

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 1987**

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Mr SPEAKER (Hon. K. R. Lingard, Fassifern) read prayers and took the chair at 10 a.m.

### MEMBERS' READING ROOM

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that, when the House commences at 10 a.m., I have made arrangements for the Members' Reading Room to be opened at 9.30 a.m. for the convenience of members.

### PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

#### Gympie and Widgee Shire Boundary Changes

From Mr Stephan (29 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will reconsider the proposed boundary changes between Gympie and Widgee Shire.

#### Electricity Subsidy for Pensioners

From Mr Burns (57 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will ensure that all pensioners receive an electricity subsidy.

#### Moreton Island, Sand-mining and Declaration as National Park

From Mr Burns (47 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will reject mining proposals on Moreton Island and declare unsettled areas as national park.

#### Chlorine Plant, Wynnum North, Lindum and Hemmant

From Mr Burns (129 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will allow residents to object to the siting of a chlorine plant adjacent to schools and residences in Wynnum North, Lindum and Hemmant.

#### Walker and F. E. Walker Streets, Curfew on Open-top Sugar Trucks

From Mr Campbell (87 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will impose a curfew on open-top sugar trucks travelling Walker and F. E. Walker Streets during night hours and ensure alternate routes are used.

#### Proposed Toll Road Route from Slacks Creek to Pacific Highway

From Mr Goss (367 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will urgently review the proposed toll road route from Slacks Creek to the Pacific Highway.

#### Contraceptive Vending Machines

From Mr Newton (34 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will vote against the public availability of contraceptive vending machines.

Petitions received.

### PAPERS

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

Report of the Nominal Defendant (Queensland) for the year ended 30 June 1986.

The following papers were laid on the table—

Order in Council under the Gateway Bridge Agreement Act 1980-1985

Regulations under—

Main Roads Act 1920-1985

Valuation of Land Act 1944-1985.

By-law under the Gateway Bridge Agreement Act 1980-1985.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Retirement Villages

**Hon. P. J. CLAUSON** (Redlands—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (10.04 a.m.), by leave: The relatively recent phenomenon of the development of resident-funded retirement villages throughout Australia has led to a comprehensive examination of their legal structure and the nature of entitlements of residents.

Initially, some degree of control was exercised pursuant to the prescribed-interest provisions of part IV of the Companies Code. However, the Ministerial Council on Companies and Securities has resolved that a more flexible approach, which will meet the needs of residents and developers, will be achieved by specific State legislation in each jurisdiction. Existing controls under the Code are to be removed on 30 June 1987. Accordingly, the time is now appropriate for the Queensland Government to introduce legislation which will not only provide protection to the elderly people who invest substantial sums of money in such projects but also instil confidence in the industry in Queensland.

The Green Paper, which I am now tabling, provides a draft Bill together with an explanatory memorandum. It is hoped that the Green Paper will generate response from all sections of the community associated with the development of retirement villages to enable appropriate and meaningful legislation to be introduced at the earliest opportunity. The draft Bill is an attempt to strike a balance between protection for those persons who desire to reside in a retirement community and encouragement for developers to provide an increasingly desirable community service.

I believe that the attached draft Bill, when refined, will lead to a reduction in the problems facing the industry and its residents and potential residents in this State. I stress that, in view of the need for urgent legislation, an early response to the Green Paper is required by 14 March 1987.

Members of the public wishing to obtain copies of the paper may either phone my office or call at the 8th floor, Department of Justice, State Law Building, corner of George and Ann Streets, Brisbane.

I seek leave to table that Green Paper.

Leave granted.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.*

## NOTICES OF MOTION; APPLICATION OF STANDING ORDERS 64 AND 66

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before proceeding to the next item of business, I draw the attention of all honourable members, particularly the new members, to the Standing Orders and, in particular, Standing Order No. 64. I ask all honourable members who have copies of the Standing Orders to take note of that Standing Order, which states—

“ . . . Mr Speaker shall inquire from the Chair with respect to each Motion of which Notice has been given for the day . . . whether there is any objection to its being taken as a Formal Motion or Order: And if, upon such inquiry being made from the Chair, no objection is taken by any Member, the Motion or Order shall be deemed to be a Formal Motion or Order.”

Honourable members will notice that, when a notice of motion is called “formal” and there is no objection to that, I then call the member to move the motion.

Standing Order No. 66 states in part—

“No Amendment or Debate shall be allowed on a Formal Motion . . .”

If, however, any member calls “not formal” to my inquiry, the motion is placed on the sheet for further debate.

I trust that my explanation clarifies for new members this part of the proceedings.

## PRINTING COMMITTEE

### Appointment

**Hon. L. W. POWELL** (Isis—Leader of the House) (10.07 a.m.): I move—

“That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 300, a committee be appointed for the present Parliament to assist Mr Speaker in all matters which relate to the Printing to be executed by Order of the House, and for the purpose of selecting and arranging for printing Returns and Papers presented in pursuance of motions made by Members, and that such committee consist of the following Members:—

Mr Speaker, Mr Campbell, Mrs Harvey, Mr McPhie, Mr Milliner, Mr Newton, Mr Row, Mr Sherlock and Mr Palaszczuk.”

Motion agreed to.

## LIBRARY, PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS COMMITTEES

### Appointment of Members

**Hon. L. W. POWELL** (Isis—Leader of the House) (10.08 a.m.): I move—

“That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 330, the Library, Parliamentary Buildings and Refreshment Rooms Committees for the present Parliament be constituted as follows:

Library—Mr Speaker, Mr Ardill, Mr Booth, Mr Comben, Mr Gilmore, Mr Littleproud, Mr Row, Mr Smyth and Mr White.

Parliamentary Buildings—Mr Speaker, Mr Beard, Mr Borbidge, Mr De Lacy, Mr Elliott, Mr FitzGerald, Mr Mackenroth, Mr Milliner and Mr Row.

Refreshment Rooms—Mr Speaker, Mr Alison, Mr Campbell, Mr Davis, Mr R. J. Gibbs, Mrs Harvey, the Honourable N. E. Lee, Mrs McCauley and Mr Row.”

Motion agreed to.

