outstanding. In time, with encouragement and the right equipment, they may be able to supply material in bulk for sale all over Australia, if not the world.

To the south, on the mainland, lie Burketown and the Gregory River. Some honourable members may know that the Gregory River is one of the few perennial rivers in Australia; it flows all year round. It is artesian fed and rises in springs close to Camooweal. Each year, one of the two major Australian canoe races, which is 30 miles long, is held there. The other big race is held on the Murray River.

Mr McPhie: What about the Alice Springs race?

Mr PRICE: I should have qualified my statement by saying that there is water in the river and the canoes have bottoms.

“Escott” station, which is in the Gregory River confluence, consists of a motel and a working cattle station. People who stay at the motel participate in station activities. People on the station will show visitors crocodiles which can be caught quite handy to the area. It is also a good fishing spot for genuine barramundi.

South of that station is Lawn Hill Gorge. All honourable members will have heard about it. I bring to the Minister's attention the fact that Lawn Hill Gorge has not yet been gazetted as a national park.

Mr McKechnie: I know that.

Mr PRICE: If the Minister does know that, when he sums up at the conclusion of this debate, he can tell me why that is so. I thought that a couple of impediments remained, one of which is an authority to prospect that is still current.

Mr McKechnie: I will give you an answer now. It is proceeding as quickly as possible; I can assure you that that is happening. There are a few things to finalise. I have been there. I think that it is a wonderful spot, and I am enthusiastic about its gazettal.

Mr PRICE: Good; that is tremendous.

Mr Scott: That is a complete answer, isn't it?

Mr PRICE: Yes. Although the Minister has not set a time for the gazettal, I would appreciate further elaboration from him so that I can tell the people in the area what is happening. Although Lawn Hill Gorge has a ranger, he cannot handle the crowds coming into the area because he does not have any authority until the gorge is gazetted as a national park.

Mr McKechnie: He does have the authority, and we are running it as though it is gazetted, I can assure you of that.

Mr PRICE: I realise that the ranger is at the gorge.

Mr McKechnie: He has the authority.

Mr PRICE: He seems to be in doubt about that.

Mr McKechnie: You have my assurance that he has authority.

Mr PRICE: I will certainly give the ranger the Minister's assurance that he has authority, in the way determined by the service, to handle people coming into the gorge.

I suggest that those honourable members who have not been to Lawn Hill Gorge speak with the Minister.

Mr McKechnie: He has been given my assurance.

Mr PRICE: That is good. Perhaps the Minister can inform me when he was last at the gorge.

Mr McKechnie: A couple of months ago.

Mr Miller: Haven't you been there recently?

Mr PRICE: Yes, I have been there several times.

The gorge is on “Lawn Hill” station. Recently the Government gave a grant of \$600,000 to the Burke Shire Council and quite a considerable amount of work has been carried out. For example, pathways have been built. The spectacular nature of the gorge

is a sight to see. It is certainly one of the wonders of Queensland. Officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service say that Lawn Hill Gorge ranks with Carnarvon Gorge in central Queensland as one of the jewels in the crown of that service. The region takes in a series of spectacular gorges fed year round by springs in the Constance Ranges.

In recent years, Lawn Hill Gorge has become popular with holiday-makers seeking its unique beauty, peace and solitude. It is an extremely fragile area and is a cornerstone in the development of tourism in the Gulf area. Scientists have discovered evidence that indicates continuous human habitation in the area stretching back for more than 30 000 years.

Unfortunately, until recently, cattle were running in the region. Officers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service are quick to explain that cattle and national parks do not mix. With the co-operation of the "Lawn Hill" station authorities, cattle will be kept out of the region.

Just south of Lawn Hill Gorge is "Riversleigh" station, which is fed by the Gregory River. For the last few years Dr Michael Archer and a New South Wales archaeological team have been working on a plateau of rock. The rocks, with their rich payload of fossils, are hewn from a bleak limestone-capped plateau 200 km north of Mount Isa in Queensland's harsh and largely underdeveloped Gulf Country.

Mr Miller: Which paper are you quoting from?

Mr PRICE: I am reading from an article in the "The Sunday Mail Color Magazine".

Mr Miller: We have read that. This is very boring.

Mr PRICE: Perhaps the honourable member for Ithaca can tell me all about it. Can he tell me what sort of fossils have been found and the tourist potential of the area?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Fouras): Order! I ask the honourable member for Ithaca not to interject from other than his usual place.

Mr PRICE: I want to point out the significance of that find. The rocks, bones and teeth that have been found there indicate a sprawling prehistoric animal graveyard dotted about the plateau, a time capsule that Dr Archer regards as a priceless addition to a scientific jigsaw puzzle, with many tantalising gaps. Dr Archer said—

"It may sound corny, but the best comparison I can make with this discovery is the finding of the Rosetta Stone."

Some honourable members will know that the Rosetta Stone was found near the mouth of the River Nile and gave scholars the clues that they needed to understand the meaning of Egyptian hieroglyphics and thus broke the code of a language that had been a riddle for hundreds of years.

Dr Archer believes the Riversleigh fossil deposit will prove to have similar significance in gaining an understanding of Australia's special natural history, as well as in providing important information to scientists round the world about the general processes of evolution. The diversity and quality of the fossils in this site are amazing. For the benefit of those honourable members who have not read this newspaper, I point out that the article is in "The Sunday Mail Color Magazine" dated 26 August 1984.

When the first indications of the fossils were announced publicly, I contacted the Queensland Museum to find out whether some of them would eventually find their way back to the Mount Isa region. I have been assured that eventually that will occur. A set will be available in Brisbane for examination by scientists from all over the world. Eventually a set will be made available in Mount Isa. Museum grants are available to help with the setting up of museums, and the region will benefit. This will be another attraction in the Mount Isa area.

Every year 30 000 visitors come to Mount Isa just to look at the mine. I suppose double that number pass through Mount Isa.

The Minister stated that \$475,000 will be spent on national parks, including Lawn Hill Gorge. Could the Minister give me an indication of what might go into my electorate?

Mr McKechnie: A complete program of building walking tracks, the construction of quite good toilet facilities, a house for the ranger and, of course, the camping ground that they will service.

Mr PRICE: That is happening now, is it?

Mr McKechnie: In this financial year those facilities will be developed.

Mr PRICE: Although the Minister criticised the price of domestic flights, recently when I was in Mackay I listened to a speech by Mr Brown at a seminar on northern development, in which he stated that, on a per capita per kilometre basis, Australia has probably one of the cheapest domestic air services in the world. However, I agree with the Minister's comment. Domestic air fares are too dear.

A flight from Townsville to Perth touches down in Mount Isa, as does one from Cairns to Alice Springs. Of course, the Townsville-Mount Isa milk run has been in operation for years. As well as those services, Mount Isa has a daily service to Brisbane and is therefore well catered for at the moment. I believe that, to help develop country regions, national airlines have a responsibility to develop tourist packages on routes such as those that pass through Mount Isa. The national airlines do not do enough. TAA and Ansett should be developing their own packages to encourage tourism in the regions that they service. At the moment they tend to take money out of the region and do not help to develop it.

Time expired.

Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (8.10 p.m.): It is with pleasure that I join in the debate on the Estimates. I congratulate the Minister and his department on the excellent job that they are doing. At present, Queensland is witnessing an exciting period in the portfolio that the Minister has the privilege to administer. Tremendous development is taking place in all areas of his portfolio. Speaker after speaker has offered advice to the Minister. Members on both sides of the Chamber are excited about the developments that have taken place and are taking place in Queensland.

The handing over last week of the Performing Arts Complex is indicative of what can be done in Queensland. I know that there are many other centres in Australia and that every mainland city has a performing arts complex. I believe that the building of the next stage of the Queensland Cultural Centre complex will give encouragement to the development of the performing arts, to those people who wish to enjoy those arts, and to those who participate in the performances that will take place in the theatres.

I was pleased to hear the Minister say that an outreach project would be conducted and that the arts will be transported to people in provincial areas. I understand that an outreach program will transport people who reside in provincial areas to the arts.

It is very important to realise that the complex in Brisbane is for all Queenslanders to enjoy. I believe that they will enjoy it. I know that the people in the Lockyer electorate with a taste for the arts will be able to travel to Brisbane to watch performances. They will not have a great distance to travel. I was pleased that the Minister said that an outreach program will be established to encourage as many groups as possible to come to Queensland. They will be encouraged to perform in provincial cities. I know that it is not possible for them to visit every area in the State. I am sure that it will be a successful scheme. I am sure that honourable members in this Chamber will continue to raise that matter with the Minister.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr FITZGERALD: The honourable member for Brisbane Central is trying to side-track me. Some small theatres have been operating in Queensland for a number of years. The honourable member drew my attention to the Gatton Mercury Theatre. As a young boy, I was a performer in that theatre. That will stand behind me forever. I remember those days when as an amateur actor I performed on stage. I know that the honourable member for Brisbane Central realises the importance of being a performer in a place such as this.

The second stage of the Queensland Cultural Centre is being built. The Queensland Museum, which is the third stage of the development, will be completed towards the end of 1985. It will be a mammoth task to transport all the articles from the present museum to the new museum.

The art gallery opened in the cultural centre a couple of years ago. The complex is developing into a magnificent site. With other development along the south bank of the Brisbane River and with the development of the Expo 88 site, the area will become one of the outstanding features of Brisbane and Queensland. Many people will recognise that area as being part of Queensland, just as one regards the sails of the Opera House and the coat-hanger bridge as landmarks in Sydney. The buildings on the south bank of the Brisbane River will be a landmark in Brisbane. The Government and those people responsible for bringing forward the ideas, the design and construction of that complex deserve the highest commendation that this Committee can give them. As I said earlier, all members of this Committee will be proud of the complex when it is completed.

I turn now to the Tourism part of the Minister's portfolio. Previous speakers on that subject confined their remarks to their own areas. I could spend much more than the 15 minutes remaining to me on the need for tourism in the Lockyer, Crows Nest and Toowoomba areas. The tourist industry must be considered as a whole. We cannot have one part of the State vying for customers at the expense of other areas. The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has to go out into the market-place and attract tourists from the other States.

The figures mentioned by the Minister this evening confirm the success that the Tourist and Travel Corporation has enjoyed in attracting visitors to Queensland. Tourism in this State has increased by a massive amount.

Mr Borbidge: We cannot afford to become complacent.

Mr FITZGERALD: As the member for Surfers Paradise says, we cannot afford to become complacent. It has been said that the internal air fares in Australia are inhibiting the development of our tourist industry. Queensland is a far-flung State. It is situated a long way from the major centres of Sydney and Melbourne. Successive Federal Governments have dictated that overseas airlines must fly first to those southern capitals. The tourist then has to travel via expensive domestic air routes to Queensland. That policy has been strangling the tourist potential of Queensland. However, despite that impediment, the Queensland tourist industry has been developing.

A cost/benefit study ought to be carried out to determine whether the money forgone by not imposing taxes on domestic airlines could be offset by the extra benefits that would flow from increased employment. I do not speak only of increased employment in the tourist industry. It would benefit other industries throughout Queensland. It has a multiplier effect. Interstate tourists who come to the Gold Coast will also visit Toowoomba and other areas. That cost/benefit analysis should be done. There is every possibility that the abolition of airline taxes would prove to be economically feasible. If domestic air costs were reduced, Queensland could start to attract overseas visitors.

Much research has been done on overseas marketing, but the surface has only been scratched. Queensland is watching developments in Japan and the Orient. Tremendous tourist potential exists in that area. The prosperity of Japan is increasing. The average wage in that country is increasing. It is quite a wealthy country. Korea is developing at a very rapid rate and perhaps in the next 10 to 15 years it will become an important

source for tourists to this country. Tourist potential also exists in Hong Kong and Singapore. The requirement of the Japanese people must be recognised. There is a shortage of planes on the route between Australia and Japan. The route is operated by the two airlines, JAL and Qantas. That monopoly has enabled them to structure the air fares so that the route is the most profitable of all routes operated by both airlines. More competition ought to be introduced into the Australia-Japan run. The Australian and Japanese Governments ought to allow charter flights direct to Queensland from the major Japanese centres of population.

The tourist industry must be aware that workers in South East Asia generally have shorter holidays than Australians. Most Japanese workers have annual holidays of a fortnight only. When they travel, they want to see as much as possible in that short space of time. Consequently, more package tours must be introduced to cater for their specific interests.

The honourable member for Lytton has often mentioned that overseas fishermen coming to Australia are not well catered for. I sympathise with him. He expressed himself very well. He understands the industry and the requirements of tourists who come here to fish.

Mr Simpson: He fishes all the time.

Mr FITZGERALD: I realise that he does a great deal of fishing.

He has said that some Japanese members of fishing clubs may never have caught a fish. If they come here, they want to catch a fish. Somebody who was conscious of their needs might fly them to Lady Elliott Island, take them over to Moreton Island or send them to the Great Barrier Reef. On the other hand, if they went to western areas they could catch a few yellow-belly. Large farm dams could be stocked with edible fish. The tourists I am speaking about would enjoy nothing more than a trip to the Darling Downs or the Lockyer Valley to throw in a line with the guarantee of catching a fish.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Isn't that nice?

Mr FITZGERALD: We have to be conscious of their requirements. We ought not to sit back and say sneeringly, "That would be nice, wouldn't it?" The tourist industry is a service industry. It is not good enough to sneer at people and say, "You can get it if you want it. This is the way we are in Australia."

Mr Simpson: You fish in the ponds in Japan and eat what you catch.

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes. That is one of their customs. They like having their photos taken holding their fish. They are prepared to pay a reasonable amount of money for the privilege of enjoying something that they would not be able to do at home.

Overseas visitors may be interested in gem-mining. Queensland has many gem-fields. They would be guaranteed of going home with a gem, even if it was one they had bought on the fields. When Australians go to Japan, they purchase jewellery that has been made for them by the local artisans.

Bird-watching is another interest for some people. When I accompanied the Minister to Japan, we saw in Osaka Bay a bird habitat for migratory birds that fly between Australia and Japan. Large numbers of people were flocking to hides round the bird sanctuary to view birds that spend part of the year in Australia.

Some people are interested in archaeology. Australia has a rich culture. Overseas visitors would be very interested in the history of the Aboriginal people and their artifacts. Tours could be organised to areas, such as the Carnarvons, that are extremely rich in Aboriginal heritage and artifacts.

Unless steps are taken to cater for overseas tourists and ascertain their needs, they will be disappointed. The Government should take steps to ensure that if rain is falling

in one area of Queensland, it is possible to take tourists to another area. Flexibility has to be incorporated in the scheme, and I am sure that that can be arranged.

Before I turn to another of the Minister's responsibilities, attention should be drawn to the needs and customs of overseas people in an endeavour to fulfil their expectations. If attempts are made to accustom international tourists to Australian ways, an element of choice should be left for them as to the meals they wish to eat. A good selection of food should be displayed and they should be encouraged to try Australian food and accept Australian customs.

However, one custom that should be introduced is the American custom of providing cold water at tables. It is surprising that many places catering for tourists, such as cafes, hotels and restaurants, do not provide a jug of cold water at meal times. It would cost virtually nothing, and some tourists would appreciate it being done. However, it just does not happen.

I would like to mention a complaint made by southern relatives of mine about the railway tours that operate from Brisbane to Cairns. They were disappointed that no tropical fruits had been offered during the journey, whereas apples and oranges were offered. Fruit such as papaw is rarely available in the southern States, so, when exotic tropical fruits are in season, they should be offered to tourists.

I would like to compliment the Minister on his handling of national parks. That part of his portfolio is rather difficult and sensitive. Some people in the community have their own ideas about how a national park should be managed. I suggest that the correct way to operate them is to cater for a diversity of interests. National parks should not be sacrosanct and reserved for people who believe that only a select group should be permitted to visit them and see the plants and flowers. I realise that areas of national parks are very sensitive ecologically, and perhaps some areas should be put aside so that they are preserved in a natural state. Such areas should be subject to only a small number of visitors and should be kept aside.

However, elderly people and infirm people who are perhaps recuperating from illness should be catered for. I do not believe that it should be necessary for people to be as fit as an Olympic athlete and be capable of carrying a back-pack for a week to enjoy outdoor activities. People of limited capability should be given access to national parks and should be able to enjoy the beauty of nature by moving about and seeing the features that beautiful national parks have to offer.

I am pleased that the facilities in national parks will be upgraded. I appreciate being able to spend a short period at least once a year under canvas in a national park. I am able to appreciate the wonder of national parks and the diversity of flora and fauna found in Queensland. In fact, last Easter, I spent some time in the Carnarvon National Park. Although I did not want to leave, rainy weather hampered my departure from the national park. However, it was comforting to know that, within a couple of days, I could return home. Not everyone in Australia has a four-wheel-drive vehicle but, in any event, a four-wheel-drive vehicle would make the journey shorter by only two days or so.

In conclusion, I express my pleasure in contributing to this debate. I congratulate the Minister and his officers on the way that they carry out their duties.

Time expired.

Mr INNES (Sherwood) (8.30 p.m.): It is appropriate to follow the honourable member for Lockyer, because I had intended to begin by referring to one of his predecessors. But, first of all, I might speak in defence of the people who drive four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Mr Scott: You've got one yourself.

Mr INNES: I have one myself. Although it might be true that, following a flood, two-wheel-drive vehicles can get on the road two days after a four-wheel-drive vehicle, if one happens to be going camping at the week-end, there is not much pleasure in arriving at the campsite on Tuesday.