## SELECT COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

### Appointment

**Mr FITZGERALD** (Lockyer) (10.09 a.m.): I move—

- (1) That this House do appoint a Select Committee of Privileges;
- (2) That the Committee consists of Messrs Cooper, Goss, Hinton, Lickiss, McPhie, Palaszczuk, Stoneman, Ms Warner and the mover;
- (3) That four members be a quorum at any meeting of the Committee;
- (4) That the Committee have and exercise such powers, duties and responsibilities as may, from time to time, generally or in any particular case, be determined by the House;
- (5) That, in the exercise of the aforesaid powers, duties and responsibilities, the Committee have authority and power to send for persons, papers and records unless otherwise determined by the House in any particular case save however

that a Minister of the Crown or an officer of the Public Service shall not be obliged to provide information, oral or written, which has been—

- (a) certified by a Crown Law Officer to be information which, if it were sought in a court, would be a proper matter in respect of which to claim Crown privilege; or
  - (b) certified by the responsible Minister, with the approval of the Ministers of the Crown in Cabinet assembled, to be information such that its disclosure would be against the public interest;
- (6) That the Committee have leave to sit during any adjournment of the House notwithstanding that such adjournment exceeds seven days;
  - (7) That the Committee may sit during the sitting of the House;
  - (8) That the Committee, so far as is practicable and as it may do, function in a manner similar to that of a Committee of Privilege of the British House of Commons for the time being unless otherwise determined by the House in any particular case;
  - (9) That the Committee, in addition to sitting from time to time on or in relation to matters of privilege, may meet from time to time to discuss privilege generally, including acts or omissions constituting instances of breach of privilege, whether in Queensland or elsewhere, and to inform itself with respect to privilege in such manner as it thinks fit; and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may invite from and discuss with such persons or bodies as it thinks fit, submissions and views on or in relation to matters of privilege;
  - (10) That the foregoing provisions of this motion, so far as they may be inconsistent with Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders. ”

Motion agreed to.

## PRIVILEGE

### Question-time

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on Wednesday, 25 February, the honourable the Deputy Leader of the Opposition rose on a point of privilege about certain questions and answers thereto. I have examined the matter. I fully understand the honourable member's point of view in raising the matter, and the reason for the point of privilege. However, I have come to the conclusion that there is no need for any further action.

## QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

### 1. Funding of Private Defamation Actions by Premier and Treasurer and Ministers against Opposition Front-benchers

Mr **WARBURTON** asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

“With reference to statements by a number of Government Ministers in 1986 indicating that the Queensland taxpayers are funding numerous private defamation actions brought by the Premier and Treasurer and, in one case, the rest of his Cabinet against opposition frontbenchers and to the fact that, on 13 March 1986, this House was told that guidelines for such use of taxpayers' funds were currently being drawn up and would be published—

(1) Has the Government made the decision to fund the plaintiff in the following actions:

- (a) *Bjelke-Petersen v. Warburton & Gold Coast Publications* (No. 963 of 1986),
- (b) *Bjelke-Petersen v. Warburton & ABC* (No. 862 of 1986), (c) *Bjelke-Petersen v. Warburton* (No. 3373 of 1986), (d) *Bjelke-Petersen v. Gibbs & ABC* (No. 864 of

1986), (e) *Bjelke-Petersen v. De Lacy and Cairns Post* (No. 879 of 1986), (f) *Bjelke-Petersen v. Burns & ABC* (No. 861 of 1986), (g) *Bjelke-Petersen and others* (all other Members of the 1986 Cabinet) *v. Burns & ABC* (No. 995 of 1986), (h) *Bjelke-Petersen v. Beattie and Queensland Newspapers* (No. 865 of 1986) and (i) *McKechnie v. Warburton* (No. 2189 of 1986)?

(2) If so, what expenses have already been incurred in respect of each action and how much has been paid?

(3) To whom has the money been paid in each case?

(4) Which Department is paying these amounts?

(5) When was the decision made to fund each action?

(6) What were the conditions on which taxpayers' funds were granted to initiate and maintain each action?

(7) Will he table the guidelines for taxpayer funding of private actions referred to on 13 March 1986 in this House, and state when these guidelines were formulated and approved by Cabinet?"

**Mr CLAUSON:** (1 to 3) The Government has decided to bear the costs of actions of Ministers of the nature referred to by the honourable member in accordance with the policy set out in (6 and 7). The total expenses paid to date to solicitors Messrs Morris Fletcher and Cross by the Department of Justice total \$14,864.55.

(4) The Department of Justice.

(5) Decisions have been made from time to time, the latest decision being made in relation to action 879 of 1986 on 23 February 1987.

(6 and 7) In cases where legal advice indicates that statements or comments concerning the Government or Ministers in connection with their official duties or responsibilities are actionable, the Government will bear the costs of initiating and pursuing appropriate court action against parties involved in making and/or publishing such statements or comments. Any damages awarded in such cases will be paid into Consolidated Revenue. Guide-lines were formulated and approved by Cabinet in March 1986.

## 2. Lease of Petrie Bight Land to Seymour Developments

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

“With reference to a press report that he has agreed to give a development lease over 20 000 square metres of land between the Customs House and the Storey Bridge to Seymour Developments without calling tenders for the land or apparently even an expression of interest—

(1) As Mr Kevin Seymour, principal of the company, is a member appointed by him to the Harness Racing Board, was this decision to grant the lease arrived at privately between himself and Mr Seymour?

(2) If a contract or lease is not put out to tender, what criteria are used to make such a decision, and who makes the decision?

(3) On how many occasions since the 1983 State Election has he as Minister or his department given control of land holdings to companies or individuals without going to tender?

(4) What criteria, including economic and financial, were used to make the decision to lease the Petrie Bight land to Seymour Developments and what conditions have been imposed on the company?

(5) If either tenders or expression of interest are not called by Government departments for contracts or leases, how is it possible for Queensland businessmen to expect a fair go when it comes to competing for government contracts?"

**Mr HINZE:** (1 and 2) Approval for Seymour Developments Pty Ltd to develop certain lands in the vicinity of the Customs House in the city area was given by Cabinet following discussions with the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane and after taking into account the history associated with the past occupancy of the site together with the present occupancy thereof.

The proposal submitted by the company was considered to be an attractive development for this waterfront area and at that time was also considered to comply with the objectives of the Government and the Brisbane City Council in making the riverfront more accessible to the public.

The matter of imposing conditions in respect of the development will be one for the Brisbane City Council in due course, and it is understood that negotiations in this regard are presently under way between the company and the council.

(3) Nil.

(4 and 5) See (1 and 2).