But I had intended to refer to the cultural centre. The opening of the Performing Arts Complex, even though it has not been officially handed over, is one of the outstanding events in the history of the State. Indeed, one has to commend a previous member for Lockyer (Sir Gordon Chalk), who piloted the original decision through Cabinet in 1974. One should also congratulate the Premier and successive Treasurers and Ministers for Works who have all played their part in bringing the centre through almost to fulfilment. It is not finished, but it is clearly three-quarters of the way through. It remains now to construct the library so that the whole complex will be complete. The unique feature of the cultural centre, apart from the magnificence of the internal appointments and superb setting, will probably be that a family can arrive in their car, park it, and literally walk for half a kilometre with a whole range of options.

In dealing with the cultural centre, enough has been said about the magnificence of the Performing Arts Complex and its adequacy—

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It's a pity the food at the restaurant did not come up to par.

Mr INNES: I suppose that there are good days and bad days, but I must say that my own experience has been quite pleasant.

Mr McKechnie: It is recognised world-wide as one of the better restaurants.

Mr INNES: To use that well-known phrase in the tourist industry: I am sure that it is the finest in the southern hemisphere.

The completion of the Performing Arts Complex and the cultural centre struck me in the same fashion as the completion of this building. Despite the magnificence of the work in this building, there is something missing. If one goes from room to room in this House, there is something lacking, and I suggest that that lack is in the sort of finishing touches that would usually exist if the building was a home or if it had been completed during the last century. No paintings are displayed.

Mr McKechnie: They will be.

Mr INNES: That is the point I will come to. What will be provided? Heaven save us from another of those marvellous gestures by the local authorities of Queensland. That does not lead to the quality of art that would be appropriate for a fine public building. The reality is that in this decade Queensland will have undergone some of its most significant ever cultural activities in terms of the built environment. It would be very appropriate to mark that by a sample of the work of the distinguished current Queensland artists.

I started to invite a number of distinguished Queensland painters down here for lunch to encourage them to think about freebies, but the project never came to fruition.

This building needs internal decoration. Because of the parquet flooring, when four to five people are talking simultaneously in a room, the noise is absolutely deafening. All the surfaces are hard and the effect of the sound bounce is overwhelming. Carpets and drapes help, as do paintings.

Mr Miller: Parquet is a beautiful floor.

Mr INNES: It is, but, in functional terms, meetings in some of the rooms are physically unpleasant.

It would be very appropriate if the State were to commission works of arts by many of our current, distinguished artists, for Parliament House or the library and Performing Arts Complex. Many distinguished artists in Australia are Queensland born or have

substantial connections with Queensland. In preparing to make this speech, I jotted down the names of a few of them. Lloyd Rees has associations with this State. The names of Sam Pullbrook, Patrick Hockey, Dick Roughsey—who is a fine artist of the primitive school—Steinman, Rick Everingham, Lane, Tom McAulay, Lawrence Daws, John Rigby, Irene Amos and Gordon Shepherdson all come to mind. Their quality as artists is outstanding, and the list is extensive.

These days, only rarely do artists of that quality have a chance to paint a canvas for a major building—for a building that can really cope with it. When a building has big rooms with high ceilings, large paintings are needed. Such paintings are not executed nowadays, because the rooms are usually too small.

I suggest that hanging rails be provided throughout this building. Apart from the works that could be recycled in the Art Gallery, I suggest that paintings could be displayed in rotation between Parliament House, the Performing Arts Complex and the library.

I do not know who would dare suggest it to artists, but, about 300 to 400 years ago, nothing was wrong with a person commissioning a painting and indicating the subject to the artist. That was the way artists made their living and that is how some of the world's finest artists produced their works. It might be appropriate to suggest that landscapes indicative of the diversity of Queensland—its inland and coast, the areas to the north and the south—are required. The painting could even include portraiture or figure-painting involving something significant in current Queensland. It would be a fine gesture by the Government, and a very appropriate move by the Minister's department, if that suggestion were taken on board to mark the significance of what is happening in the cultural history of the State at this time. I commend that thought to the Minister.

In reflecting on the past two or three years, I find that a very simple, self-evident truth comes to the fore. Our tourist development seems to be obsessed with the built micro environment—the resort complexes, international resort complexes, and the quality of rooms.

Mr Scott: There is to be one on Lakefield National Park.

Mr INNES: I think Lakefield National Park, because of its dimensions, is one park that can cope with a cross-section of accommodation types.

Recent experience in Japan has shown that people do not fly here across the Pacific to stay in accommodation equal to that in which they can stay in the United States and Europe, or to see beaches similar to those that they can see in Hawaii or elsewhere in the world. Predominantly, they fly here to see the things that excited and stimulated the first explorers and the rest of the world, and have continued to do so—those things for which Queensland and Australia are unique. I have in mind frilled lizards, koalas and Australia's breeds of crane, such as the brolga. Those are the things that turn the visitors on.

Other pockets of attraction can be pointed out. I am sure that because of their cold climate New Zealanders come to Australia for its warmth. Australia is also the nearest and most accessible tourist destination for them.

Mr Underwood: Do you think that we should be Americanising our national parks?

Mr INNES: No, I do not believe so. The Americans are throwing their system into reverse. What they call in-holdings are on the way out because it has been found that, when an in-holding situation begins and accommodation develops, it dominates the park. A good example is the Yosemite National Park. In effect, the park becomes a mini-city.

I know that the Minister has shown some support for the development of accommodation on the edge of national parks. That will be impossible at the Lakefield National Park. It is a unique and vast park and some form of accommodation must be within the centre of the park.

Mr Scott: Why not put it outside the park—somewhere nearby?

Mr INNES: By the time three airstrips and two or three homesteads are developed—I know that a main homestead and outstations are planned—with substantial areas of modified grazing grass country, I do not think that development on the edge of the park will be feasible.

Mr Scott: I thought you supported private enterprise.

Mr INNES: I certainly do. There is a role for private enterprise to play, under the supervision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, to develop accommodation.

The simple lesson that must be learnt is that the overwhelming attraction of Australia is its uniqueness and its animal life. At present Queensland has an obsession with casinos. Casinos are for the locals. People will not fly from Singapore or Hong Kong to gamble at the casinos. A casino will succeed only in a city with a significant local population. The money is taken from the locals. The experience of the Commonwealth Games was similar, and Expo 88 will be the same. If it succeeds, it will be because of the support of local people.

The relationship between national parks and tourism is clear. The natural Queensland environment and its unique flora and fauna are the reasons tourists come here and why more will come here. If that natural environment is significantly destroyed the future of tourism in this State will also be destroyed. Development must be compatible.

Mr Underwood: What about Downey Creek?

Mr INNES: I do not think that a proposal has been put forward for a tourist development at Downey Creek.

Queensland and Australian rain forests will be of increasing importance. As world rain forests diminish, their attraction will be made increasingly more significant. Depending on one's place in time, the readjustment or dislocation of existing industries or their phasing-out as a result of the preservation of rain forests must be considered. Strict control must be maintained over the taking of that natural resource. The natural beauty of Queensland is the future of the tourism industry.

I support the Minister's actions with regard to St Helena Island. Mr Carroll has had more than a fair go. In fact, I think that he has been dealt with too generously. Money compensation will make up for whatever he loses, and he does not have a freehold right by any means. The potential of St Helena Island as an educational and tourism adjunct to the southern Brisbane area is absolutely enormous and the sooner development starts, the better. The full and sensitive development of St Helena Island and the restoration of some of its historical significance has a very high priority. The sooner the Minister acts, the better.

I wish to make a suggestion to the Minister and his advisers. Young Australians are highly nationalistic. They are proud of this country; they are proud of its natural features and accomplishments. One can cash in on and reinforce that pride in an appropriate way by letting young people see as much of this country as possible.

Young people in other countries such as the United States of America, Japan and the countries of Europe, have facilities of a type that do not exist in Australia. Australia has been a country that has been prosperous and ahead of its time throughout most of its history, and its young people have been affected by that prosperity. When they want to travel round Australia they get into a vehicle with their parents. The nation's vast distances do create some automatic problems.

Elsewhere in the world a special range of cheap accommodation is available to young people. The Youth Hostels Association has taken off in this country. It is developing significantly and doing a marvellous job. However, because of Australia's small population base and because that association is small in its beginning, its funds are limited. The need is there. Every youth hostel that has been built is being fully used.

At some times of the year, every young Australian can travel; at other times of the year, there are still some young Australians between the ages of 16 and 30 years who can travel. As a 14-year-old, a 16-year-old and an 18-year-old, I used youth hostels round Europe and other types of accommodation in Asia. In the picturesque parts of Europe it is possible to literally walk from youth hostel to youth hostel to youth hostel. Youth hostels are not confined to youth; they are often confined by the method of locomotion. Motor vehicles may have to be left outside and a person has to walk or cycle in, but in many cases motor vehicles are allowed in the grounds.

In many parts of Europe, particularly in Scandinavia, during major vacations simple dormitory beds are set up in school-rooms. A local person takes out a small franchise to provide a simple breakfast. That is all that is provided and then the people are on their way. I suggest that Australia should learn something from that overseas experience. For Queensland's young people—teenagers, those of late school age and other students—and Australians generally, such a system of cheap accommodation of the youth hostel type, particularly on the eastern seaboard, would be a great benefit. Because of the great distances in this country, that system of cheap accommodation could be supplemented, if necessary, by the use of some school facilities, as is done in Scandinavia. In holiday periods I have stayed in many school-rooms in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Australians should be sensible. A person should not have to be a millionaire to travel round this country. The beaches have been closed to young people. Now they have to stay in caravan parks or camping areas where they have to pay several dollars a night. Australia should do what is done in the rest of the world. I travelled round Australia camping out and sleeping in tents. In almost all areas along the coast in Queensland, that is no longer permissible. I have said that before and I regret that fact. Something should be done to overcome that problem and to supplement the youth hostel system. The Government should look at the possibility of pressing into service school facilities in some areas during holiday periods so that young Australians can travel cheaply round this magnificent country.

Mr SHAW (Wynnum) (8.50 p.m.): It has been said many times during the debate that the Minister has a very varied portfolio, being the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sports and The Arts. In recent times I have noticed that his statements that have received the most attention have been on the subject of pornography. I cannot help wondering under which of those categories—tourism, national parks, sport or the arts—pornography is listed.

The Minister has displayed what I believe to be a lack of respect for the dangers of censorship. I have said previously that censorship is a necessary evil. Because it is recognised as being necessary and as having distinct and documented dangers attached to it, censorship should be implemented with a great deal of care. I do not intend to dwell on that subject for very long. Statements such as the one made by the Minister that he saw nothing wrong with the banning of a film because it contained kangaroo-shooting are dangerous.

I remember an occasion on which some members of the Liberal Party expressed a desire to see what the Films Board of Review was doing. The then president of the board said that those members only wanted to look at a few dirty pictures. Following that, nobody volunteered to go along because nobody wanted to be accused of belonging to a bunch of dirty old men. Nobody has the right to go along to see just what is being banned. Honourable members assume that what is being banned is pornographic material, but they do not know what material is being banned. I would be pleased to see a great deal more care exercised on that matter.

The honourable member for Sherwood referred to St Helena Island. St Helena Island is in my electorate. I have had a long association with that island. Between 12 and 15 years ago, I took a reporter and photographer from the "Telegraph" in my boat to St Helena Island to create little interest in it. At that time, little interest had been shown in the preservation of that island. Some interest was taken by the Wynnum Rotary Club,

which has done more to preserve the island than anyone else, including Mr Carroll. Much of the credit for restoration work that he took for himself recently on a television program should have gone to the Wynnum Rotary Club.

When I visited the island 15 years ago, it was possible to walk round it, as long as one kept a look-out for the almost wild cattle, sand-flies and prickles. One had a fairly free rein on the island. That has resulted in many people from Wynnum and Cannon Hill having in their homes old chains and other relics from the island. That is a great shame. An appeal should be made to people with relics from the island to return them. If a proper museum is created, people will respond to a request for those relics, when they know that they will be preserved. In the past, people have felt that if the items were given to some authority, they could finish up anywhere. If people know that the items will be retained as part of the island, some of the items will be returned.

As the reporters and I wandered round the island, we met two gentlemen, one of whom was Mr Carroll. He said that, as nobody was interested in the island, he would have no trouble obtaining a lease from the Government. He detailed the different schemes that he would implement. He said that a marina, a motel and a boatel with licenced premises would be built. I told him that his plans did not coincide with my ideas on the ultimate fate of the island. None of those projects has eventuated. I share the views expressed by the honourable member for Sherwood. The island has historical significance. It is one of the few historical places left that has the ability to attract tourists.

I wrote to a local committee that was set up to make submissions to the Australian Bicentennial Authority on schemes that were thought to be appropriate for the celebrations. The member for Lytton was interested most in Fort Lytton, which is also a very important part of the State's history. I outlined many reasons why I thought St Helena Island should be preserved, including ways in which it could be used for day trips. I did not know whether to be pleased or not when, about a week after I wrote that letter, Mr Wiltshire appeared on television and repeated all the arguments that I had put forward as good reasons why the island should be preserved.

Mr Underwood: Are you saying that he used all your good ideas?

Mr SHAW: Maybe it was coincidental that what he said was word-for-word what was in my letter.

If St Helena is preserved, I do not mind who gets the credit for the suggestion. Although I suggested it to the bicentennial committee, many other people have also suggested it over the years. It is a great shame that it was not done earlier.

St Helena could be a major tourist attraction. It has the potential to be part of a pleasant full-day outing for tourists. I am sure that other honourable members have had the experience of meeting people new to this State who have said, "I will be staying in Brisbane. Where would you suggest I spend a couple of days?" It really is very difficult to say to them, "You could do a trip here, and that will be a good day trip." Most of the places that could be suggested would occupy, at best, an hour or two hours, whereas St Helena could form part of a full-day's outing down through the bay, which is one of the most under-rated tourist attractions of this State. It is a beautiful spot, and I would like to see much more use made of it.

I would also like to see greater use made of Moreton Island. The Government seems to be locked into mining 6½ per cent of the island. Everyone is hoping that the view of the Federal Government will prevail and that nothing will happen. The 6½ per cent was a magical figure that was plucked out of the air. It is not necessary to mine any part of the island. Most people who have been to Moreton Island and assessed its tourist potential would agree that it is preferable to have no mining there. Similar to St Helena, the island is right on Brisbane's doorstep. It is within 20 minutes flying time in a light aircraft, and not much longer these days in a shark cat or a catamaran. As the member for Sherwood said, Moreton Island is the type of attraction that tourists to Australia want to visit. They want to see the real Australia, not imitations of what they have in

their own countries. The Gold Coast is a good example. It is called "Little Florida". Tourists can see the real thing. Tourists want to see the Australia that they have read about and its unique attractions.

I wanted to deal with a few other matters such as the need to preserve the fishing in Moreton Bay as a tourist attraction. The value of the whiting fishing in Moreton Bay is very under-rated. The member for Lytton often speaks about the need to preserve fishing. We all take the diver whiting cheaply. It is possible to catch 100 of them in one outing.

Mr Vaughan: They are a delicacy.

Mr SHAW: Yes. It is one of the best eating fish around. It can be caught in day-time.

Mr Vaughan: By children.

Mr SHAW: Yes, by children and by people who are completely inexperienced at fishing. A tremendous potential exists for tourism to be based on that resource. Commercial fishing should be banned on those grounds. The whiting is not really a fish that lends itself to sale.

Much has been said about penalty rates. The suggestion has been made that franchises and people being paid by tipping is the answer. Nothing is further from the truth. Tipping leads to a break-down in service. At a hotel in Hong Kong water is supposed to be provided in the room, but it is never there. After a telephone call, a fellow comes up and delivers it. He receives a tip. Obviously, quite deliberately he does not put it in the room in the first place. On one occasion I was staying at an Irish hotel—I hasten to add that my grandmother was Irish—and the key I was given did not fit the door. For three days I had to tip someone to let me into the room. I implore the Minister: please, no tipping!

Hon. P. R. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon—Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts) (9.1 p.m.): Let me set the mind of the honourable member for Wynnum at rest. I agree with him about tipping. He claimed also that the figure of 6½ per cent of Moreton Island to be mined was just plucked out of the air. He should be aware that there was a public inquiry. That was the recommendation following a public inquiry.

Mr Shaw: It was the third public inquiry. You kept having inquiries till you got the answer you wanted.

Mr McKECHNIE: That is my information.

I compliment the honourable members for Wynnum and Sherwood for their comments about St Helena Island. Not long after I became Minister I was told about the problem. I was told that it would be a very difficult problem to solve. As a result of co-operation between staff of the Lands Department and my own department, and with the aid of the bicentennial authority, a solution has been found. I ask those honourable members to bear in mind that it is a bicentennial program. It will be a staged development. The choice has to be made about a limitation of funds. Not all of the Government's money can be spent on that one project. It has to be spread round the State. Perhaps a small charge should be imposed to expedite the development.

Mr Innes: Why not?

Mr McKECHNIE: I am sure the honourable member for Sherwood agrees with that. The end result will be worth while. It will be a staged development, so we will have to be patient.

I thank honourable members who have contributed to the debate. As the Minister responsible for such a diverse portfolio, I am pleased at the interest shown in its activities and the depth of knowledge displayed by members, particularly those on the Government

side. I pay a tribute to my staff and to representatives of statutory authorities under my control. I administer a great number of statutory authorities. Honourable members would probably not be aware that all the directors have been in the building. Obviously, they could not all sit in the lobby. They have been watching the debate on television in rooms in the building and for their future guidance, taken notes of members' comments. I am pleased that many of their wives joined them for dinner. They support their husbands in the work they do for the Government.

I must admit that I am disappointed that members opposite paid so little attention to the arts. Only one member dealt with the arts at any length.

Mr UNDERWOOD: I rise to a point of order. We had only 20 minutes.

Mr McKECHNIE: The time could have been split up, as was done by Government members. I am disappointed that that very important part of my portfolio was given virtually no attention by the Opposition.

In his opening remarks, the honourable member for Ipswich West reflected on the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. It is working very well. In common with all my subdepartments and other authorities, it is subject to my direction and to that of my under secretary, as the accountable officer. I stress that I will not intervene in staff matters while the QTTC is performing so well. It has the runs on the board. I do not plan to interfere. He complained that it does not have sufficient staff—despite record sales by the corporation.

The honourable member for Ipswich West has criticised the corporation for alleged overspending. Surely he cannot have it both ways. Of course, the corporation has increased its expenditure, but it has also increased its revenue to achieve record sales figures. The staff would not be able to write these sales if they were not highly motivated. Honourable members might be interested to know that the Brisbane branch of the Queensland Government Travel Centre achieved a 68 per cent increase in sales last year compared with the previous year. The manager attributes the rise in sales figures to staff motivation, the change in office presentation and personalised selling, which includes an incentive scheme. When honourable members opposite criticise by saying that some officers are not content, it should be borne in mind that the majority of officers are in fact content—

Mr UNDERWOOD: I rise to a point of order. At no time did I state that problems had occurred in the Brisbane office. In fact, it is one where most problems have been resolved. The criticism was directed towards the Queensland Government and staff ceilings, and not to the Queensland Government Travel Centre.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not think the Minister intended any personal reflection on the honourable member for Ipswich West. There is no point of order.

Mr McKECHNIE: I was saying that the enthusiasm of the Brisbane staff gives the lie to the general comments made by members of the Opposition. That is only one example.

The allocation of funds to marketing and promotion has been money well spent. As a result, many people from Queensland, interstate and overseas have taken advantage of the tourist attractions that Queensland has to offer. This is more than the honourable member for Ipswich West has done in recent times, because I understand that his last holiday was taken in New Guinea.

As I mentioned earlier today, other States are trying to match the performance and introduction of new technology of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. I commend Sir Francis Moore, members of his board, and Mr King and his staff. I am confident that Sir Francis Moore was quoted out of context when he was reported to have made a comment about "mum-and-dad" motels.

I speak regularly with Sir Frank, and he has the utmost regard for the smaller hotels. I point out that he was speaking in the context of demands by overseas visitors who require a higher standard of accommodation than some—and I repeat “some”—of the smaller motels can provide. I do not believe that Sir Frank would speak disparagingly of smaller motels—at least not in the way it has been reported.

I thank the honourable member for Mulgrave for his more positive contribution.

Mr Underwood: Can you refer us to a speech Sir Francis Moore has made that contradicts that statement?

Mr McKECHNIE: I wish to make it very clear that I support “mum-and-dad” motels.

Mr Underwood: Can you refer honourable members to a speech made by Sir Francis Moore where he has contradicted that statement?

Mr McKECHNIE: I have been speaking from the knowledge that I have of Sir Frank Moore. I speak with him regularly. I am saying that the smaller “mum-and-dad” motels are important, not only to me, but also to the Government. I am certain they are also important to Sir Frank Moore.

Mr Borbidge: When the airlines tried to make things difficult for the small motels on the Gold Coast a couple of years ago, it was the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation that helped them.

Mr McKECHNIE: I am sure that would be so. I repeat my thanks to the honourable member for Mulgrave, and I inform honourable members that I took up the matter of promotion of the Atherton Tableland with the Far North Queensland Tourist Promotion Bureau. I can assure the honourable member that I will continue to observe with great interest the development of the tableland area as a prominent tourist destination in the north.

I also appreciated the remarks that he made about Government assistance to sports and clubs in his electorate.

If the honourable member for Archerfield believes that the Federal Labor Government is responsible for Queensland’s international airports, he believes fiction. Sir Frank Moore, as chairman of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, was responsible for Qantas establishing a terminal in Cairns, and a former corporation member, Mr Nick Borzi, has been credited with a claim for building the international airport in that city. The upgrading of both the Townsville and the Brisbane airports was commenced during the term of the previous coalition Government. The Federal Labor Government’s contribution has been a statement by the Federal Minister for Tourism, Mr Brown, that no gateways were needed outside of Sydney and Melbourne. Such a statement is an illustration of the Labor Government’s centralist policy. If it were not for the enthusiasm and drive of the corporation, international visitors would still be entering Australia through the tradesmen’s entrances and deprived of the many pleasures and beauties of Queensland.

As I pointed out earlier, Australians travel overseas because of the Federal Labor Government’s fuel and navigation tax rip-offs. The Victorian and New South Wales Governments have had to resort to bribing their residents to holiday at home.

Mr SMITH: I rise to a point of order. The Minister is misleading the Committee. The Federal Minister has made it quite clear that he favours the entry of international air traffic through both Townsville and Cairns. By charter, the Minister is denying that.

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

Mr McKECHNIE: Mr Brown is on record as saying that he does not believe that Queensland warrants international airports, but now they exist, he promotes them. That is the difference.

I noted the comments of the honourable member for Warwick on aviculture, signposts and Rugby League. I have been in touch with the chairman of the Queensland Rugby League, Ron McAuliffe, and I will keep the honourable member informed of developments. He is just as keen as the member for Warwick and I are to solve the problem. I share the views of the honourable members for Mulgrave and Warwick about the improvement of signposts. What is the point of attracting tourists if they cannot find their way from one attraction to another? I urge local authorities and local tourist associations to erect as many signs as possible. As is indicated in the annual report, the question of aviculture is under review, and I expect that significant changes will be achieved next year.

As the honourable member for Ashgrove comes from a respected sporting family, his views are always worth listening to, even if I do not always agree with them. I do not share his views in regard to Commonwealth assistance to sport. The Commonwealth program allocates too much to sports commissions and administration expenses and not enough to sport itself. On the other hand, the Queensland Government has ventured into new areas of sports funding. For example, the Department of Sport has allocated funds towards sports science, and only this week the Government agreed to share the cost of establishing the Queensland branch of the Australian Institute of Sport in Brisbane. A sports house is an option that the Government has under review. Let me re-emphasise, as the honourable member admitted himself, that that was a Government initiative and is supported by the honourable member for Fassifern.

I thank the honourable member for Fassifern for doing his homework on the history and success of the Government's Encouragement to Sport Scheme. His personal interest in sport obviously made that effort a labour of love. He is already showing expertise in his new profession, as he did on the football field and in the teaching profession.

I listened with interest to the remarks of the honourable member for Mackay. New stainless steel sleeping and sitting cars have been introduced on the Sunlander, and the daylight rail tours have been upgraded. The major problem is that many of the passengers are people travelling on passes, including pensioners' passes, and that makes it nearly impossible to run a profitable service. The meal and liquor hours are dictated by industrial awards, and that is one of the reasons why the Sunlander arrives in Cairns at 6 a.m. As the Minister for Tourism, naturally I agree with the honourable member that there is a need for improved passenger services.

As usual, the member for Cooroora delivered his comments about my portfolio in the same manner in which he works his electorate—with vigour and great understanding. He always keeps his constituents and the people of the Sunshine Coast to the forefront. I was most interested in his report on the use of reflectors to deter animals from crossing roads at night. As the honourable member is aware, the Government has formed a committee comprising representatives from the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, the Department of Employment and Industrial Affairs, unions and the tourist industry to investigate the problem of penalty rates and increased employment in the tourist industry.

I turn now to the comments of the member for Townsville. I will begin by clarifying the points that he raised regarding the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I noted his comments regarding the restoration of the Cape Pallarenda area. I was recently able to announce a joint State and Federal project for the restoration of the foreshore at Cape Pallarenda and the development of a recreation area at a total cost of \$147,000. In addition, planning is proceeding for the construction of a new regional administration centre at the Cape Pallarenda site that will include the restoration of existing facilities.

I am obviously aware that the National Parks and Wildlife Service employees are a dedicated and enthusiastic group, and I am pleased to be able to say that that dedication prevails throughout the State. The honourable member might not be aware that rangers and management officers are employed under a professional scheme of salary increases

and, as a result of a service reorganisation, they are now enjoying an improved career structure.

I most strongly deny that the advice of National Parks and Wildlife Service officers was ignored in relation to the Cape Tribulation road. Advices were received and taken, and I stated that at the time. The honourable member may recall that I took steps to ensure that the integrity of my staff was protected, despite a media and Opposition campaign for me to name my chief National Parks and Wildlife Service adviser on the issue.

I am sympathetic to north Queensland's desire to have a member on the board of the QTTC.

The honourable member for Townsville can be assured that sporting clubs in his electorate are benefiting greatly from the Government's assistance schemes. For example, this financial year, six clubs in the Townsville electorate received more than \$2,000 each in subsidies. That number included the Endeavour Park Association, which received \$10,000 for capital facilities alone. That support, in conjunction with the announcement of a branch of the Queensland Museum to be provided in Townsville, gives the lie to the accusations made by the honourable member for Townsville West about the Government victimising Townsville.

The Regional Championships Scheme provides subsidies to meet State body costs in staging events outside the Brisbane area, not to assist Brisbane sports people to travel to remote areas. It will mean that regional centres will have the opportunity to see the cream of Queensland's sportsmen and women.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the Queensland Cultural Centre is accessible to all people. To facilitate such accessibility, the Queensland Performing Arts Trust proposes developing an inreach program. The trust will negotiate with airlines, rail authorities and bus operators to develop a selection of economical fare structures as an incentive for people to attend the various performances. The package deals are an exciting concept of which, I hope, the people of Townsville will take advantage.

The honourable member for Townsville will be interested to learn that the trust is negotiating—I should think everybody in Queensland would be interested in this—to send the full band of the Grenadier Guards to Townsville next year following the opening celebrations for the new Performing Arts Complex. The trust has been negotiating for two years to bring the guards to Queensland. This can be seen as a real coup for Queensland and all concerned are very proud of it. The guards will be in Brisbane for the opening and then proceed to Townsville.

The honourable member for Surfers Paradise displayed a thorough understanding of the tourist industry. It is no wonder that he was returned with an increased majority in his seat on the Gold Coast, which is Australia's leading holiday destination. He is in touch with the state of the tourist industry and with what is needed to ensure that tourism continues to grow. He spoke at length about the benefits that come from a thriving tourist industry. He rightly said that tourism growth leads to further job creation, particularly for young people, wherever they may live. I concur wholeheartedly with his thoughts on penalty rates and the threat that they pose to job creation if a solution, satisfactory to both sides I stress, is not found.

My officers took note of the comments made by the honourable member for Mourilyan. They will look into the supply of tourist material. Each year, grants are allocated to 14 regional tourist associations in Queensland. In addition, grants are made to preserve old and historic buildings and to develop tourist facilities. As to his visit to Western Australia—a Queensland Travel Centre was opened recently in Perth. It will help to increase the flow of visitors from that State to Queensland.

The guide-lines for grants to small museums preclude the application of the scheme to all facilities that call themselves museums. The definition applied to a museum to enable it to qualify under the scheme is the one that applies internationally. It was

developed by the International Council of Museums. That precludes privately owned establishments run for profit. In any event, about 100 small museums run by members of the public as non-profit centres for the protection and display of local heritage items are eligible.

The honourable member for Gympie commented on Queensland's library services. He touched on the problems facing the State Library and municipal libraries in meeting rising demand coupled with rising costs. As he said, the Government kept its promise to increase library spending and subsidies. The present review of the State Library will provide a blueprint for the rest of this century.

I support the comments of the honourable member for Gympie about accessibility to national parks. Groundsel has been a problem in the Widgee area for many years. I can state that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has taken advantage of the recent biological control measures. As part of the current control program, a project at Elanda Plains, to the value of \$65,000, will be undertaken.

Sporting clubs in Gympie have taken advantage of various sports assistance schemes, as has happened in all electorates.

The honourable member mentioned disabled sports. More than \$100,000 has been distributed to various branches of disabled sports in the last four years.

The honourable member for Townsville West launched a personal attack on me. He should be more concerned about regaining endorsement for his own electorate, because rumours are rife in Townsville that a local alderman is being groomed to succeed him.

I can understand that the honourable member is a little bit scratchy about comments that I may make. I stand by my previous comments that the honourable member for Townsville West has never made representations to me about Florence Bay. He has a completely different attitude from that of Government members. The Townsville City Council has never made a positive submission to me. However, I have received representations from other parts of the State. I do not back away from anything I have said in the past. The honourable member for Townsville West should learn to represent his area better.

Mr Smith interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I advise the honourable member for Townsville West that his interjections are adding nothing to the debate. Because his interjections are not being acknowledged by the Minister, I ask him to desist.

Mr McKECHNIE: The honourable member for Townsville West has set himself up as a self-proclaimed expert on the arts, but he has displayed a complete lack of understanding and appreciation of matters pertaining to the portfolio. He has not asked a constructive question of me in this place about the arts since I became Minister 12 months ago.

At a conference held in February of Arts Ministers of the States and the Commonwealth, it was decided that a study into the use of orchestras be commissioned. That study has almost been completed and a wide range of options for action has been gathered and will soon be circulated for comment to interested parties. On receipt of those comments, the preferred options will be studied. The study team will then finalise its report, which is intended for presentation to the Arts Ministers conference to be held in Brisbane in April 1985. Subsequent action will depend on decisions made at that conference.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of touring by performing arts companies. To that end, an amount of \$300,000 was provided in the 1984-85 Budget to assist the Queensland Arts Council and major performing companies to present special

performances, to facilitate the use of the Performing Arts Complex, and for increased touring throughout the State.

Funds for the North Queensland Ballet Company were increased. However, no formal application for financial assistance was received from the North Queensland Opera Company.

As to rentals at the Performing Arts Complex—it is wrong to say that a rental structure exists that is so high that it excludes local performing companies. In fact, a scale of reduced rentals has been established that will apply only to local companies. Furthermore, if a particularly worthwhile local company wishes to use the complex, the rents for that production may be reduced even more if it is considered wise to do so. The rentals of the complex are open to negotiation at all times. It must not be forgotten that many free activities will be presented at the complex.

In only 12 months, the honourable member for Toowoomba North has proven to be a dedicated and hard-working member for the garden city, and he has more than justified the faith shown in him by his constituents. His interests are many and varied, and it is well known in Toowoomba that, whenever a helping hand is needed, the honourable member is never far away.

I thank him for his comments on sport. Toowoomba is a very sports-conscious city. The honourable member can rest assured that the Government will encourage the elite of sportsmen and the average sportsperson.

The Government will do nothing to prejudice the support given by tobacco and liquor companies to sport by blocking sponsorship. The Government's policy is to enable sport to seek its own sponsorship without Government interference.

I am acutely aware of the potential problems associated with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. I assure honourable members that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is conscious of its responsibility to manage that park.

I was pleased that the honourable member for Mount Isa gave credit where credit is due by congratulating the Government on recognising the tourist potential of the Gulf region. I recently undertook a tour of north-west Queensland and I agree that the region does offer something special for visitors seeking to get away from it all.

I also had the opportunity to inspect the Lawn Hill Gorge National Park. I agree with the honourable member that this gorge is one of the most spectacular and beautiful attractions in Queensland. I inform the honourable member that I have been advised that the final requirements needed for gazettal of the park—the survey of an access road to the edge of the national park—will soon be met. The development of the infrastructure at the gorge is well advanced in anticipation of the formal declaration of the park. I have instructed the staff at the gorge to act as though the park has been declared. That has met with general agreement. Part of this activity includes a co-operative program of cattle control with the managers of the surrounding properties.

The honourable member also raised the matter of Riversleigh fossils, which are about 10 million years old. These were collected by Dr Archer of the University of New South Wales, who was formerly Curator of Mammals at the Queensland Museum. The collection is to be returned to Queensland. The collection, which is of animal fossils, is especially rich in bats, marsupials and crocodiles, and is proving to be the best deposit of that age in Australia. The bulk collection is of research value only. However, a suitable display selection representative of the deposit will be returned to suitable accommodation in the area for display and educational purposes.

In his usual efficient manner, the honourable member for Lockyer contributed much to the high standard of debate from members on this side of the Chamber. I agree with the honourable member's statement that national parks should, where possible, be open to people of all ages. Wherever possible, access to parks will be facilitated as long as it is compatible with the preservation of the ecology of the area.

I will consider the suggestion by the honourable member for Sherwood that distinguished Queensland artists be invited to contribute works to the new cultural centre. In regard to the honourable member's reference to the need for the provision of art works in the Performing Arts Complex, I am sure that he will be pleased to know that contracts for five major sculpture commissions have already been let by the Minister for Works and Housing as part of the cultural centre budget. These include works by Queensland sculptors Len and Kath Shillam. For some years an advisory art committee has been considering the commission of art works, and an important work of very large scale is already under preparation by the famous Queensland artist Lawrence Daws.

Mr SMITH: I rise to a point of order. As a point of clarification, will the Minister confirm that it is the Minister for Works and Housing who lets contracts for works of sculpture?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Does the Minister wish to reply to that?

Mr McKECHNIE: Mr Row, it is hardly worth it. Yes, I do confirm that that is the case.

A series of 15 collages by another Queensland artist, Irene Amos, has also been purchased. Additional works are currently under consideration by the advisory arts committee, the building authority and the consulting architects.