### 3. Increased Road Vehicle Load Limits

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

“With reference to the proposal to increase road vehicle load limits in Queensland from 38 to 41 tonnes—

(1) Have any studies been done on the road safety implications of this decision?

(2) What is the estimated cost of increased road damage caused by more heavily loaded vehicles?

(3) Will existing vehicle suspension systems be capable of sustaining the higher loads?

(4) Will vehicle registration charges be increased to partially recover the costs of increased road damage caused by the heavier loads?

(5) Has there been any consultation with the Railway Department on the likely effect such a move will have on freight operations?

(6) Have there been any attempts to consult the public and obtain their reaction to the proposed load limit increases?”

**Mr HINZE:** The increase follows a national study into road vehicle limits undertaken by the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities. This study, entitled the Review of Road Vehicle Limits, was completed after more than 12 months intensive investigation.

(1) The RORVL study team reported that there have been technological advances in commercial vehicle performance and safety over the past 10 years, and that most modern trucks can carry loads greater than the existing mass limit. However, it is recognised that not all heavy trucks should be permitted increased axle and gross mass limits. The Main Roads Department and the Transport Department have conferred and are meeting the road transport industries today to resolve any problems in this area.

(2) The increased cost of road damage is highly dependent on a number of factors and no definite figure is available. The increased cost will be more than offset by the benefits which accrue. The distribution of benefits would favour truck operations and should be returned to the community in reduced transport costs.

(3) The implementation phase will include examination of suspension systems, and only those rated at the higher limits will be allowed to operate at these higher levels.

(4) Registration fees are assessed on a mass basis at a rate per tonne. An increase in gross mass will attract a higher fee for recovery of costs on the same basis as the present limits.

(5) The effect of increased truck mass limits on rail operations has been discussed in the forum of the Australian Transport Advisory Council. The effect on rail systems

would not be significant. There would be an overall reduction in truck travel from an increase in vehicle mass limits. However, a modest increase in axle and gross mass limits should marginally reduce road freight cost rates which could generate a small number of heavy trucks to carry freight converted from rail. This change has been estimated at about 1 per cent of the present truck fleet.

(6) Public consultations have taken place in every capital city in Australia. Local authorities were all consulted as well as meetings with truck and bus-operators, vehicle manufacturers, industry and operator groups and regulatory authorities. A total of 160 written responses were also received.

#### 4. Problems in Agricultural Industry

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

“With reference to the publication in January by the Federal Government of a document entitled ‘Resolving the World Agricultural Crisis—An Australian Proposal’—

Does this list of proposals put forward by Mr Kerin address all the problems of agriculture or is it diverting attention away from the other problems caused by the Hawke Government’s internal policies?”

Mr HARPER: I do not doubt for one minute that the Hawke Labor Government will take any action it can to divert the attention of the Australian community from the errors of its ways, and from the errors into which its ways have led the Australian economy to absolute crisis.

The document to which the honourable member refers was released in January by the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, in Davos, Switzerland at a meeting of world agricultural leaders. The proposals contained in the document indicate that it is an attempt to address the problems of world agriculture. At this stage, it is not possible to interpret its potential impact at the individual producer level. I believe it is essential that all agricultural authorities of all political persuasions should continue to press for reform of corrupted international markets.

The document referred to by the honourable member accurately portrays the problems caused by protectionist policies, particularly in the United States of America and the European Community.

I support the initiative that caused the United States and the European Community to make a commitment to freeze agricultural subsidies and to reduce protectionism. If that initiative can be implemented, it will offer considerable potential benefit to Australian primary producers.

However, I have grave reservations about the ability of that particular initiative, decided upon at the meeting I have referred to, to achieve very much in the short term. I believe that the present Federal Government has an obligation to look much more closely at the total Australian economy, which is causing such devastation and chaos in agricultural production.

#### 5. Sunset Clauses in Subordinate Legislation

Sir WILLIAM KNOX asked the Premier and Treasurer—

“As the *Regulatory Reform Act 1986* provides for a sunset clause for subordinate legislation made on or before 30 June 1962, which subordinate legislation will expire 30 June 1987, will he arrange for a chronological catalogue to be published of all titles of Pre-30 June 1962 subordinate legislation so that Members and other interested parties can review the matters subject to revocation or renewal?”

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: The implementation of the Regulatory Review Program is being overseen by the Chairman of the Public Service Board. Substantial progress has been made, and targets are being met by all departments.

Officers of the Department of the Public Service Board have prepared lists of all subordinate legislation which is subject to the Regulatory Reform Act 1986. These lists group pre-1962, 1962-75 and 1975-86 subordinate legislation.

I am happy to make these lists available to interested parties. Requests for copies should be addressed to the Chairman, Public Service Board.

#### 6. Contracts for RAN Frigates

Sir WILLIAM KNOX asked the Minister for Industry and Technology—

“(1) What action has the Queensland Government taken to secure whole or part of the \$3.5b order for R.A.N. frigates?”

(2) Is he prepared to establish an information secretariat in Canberra in order to press Queensland’s claims to perform contracts associated with the frigate contract?”

Mr McKECHNIE: (1) Officers of my Department of Industry Development have been in regular contact with the navy project office in Canberra for the new surface combatant project since last July.

There are two Queensland groups who are looking at being involved as prime contractors for this frigate project. A number of other firms are showing an interest in supplying major components and services.

The department, with senior officers from the Premier’s Department and the Treasury, are working closely with the two groups with a view to assisting them and other Queensland industry representatives to secure this project for Queensland. In addition, my department has engaged a consultant with wide experience in defence contracting to help with this project.

(2) With the close and regular contact being maintained with the new frigate project office by the interdepartmental task force and the use of consultants, I do not consider it necessary at this stage to establish an information secretariat in Canberra.

I am sure that the honourable member is aware of steps being taken by the Premier and Treasurer, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, to ensure that he exerts a greater influence on Canberra politics for the benefit of all Australians. Clear-thinking people throughout Australia are supporting his policies, and no doubt the honourable member will also support him. I am sure that all sensible conservative politicians will support the Premier and Treasurer’s policies.

#### 7. Federal Government’s Fuel Excise and Charges

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

“With reference to a recent statement by the general secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, Mr Ray Dempsey, that wages have only risen by 14.8 per cent since the election of the Hawke Labor Federal Government but that prices have risen during the same period by 22 per cent—

(1) In view of the fact that fuel prices add significantly to pressure on prices, by what margin has the Federal Government increased its fuel excise since its election in 1983?