I am very pleased with the tenor of the debate. With a couple of exceptions, members on both sides of the Chamber have voiced their very constructive thoughts on the administration of my portfolio. That support is very much appreciated by me and my staff. Nearly all of my directors or acting directors were here tonight to hear the comments of honourable members, which will be taken on board.

At 9.28 p.m.,

Votes passed under Standing Order No. 307 and Sessional Order

By agreement, under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307 and the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 2 October, the questions for the following Votes were put by the Chairman and agreed to—

	\$
Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—	
Chief Office, Department of The Arts, National Parks and Sport	3,367,000
Balance of Vote, Consolidated Revenue, Trust and Special Funds, and Loan Fund Account	85,260,200
Executive and Legislative, Balance of Votes	12,460,400
The Premier	34,085,464
The Treasurer	446,442,217
Education	1,072,561,100
Industry, Small Business and Technology	17,347,604
Lands, Forestry and Police	249,414,990
Mines and Energy	20,834,960
Northern Development and Aboriginal and Island Affairs . .	30,432,755
Transport	941,341,600
Water Resources and Maritime Services	52,805,240
Welfare Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs	87,698,200
Works and Housing	129,925,900
Trust and Special Funds Estimates, Balance of Estimates . .	3,454,337,397
Loan Fund Estimates, Balance of Estimates	329,104,549
Supplementary Estimates (Consolidated Revenue) 1983-84 . .	157,850,624
Supplementary Estimates (Trust and Special Funds) 1983-84	270,699,245
Supplementary Estimates (Loan Fund) 1983-84	8,212,237
Vote on Account, 1985-86	1,890,000,000

Resolutions reported, and ordered to be received on Tuesday next.

TRANSPLANTATION AND ANATOMY ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Suspension of Standing Orders

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the immediate presentation to the House of a Bill to amend the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979-1984 in certain particulars and the passing of such Bill through all its stages in one day.”

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) (9.38 p.m.): I move—

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

There has been growing concern for some time that people in the community continue to donate blood when they knowingly have a high risk of passing on diseases.

In the light of recent events, I believe it is of the utmost importance that persons who are likely carriers of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and other such notifiable diseases, be prevented from donating blood.

The Bill will make it an offence for a person who, in making a donation of tissue (including blood), knowingly provides false, incorrect or misleading information concerning his or her suitability as a donor.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is a condition first detected in the United States in 1979 and characterised by progressive loss of the body's immunity, the occurrence of life-threatening infections and, in some individuals, the occurrence of a rare form of skin cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma.

The great majority of cases reported in the United States have been male homosexuals with multiple partners, intravenous drug-users and Haitians. The condition is believed to be caused by a virus and its incubation period can be as long as two years.

There is no treatment for the viral infection or the immune deficiency. There are only treatments for some of the infections and cancers to which sufferers are prone.

Until October last year, 4 153 cases of AIDS had been confirmed world-wide—3 775 of them in the United States. There have been 1 642 deaths in the United States alone—a mortality rate of 43.5 per cent.

It is believed to be transmitted through sexual intercourse, contaminated needles (that is, needles shared by drug addicts) and blood products.

As all honourable members are aware from today's events, it is essential that legislation be passed to protect the safety of the recipients of blood transfusions.

The Red Cross blood transfusion service has always been conscious of the risk of transferring infectious diseases by blood transfusion. The exclusive use of voluntary non-remunerated donors and careful programs for donor selection, blood collection and storage have made the Australian service as safe as any in the world. However, the appearance of AIDS as a new condition, which has a long incubation period and cannot be detected by any mass screening test currently available, is giving all health authorities

serious concern. The service undertook, for this reason, to introduce a program of special precautions to reduce to an absolute minimum the risk of transmission by transfusion.

Although there is not yet a suitable screening test for the detection of AIDS carriers among blood-donors, most of the people at high risk of being carriers belong to certain well-defined groups.

Eighteen months ago, Red Cross made an appeal to people in these groups not to give blood. There was an immediate drop of 4 per cent in donor attendances, but recent studies have indicated that some high-risk people are still donating. The intention of this Bill, therefore, is to overcome some of the problems of reducing the risk of receiving AIDS through these avenues.

It provides for severe penalties to be imposed on those who knowingly mislead in relation to their suitability as donors. The maximum penalty imposed is a fine of \$10,000 or two years' imprisonment, or both.

The provisions of the Bill are essential to provide protection for the people of this State. I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr MACKENROTH (Chatsworth) (9.42 p.m.): The Opposition does not oppose the Bill. However, it does oppose the way in which the Bill is being rushed through the House. We are expected to consider the legislation immediately and to vote on it within about half an hour. We have been given no time to study it. I am not of the opinion that the legislation is so urgent as to be passed through all stages today.

Mr Bailey: How many children ought to die?

Mr MACKENROTH: The Minister is making a sensation out of the deaths of those three children. What happened in July this year? An attempt was made to politicise the matter of AIDS sufferers giving blood. I quote a newspaper article on 27 July which reported the acting director of the Red Cross blood bank as saying—

“... the risk of any person contracting AIDS through a blood transfusion was less than one in a million.”

One in a million! Yet three Queensland children are suspected of having died from that cause.

The article continues—

“He said people who should never donate blood were homosexuals and bisexuals with multiple partners, intravenous users of drugs and people who showed signs or symptoms of AIDS (of which there are none in Queensland) . . .”

They are his words—“of which there are none in Queensland” Tonight we find, however, that three babies are suspected of having died following transfusions of blood donated by an AIDS sufferer in February this year.

I am not criticising the Red Cross for that. It is not possible to determine that a person has AIDS. However, I criticise the way in which the Queensland Government acted in July and August this year. It tried to politicise the matter, telling the people of Queensland that the only way they could contract AIDS following a blood transfusion was if the blood came from south of the border; that it would not occur if the blood came from Queensland. Now it is suspected that three children have died as a result of receiving blood from an AIDS sufferer in Queensland. The Minister went to the media today. What did he say? “I am going to fix this. I will rush legislation through the Parliament tonight.”

Mr Bailey: Would you prefer that more died?

Mr MACKENROTH: The member for Toowong interjected earlier, but on 5 August the Minister for Health (Mr Austin) claimed that he was making an urgent submission to Cabinet to introduce legislation making it an offence to give contaminated blood. On

5 August he said that he was making an urgent submission to have the legislation rushed into the Parliament. Why did it take him almost four months to get the legislation to us?

If honourable members reflect on what occurred four months ago, they will recall that the Minister said then that he wanted to introduce legislation. Yet tonight we have to debate and pass this legislation, and we have heard on television what was said at the Minister's press conference.

I cannot recall the name of the doctor concerned, but at the press interview he stated that the blood donor feels very bad about what has happened. I do not doubt that. I do not attack the donor, because I understand that he did not know that his blood was contaminated. If that is so, he was not aware that he was an AIDS sufferer when the blood was taken. If that is true, the introduction of this legislation will have no effect in preventing people from donating contaminated blood. The events mentioned in today's announcement would not have been prevented. This legislation would have done nothing to prevent the death of these children, because it relates to anyone who, when suffering from AIDS, knowingly—and "knowingly" is the operative word—gives a blood transfusion. Naturally enough, I do not wish to sensationalise this matter, but it is probable that the media will take up the homosexual aspect of it. It should be pointed out that the legislation deals not only with homosexuals but also with heterosexuals. In addition, it deals not only with AIDS but also with other notifiable diseases. That is a very important point. This legislation can affect everyone.

The Minister would have been wiser to introduce this legislation into the House and allow honourable members an opportunity to consider it and debate the clauses next week. If that had been done, it would have afforded an opportunity for the presentation of ideas that might prevent sad events such as those that were announced today.

When the Minister replies, I will ask him to answer this question: Would legislation in the form of the Bill that has been introduced this evening have prevented the occurrence that was the basis of the Minister's announcement about the death of three children today?

I emphasise that if the doctor's statement is correct and, in fact, the blood donor did not know that he was suffering from AIDS, I fail to see how the provisions of this legislation, if I interpret them correctly, could have prevented the deaths of those children. However, I will await the Minister's reply. I point out that debate of the clauses will depend on that reply.

As I have said, members of the Opposition will not oppose the Bill. In fact, the Opposition will support any legislation that will prevent any person from dying. However, Opposition members are concerned that, once again, legislation has been introduced so that the Minister can sensationalise the whole issue, thereby gaining maximum media publicity for himself.

Mr INNES (Sherwood) (9.49 p.m.): The previous speaker, the honourable member for Chatsworth, used the word "sensationalise" I have no doubt that all honourable members are placed in difficulty when legislation is introduced at short notice. Research into the background of the issue is not possible and a balanced assessment of what is involved is not possible in order to ascertain that what is being proposed is the best that can be done or all that can be done. I believe that the previous speaker, having found himself in that predicament, has used words that he may not have used at other times.

The death of three babies as a result of being contaminated by AIDS could not possibly be classed as sensationalism on the part of the Minister; neither could any action that he might take in response to that. The problem is horrifying.

I accept what the Minister has said. I do not believe that he or anybody else would be involved in something as extraordinary as a fabrication concerning those deaths, or would be involved in any suggestion that would cast doubt on the diagnosis of AIDS. It is horrifying. The thought that another baby is suffering from that disease and is in serious jeopardy is also horrifying, and demands that something be done. What is being done tonight might not be the only thing that can be done. It might not be totally adequate, but certainly something has to be done, and the Liberal Party will support the proposals to do something. What is proposed appears to be at least a possible course of action.

After a very brief glance at the Health Act, I ask the Minister whether, under section 29, which relates to notifiable diseases, notification becomes compulsory as a result of the action he proposes tonight, or whether the Health Act itself should be amended to add AIDS to the list of notifiable diseases. Does it fall within the term "venereal disease"?

Mr Austin: That has already been done.

Mr INNES: Very well. Then, of course, there is section 33, which relates to infectious diseases, and I assume that AIDS would be such a disease. That section allows the Director-General of Health to make regulations that allow, for instance, compulsory examination. Clearly, a variety of actions are possible.

Let me look at this tragic situation. Firstly, as I understand it, people who give blood for transfusions need have no worry at all. Nobody who is not within the range of people who put others at risk in this and in other ways should be deterred from providing blood for transfusions. Every day hundreds of people in this State rely on the voluntary transfusions that are made to the blood bank. It is life-giving blood to replace blood that might be lost in trauma, through disease or to facilitate major surgery. Haemophiliacs are not the only persons who require transfusions. People with severed limbs or arteries and people having valve bypasses require massive transfusions of blood, and when the option is life or death, some risk is inevitable. Certainly people at large should not in any way be deterred from giving blood that allows thousands in Australia, and millions world-wide, to survive each year.

The world is confronted by the special problem of AIDS. Following a brief and necessarily superficial look at the position, it seems to me that it has spread with extraordinary rapidity. The view appears to be, and my brief research supports the Minister's assessment, that it probably originated in Africa. It then spread to Haiti and from there to the United States of America. As I understand it, the literature generally indicates that it is almost predominantly, or even exclusively, transmitted in two ways: anal intercourse and transfusions using dirty implements that have previously been in contact with the blood of somebody affected by AIDS. As I understand it, that contaminated blood would have originated from people who were infected as a result of anal intercourse.

AIDS began as peculiarly a problem for the homosexual community. Of course, it is not irrelevant to note that it began its major spread in a country in which homosexuality has become fashionable and acceptable, in a country in which it has been suggested—as it has been suggested by certain elements in Australia—that it is an acceptable and a normal expression of sexuality; the sort of thing that I believe is accepted in the proposed Bill of Rights—the right to express one's sexuality.

Before the word "gay" was misused, and before words such as "anal intercourse" were in general use, the criminal law described the practice of homosexuality in other words. In Queensland, it is still called "sodomy", which comes from the word "Sodom". That is a biblical word that described a city state that, itself, was reduced as a result of the behaviour of its residents.

It was known in the common law as "the abominable crime of buggery". It now appears to be an "abominable" crime and some of its features are being shown in a horrifying way in the world today. The disease would not have spread had it not been

for the practice of homosexuality. I am saddened by the thought that there are people with these compulsions. It is regrettable, but it is also part of history. The encouragement of the spread of such practices, when they can be attended by consequences as horrifying as we know today, must be taken into account in any view of the practices that lead to the spread of this disease.

Some people who work in this area believe that, over the next 10 years, it will become the major public health disease of the world. I am not scaremongering. That belief is held by people who practise in this area.

Mr Veivers: Is it worse than gonorrhoea?

Mr INNES: Gonorrhoea does not have fatal consequences, but its spread might well be as significant.

This disease is now showing up in new areas. I understand that a recent study in countries in Europe showed several hundred cases, of which 7 per cent were among women. It has been noted in prostitutes in the United States. No doubt that results from anal intercourse as well. It is showing up in drug addicts no doubt because of the use of contaminated needles.

In certain places in Australia, the statistical number of people who practise homosexuality or bisexuality—obviously bisexuals can give the disease to heterosexual partners who may be completely unwitting recipients of it—is fairly enormous. Some people may say it is horrifying. In the cities of Sydney and Melbourne particularly, tens of thousands of people practise homosexuality, or at least bisexuality.

This is a dreadfully serious disease because it is not capable of being screened, and is not responsive to antivenene or vaccine.

I have no doubt that the statistics referred to by the honourable member for Chatsworth as being attributable to the director of the blood bank were used in all sincerity at the time, but I understand that one of the problems with AIDS is that the information about the disease is coming to hand faster than the literature. The literature is up to six months out of date at any time.

I understand that the blood bank, in its practices, has reflected the incredible change. The wording of its questionnaire, which also deals with other matters such as malaria and other forms of disease, has been changed from, "Are you a practising homosexual with multiple partners?" to, currently, "Have you had a homosexual relationship, or been involved in a homosexual act within the last five years?" I am not sure of the exact wording.

On my information, the Minister's estimate of the period of development of the disease is no longer in keeping with the up-to-date information. It has gone from two years to five years; it has blown out by that much. It can lie dormant for up to five years. I understand that that is the question now asked by the Queensland blood bank.

I do not know for how long that question was asked. However, I would have thought that it would be very difficult for a person presenting himself at the blood bank to suggest that he did not know whether he could be a carrier. I have wondered why people do not know because publicity has been widespread about the danger of homosexuals having AIDS and transmitting the disease through blood transfusions. For more than a year, such publicity has appeared in the press across Australia. Regrettably, the homosexual community has its own special press for people who are interested in homosexuality. It is difficult to believe that a person would not know of the risk.

One must then consider the motives of a person who may be an AIDS carrier and goes to a blood bank.

Sir William Knox: They do it to get a free service.

Mr INNES: That is right. Obviously, homosexuals who are in other ways right-minded people have given blood because they thought that it was a reasonable thing to do. No doubt some have continued to do so. Some go to the blood bank for a check-up. The blood bank screens for hepatitis B and syphilis. That is done as a matter of course and, if a positive reading is obtained, the donor is notified discreetly and referred to a medical practitioner. I think that both of those diseases are notifiable. The Minister can correct me if I am wrong. Some people have got into the habit of going to the blood bank for a check-up. That is a horrible practice for a homosexual to continue considering the amount of publicity that has been given to AIDS over the last year. Babies and innocent people requiring transfusions are placed at risk.

I would have thought that the homosexual community comprises more people with aberrant social patterns, such as people who are antisocial or perverse, than the heterosexual community. No doubt some of them visit the blood bank deliberately to wreak vengeance on the world for their own unbalanced attitudes. Many motives are possible.

The Bill will not exclude the person who deliberately goes to the blood bank and is prepared to tell lies. In view of the amount of publicity, it is clear that some homosexual donors are reckless or selfish. They may visit the blood bank for a free check-up. They may not have the guts to face their own general practitioner and admit that they are practising homosexuals and want a check-up for syphilis. Therefore, they go to the blood bank, and only when they know that they are in danger do they go to a medical practitioner. It is a horrifying scenario. The opinion of those who work in this field of modern medicine is that the disease will spread or accelerate at a horrifying rate. The statistics or incidence of the disease will change very quickly.

Australia has a large practising homosexual community. Many in that community are bisexual and it is clear that they may infect others. As a result, people who do not know that they may be carriers may go to the blood bank.

A checking procedure is being developed, and it is hoped that it will be ready in six months. However, the course of the disease includes a window period before the symptoms of the disease show up or develop to such a stage that the disease can be detected by a scanning process. The provisions of this Bill and other provisions, short of the barbaric, that the Minister may seek to introduce will have the support of the House. It is appalling that innocent people can be so afflicted by a disease with such untoward origins. I use the mildest words that I can to describe this situation, because I have very strong views.

In my view, in the end result, spreading AIDS is like putting in the boot in a fight or carrying firearms. The strongest pressure that can be mounted against the spread of this disease is a social pressure. Just like putting in the boot, it is not on, so it is not done. If the spread of the practice of homosexuality is stemmed or even reversed, and the incidence of homosexuality returns to what it once was, the dangers of the spread of the disease will be reduced. If it is a toss-up between indulgence in some selfish lifestyle and protecting innocent people from death, I know which one should be chosen. It is a decision that normal people make a thousand times during their lives. It is a matter of self-control and not self-indulgence. When some practice that goes beyond self-indulgence has a direct effect on people in the greater community, it is time for people in this House and in other places to get up and say what they think. What people do inside their own bedrooms is one thing; what people do that has an effect on people in the community is absolutely something else.

Mr Lee: The ABC is encouraging it.