(2) What is the total estimated income the Federal Government will receive in 1986-87 from its fuel excise and taxes and how much of that will be returned to the nation for road construction?”

Mr HINZE: I preface my answer by stating that prior to the election of the Hawke Labor Government, one of the main planks in the Australian Labor Party’s platform was a reduction of fuel prices in Australia. However, in February 1983, when the Hawke Federal Labor Government was elected, fuel excise stood at 6.115c per litre. Now that excise stands at 20.76c per litre—a rise of 14.6c per litre, or a massive 237 per cent.

(1 and 2) Collection of Federal fuel excise and taxes will total \$6,344m this financial year, with only \$1,250m, or 19.7 per cent, being returned to the nation for road construction.

I would whole-heartedly agree with the honourable member that fuel costs do add significantly to the pressure on prices and that any concerted effort cannot be made to contain price rises when the Federal Government is determined to use the petrol pump as an arm of the Australian Taxation Office.

I say that the motorist in this nation is being fleeced, and I emphasise "fleeced"!

**Mr Alison:** Ripped off.

**Mr HINZE:** Ripped off—call it what you please—to the extent of \$5m to prop up a flagging economy.

## 8. Home-loan Repayments

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

"With reference to statements and an editorial in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* of 24 February wherein both the editorial and his counterpart in New South Wales, Mr Frank Walker, stated that the Labor Party is in deep trouble electorally as a result of the spiralling home mortgage payments being forced upon families trying to maintain monthly repayment commitments, and to the same article in which not only does Queensland compare more than favourably with most States in terms of the average commitment but is lower than most mainland States and has had the lowest overall increase in the assessment period and given that the pressures are still alarming in the general sense—

Are there any means by which relief might be forthcoming and is the relatively low Queensland increase further proof of the economic stability of this State?"

**Mr I. J. GIBBS:** I thank the honourable member for his most relevant question on the plight of Australian families who are trying to repay their home loans.

It is scandalous that in this nation, a nation that has always boasted as having the highest home-ownership ratio in the world, the average home-loan repayments have soared by \$117 to \$678 a month during the past year. On whom is the guilt placed for this terrible state of affairs?

It is placed fairly and squarely on the Hawke Government and in particular on its so-called financial wizard of a Treasurer, Paul Keating, who has intentionally used this nation's interest rates as a tool for his monetary policies. I would describe him more as a court jester than a financial wizard.

The Federal Government is in a mess. What is more, to try to get out of that mess, it is bringing financial ruin and misery to thousands upon thousands of hard-working Australian families who are looking in vain for some solution to their repayment problems.

Do honourable members realise that during the past year the number of home loan borrowers who fell behind in their repayments by more than four months jumped by 50 per cent?

Do honourable members—and I address this in particular to those honourable members opposite—realise the suffering this is causing among families whose only ambition is to own their own home, which surely is not too ambitious an aim?

In my own electorate of Albert, I am well aware of the strife the high interest rates have created in many family households. Mortgagee in possession is becoming more evident in advertised sales of houses as people have to walk away from their homes. More and more people are having to move into caravan parks, as it is the only solution to the financial crisis in housing.

Indeed, Queenslanders are much more fortunate than people in most other States, in that Queenslanders' average commitment on the home loan is 25 per cent of income, compared with 28.7 per cent in New South Wales. As well, loan repayment increases are lower than in other States.

As the honourable member for Burdekin implied in his question, that indicates a strength in this State's economy, and I trust it will be maintained.

But Queensland cannot escape from the obvious fact that it is tied to the Federal Government's monetary policies, and the only solution for Queensland and the rest of Australia is to remove the Hawke Government from Canberra.

It is also worth while that I make reference to the headline in today's *Australian* that states—

“Ryan's big blunder: interest to 'stay high' ”

The article beneath that headline states—

“Senator Susan Ryan today becomes the longest serving federal minister for education in Australia.

Although she has served for three years, 11 months and 15 days, yesterday is the day the Minister is likely to remember best.

The public relations value of her achievement, emphasised by a press release from her office early yesterday, was shattered when she stood in the Senate after lunch to answer a question on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Mr West.”

Her statement was similar to a report that stated that interest rates would remain high, or perhaps even rise, until 1988. That is a fact of life that has to be faced.

The article in the *Australian* also indicated that Senator Ryan will be carpeted. I do not think that she should be carpeted; she ought to be given a medal for being accidentally honest and telling the truth about the real position in Canberra.

## 9. Pedestrian Crossings, Wembley Road

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing—

“(1) Is he aware of the dangerous situation that exists on the crossings at Wembley Road and the numerous accidents that have occurred to pedestrians at these crossings, specifically to the crossing at the western end nearest the railway line where lanes converge and there is the danger of one unsighted driver failing to stop?

(2) As I have brought this to the attention of the Main Roads Department on several occasions, will he arrange to have lights installed as a matter of urgency?”

Mr HINZE: (1 and 2) I assume that the specific crossing that is being referred to is the pedestrian crossing near the intersection of Wembley and Ewing Roads. This section of road is to be upgraded in association with the joint main roads/railway project next financial year.

Design of the project is well advanced and allows for the provision of traffic signals and associated pedestrian crossings.

## 10. Job Creation

Mr BURREKET asked the Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs—

“With reference to recent reports released by the Federal Government on the extent of job creation in Australia—

What was (1) the number of new jobs created in Australia in the last 12 months, (2) the number of new jobs created in Queensland over the last 12 months and (3) the net figures for interstate migrants coming to Queensland for whom jobs must be found?”

**Mr LESTER:** (1) Official Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that for the last 12-month period for which figures are available—to January 1987—116 900 new jobs were created in Australia.

(2) Of these, 28 100, or 24 per cent of the total, were generated in Queensland. This remarkable effort represents an employment growth rate of 2.7 per cent, almost 60 per cent above the national rate in this period.

(3) The official Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates of interstate migration in Australia come from a Bureau of Statistics publication titled *Australian Demographic Statistics*. This publication shows that, in the 12 months to June 1986, 12 435 more interstate migrants moved to Queensland than left Queensland. This compares with a net outflow of 11 171 people from New South Wales and 11 069 people from Victoria.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The level of conversation in the Chamber is far too high.