Mr INNES: I do not wish to go into that byway tonight.

This issue is too serious to confuse it with any other. The issue is simple: AIDS is a killer disease to which there is no known cure. It is transmitted by blood. The infection comes from people who practise homosexuality through anal intercourse. Token measures such as this Bill are hopefully effective on some but they are not the total answer. If

the community can try to control the root cause, perhaps this legislation can be reinforced and hopefully there will be no recurrence of the dreadful tragedy that last month took the lives of three babies.

Mr SMITH (Townsville West) (10.7 p.m.): Without doubt, one could greatly extend the length of this debate, but that is certainly not my purpose. Obviously the recent deaths are a tragedy and it would be irresponsible of any Government not to immediately address itself to the problem. As the Opposition spokesman said, the Labor Party supports any measure that will achieve some control.

The Bill is being pushed through the House in one night, something that, frankly, would not be possible in any other State; yet the Government has known about this matter for some time, so I must find some fault there. By the same token, I am sure that nobody present would want to hold the Bill up unnecessarily.

My concern is really about the effectiveness of this measure. By and large, many of the people who might potentially be convicted of this offence would not have the capacity to pay anything like a \$10,000 fine. I suggest that therefore it will not be much deterrent for someone who probably has limited financial means, anyway.

My second concern is that, by the very publicity that will surround the passage of this legislation, a large percentage of people in Queensland will gain some sense of security. I am concerned that the public might be lulled into a false sense of security. For that reason the Minister has a very strong responsibility to undertake a major ongoing publicity campaign, not just a campaign for one or two nights, that will reach all corners of the State so that the potential problems are at least known by the great majority of the community.

That brings me to the point of my entering this debate, which is that I always take the view that education rather than penalty is the way to overcome problems such as the one before the House tonight and herpes simplex. As the member for Sherwood said, another method is the use of social pressure. For that reason, it is most necessary that people are made familiar with the potential problems at a very young age. My views, as well as those of most members of the Opposition, if not all members, are well known. A human relationships course in schools as part of the everyday school curriculum is well and truly overdue.

I do not regard the Minister as a hill-billy. As an informed Minister and as a professional man in his own right, he has a responsibility to bring pressure to bear and make his view known to those Ministers in Cabinet who may not understand the need to make that information available to young people so that they can grow up with a greater awareness. The lack of awareness in the community today is tragic. It has been established very clearly that the level of awareness in this State is considerably below that of most other States and, in fact, most other parts of the Western World. The Minister has a responsibility to examine that matter immediately.

This is not the first occasion on which there has been an outbreak of new or unknown diseases. Not very long ago, honourable members became aware of the existence of herpes simplex. Very little has been done in that direction. Reference has been made to unknown carriers. Clearly, the same sort of education program is needed to do something about those people who are spreading that disease throughout the community.

I can remember that some time ago I spoke in this Chamber about legionnaires' disease. That has caused some major problems. That disease is not understood. Most researchers know some of the precautions that can be taken to minimise the risk of contracting that disease. I am concerned that, because an outbreak of legionnaires' disease has not occurred recently, that matter has been put to one side. That is unfortunate.

I do not think that I can add any further matter of substance to the debate. The tragedy of the deaths that occurred must relate in part to the ignorance of the community. It is time for men of responsibility in the community and in the Parliament to address

themselves to that problem, to stop playing politics and to take the action that anyone with any knowledge of the subject knows must be taken sooner or later.

Mr D'ARCY (Woodridge) (10.13 p.m.): On a previous occasion in a speech that I made in this Chamber I referred to this particular problem. I must condemn the Minister. I know that he is a reasonably thoughtful person, but this legislation has been introduced with little thought. It is being rushed through the House. No attempt has been made to really understand the problems that are created by the acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The Minister must have shocked even his own department. The Bill is no more than a bandaid. The Minister has not addressed the problem. Honourable members must examine this problem, having regard to the true proportion in which it exists not only in Australia but throughout the world.

To date, about 6 000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United States of America, which does not have the sophisticated and free medical system that we are fortunate enough to have in Australia. It is being exported to Australia in ever-increasing numbers. As an honourable member said, it is a subclinical disease. Not enough is known about it. It is known that the people who have the disease have it in a latent form or in a subclinical form. Honourable members do not know about it; doctors do not know about it. Honourable members can read some of the reports that can be found in medical journals. Some of the articles in my possession that have been written by doctors are nothing but garbage. They do not make sense. In the light of what has happened today, those reports are ridiculous. Doctors are now looking at the problem as it really exists.

The Minister should know that the disease will affect many more Queenslanders. The Premier and Treasurer is in the Chamber. He is thoughtful and he understands the problems involved. In the next few months the problem will worsen. The matter is considered so serious that the States have got together to obtain the required information. Doctors throughout the world do not have the information. The Government does not have sufficient information to deal with the problem.

As has already been pointed out, surely anyone who has a chance of having this latent or subclinical disease would not consciously transfer it to babies or haemophiliacs. If he did, he would be doing the State and the nation a great disservice. I do not think that that is the case. Prospective donors can be asked to sign a piece of paper and make a legal determination on their culpability, but in real terms no action can be taken.

I have made a responsible speech in this Parliament on this matter. I said that I did want action taken. I did ask that the Health Department act responsibly. The Minister's speech contained only a few words. I doubt whether he really understands the dangers.

Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen: Mr Wran does not think there is any danger. He has legalised it.

Mr D'ARCY: With all due respect to the Premier and Treasurer, that remark was a bit on the frivolous side.

An Opposition Member: Ridiculous!

Mr D'ARCY: It was ridiculous.

Other speakers tonight have taken the problem seriously, as I do. Before long the incidence of this disease will increase. Australians have no concept of the number of people who are likely to contract this disease before a cure can be found. Those of us who have conducted research into the medical background of this disease and how it occurs know that the incidence is increasing. When the disease first began receiving publicity, people said, "You have to be a homosexual. It is transmitted by semen or a certain part of the body." Suddenly, it was discovered that that is not the case. It was found that it is also transferable by blood. There are still seven aspects of it that the

medical profession is not sure about. It is not sure whether the disease can be transmitted by perspiration, saliva, certain parts of the body, or body contact. If that is the case, will the disease spread throughout society?

People are concerned about haemophiliacs. The original figures in America—they go back several months—disclosed that 75 per cent of the people at risk were practising homosexuals. People in Queensland tend to say, "If they are drug-users they deserve to die." The American figures disclose also that 13 per cent of the people who contracted the disease took drugs intravenously, 6 per cent were Haitian refugees and only 0.3 per cent were haemophiliacs.

I commend the Government for trying to do something about the problem. However, it is a mockery of the people of Queensland to rush this legislation through in such a thoughtless way. As the shadow Minister pointed out earlier, the Minister, in August, talked about this problem of AIDS. Suddenly, one night late in November, a Bill is being rushed through the House. I have read the Bill and it does not say much. I do not think that the Minister is fair dinkum. I think that he has just been given a job to do.

Mr Innes: Surely there are two categories. The big category referred to is self-induced AIDS. The haemophiliac is totally innocent. Surely that is the crucial difference.

Mr D'ARCY: I agree with the honourable member for Sherwood. What I am concerned about is the projection. What will happen here in Queensland? I am not acting on American figures. The subclinical area, which I have not dealt with in any depth, is what we should be investigating. It is no use my reading from medical journals. I have copies of what has been said in medical journals.

Sir William Knox: You couldn't pronounce the words—not at this time of night.

Mr D'ARCY: The leader of the Liberal Party has demeaned himself sufficiently. That is the depth he has sunk to. I am very disappointed in him. He has been a disappointment to the State since he went onto the back benches.

Mr Scott: When he was over there, he was no better.

Mr D'ARCY: Probably not, but he has been a disappointment while he has been on this side of the Chamber, not only to the Liberal party but also to the Parliament. The level he has sunk to demeans him and the Parliament. He does not understand that this is a serious subject.

Those of us who know the potential danger of the disease are concerned. This is not even a bandaid measure. It is political measure. I take the Minister to task for introducing without consultation, a political measure on a subject that has to be dealt with internationally, not just Australia-wide.

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health) (10.21 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contribution to the debate. I was a little disappointed in the contribution by the honourable member for Chatsworth. I would have thought that he would not politicise the issue. However, he seems intent on doing so. I will not comment in detail on the matters he raised. I simply say to him that I am a family man and I understand that he is. If we had not introduced legislation that stopped a homosexual donating blood and if one of the honourable member's children was affected, how would he have felt next week? He should ask himself that question. I do not believe that he was sincere in his comments.

The honourable member for Sherwood obviously shows a very clear understanding of the problems that confront this State. I will enlarge on a couple of matters that he raised. He suggested that at some stage in the future we may be confronted by AIDS in epidemic proportions. The latest figures from overseas concern me. It was believed that a male homosexual had a much greater chance of contracting the disease. In Africa, the

ratio is fifty-fifty. In Germany, between six and 12 per cent of those contracting the disease are females. I understand that the New South Wales Government is considering a proposal to limit the donation of blood for haemophiliacs, for factor 8, to females. That may be all very well in the short term; but, if the overseas figures are any indication of what might happen in this country, we have a very difficult time ahead.

I accept some of the points made by the honourable member for Townsville West, although I do not agree with them all.

I had great difficulty understanding the contribution by the honourable member for Woodridge. The intent of the legislation is quite clear. It attempts to stop high-risk people donating blood. I read the latest notice handed to donors at the blood bank, headed "Important Notice to All Blood Donors"—

"In view of recent developments in our knowledge of A.I.D.S. we have no option but to ask all 'at risk' people to refrain from giving blood.

These people are:

- (a) males who have engaged in homosexual activity during the previous five years.
- (b) males or females who take drugs by injection (or have in the past five years).
- (c) the spouses or sexual partners of any of the people described in (a) or (b).

If you belong to one of these groups YOU MUST NOT GIVE BLOOD."

The intent of the Bill is quite clear. High risk groups have been clearly designated by the blood bank. I believe that the honourable member for Woodridge has confused this issue with an issue that occurred in the past.

I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate, and members of all parties for their support.

Motion (Mr Austin) agreed to.

Committee

Mr Booth (Warwick) in the chair; Hon. B. D. Austin (Wavell—Minister for Health) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—New s. 48A; Offence to give false or misleading information—

Mr MACKENROTH (10.27 p.m.): The Minister stated that he is a family man, and I, too, am a family man. Therefore I ask him: Why did it take him from August to November to introduce the Bill? I merely requested a period until next Tuesday to consider the provisions of the Bill.

I ask the Minister to explain the meaning of "high risk". Clause 2, which is the new section 48A, reads as follows—

"A person shall not . . . knowingly furnish information that is false or misleading concerning the suitability of the body for removal of the tissue for the purpose in question."

During the course of his speech, the Minister did not explain what that means, and it is not explained in the Bill.

In the information that was distributed to members of the media today, one could interpret the meaning two different ways. In one section of a particular document that was handed out, reference is made to AIDS, hepatitis, syphilis and malaria. I refer particularly to AIDS, and I ask the Minister to inform honourable members how a high-risk person would be designated. Is a high-risk person defined as someone who knowingly has AIDS, or is aware that he has AIDS? Or is it a person who knows that he is a homosexual?

I have posed that question to the Minister because a number of people have become confused by the two documents that were distributed among members of the media today, and the content of statements made about them.

Mr AUSTIN: I shall clarify the matter of the two documents that were distributed among members of the media. The first document is dated 17 May 1983, and I do not wish to read the document into "Hansard". That document relates to the forms that were handed out at the blood bank up till 1 November 1984. The blood bank has subsequently changed the format.

I point out that the form dated 17 May 1983 was the form that was viewed by the person who donated the blood in that particular instance. The form quite clearly states—

“sexually active homosexual and bisexual men”

Quite clearly, the gentleman concerned would have known when he read that form that he was a homosexual. Surely there would be something wrong with him if he did not know that. After having read that form, he willingly donated his blood.

The red form that I quoted from a few minutes ago contains questions that are asked of persons when they attend the blood bank. I read the first question—

“Males who have engaged in homosexual activity during the previous five years.”

Surely any person who attends at the blood bank can honestly answer that question either yes or no.

Mr MACKENROTH: What the Minister is saying is that people attending to give blood must answer that question about whether they have engaged in homosexual activities in the past five years. If the answer is “Yes”, they should then not give blood. Blood will not be accepted from them; is that it?

Paragraph (c) refers to spouses or sexual partners of any of the people described in paragraphs (a) and (b). I suggest that it would be very difficult for a woman to know whether her husband was a homosexual. Obviously, if he was, she would not be living with him.

Mr AUSTIN: If the honourable member checks the Bill he will see that the word “knowingly” appears. I am sure that that answers his question.

Mr VEIVERS: The Minister and his advisers might already be aware of this, but I draw attention to an article in “The Weekend Australian” of 25 and 26 August. This is the only copy I have, but I will make it available to the Minister if he has not already seen it. I suggest that it is relevant to the point that was raised about misleading information.

The article lists a number of facts—

Mortality is approaching 100 per cent after three years;

Eleven cases of AIDS have been confirmed in Australia—six have died;

Seventy two per cent of the confirmed AIDS cases are male homosexuals;

The Kinsey Institute says about one person in every 10 is a homosexual;

It is possible to get AIDS from one sexual contact with one partner—other people could take 10 years; and

Lesbians have virtually no venereal disease and are not among high-risk groups for AIDS.

I believe that those facts could be relevant to the debate.

Mr AUSTIN: Without answering the honourable member in detail—that article has not been brought to my attention. But if honourable members want to read some reasonable and informative articles in relation to the subject, I suggest that they go to the Parliamentary Library and read a copy of the latest Medical Journal of Australia.

Clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Austin, read a third time.

TORRES STRAIT FISHERIES BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 3 October (see p. 996) on Mr Turner's motion—

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

Mr KRUGER (Murrumba) (10.34 p.m.): The Opposition is fairly pleased that this legislation has been brought before the House. It is complementary legislation and the Commonwealth Government wants it finalised.

I am concerned, however, that departmental officers were here last night to listen to the legislation being debated. They had to sit round for a couple of hours. Again tonight, because of the events that have just taken place, they have again been waiting for this debate to proceed. I am concerned about the way in which this Parliament is being run.

The legislation does not cause the Opposition any great problems, but I do want to query the time that it has taken to introduce it. The Torres Strait Fisheries Bill was introduced into the Federal Parliament on 19 October 1983 by the Honourable John Kerin, MP, Minister for Primary Industry.

The purpose of its introduction was to implement the aspects of the Torres Strait Treaty dealing with fisheries in the protective zone and adjacent areas of the Torres Strait under Australian jurisdiction and, in conjunction with clauses 4 and 14 of the Torres Strait Treaty (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill of 1983, to replace the Divisions of the Fisheries Act 1952, and The Continental Shelf (Living Natural Resources) Act 1968 in those areas.

The background to the treaty is that it was signed by Australia and Papua New Guinea in Sydney on 18 December 1978, after six years of negotiation. The treaty settles the border between Australia and Papua New Guinea in a novel way, by providing separately for sovereignty over islands, for delimitation of seabed jurisdiction and fisheries, and for a protective zone to preserve the traditional way of life of the Torres Strait Islanders and the natural resource of the area. Those comments were made by the Minister to outline its purposes when he introduced the Bill.

It seems that no good reason exists for anybody to object to the proposals. Since they were first raised I have looked at the matters I believe should concern us, and I do not envisage any problems. Papua New Guinea has recognised Australian sovereignty over all islands south of the line as indicated on the map which was drawn up at the time of the treaty, and also over 15 islands to the north named in the treaty. The latter islands with their territorial seas form Australian enclaves in areas that are otherwise within the Papua New Guinea jurisdiction.

In the protected zone and its vicinity, the traditional inhabitants of the islands and on the Papua New Guinea coast are to enjoy freedom of movement and use of resources for their lawful traditional activities, including traditional fishing. That is subject, of course, only to restrictions necessary to prevent abuses of health and quarantine risks.

It is very important to maintain the traditional fisheries for the people of the islands and Papua New Guinea and, naturally, the people will want them protected. Over the years we have become interested in treaties relating to all sorts of boundaries. It is

realistic to discuss legislation in this Parliament to complement legislation and agreements considered and entered into between the Australian Government and the Papua New Guinea Government.

I could produce a great deal of relevant material, but I am aware of the need to keep the debate relatively short to ensure that the legislation passes all stages tonight.

I will quote from a document that relates to the Federal Bill. Part IV of the Federal legislation concerns licences, endorsements and entries and the explanation is in this form—

“Licences are not required for community fishing unless the Minister so declares (Clause 17). Masters and boats must be licensed for commercial fishing by the Minister but a foreign boat shall not be licenced without agreement with his PNG counterpart (Clause 19).”

That is the only way to control an area such as the Torres Strait.

The explanation continued—

“Clause 20 provides in accordance with the treaty for the endorsement of nominated boat licences by the Australian authorities to enable PNG boats to fish in areas of Australian jurisdiction. Conversely the Minister may nominate a boat to Papua New Guinea for endorsement of its Australian licence.

Part V Arrangements with Queensland.

Clause 30, establishes a Protected Zone Joint Authority consisting of the Commonwealth and Queensland Ministers responsible for fisheries.”

These are very important provisions in the legislation. Naturally the Commonwealth will not want to be controlling them. It will rely on Queensland, as it does in other areas of responsibility. Queensland can look after these matters as they are laid down in the legislation. It is very important that that should be done. As I understand it, the Federal authorities are very happy with the Queensland legislation being discussed tonight.

Clause 31 provides for arrangements with Queensland giving the joint authority the powers to manage the particular fisheries wholly or partly in protected zone coastal waters of Queensland.

Neither the Queensland Minister nor the Federal Minister will always have full responsibility; the industry will be controlled jointly.

The Torres Strait fishing industry is one of significance, not only because of the great wealth of the fisheries, but also because of the traditional rights of the Islanders. I have been through the area and I was pleased at the attitude of the Torres Strait Islanders. I have no doubt that they genuinely want to look after their own fishing rights. Papua New Guinea has an interest in the value of the fisheries but the Islanders will retain their traditional rights. As I understand the legislation, that is its main thrust, and I do not think that any person would begrudge the Islanders their rights.

I will read from an article by Mr Allan Haines, who is a biologist with the fisheries division of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry. Because his article about the management of the fisheries under the Torres Strait Treaty is important, I will read part of it into “Hansard” It reads—

“Torres Strait, formerly remote from the mainstream of Australian life, has been elevated to an area of major interest to the Australian Government.

As the part of Australia which is geographically closest to our nearest foreign neighbour, it is of considerable significance to our relations with Papua New Guinea.

On December 18, 1978 Australia and Papua New Guinea signed the Torres Strait Treaty, although it will not come into effect until ratification (expected this year).

This document represents a unique border agreement between independent sovereign nations in that it establishes a Protected Zone (PZ) within which both nations have rights and obligations, rather than a single border line. Within the PZ are lines dividing the areas of primary fisheries and seabed jurisdiction between the two nations (Ref. 1).

The Treaty also is unique in that it protects the rights of traditional inhabitants of the PZ and adjacent areas by recognising and preserving the existing pattern of traditional activities."

Under the fisheries provisions of the treaty, the Australian and Papua New Guinea Governments are obliged to protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of the traditional inhabitants. That is very important. One of the islands that I visited had 110 inhabitants, whose forbears had lived on the island for generations. It would be wrong of any Government to deprive those people of their traditional rights. I know that the Queensland Minister and the Federal Minister do not want that to happen, and that explains partly the need for joint responsibility as provided for by this legislation.

The article by Mr Haines continues along these lines—

"The fisheries provisions of the Treaty oblige the Australian and PNG Governments to:

protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of the traditional inhabitants . . . co-operate and consult with each other in the conservation and management of the fisheries . . . manage particular fisheries jointly if either party considers this necessary . . . implement a complex catch-sharing arrangement for PZ commercial fisheries jointly managed by the two countries . . ."

If the legislation is not finalised, problems may arise in relation to the commercial aspect of the treaty. The Opposition is very happy with the provision for traditional fishing, but problems have arisen in the past with commercial fishing, especially with fishing boats from other countries that fish in Australian waters. Papua New Guinea and Australia are aware of their responsibilities in this regard and, under this legislation, the fisheries will be jointly managed by those Governments. As can be concluded from the number of fishing boats in the area, it is a very valuable fishery.

I turn now to an article that appeared in the September 1983 issue of "The Queensland Fisherman" Entitled "Torres Strait 'sellout' ", the article reads as follows—

"Queensland's commercial fishermen have signalled a fight against new Commonwealth legislation to create a new fisheries zone in Torres Strait."

I do not understand why there was any objection. The article continues—

"Delegates at the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation Annual General Meeting in Brisbane described some provisions of the legislation as a 'complete sellout'."

I do not believe that it was a sell-out. The article continues—

"They refused to accept assurances from Commonwealth Government legislative draftsmen that there would be full consultation with industry before Federal Parliament debates the new Torres Strait Fisheries Bill."

That was said in 1983. The fact of the matter is that since then discussions have taken place and everything has been finalised.

The article continues—

"The Commonwealth drafting team, headed by a D.P.I. Assistance Director, Mr David Bames, briefed the twenty-six Q.C.F.O. State Councillors on the Bill, which is to control fishing in a Torres Strait "

The question of control is important because the control of industry in this State, particularly primary industry, has been a part of our way of life for many, many years. Because of some problems that have arisen in the fishing industry, some sort of control

is needed. Although it is not the usual habit of the Government to accept responsibility for an industry, it has done that with the fishing industry. The QCFO understands what the matter is about and, although in the past that organisation has proved difficult, in this matter it has been very good. I know that Dale Bryant has made statements that have been very complimentary of Mr Kerin.

I quote the following article—

“Ministers agree to Torres Strait management measures

Future management measures affecting major fisheries in the area covered by the proposed Torres Strait Treaty were agreed to at a meeting of Australian and Papua New Guinea Government Ministers last month.”

That meeting was attended by Mr Denis Young, the Papua New Guinea Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Kerin and the Queensland Minister for Primary Industries (Mr Turner). Its purpose was to finalise the matters contained in this legislation, which has been hanging around for some time. The only real criticism I have of the legislation is that it has been delayed slightly by the Queensland Government.

I know that the honourable member for Cook intends to elaborate on some of those points, as he represents the electorate most affected by the Bill. This legislation will complement the Federal legislation. Even though the Government is now rushing the Bill through in an effort to finalise it after some delays, I will forgive it.

The last article to which I referred went on to mention the need to control the harvest of rock lobsters. Much discussion has gone on about prawns in the area and the protection of dugongs and turtles, about which I could go on at great length. However, because of the way these matters have been set out in the various articles, I do not think there is a need for that.

Strangely enough, if one does not know the Federal legislation and tries to read the Bill now before the House, one really needs the press releases and statements contained in various journals to get a full understanding of the matter. Those articles complement the legislation.

Mr Scott: Very little has ever been said in this House about that change to the border.

Mr KRUGER: That is quite correct.

If a person reads all those things that can be obtained from outside this House, then reads the legislation and adds the two lots of information together, he can be reasonably well informed. Because of the lack of what has come before the House, the Opposition is flying in the dark.

Perhaps the best explanation is contained in a media release of 30 July 1984 by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry (Mr Kerin), which states—

“The Australian Minister for Primary Industry, Mr John Kerin, and the Papua New Guinea Minister for Primary Industry Mr Denis Young, met in Townsville on 28 July 1984 to consider plans for the management of Torres Strait Fisheries Protected Zone pending ratification of the Torres Strait Treaty later this year. The management of the Tropical Rock Lobster (Crayfish), Prawn, Spanish Mackerel, Dugong, Turtle and Pearl Shell Fisheries were considered. The Queensland Minister for Primary Industries, Mr Neil Turner also participated in the discussions.”

I know that the Minister has been very active in trying to make sure that the State and Federal Governments work together. The media release continues—

“The Ministers agreed that the Rock Lobster (Crayfish) Fishery would be promoted as a dive fishery to allow the maximum opportunity for economic development of the Torres Strait and adjacent areas of both countries.”

There is a need for controls. Without them there will be no fish in any areas. Over the years the controls have been abused not only by the fishermen from overseas by also by the local fishermen.

The media release states—

“ . . . the Minister agreed to prohibit trawling by both countries to protect the 1984 migration and give the stock a chance to recover.

The Ministers agreed to manage the prawn resource ”

I referred to that matter earlier. The press release further states—

“The Ministers noted that Papua New Guinea wishes to enter the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery where its trawlers have not yet operated. In addition, Mr Young agreed that Papua New Guinea licensing arrangements would recognise the historical participation by Australian trawlers in waters that will come under exclusive Papua New Guinea control on ratification of the treaty.”

That seems to be common sense.

It is better to have an agreement under the legislation than to be blueing and brawling in the future about something that cannot be controlled. I agree that such controls should be exercised in the fishing industry. Had I not read that press release, I would not have known very much about the matter. I noted the statements made by the Minister in his second-reading speech.

Mr Scott: He didn't say much about it, either.

Mr KRUGER: He did not say much.

Having read the other articles and tying the matters together, I think that the Minister has the right intent. As he said, if he had said any more he would have confused the honourable member. He made only brief comments so that he would not confuse Opposition members. I am sorry that the Minister has put his foot in it. However, I think that he has the right intent.

I hope that a pattern can be established so that it can be followed in other fisheries. It may not mean that the Queensland Government will be fully involved. The attitude of Mr Kerin, Papua New Guinea and the Minister could pave the way for the formulation of fishing arrangements elsewhere. Whenever I encounter any problems that are hard to solve, they generally relate to the problems experienced by fishermen. It does not matter from where fishermen come; they are a race of their own. When I say that, I do not mean to degrade the fishermen. No guide-lines have been laid down. I have examined fisheries legislation and a variety of other legislation. However, it has not been possible to formulate controls with which everyone is happy. This legislation will not fully control everything that needs to be controlled. It is a big step forward.

Without referring to the clauses, which I do not want to debate in detail, I point out that the Torres Strait Treaty is important for the people involved in the fishing industry.

Clauses 22, 23 and 24 refer to the regulations. I do not believe that any legislation is effective without suitable regulations or that there will be any problems with the legislation. The regulations will be tied up between the State and the Federal Governments. I believe that the regulations will be workable. The legislation is a follow-up to the Torres Strait Treaty and other matters that can be spelt out. In the future, those regulations could be significant. If the negotiations between the Queensland Government, the Commonwealth Government and Papua New Guinea break down, the whole legislation could fail.

The legislation before the House paves the way for something big and sensible in negotiations with other countries. I understand that Papua New Guinea will gain

something from this legislation. The real controls must come from the Federal Government, the Queensland Government and Papua New Guinea. If the controls can be worked out properly in the first place, the legislation will be successful. As I said earlier, the legislation complements other legislation. I know that the Federal Government has been keen to finalise it. Delays have occurred. I do not know whether the Minister or anyone else in the State is to blame. However, delays have certainly occurred. Despite that, the legislation is being debated tonight. I understand that the Federal authorities are quite happy with the legislation being debated tonight.

I do not think I can add much more. My colleague the member for Cook, who represents that area, will possibly go into more detail on some matters because he is closely involved with the people there. If he indicates that he has received information about problems there, we will certainly consider them. However, at this stage I do not see any real problem with the legislation and the Opposition will be very pleased to support it, subject to the member for Cook mentioning any problems in the Torres Strait area.

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Condamine) (10.56 p.m.): I am pleased that the Opposition has expressed its support for this Bill. However, I think that I should go through the background to it.

For many years Papua New Guinea was an Australian trust territory. It was not until the 1970s that the stage was reached of having two sovereign states side by side and an agreement had to be reached about the territorial waters between the two nations. As the member for Murrumba pointed out, those negotiations began in about 1972 and took about six years. As I understand it, the then Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whitlam, made the suggestion that a line be put half-way between the two and that some of the islands that have traditionally been part of Australia be given to New Guinea. Of course, that was not a very popular decision.

Mr Simpson: He did that with Somare.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: That is correct; he was giving it away. The local people raised a hue and cry. They wanted to remain Australians and did not want to be given away like chattels.

Mr Whitlam failed to realise that Queensland was a sovereign State. The Premier of Queensland stuck to his guns and fought for the rights of Queenslanders, and it was the Premier who came up with a solution. That solution has resulted in the introduction of the complementary legislation.

The member for Murrumba said, quite correctly, that the Torres Strait Treaty was signed on 18 December 1978. It has taken a long time for the various Governments to get together and to come up with this legislation. It will have bipartisan control. Queensland will have its own rights within the Commonwealth of Australia. In drawing up the legislation, matters such as territorial waters, national rights of each sovereign state and the rights of Queensland had to be considered.

Quarantine is another matter that was taken into account. Papua New Guinea has screwfly and diseases of which, fortunately, Queensland and Australia are free. Therefore, that was a most important consideration. Other matters such as navigation, recovery of wrecks, customs and health had to be considered.

The complementary legislation before the House deals with the management of a fish resource. I am led to believe that the fishing grounds that are within the territorial waters of Australia and are controlled by Queensland yield approximately \$6m annually to the fishermen of the area. I refer to the local fishermen, the small commercial fishing fleet at Thursday Island and also a rather large commercial fleet which operates out of Cairns. Added to that, as the member for Murrumba pointed out, the traditional way of life of the Islanders had to be taken into consideration.

The member for Murrumba mentioned the movement of crayfish as they go through Torres Strait and across to Port Moresby in their yearly reproduction cycle. It is most important that the Government manage this fishing resource as it has managed forest resources.

In years gone by, there was trouble in that part of Australia when the Taiwanese fishermen were fishing in the strait and along the east coast. There is now an agreement under which the Taiwanese have a licence to fish to the west of Prince of Wales Island. They carry out surveillance to keep unlicensed boats out of the east coast fishery. The local people are happy. The New Guineans are reaping their fair share of the resource through partnership between the New Guinea Government and Japanese interests. It is pleasing that the two nations and the State of Queensland are in agreement.

The honourable member for Fassifern will speak in more detail about the type of fish taken in the area, and he will give more specific details of the industry. I am pleased to support the Bill.

Mr SCOTT (Cook) (11.1 p.m.): The legislation is being dismissed as relatively insignificant. It is not insignificant; it significantly affects the future of the most important part of Queensland. I compliment the Opposition spokesperson, the honourable member for Murrumba (Mr Kruger), on the manner in which he has dealt with the legislation. He summed up the general outlines of the legislation, its importance and the way in which the Opposition sees it. Obviously, he has studied the legislation in some depth. As he is very familiar with primary industries matters, he is in an excellent position to speak about aspects of the Bill.

Mr I. J. Gibbs: That's enough.

Mr SCOTT: He is an excellent member.

I shall speak about the effect of the legislation on the Torres Strait area, which is part of the Cook electorate. It will have a marked effect on the lives of the people there. If certain things are done by the Government, the position will be ameliorated. They need to be done, and I will devote some of my time to pointing out why.

As my colleague commented, the legislation passed through the Federal Parliament about a year ago. I want to know why the Queensland Government has been so tardy in preparing this very important legislation. It appears that the Government has not treated it very seriously. It has considered it to be a matter of concern for Canberra and has not been prepared to bring the legislation before the Parliament.

Mr Kruger: Now there's a rush on.

Mr SCOTT: It is 11 o'clock at night, and we are debating significant legislation.

The legislation has its own intrinsic importance, but it has far wider ramifications. To my knowledge, it is the only time that the Government has come even close to recognising that the border between Papua New Guinea and Australia is changing. It has been agreed that it will be changed. It is also the border between Papua New Guinea and Queensland. It has never been debated in this Chamber; yet just a few years ago it was an extremely contentious matter. I recall the row that the Premier and Treasurer generated in 1976, I think it was, with the slogan "Border—no change". The Premier was up there campaigning in a very rabid manner, stirring concern in the people. He was not responding to those concerns. He was stirring emotions, being most divisive, as he has such a capacity to be. He constantly said, "Border—no change" Where is the Premier? He is not even in the House. He will not take part in the debate on such important legislation.

It is all very well to dismiss it as primary industries legislation. It is not only primary industries legislation. I repeat that it is the closest honourable members will come to debating a very important change in the boundary of Queensland. Where is the

Premier? What is the explanation for his having gone to water, if I may use that expression, on the "Border—no change" campaign?

I recall that the Minister for Works and Housing (Mr Wharton) was part of the "Border—no change" campaign. The Premier and the Minister for Works and Housing were carried ashore on the shoulders of Torres Strait Islanders in what, to me, was a very patronising manner. They would not have had the gumption to get out in the shallow water and walk ashore from the dinghy like men. They were carried ashore like imperialist Pooh-Bahs. It was splashed over the newspapers and was used as propaganda by the Premier.

Mr Kruger: Sugar babies!

Mr SCOTT: I do not know what else they could be called.

It was a divisive campaign that worried the people up there. It was the type of divisiveness that the Premier has brought to so many issues in Queensland over so many years.

This legislation is the responsibility of a relatively junior Minister. Although the Minister is a nice man who is endeavouring to achieve something through the administration of his portfolio, he certainly does not understand the wider ramifications of legislation and its effect on the Torres Strait area.

In 1976, the Premier and Treasurer totally misled the people who live in the Torres Strait area when he said that he would literally fight to the death in defence of their desire not to have the border changed. The people were concerned because they did not know whether they would be better or worse off if a change to the border was made. The effects of the border changes were not explained to them. Over a long period, they have suffered total neglect at the hands of the Queensland Government.

That was the image they had of the Government of Queensland and the image they had of Australia. They felt that they had been repressed, not only through the enactment of legislation, but also through the attitude of the Queensland Government. I will refer to that in more detail.

Mr Turner: Don't you consider that this legislation is designed to protect the rights of the local inhabitants?

Mr SCOTT: Of course it will protect the rights of the local inhabitants, but nothing has been done in past years. The life-style of local inhabitants has not been improved. I am sorry to say to the Minister, through the Chair, that I will describe some of his attitudes towards the people in the Torres Strait area, and he will have to listen. It is a very important matter.

The Premier and Treasurer has totally deserted the people of the Torres Strait. I do not think that he is even game to travel in the area; he cannot face the people.

Mr Katter: They would not even be a part of Queensland if it were not for the Premier and Treasurer.

Mr SCOTT: I will direct some remarks to the Minister for Northern Development and Aboriginal and Island Affairs in due course.

Mr Katter: I look forward to that.

Mr SCOTT: That will make a change, I must say.

Why will the Premier not tell honourable members where he stands on this issue, and why will he not take part in any debate on it? The only statement that I could find by the Premier and Treasurer was in a press release. It said that he agreed in a very low-key manner with the changes that had been proposed to the boundary.