**Mr LESTER:** Therefore, a State with only 16.2 per cent of the nation's population accounts for 24 per cent of the nation's new jobs and is coping with a net addition to its population of more than 1 000 people per month coming from other States to settle in Queensland.

I might add that in the 12 months to December 1986 statistics for the Federal Department of Social Security show that there was a net inflow into Queensland of almost 3 600 persons receiving unemployment benefits. Therefore more than one in four persons moving to Queensland are receiving unemployment benefits. This indicates even more clearly the remarkable employment generation growth achieved in this State.

#### 11. Indebtedness of Bowen Harbour Board

Mr CASEY asked the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services—

“With reference to the Order in Council of 27 November 1986, as published in the Government Gazette of 29 November 1986, wherein the Port of Brisbane and the harbours of Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Hay Point (Dalrymple Bay terminal), Lucinda, Mackay, Normanton, Quintell Beach, Thursday Island and Townsville will be required to contribute 0.5 cents per tonne of goods (except primary agricultural goods) towards the liquidation of the deficit and loan indebtedness of the Bowen Harbour and the demolition of some of its property—

(1) What is the amount of the Bowen Harbour Board's accumulated deficit and its loan indebtedness and the estimated cost of the demolition work?

(2) What is the estimated amount that each of the other harbour authorities mentioned in the Order in Council will be required to contribute?

(3) Why are the port users of these harbours being burdened with this cost when the former Minister (the late Honourable John Goleby) when closing down the Bowen Harbour Board, made a firm commitment that any indebtedness would be met by the State Government?

(4) Is this not a sneaky extra tax imposed on these port users by this self-announced 'low tax' Government?”

**Mr TENNI:** (1) The accumulated deficit of Bowen harbour at 31 December 1986, including the small boat harbour, was \$99,751 and the loan indebtedness was \$468,846. The estimated cost to demolish the dangerous section of wharf, to be carried by the contribution from other harbours, was \$200,000 in early 1986 values.

(2) The estimated contributions for the current financial year are—

	\$
Cairns	2,600
Mackay	2,000
Bundaberg	500
Townsville	7,000

Gladstone	110,000
Brisbane	48,000
Harbours Corporation	56,000

The balance would be met in approximately similar proportions after allowing for an expected recovery from the disposal of the old coal-loader at Bowen.

(3) I am not aware of the commitment said to have been given by the former Minister. It is reasonable to require that the port industry be self-supporting, bearing in mind that the financial difficulties at Bowen were caused by the movement away from that port of trade which could be more economically handled at other ports. I can see no reason to impose the burden on the general tax-payers of this State, as has been advocated by the honourable member in his question.

(4) The contribution is very small in relation to the size of the annual budgets of the port authorities which are required to pay it. It is not a tax in that it remains within the accounts of the port industry.

The honourable member has, however, unknowingly hit upon one of the areas where Queensland's taxes are low by comparison with those of other States. He obviously knows little about port operation throughout Australia. If he did, he would be aware that port-users in other States complain bitterly about the heavy tax charges placed on them by their Labor Governments. Many of these taxes, I might add, have no counterpart in Queensland.

## 12. Tourism in Queensland

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport—

“(1) How does growth and investment in tourism in Queensland compare with that of the other States?

(2) What is the present value of industry investment and how does this compare with previous years?

(3) What is Queensland's share in percentage terms of major new tourist-related development?”

Mr MUNTZ: (1 to 3) The growth in Queensland's tourist industry can be described as nothing other than phenomenal. In the last two years this State's tourist growth of 130 per cent has to be compared with the 48 per cent growth for the rest of Australia. That has happened simply because of the encouragement that this State gives to private-enterprise investment, particularly when compared with that given in other States. The other States are represented by Labor Governments, which stifle investment and development. That is the opposite of what has happened in Queensland.

I commend the member for Surfers Paradise and his colleague the member for Southport, Mr Jennings. The entire Gold Coast is represented by members of the National Party. When one considers Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, the Bundaberg district, the central coast and north Queensland, one finds that very few areas are left in Queensland that do not have National Party representation.

Mr De Lacy: What about Cairns?

Mr MUNTZ: The red flag is flying in the middle of Cairns. Investment and development in Cairns have been stifled by the member for Cairns, no-one else. It is people like the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services, Martin Tenni, and the member for Mulgrave, Max Menzel, who have encouraged investment and development in that city.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will withdraw that comment.

Mr MUNTZ: Which comment, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will withdraw the comment about the red flag.

**Mr MUNTZ:** I withdraw the comment, Mr Speaker.

It is true that the reason why the tourist industry in Queensland has been such a success story is that this Government has given encouragement to that industry. To the west across the Great Dividing Range the same thing has been happening for many years. That success is just starting to show through.

In 1978 the Queensland Government recognised the potential that existed for tourism growth in Queensland. In order to ensure that that potential was harnessed, the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation was created. The massive increase in tourist-related development and investment which has taken place in the past seven and a half years is a direct result of this initiative. Throughout Australia 57 per cent of all rooms under construction or firmly committed are in Queensland. Moreover, once capital city projects are subtracted—since they rely heavily on business traffic—79.1 per cent of remaining rooms under construction or firmly committed are in Queensland.

Currently Queensland has 45 per cent of investment in major tourism projects under construction or firmly committed. This represented almost \$3.3 billion worth of investment. Another \$2.3 billion worth of investment is proposed.

In 1984, investment in Queensland tourism projects represented 31.8 per cent of the national total; in 1985 it represented 40.4 per cent and in 1986 45.4 per cent. So Queensland's share of investment dollars in tourism continues to grow.

The Commonwealth Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism—I repeat Commonwealth, not State—produced a table of major tourist projects under construction or firmly committed at September 1986.