The Premier has misled the people, and he continues to do so over a whole range of issues. He is not standing by the people who live in the Torres Strait. I will return to that point later.

My attitude has always been pre-eminently clear. I have always believed that the border had to change. Anyone who has a knowledge of the geography of the area and knows the delineation of the old border that was negotiated when Britain was a dominant power in world affairs would know that the border was very close to the Papua New Guinea coastline. In that area, it would be impossible to sail sizeable craft within the boundary. It was not considered proper that the emerging nation of New Guinea, which will be an important nation in the world, should have a navigable waterway around its southern boundary. That is how the whole question arose.

It is true that the question has been resolved. The waterway that stretches along the southern coast of Papua New Guinea is not navigable. The accepted complex border arrangement consists basically of three zones. The arrangement was devised by the Fraser Government, and it is extremely complicated. It will require a great deal of policing in virtually every way, and that is something that must be changed.

To date, very limited supervision and policing have been provided. As a matter of fact, I travelled to Thursday Island recently, and I became aware that two of the local police officers and a visiting plain clothes officer had been attending to police matters by sailing in the Torres Strait area on the "Melbidir". The "Melbidir" is a vessel owned by the Department of Community Services. That vessel certainly could not be described as a police boat, and surely police officers should be provided with a better vessel than that when carrying out their duties. The only way they could travel was to use that vessel, and they were investigating matters of considerable gravity that had been in abeyance for a long time.

A serious crime had allegedly been committed on one of the islands, but it had not been investigated by police for over three months. The facts I have described will be borne out by action that will be taken through the courts before long.

At the time of my election as the representative of the electorate of Cook, the only vessel that was available for use by the police was a narrow, small, aluminium craft that would not withstand a trip on the Brisbane River on a windy day. It took a great deal of battling to get a better boat for the police, but in the end an 18-ft Shark Cat was provided. However, it still does not allow the police to cover the entire area for which they are responsible. How can they keep law and order in an area of that size with those sorts of facilities? It is obvious that the Government has to provide better facilities. I defy anyone to say that that is wrong, and I will be listening with great interest to Government members who think they may be able to show me that I am wrong. I will certainly give them every opportunity.

Mr Katter: I will tell you one where you are wrong now. There is almost a daily plane service to all of the islands.

Mr SCOTT: The Minister need not tell me all about that. Why is the service not used more in the administration of the area? The Bill clearly demonstrates that a great deal of policing of the area will be required.

I was pleased to see that the Minister has seen fit to include the treaty agreement as an attachment to the Bill. It would have been more informative if the maps had been included. I draw the attention of honourable members to the map I have here, because it clearly illustrates the complexity of the border situation as it will be after the middle of December when the treaty agreement is signed into law in both Papua New Guinea and Australia. It shows the area of jurisdiction line, the swimming fisheries jurisdiction line and the protective zone.

Mr Miller: Are you happy with it?

Mr SCOTT: No, I am not totally happy with it, and I will tell the honourable member why not. The honourable member should look at the very long list of lines of latitude and longitude; the navigational references that describe the contortions of those lines. Above the fisheries jurisdiction line the Papua New Guinea fishermen are entitled to 75 per cent of the fisheries catch and the Australians are entitled to 25 per cent. On the southern side of that jurisdiction line, the reverse is the case. That area will be policed basically by a joint authority. All sorts of officials will be involved in looking after that area. Police from both nations will be involved, and the Australians will be both Commonwealth and State police. There will also be customs, health and quarantine surveillance, all of which have been carried on in the Strait to the present, but at a very low level. As a result of this legislation, all those areas of surveillance will be greatly increased, and the Queensland Government is not geared for that sort of an approach.

Mr Miller: Who drew that line?

Mr SCOTT: Mr Peacock drew the line.

Mr Miller: Who?

Mr SCOTT: I cannot help it if the honourable member is deaf.

Mr Miller: You mean the Federal Government.

Mr SCOTT: The Fraser Government negotiated that treaty. When the Hawke Labor Government came to power in 1983, negotiations were so far advanced that it could do little more than proceed with the treaty. If it had not done so, the whole business would have been retarded.

Mr Katter interjected.

Mr SCOTT: Don't laugh! That shows the utter immaturity of the attitudes on the Government side. The Minister for Northern Development and Aboriginal and Island Affairs is giggling his foolish head off over something he knows nothing about. He should know full well the way that this legislation was produced and the reasons why it has to go ahead. The Commonwealth Labor Government has not been as tardy as this Government has been in producing the necessary legislation.

I have shown what an extremely difficult business it will be to carry out the administration of those zones. I will now refer to some of the comments made by the Federal Minister (Mr Kerin) in regard to one aspect of enforcement. The Federal legislation specifies the powers of officers to—

“(a) board and search boats including breaking into closed spaces reasonably suspected of containing evidence . . .”

He then refers to a whole series of extremely serious provisions that will have to be met by inspecting officers and then states—

“(e) detain a PNG boat suspected of contravening the Act . . .”

That is the Australian Government's legislation. Of course, it has been mirrored by complementary legislation introduced by the Papua New Guinea Government, which gives its officers the same sort of powers in the protected zone that I described, which is a very large and complex area of water containing a large number of people. I have described the sort of surveillance that will have to be carried out by the two nations, yet I have been asked whether I am satisfied with the legislation. No! The legislation contains many worrying features.

Mr Eaton: They will need some good patrol boats up there.

Mr SCOTT: They certainly will. I am sure that they will be provided by the Commonwealth Government. I am worried that the State Government will not be providing them.

The surveillance will require extensive policing, even when harmony exists between the two Governments. I am concerned about what will happen if ever a state of discord exists between the two countries.

Article 28 of the treaty contains unique enforcement provisions. Each country will prosecute persons of its nationality authorised by both countries to operate in fisheries governed by the article 22 arrangement, and who commit offences in relation to such fisheries in waters under the other country's jurisdiction. That clearly indicates the complexity of the legislation. The Federal Bill requires the Minister's consent for the prosecution of persons charged with offences in the area of Australian jurisdiction, with the use of a Papua New Guinea boat. The Bill does not confer any administrative appeals tribunal jurisdiction over decisions made under it. The whole question of Commonwealth review powers over actions by State officials performing official duties authorised under Commonwealth law is a difficult one. The Federal Government intends to discuss these matters with the State at an appropriate time.

That was a very sensible statement by a very sensible Federal Minister for Prime Industry (Mr Kerin). That must be matched by sensible discussions by the Queensland Minister. I am certain that our Minister for Primary Industries (Mr Turner) will have his heart in the discussions, but Queensland must provide a whole range of services. The Queensland Government's reputation is simply not good enough. I have referred to extracts from various speeches made in the Federal House relative to this very important matter, but an attempt is being made to dismiss this legislation as being relatively insignificant.

I do not want to bring any bogies into the House and I am not a fearmonger. However, I am a realist. The time may come when a serious difference of opinion occurs between the Australian Government and the Papua New Guinea Government. If that should happen, the border treaty will be unmanageable. I am against the complexity of the border treaty. Perhaps it is the best arrangement that could be made because of human failings and the inability, in the end, to devise a treaty that meets all requirements.

This legislation is based on mutual trust and co-operation. If mutual co-operation and trust are absent, both countries will be faced with serious difficulties.

On our part, we should build up the resources of the Torres Strait to serve the people who are there, and to encourage the thousands of Torres Strait Islanders who have left the area to come back home. We must do that to make it obvious that we want the area to continue as a very important part of Australia.

On my reading of matters relating to the border treaty, it was said in 1979 that about 5 000 Torres Strait Islanders were living elsewhere. They left the Torres Strait because services were not provided by the State Government. I will go into greater detail on that in a minute. I ask honourable members to remember that probably more than 5 000 Torres Strait Islanders are living in other parts of Australia. They are working for, and contributing to, the well-being of the communities that they are living in, but they could well be back in the Torres Strait area contributing to the well-being of the area that they consider to be their home. The Torres Strait Islanders are great Australians, but they are ethnic to the Torres Strait area. They should be encouraged to live there. Their hearts are broken because they have to live away from the Torres Strait area. I have met Torres Strait Islanders in Perth, in Melbourne and Sydney, and scattered along the coast of Queensland. Whenever I have talked to them, they have expressed a strong desire to be living in the Torres Strait area.

Mr Lingard: "Border—no change."

Mr SCOTT: That was the Government's slogan, but it is changing.

It is well known that none of the 13 outer island communities has a reticulated electricity supply. No other area in Australia with so many important communities close together is in such a plight. The housing is shocking. Apart from some pits that were dug for airport construction and then used to provide a water supply for two or

three communities, the rest of the islands have shocking water supplies. Very few of the islands have high tanks that give pressure for the water to flow through the reticulated system. Many years ago, a primitive reticulated system was provided; in any other community, it would have been replaced probably two or three times by now. That has not been done in the Torres Strait.

Mr Miller: The Federal Government should be ashamed of itself.

Mr SCOTT: I am pleased that the honourable member for Ithaca mentioned the Federal Government, because it is the only Government that is showing any interest in the Torres Strait. The Federal Government is in the process of conducting an engineering survey on the water supplies that are needed but have been neglected by the Queensland Government. The Commonwealth Government can hold up its head.

I will give the House an indication of the type of housing that the State Government is providing in the Torres Strait. Wooden boxes on cement slabs with no plumbing except a tap over the kitchen sink are still provided. The waste runs outside the back wall. That is the type of house in which this Government expects the people of the Torres Strait islands to live. They all live in houses rented from this Government, or, more precisely, from the Minister responsible for Aboriginal and Island Affairs. I notice that the Minister has a rather pensive look on his face, and I ask honourable members to observe that.

Mr Katter: I think you will be very pleased with some of the changes that are being made.

Mr SCOTT: It has taken the Minister long enough to make those changes. How long has he been Minister? What has he done? I will outline the reasons why the Minister has achieved so little. He is trying to look me in the eye and tell me that I will be pleased with the changes that are taking place. I have grown older in waiting, and I am glad that I have not been holding my breath. The Minister has much to be ashamed of.

I have described the type of housing that the Government has provided for the people of the Torres Strait, and we in this place are debating legislation that is supposed to be of importance to them.

Mr Kruger: Do you realise that when I was up there I learned that for two years a house had been built but the people were still waiting for the plumbing?

Mr SCOTT: I am pleased to take a sensible interjection. I have made that point until I am blue in the face.

The outer island communities are delightful places in which to live, except for the living conditions that have been imposed by this Government. The people who live there are great. It is disgusting that the Government allows those conditions to continue.

The Islanders are the traditional inhabitants, and their people have lived on the islands since time immemorial. They are good Australians and good citizens. This Government has dismissed them as being traditional people, but they are coming of age politically. They are gravely concerned about their conditions, and the Government takes no notice of them. Neither the Minister nor Government back-benchers have the capacity to understand what the Islanders hold dear.

They were prepared to fight for Australia during the war, and enlisted for duty in the Torres Strait Light Infantry Regiment, which had a great reputation. They were underpaid for that service, and the Federal Labor Government has recognised that. Back pay has been made available to almost every man who enlisted in that regiment and who is still alive. The next of kin and relatives of deceased servicemen will be paid by the Federal Government the entitlements that are due to them.

The Islanders should be able to count on getting from this Government simple living conditions. By that I mean the amenities that other Australians expect.

The Islanders were originally non-Christian, but now they espouse the Christian faith. This is celebrated in the Coming of the Light, which is a major ceremony in the Church of England calendar. Although Hammond Island has a Catholic community, most of the people on the islands are of the Church of England faith. The churches realise that they have been remiss in allowing the living conditions to be perpetuated; they have also seen the light. The expression comes from late 1880s when the London Missionary Society people landed at Darnley Island. They spread the Christian faith throughout the Torres Strait islands. I ask honourable members to remember that in those days the Islanders were cannibals, and they engaged in head-hunting and other nefarious activities. They are now very civilised people who make up a great part of Australia.

Those people want to be allowed to live in their traditional areas, which have been renamed by the Minister for Northern Development and Aboriginal and Island Affairs and his Government as trust areas. It is not their own land. It is not the freehold land that they asked for, but trust land. The Minister, who has so much to say when traipsing round the countryside, has not even given them their deeds of grant in trust. I ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs: How long ago did the legislation pass through this House? What has he done about it? Of course, he has done nothing.

The people there made sacrifices during war-time and they are being asked to sacrifice their traditional sea territories. Some of their area has been given to Papua New Guinea. They are the ones who are making the sacrifices. Previously they were able to travel freely; now they will be limited by the lines drawn on a map by people who live in the southern part of Australia.

A few Government members have visited the area, mostly during the winter months, but they have learnt very little in their travels. It is a complex area, and it has not been given the complexity of administration that it deserves. The paternalistic methods of administration have not developed the area. Paternalistic discipline has been imposed on that area by the man who was for so long known as the director and is now the under secretary—the infamous Mr Killoran. I am pleased that the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs is in the House. I notice that he has a nice little grin on his face. I know that he would like to be rid of his under secretary but he has not the intestinal fortitude to take that step himself. Because of the serious rift between the Minister and his permanent head, the department is being maladministered. That is a shame which attaches to the Government.

I have said for so long that the Premier and Treasurer must take the bit between his teeth and do two things. He must give the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs another portfolio of less importance, and he must certainly get rid of the under secretary, who is making a fool of the Government in that area. Not only has he held those people back in the past, but also he is holding back what little progress the Government might be trying to implement there. He is approaching senility but is reverting in his own mind to his teen years. As I have said in this place before, he is a besotted old man.

The incredible state of affairs is that one of the departments that will have such an important role in administering this Bill is being mismanaged by the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, who has no control over a public servant who is cocking a snook at the value of integrity, in all its meanings. The value of integrity should be basic to the role and behaviour of such a senior officer, as it is for all other permanent heads of the Government. That is a traditional role which is certainly not being carried out by that man. That cannot be allowed to continue. As I have said previously in the House, the Premier should replace both men.

Mr Miller: What is Mr Hawke doing about it?

Mr SCOTT: The honourable member for Ithaca sounds like a cracked record. He is just going on and on. He should take part in the debate and say something about the legislation.

A department cannot operate properly under the type of administration that is now being provided. What about the thousands of dollars of losses through the Doomadgee store that, through his lack of any administrative capacity, the Minister condoned?

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member said that I have condoned the losses that occurred in the store. The losses that incurred in that store did not come under my administration. The matter is currently being investigated by police. Because of the errors that the honourable member has made and because his remarks reflect on me, I ask him to make an unequivocal withdrawal.

Mr SCOTT: I accept the Minister's explanation and withdraw unequivocally.

I must say that I have no personal vendetta to wage against either the Minister or his permanent head; all I want is some rationality brought into the administration of that department.

Government Members interjected.

Mr SCOTT: I notice the amusement on the faces of honourable members opposite. They know the very low regard in which the under secretary is held by the people in the areas that he administers. He has been rejected by the people of those areas and he is still being rejected. Last week he was refused entry into a duly constituted meeting of Torres Strait Islanders on Thursday Island.

The people were trying to get the Community Services Act working for them. The Minister, who has left them alone, addressed them for five minutes and then went to Murray Island to open a Medical Aid Post. I was pleased that he did that. However, why did he not stay and try to control his under secretary? He is not game to face up to the man. The under secretary tried to get into the meeting and the Torres Strait Islanders, in a very orderly manner, suggested that he leave. I understand that a telegram was sent by the Premier and Treasurer to that man in the Torres Strait telling him to leave the area. He would not do that without a fuss.

The next day, the young public relations lady, with whom he is seen round the Torres Strait area, went into the meeting early in the morning and took photographs of the under secretary with leaders of the Torres Strait islands so that he could return to Brisbane and say to the Premier and Treasurer, "That nonsense about me being rejected by the Torres Strait Islanders is not true. Here are photographs to prove it."

The people in the Torres Strait area are very smart. They are finding out how to conduct their own affairs. A telex was sent to the lady telling her that the photographs were the property of the people at that meeting and that if she distributed them she would face serious consequences. I believe that, using common sense, she acted on that advice.

Time expired.

Mr LINGARD (Fassifern) (11.32 p.m.): During my short period as a member of this Assembly I have learnt quickly not to take the member for Cook very seriously. One night in this Chamber he led his party in over 30 successive losses. He now expects to mislead this House with his stupidity.

Mr Miller: He wouldn't take an interjection, either.

Mr LINGARD: That is right; and he could not take one.

The legislation before the House is not insignificant. Obviously, the Government has cared for the Torres Strait Islanders. The member for Cook has discovered that Government members have lived and stayed on the islands more than he has. Government members have lived on Saibai Island. We know that the tide goes out for at least 150 metres. There is no way in the world that anyone can get to the island without going up to his waist in mud.

The airport on Saibai Island is called the Bjelke-Petersen Airport. Honourable members know that a sign that states "Border will not change" has been erected. The map shows that the border has been changed to include Boigu Island and Saibai Island, so there is a special condition as far as those two islands are concerned. It shows that the Queensland Government does care.

It gives me great pleasure to speak to the Torres Strait Fisheries Bill, which has come as a consequence of the treaty made between the Commonwealth of Australia and the independent country of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Miller: Mr Hawke is involved in these discussions, is he?

Mr LINGARD: He has had two years. If he thinks that something is wrong, he has not changed it yet.

Mr Miller: Mr Scott doesn't seem to realise that Mr Hawke has had two years to do something about it.

Mr LINGARD: That is right.

Having lived in that area with my family for a considerable time, I will always support any legislation that retains the traditional living conditions of the Torres Strait Islanders. That is why I have already given my whole-hearted support to self-government by the local councils, which was introduced by the Minister for Northern Development and Aboriginal and Island Affairs. Control ensures that modern influences do not destroy their traditional methods. So honourable members can see that in the compilation of this Bill negotiations have taken place between State officers and the Commonwealth Government. This, of course, is necessary, because Queensland already has a settled offshore management arrangement for fisheries, as the Minister detailed in his speech.

The nominated Torres Strait fisheries will be managed by a joint authority consisting of the State and Commonwealth Ministers. The map of the new areas, as the member for Cook said, shows that clearly. In reference to that map, I note very clearly that west of 141 degrees longitude one finds an area in which the Taiwanese fishermen will be fishing in co-operation with Kailis from Western Australia. That allows the east coast fisheries to develop their fisheries in the Coral Sea. They will be able to develop a fishing enterprise harmoniously between themselves. It is excellent to see the sea-bed boundary. There is a special top hat that includes Saibai and Boigu Islands. The sea-bed boundary is in such a position that Darnley, Murray, Stephen, Dauan, Boigu and Saibai Islands are south of that area so that their traditional fisheries are respected. The member for Cook has not attached any significance to that. However, it is very important. North of that area, New Guinea and Japan can co-operate and fish in that area.

Mr Miller: Do you think that there is a difference of opinion between the Federal Government and Mr Hawke and Mr Scott and the Opposition?

Mr LINGARD: The trouble is that the member for Cook does not understand the whole matter. He wants to continually whinge about everything. To be honest, the boundary is an excellent one. The member for Cook wants to argue about everything.

The nursery of the western Torres Strait islands will be retained. I am sure that Ben Nona will enjoy that particular section. As the member for Condamine said, prawns will not be allowed to be taken from the Warrior Reef, where crayfish are taken. I am sure that Getano Lui will appreciate that. I am sure also that George Mye, on the eastern side, will be very satisfied with the prawning area.

One of the greatest benefits of the Bill will be the protection that it provides for the traditional fishing areas and styles of fishing. Those who have lived there know that there is nothing more enjoyable than accompanying Islanders who are catching turtle by traditional methods. By that, I mean coming up behind turtles in dinghies, jumping out, turning the turtles over and pulling them into the dinghies. People do not want modern methods to replace the Islanders' traditional methods.

The Bill will ensure that the traditional methods are maintained, not only in turtle fishing but also in dugong and jew fishing. I have been fishing in those areas and I have seen the devastation caused to the jew fish by modern methods of blasting using deep sea charges. This Bill will retain the traditional rights of the Islanders.

Net fishing will certainly ruin the barramundi and jew fishing unless it is stopped. The lobster catch is limited to 180 tonnes. Nothing is more enjoyable than going out with the Islanders and seeing them dive with hand spears for the crayfish and lobster—the traditional method. This Bill will ensure that the traditional methods are retained. It provides also for the retention of the pearl fishery areas, and establishes controls over customs, quarantine and protection of flora. The Bill will allow the Torres Strait Islanders to continue with their traditional ways, and I congratulate the Minister on its introduction.

Mr EATON (Mourilyan) (11.37 p.m.): Government members have criticised Opposition speakers, but I do not think that they fully understand that the Bill is complementary to Federal legislation. As the member for Cook pointed out, it has greater significance than most Government members realise.

The agreement was drawn up under international rules by a previous Labor Government. It was signed before the present Federal Labor Government came into office. It cannot be changed by the Queensland Government, by Bob Hawke or by anyone else. All parties are stuck with it.

Because of State boundaries, the agreement allows Queensland to participate in the management of the fisheries resources. The Queensland Government will work in conjunction with the Federal Government. It should try to make the agreement work successfully.

I can see some pitfalls. Some have been mentioned by two of my colleagues who have spoken in the debate.

The member for Cook referred to the 25/75 sea-bed line and to the 50/50 sea-bed line. The Queensland fishing industry is experiencing problems with New Zealand sea perch, or orange roughies, coming onto the market to compete with fish caught by Queensland fishermen. New Zealand fishermen and Russian fishermen entered into an agreement under which cheap fish would be put onto the market in Queensland. That has affected the welfare and income of Queensland fishermen. There is nothing to stop Papua New Guinea fishermen from entering into a similar agreement with Russian and Japanese fishermen, and a conflict could arise. Who will police the catches on each side by weighing and recording them? I envisage many problems arising. On the high seas, we depend on honesty. Problems will occur and accusations will be made.

We are all aware of the problems in the Queensland fishing industry with licences and boats. However, in the Bill it is taken for granted that a person who holds a current Federal fishing licence will be issued a licence under the joint authority. The Government has been trying to reduce the number of fishermen in Queensland. I can see the problem being compounded instead of alleviated, unless agreement is reached or the matter is handled in a satisfactory manner by regulation. There will be an overlap as a result of people taking out a Federal fishing licence.

We all know that the Torres Strait is rich in resources. I know that it has mineral resources. When I was on Thursday Island, a man was wining and dining the leaders of several Torres Strait islands, endeavouring to have them sign an agreement allowing the extraction of minerals. All sorts of incentives were offered. The man assured them that the Government would do this and the Government would do that. It is known that tin and wolfram can be found on some of the islands. With the shallowness of Torres Strait, it is quite possible for it be exploited for minerals, petroleum or gas.

If Queensland is to monitor the position and act as an inspector for the Federal Government, problems will arise. Who will pay for it? The State Government will say, "If you want us to do the job properly, you will have to foot the bill." Accusations are always made between the State and Federal Governments about not footing the Bill. I

do not know whether the State Government expects too much of the Federal Government, but it has been said by Government members that the only reason projects are funded by the State is that the Federal Government has pulled out. So often, a project will not be commenced unless the Federal Government funds it. Once the project is off the ground, the Commonwealth withdraws its funds to force the State Government to carry its responsibilities. I can see areas for dispute in the Bill.

When I entered Parliament, one of the first requests I made was on behalf of a man who sought a beche-de-mer licence. Beche-de-mer are to be found right along the tropical coast and in the Torres Strait. He could not obtain a licence from the State Government or the Federal Government. Each was blaming the other. When he applied to the State, he was told that an agreement was being negotiated to control the harvesting of beche-de-mer. The Federal Government had an excuse and blamed the State Government. If outside people are allowed to offer incentives or a partnership, such as exists between the Russian and New Zealand fishermen—the agreement says that the workers have to be of that country, whether New Guineans or Torres Strait Islanders—the developing nations in our area could supply all of the requirements, such as boats and equipment. If the project makes money, the other fellow will want his fair share. I envisage many problems.

This is an international agreement that we are stuck with. The State will have to monitor it. I foresee conflict between the State and Federal Governments. We already encounter problems in attempting to patrol our own fishing areas. When we are thrown into the international area, numerous problems will arise.

Hon. N. J. TURNER (Warrego—Minister for Primary Industries) (11.44 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate. As all honourable members are aware, the Bill is complementary legislation. The Commonwealth and Papua New Guinea have passed their legislation. It is due for ratification on 18 December. I am pleased that the Bill has the support of most members of Parliament. It is a major step forward in our relations with Papua New Guinea. The Bill protects not only the rights of Queensland citizens in the Torres Strait but also the traditional rights of New Guinea people who depend on fishing in the Torres Strait.

Everyone will appreciate that this is new legislation involving the Governments of the Commonwealth, Papua New Guinea and Queensland. Although problems will arise from time to time, the legislation is designed to enable any such problems to be resolved. In essence, the whole idea involves co-operation between the Governments of the Commonwealth, Papua New Guinea and Queensland.

Mr Miller: The Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party seems to be in disagreement with the Federal Labor Government on this issue.

Mr TURNER: They are quite often out of kilter with their Federal counterparts, and I can easily understand that at times.

As I said previously, the whole idea involves co-operation between the three Governments that I have referred to and, as far as I am concerned, the Queensland Government will co-operate.

The honourable member for Murrumbidgee correctly identified the dual role of the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments in the joint management of the Torres Strait fishing areas, in conjunction with the Government of Papua New Guinea.

A matter of prime importance is preservation of the traditional way of life of local inhabitants. Fishing is a basic element in the life-style of local inhabitants, and rights that had previously been established are fully protected. That issue was raised by the Minister for Northern Development and Aboriginal and Island Affairs (Mr Katter) who was concerned about any move that could destroy the traditional rights of the people in the area. I assured him that that would not be the case.

Joint management of the area will also ensure the proper commercial use of the Torres Strait fishing grounds, and that is a matter that is fully understood by commercial fishermen who operate in the region.

The honourable member for Condamine recognised the major scope of the Torres Strait Treaty, including matters of quarantine and customs as well as the management of the fisheries resource, which is the subject of the Bill presently before the House. He also correctly recognised the importance of the fishing industry in that particular region.

The honourable member for Cook did at times touch on the legislation during his speech. The negotiation of the Torres Strait Treaty has taken six years to complete. During that time, regardless of the comments made by the honourable member for Cook, full and proper consultation and discussion has taken place with the inhabitants of the region.

However, much of the delay was caused by the necessary negotiations that took place between the Governments of the Commonwealth and Queensland in formulating the Commonwealth legislation. However, the outcome is that the interest of Queenslanders in the region has been protected. Islands that traditionally have been Queensland territory have remained Queensland territory.

The honourable member for Cook referred to the use of Commonwealth police in the management of the region, and I assure him that one of the important purposes of the Bill is to enable Queensland Fisheries officers to manage the fisheries resource on behalf of the Commonwealth in areas of Australian jurisdiction.

Much will depend on the amount of financial assistance that is contributed by the Commonwealth Government. However, as I pointed out earlier, it is a joint fishing resource. The negotiations that have been conducted to date have clearly recognised the need for enforcement to be the responsibility of the Governments of the Commonwealth and Queensland. The relevant officers are meeting next week to conclude the financial arrangements that embrace a budget of \$2.7m to be expended over the next three years. Surely the honourable member for Cook can appreciate that that is reasonable funding.

However, if the honourable member for Cook is concerned about maintenance of the good relationship among the Governments involved in the Torres Strait Treaty, he should discuss with his counterpart in Canberra his lack of confidence in the part played by the Commonwealth Government. I would be pleased to pass on the matter of his concern to Mr Kerin.

I suggest to the honourable member for Cook that he read the terms of the treaty more closely. Article 12 of the treaty allows for the free movement of traditional activity, including traditional fishing practices and traditional customary rites. In the development of traditional fisheries management regimes, State and Commonwealth officers have conferred and will continue to meet with representatives of the Torres Strait communities to implement these requirements. Thus the statement that the local inhabitants have lost traditional fishing rights is utter nonsense.

The honourable member for Fassifern has recognised that the Queensland Government has not given away the rights of citizens who live in the Torres Strait area. He has an intimate knowledge of that region, having resided in the area for some considerable time.

I believe that the joint authority will be capable of managing the fisheries resource of the region. I look forward to working in close co-operation with Mr Kerin and the New Guinea Minister in this regard.

I agree with the honourable member for Mourilyan that we have to make this agreement work. He has my assurance that the Queensland Government will play its full part. The problems of enforcement that he raised have already been discussed by Commonwealth, Queensland and Papua New Guinea officials. The requirement of being granted a licence to fish will be the regular supply of log books.

As for mining in that region, the honourable member should be aware that Article 15 prohibits mining and prospecting in the region for a period of 10 years, and that can be further extended.

Motion (Mr Turner) agreed to.

Committee

Mr Booth (Warwick) in the chair; Hon. N. J. Turner (Warrego—Minister for Primary Industries) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—Interpretation—

Mr SCOTT (11.52 p.m.): I just want to correct the Minister on one point, and I do that under clause 6, which refers to community fishing and, in particular, to traditional fishing.

I did not say that those types of fishing would be limited. I am well aware of the provisions of the treaty. In order to be familiar with it, I have read it many, many times. They are protected under the Bill and protected under the treaty. That is quite good.

The other misconception I want to correct is that given by the member for Fassifern. He made a totally patronising speech in which he concentrated on the protection aspects of the Bill towards traditional fishing. That is not what the Bill is all about. That is one of the major mental blockages suffered by Government members. They believe they are dealing with a group of children who just sit around in the Torres Strait and are concerned only with traditional fishing. Admittedly, one aspect of the Bill protects the traditional fishing rights of both the Papua New Guinea and Torres Strait people, but the point is that the people up there are now adults in all ways. They are now adults from a political point of view. But the concern is not just about traditional activities. A great many Torres Strait Islanders are engaged in commercial fishing.

The big worry will be about the policing of that operation in the protected zone, where the people from both nations have reciprocal rights. That is the point I made very clearly and validly in my speech during the second-reading debate and I was gently rubbished by the Minister for so doing. It is his prerogative to do that. I simply want the Committee to recognise the complexity of the situation and the fact that the people in the Torres Strait are grown up. They are engaged in all sorts of activities, such as commercial fishing. Their interests have to be looked after, and the resources have to be made available so that that can be done.

I asked the Minister some questions about the size of the police boat, because he was not listening when I referred to the 18-ft Shark Cat, which was totally inadequate for the work it was required to do. He responded by engaging in the Government's traditional Canberra-bashing. Government members just cannot refrain from doing that. The moment they have something that they cannot or will not explain, or want to express concern about, they blame Canberra. It is up to the Queensland Government to administer a great many areas of responsibility in the Torres Strait. It worries me that that will not be done.

I agree with the provisions of the Bill that provide for care and concern in that area. I will certainly be playing whatever part I can to ensure that everybody co-operates. But I do want to make sure that the Government recognises those aspects of the problem, and that the people in the area are not being considered as a group of black-skinned children sitting up there under idyllic conditions.

Mr Katter interjected.

Mr SCOTT: That is what the Minister implied. He has absolutely no idea——

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member has cast a reflection upon me by alleging that I said things that I did not say. What I in fact said was that his colleague Mr Price from Mount Isa referred to the people of the Torres Strait and Mornington Island as natives, a term that they do not particularly appreciate. I did not make any other reference. I ask the honourable member for an unequivocal withdrawal of the remarks he made.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Booth): Order! Is the honourable member for Cook prepared to withdraw the remarks?

Mr SCOTT: I thought a tradition was creeping into this Chamber whereby members who complained about words had to identify the words that they were objecting to. I am not sorry that that tradition is going by the board. I withdraw unequivocally.

A Government Member: Be nice.

Mr SCOTT: I will be nice. The Minister and I get on fairly well together. We would do even better if only he had the intestinal fortitude to get rid of his under secretary.

To get back to my point—I am talking about more than traditional fishing; I am talking about the hard world of commercial fishing, in which many Torres Strait Islanders engage. Wide protection must be given to them to ensure that they get their share of the catch, whether they are on the southern or northern side of the line of jurisdiction. I will now read part of the “Conclusions” from a report titled, “The Torres Strait Treaty”, dated 3 April 1979, which I intended to read at the second-reading stage and which is in these terms—

“On the evidence presented and the information made available, much of it on a confidential basis, the committee is of the opinion that the Treaty is equitable to both countries, has regard to the interests of the parties most immediately affected, and is apparently supported by all interested parties.”

That is not the end of it, because the committee finished its report with a prayer. We like to think that prayers work, but they do not work very well in this world. A prayer does not solve many problems. Proper legislation and proper concern shown by people solve problems. Later, the following appears in the conclusions—

“The committee feels that the Treaty when ratified, will have a considerable positive effect on the life-style of the Torres Strait Islanders. The concept, and implementation, of the Protected Zone, which encompasses all the reserve Islands of the Torres Strait, will provide an opportunity for the indigenous culture of the Torres Strait Islanders to be preserved.”

The reference to the reserve islands is out of date, because they are trust areas. That was written in 1979, and it is now out of date. The people in Torres Strait are grown-up people. They are concerned with the practical, day-to-day amenities, the protection given by real legislation with teeth, and the services to back the legislation.

Mr TURNER: The honourable member should have moved an extension of time. He used his time on clause 6 to conclude his earlier speech. He referred to a part of his previous speech that I spoke about. “Hansard” will record what he said. In speaking to this clause, he referred to the honourable member for Fassifern and the Minister for Northern Development and Aboriginal and Island Affairs. I see no reference to them in clause 6. In his earlier remarks, the honourable member wanted to know the length of the boat. It is outside my knowledge whether they would buy an 18ft or 20ft boat. We intend to have a joint management program. With the co-operation of the three Governments, it should work in the interests of all concerned in the region. The Islanders are totally protected. It is in our interests to ensure that that is so, and we are certainly looking after them. I think the honourable member was simply grandstanding politically on the clause.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 23, as read, agreed to.

Clause 24—Regulations—

Mr KRUGER (11.59 p.m.): Clause 24 is in these terms—

“(1) The Governor in Council may make regulations not inconsistent with this Act providing for all matters and things (whether general or to meet particular cases) that are necessary or convenient for the administration of this Act or for carrying this Act into effect.

(2) For the purposes of this Act the power to regulate includes the power to prohibit.”

I want the Minister to realise that the Opposition appreciates that this is being done jointly with the Federal Government. However, this clause does not spell out that matters relative to future control of the industry in the area will again be negotiated with the Federal Government.

Although I think that the clause means that the State and Federal Governments will liaise on regulations, that is not spelt out clearly. I seek the Minister's comment on whether regulations will be jointly arranged.

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Mr TURNER: The regulations will be jointly managed by the various Governments involved. One Government will not make the regulations on its own. They will be made only after consultation between all Governments.

Clause 24, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Turner, by leave, read a third time.

The House adjourned at 12.3 a.m. (Friday).