I table that document and seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following document—*

MAJOR TOURIST PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR FIRMLY COMMITTED  
(\$5M+) AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1986

State	TOTAL				CAPITAL CITY		OTHER			
	ROOMS	(%)	\$M	(%)	ROOMS	\$M	ROOMS	(%)	\$M	(%)
A.C.T.	789	(3.6)	256	(3.6)	789	256	—	—	—	—
N.S.W.	4,111	(18.8)	1,813	(25.2)	1,956	1,140	2,155	(15.2)	673	(15.0)
VICTORIA	2,294	(10.5)	554	(7.7)	1,860	347	434	(3.1)	207	(4.6)
QUEENSLAND	12,447	(57.0)	3,268	(45.4)	1,250	324	11,197	(79.1)	2,944	(65.4)
S.A.	564	(2.6)	301	(4.2)	400	180	164	(1.2)	121	(2.7)
W.A.	1,126	(5.2)	872	(12.1)	926	336	200	(1.4)	536	(11.9)
TAS.	260	(1.2)	50	(0.7)	260	50	—	—	—	—
N.T.	250	(1.1)	77	(1.1)	250	57	—	—	20	(0.4)
TOTAL	21,841	(100.0)	7,191	(100.0)	7,691	2,690	14,150	—	4,501	(100.0)

Source: Tourism Infrastructure Developments, September Quarter 1986

Compiled by: Commonwealth Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism

**Mr MUNTZ:** Tourism investors continue to show their faith in the future of Queensland tourism and their continued commitment fully justifies the Government's faith in the initiatives it has introduced to ensure that Queensland is Australia's leading tourism State.

**13. Coal Stockpiles**

Mr DAVIS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

“(1) As at 31 January 1987, how much coal was stockpiled at (a) Gladstone Power Station, (b) Tarong Power Station and (c) Swanbank Power Station?

(2) What was the value of the coal stockpiled at each power station?”

Mr DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. Before the Minister answers the question, I point out that a typographical error has been made in questions 13 and 14. The questions should read, “Minister for Mines and Energy and the Arts”. The words “the Arts” have been omitted.

Mr AUSTIN: The honourable member is wrong again. My portfolio is “Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister for the Arts.”

(1 and 2) The details are as follows—

Location	Tonnes	\$ Value (Million)
Gladstone Power Station	718 660	19.86
Tarong Power Station	425 612	7.31
Swanbank Power Station	1 234 392	68.24

**14. Power Generation**

Mr DAVIS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

“For the years 1987 to 1997 inclusive, what is the (a) planned all-year generating capability of the State’s power stations (b) planned winter peak generating capability of the State’s power stations and (c) forecast of annual maximum demand?”

Mr AUSTIN: Present estimates are—

	All-Year Generating Capability	Forecast Annual Maximum Demand
1987	4 600	3 460
1988	4 830	3 620
1989	5 090	3 750
1990	5 090	3 860
1991	5 220	4 010
1992	5 490	4 280
1993	5 960	4 580
1994	6 310	4 890
1995	6 660	5 160
1996	6 760	5 280
1997	7 040	5 400

Note: Planning is not based on winter peak generating capability. Under emergency conditions up to 5 per cent additional short-term capacity can be obtained during winter months.

**15. Moolabin Railway Yards**

Mr LEE asked the Minister for Transport—

“With reference to my numerous questions, speeches and petitions in this House regarding noise pollution caused by trains shunting at the Moolabin railway goods yard—

When will these yards be moved to Clapham Junction railway marshalling yards?”

**Mr LANE:** Although some railway activity has been transferred from Moolabin to Acacia Ridge and it is intended to transfer the local delivery of fruit from Moolabin to Clapham in July next, this will not significantly reduce shunting activity at Moolabin, for reasons explained in my comprehensive reply of 26 August 1986 to a similar question from the honourable member.

#### 16. Construction of Aboriginal Houses

Mr LEE asked the Minister for Northern Development and Community Services—

“(1) Why has his department called for the registration of builders and the employment of carpenters, as advertised in the *Townsville Daily Bulletin* of 31 January, to supervise the construction of Aboriginal houses in various districts?

(2) Why was the usual and recognised system of calling tenders for builders to construct these houses not used or is this another cover-up for day labour?”

**Mr KATTER:** (1 and 2) Firstly, I praise the honourable member for the great work that he did when he held the portfolio in privatising many of these jobs. I am on record as praising the honourable member on many occasions for his achievements in that regard. I do not hesitate to give praise where it is due.

On the face of it, it would appear that I am contradicting sentiments that I expressed some time ago in this Chamber. However, let me answer the question by saying that, at present, the large majority of people of Aboriginal descent in this State are being paid not to work. The Aboriginal community has an unemployment rate of between 70 and 80 per cent.

Under the Queensland Government housing program undertaken by the DCS, DEIR and CEP funds can be mobilised, thus allowing a significant part of the cost of building the houses to be borne by unemployment benefits—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Would the honourable member for Redcliffe please return to his seat?

**Mr KATTER:** Thus such houses will be built far more cheaply than they have been in the past. Secondly, many of the houses occupied by people of Aboriginal descent are significantly damaged by ill-treatment and maltreatment by the occupants. By involving the future tenants in the building process, it is hoped that a pride in achievement and ownership and a respect for work and its rewards will be fostered, thereby achieving a significant improvement in the way that the houses are looked after.

For example, in one western town during the football season the crime rate dropped by 400 per cent, which clearly indicates the old adage that an idle mind is the Devil's workshop. If people's time can be occupied and they can be involved in the workplace, some of the social problems can be overcome. The Government intends to utilise this method of building in order to break the cycle of no jobs and no hope, reduce violence, alcoholism, break and enter offences and fights and bashings, thereby reducing the cost of police, preventing the loss of tourism and the cost of repairs to property through vandalism and theft.

I refer the honourable member for Yeronga to the exceptional achievement of what is called the Oxford Street project. Although in the past I have refrained from claiming any credit for my Government for this fantastic achievement, I do claim credit now and state that the Oxford Street project has greatly reduced the rate of crime and other problems in the area. The social statistics—if I can use that term—are quite remarkable. In that particular area the people from the park were utilised on building projects around Brisbane. The Government hopes to repeat that kind of project across the board throughout the State.

Up to the present time the Government has been buying houses which have deteriorated rapidly. Public money has therefore been wasted. The new houses are designed to withstand excessive wear and tear. Because of the new type of houses, in

the future such waste will not occur. Cheaper houses and fewer repair bills will be utilised as a vitally important tool towards desperately needed change. This is possibly the only mechanism available to this Government at the present time.

In summary, there will be more and cheaper houses that will last longer. The real question for this House is whether Queensland permits the creation of a nation in which one-fifteenth of the population is alienated, hostile and anti-social. The Government wants all Queenslanders to have faith in their hearts and hope for the future.

#### 17. Funding for Higher Education

Mr SHERRIN asked the Minister for Education—

“With reference to the shortfall in Commonwealth funding for Queensland universities and colleges of advanced education—

How many additional Queensland students would have gained entry to our universities and colleges of advanced education in 1987, if Queensland’s higher education was funded on a per capita basis similar to the Labor States?”

**Mr POWELL:** There are many misconceptions regarding this particular issue. If the Commonwealth Minister for Education had another honest aberration and Queensland received the same proportion of Commonwealth funds for tertiary education as its proportion of the nation’s population, it would receive an additional \$37m each year.

To have brought the Queensland participation rate up to the national average in 1986 would have required an allocation by the Commonwealth of about 6 000 extra places in Queensland, together with associated funding for university and advanced education alone. That adds up to \$37m. If Queensland’s higher education was funded on a per capita basis similar to Labor States, the figure could even be significantly higher.

The history of funding for Queensland’s university institutions, in particular, over the last decade or so is a sad one. In 1971, when university funding was a State responsibility, more Queenslanders, as a percentage of the 15-29 age group, attended universities than in any other State. Once again Queensland led the nation. In 1974, university funding became a Federal Government responsibility. It should be said that when the Federal Government took the responsibility for funding university education Queensland had the second-highest participation rate. In 1983, after many years of university funding by the Fraser Liberal Government, Queensland had the lowest—I repeat the lowest—university participation rate. Today, under the Hawke Labor Government, our university participation rate remains the lowest.

It would be difficult for me to speculate as to exactly how many capable young Queenslanders have missed out on a university education because of years of misplaced Labor and Liberal Government priorities, but the number would be most significant.

#### 18. Queensland’s Suicide Rate

Ms WARNER asked the Minister for Health and Environment—

“(1) What is the Queensland suicide rate for females in the 15 to 19 age group and how does this compare with that in other States?

(2) What is the overall suicide rate in Queensland and how does this compare with that in other States?”

**Mr AHERN:** (1) The suicide rate for females in the 15 to 19 age group during the 1979-1983 period was two deaths per 100 000 population. This was not significantly different from the Australian rate.

(2) The overall suicide rate in Queensland during that period was 12.5 per 100 000, which was 11 per cent above the national rate. This is just statistically significant.

Reliable recent data on suicide rates is not immediately available and I have asked my officers to collect over the next week as much useful information as possible on the

subject, including the break-down on various categories. That information will be provided in the near future in response to the question.

#### 19. Accommodation for Women Pastoral Workers

Ms WARNER asked the Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs—

“(1) Is he aware that a considerable number of women are employed in the shearing industry as shed hands, shearers, cooks and, to a lesser extent, shearers?”

(2) As the *Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Act 1980*, regulation 22, sets out that the employer shall provide separate accommodation and facilities for female workers, how many inspections have been made during the past 12 months by industrial inspectors to ensure that these regulations are complied with so that women can be assured of the privacy to which they are entitled under the Act?

(3) Have there been any enforcements made in the last year as it has come to my attention that women pastoral workers are often forced to share accommodation with male workers?”

Mr LESTER: (1 to 3) I am aware that a number of females are employed in the shearing industry. Inspectors of workers' accommodation carrying out inspections to ensure that all sections and regulations, including regulation 22 of the *Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Act*, are enforced as required. If the honourable member has any specific complaints, I suggest that they be conveyed to my department. If she does so, she may rest assured that they will be investigated.

#### 20. Unemployment Benefits

Mrs NELSON asked the Minister for Family Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs—

“(1) Is she aware of a recent report from the Federal Minister for Social Security which refers to a recent investigation and review of unemployment benefits conducted by the Federal department, which has so far resulted in 25 per cent of recipients having their benefits withdrawn?”

(2) Since part of this investigation took place in coastal Queensland, will she obtain the relevant data from the Federal Minister and advise (a) what percentage of those recipients whose benefits were withdrawn or reduced were residing in Queensland's coastal areas, (b) what was the average age of those recipients whose benefits were withdrawn, (c) how many of these recipients were females under 25 and how many were males under 25 years of age and (d) what further action will she take to continue to highlight the incidence of welfare fraud which costs Australian taxpayers millions of dollars each month?”

Mrs CHAPMAN: (1 and 2 (a), (b) and (c)) As the matters raised in these parts of the question do not come within my area of responsibility, I suggest that the honourable member redirect them to the Honourable the Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs.

(2 (d)) There is little I can do as a State Minister, apart from continually reminding the ALP Government in Canberra that Australian tax-payers are sick and tired of paying the huge bills being run up by the leeches who are bleeding the welfare system dry. Events over recent months have highlighted the fact that the Labor Party grew so detached from the average Australian that it could not even read the distress signals being sent out by hard-working tax-payers.

Honourable members and people in the community would remember the vicious attacks mounted against me early last year when I first spoke out about welfare fraud.

On 10 April last year, the Federal ALP Social Security Minister told Federal Parliament I had a “quaint commitment to rather old-fashioned values”. He said that I “appeared to live in the 18th Century” and that my “ludicrous views were typical of

much of the hatred of the poor coming from the extreme right wing fringe". He was loudly supported, of course, by several other ALP headline-grabbers, such as Senator Ryan and Senator Reynolds, who thought that by siding with the welfare cheats they could buy a few more votes.

Everything came unstuck for them when another of their colleagues, the so-called world's greatest Treasurer, Mr Keating, finally admitted that the nation's economy was on the slide and that the country was heading in the banana republic direction. They suddenly realised that this nation could no longer afford the political luxury of buying votes and that the average Australian family regarded welfare system parasites and, of course, the ALP Government that paid and encouraged them, with utter contempt.

Today in Australia this ineffective ALP Government in Canberra is making all sorts of noises about fighting welfare fraud. Less than 12 months ago members of the Federal Government refused to admit that the problem existed. Now they are trying to convince Australian families that they are the white knights who are going to clean up the system. Their pathetic attempts to be all things to all people have been laughed at by the community.

Australian tax-paying families know that hot air alone will not rid this nation of the multimillion-dollar annual welfare fraud. Everyone knows that there has to be a change of Government in Canberra to change the system. I do not have to tell honourable members or the Australian public who will be leading that Government.

**Mrs NELSON:** I therefore seek leave of the House to redirect those other parts of my question to Mr Lester. I will be happy to accept a reply in writing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The honourable member needs only to say, "I do so accordingly." Permission is granted.

**Mrs NELSON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**21. Reduction in Number of Customs Officers in Brisbane**

Mrs NELSON asked the Premier and Treasurer—

"(1) Is he aware of rumours circulating on the Brisbane docks that the Federal Labor Government has decided to substantially reduce the number of customs officers based in Brisbane and that consequently a number of large national and international shipping lines may withdraw from usage of Brisbane as a first port of entry?

(2) If these rumours are true, (a) what action is being taken by the Port of Brisbane Authority to convince Federal authorities to reverse this decision, (b) what will be the likely consequences for the many workers currently employed at the Brisbane docks if the decision is not reversed and (c) what are the likely effects on the Queensland economy as a result of the substantial increases in cost which will be incurred by importers of goods to Queensland if they are obliged to use Sydney or another Australian city as first port of entry?"

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** (1 and 2) I am certainly aware of the intentions of the Commonwealth Government, referred to by the honourable member, which, if carried through, would have had the serious effects which she has outlined.

Fortunately, as a result of discussions between the Port of Brisbane Authority and the various parties who would be adversely affected by the moves, the preparation of submissions to the Commonwealth, and strong criticism of the proposals made through the media by my Cabinet colleague the Honourable the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services, it now appears that the Commonwealth has recognised the damage which would have been done by its original proposals and is reviewing them.

An independent assessment of the customs proposals commissioned by port-users found that, if the proposals had proceeded, 405 jobs would have been lost in Brisbane, and at least \$32m per annum would have been lost by the Brisbane region. The whole

future of the port of Brisbane's container trade would have been placed in jeopardy and Queensland industry would have faced serious cost increases.

## 22. Non-appealable Public Service Appointments

Mr WELLS asked the Premier and Treasurer—

“(1) Have most appointments to positions the equivalent of the level of I-15 and above for some time been listed as non-appealable in the Queensland Government Gazette?

(2) Does this mean that the qualifications of such senior officers are not open to competition or general scrutiny?

(3) Is the policy of making appointments non-appealable being extended to positions the equivalent of I-8 and above?

(4) Will this enable the Government to fill an ever-increasing number of positions with National Party supporters?”

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** (1 to 4) Promotions to the greater number of positions classified I-15 and above—chiefly in the senior administrative areas of the public service—are not subject to appeal.

The Public Service Act and Regulations do not require the publication of qualifications for appointment to positions which are non-appealable. Nevertheless, promotions to those positions are made on the recommendation of the Public Service Board rather than permanent heads, as is the case where promotions are subject to appeal. The independent involvement and scrutiny of the Public Service Board ensures that the interests of individual applicants are safeguarded. It has been extremely rare that appeals are lodged against promotions to positions classified I-10 and above.

There is no substantive proposal before the Government at this time to make positions classified I-8 and above non-appealable.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Premier and Treasurer's Comments to Japanese Media

**Mr WARBURTON:** In directing a question to the Premier and Treasurer, I refer to his comments that were contained in a statement circulated widely through media outlets in Japan, one of our major trading partners.

An article relating to those comments appeared on the front page of this morning's *Courier-Mail*. This morning, callers to my home and office described those comments as un-Australian and amounting to treason.

I also refer to comments that were made this morning on radio station 4BC by Mr Haydn Sargent. Referring to the Premier's comments, Mr Sargent said—

“I think it's one of the most irresponsible, disloyal and treacherous things that an Australian politician has ever done . . . And I think that for the Premier of the State of Queensland to go to the trouble of issuing a press statement to the media of Japan in which he undermines the economy of Australia in the minds of the Japanese borders on treachery.”

I ask the Premier: will he explain to the House why he found it necessary to ridicule Australia in Japan with statements that I regard as traitorous and treacherous, obviously for the purpose of advancing his own personal political ambitions?

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The Leader of the Opposition is acting like an ostrich, putting his head in the sand and ignoring the facts.

The types of unions that you once represented are the ones that created—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Warburton:** I think the stories I have heard about you are true. I never believed them before.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition heard me call "Order!". I ask the Premier to direct his answers through the Chair.

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I was saying that the honourable member is on the wrong track again. It is his party's Government and his unions that have created the position, not mine. That is the cold, hard fact. If anybody has been committing some act of treason, it is his union-leaders who have completely destroyed Australia's reputation around the world. Everybody knows that. Everybody knows that he supports them.

Opposition members support the unions holding the nation to ransom. They have helped to create that situation, aided and abetted by their colleagues in Canberra. The Leader of the Opposition has to seek the Federal Labor Party's help to overcome problems in his own party. When I watched him on TV the other night, I thought that he was going to cry. I wish that he would cry about what his unions are doing to the nation and how they have destroyed its credibility.

I had a telephone call from the Queensland Government Representative in Japan, Mr Rex Breaden, who said that there was so much interest in my visit—before that statement was made—that he had to hire a large hall to accommodate the media. I will tell the people of Japan, as I have many times, all about Queensland, which has a good reputation and much goodwill. In my office this morning, a group of Japanese business people told me how glad they are to trade with Queensland.

As for Haydn Sargent's program—he is a red-hot socialist. I have been watching him for years. I could not care less what he says, because most of the time he cannot stick to the truth.

**Mr WARBURTON:** My second question is directed without notice to the Premier.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Would the Leader of the Opposition wait until I call him?

**Mr WARBURTON:** I am sorry.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition.

#### **Premier and Treasurer's Comments to Japanese Media**

**Mr WARBURTON:** I refer the Premier once again to the treacherous and traitorous comments that have been circulated throughout Japan, savagely attacking our country, and I ask: does he have any understanding——

**Mr Alison:** Why don't you stand up for Queensland?

**Mr WARBURTON:** Do you want me to proceed, Mr Speaker, or will you shut these yokels up?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Lane:** "Treacherous and traitorous"—what a terrible thing to say!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I thought that the Leader of the Opposition was doing quite well. I was letting him go.

**Mr WARBURTON:** In view of what has occurred, I ask the Premier: does he not care that there is a long-standing tradition in all political parties, federally as well as in the States, that leaders and senior spokespersons do not attack their own country or its policies when overseas?

Does he really have any appreciation of the possible damaging consequences to Australia's reputation and trading position with Japan that could easily arise as a result of the lies and distortions contained in his highly irresponsible statements?

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The Leader of the Opposition, again, is just emphasising the treacherous action and attitude of the Labor Party in Queensland and in Canberra. The unions of Queensland have completely and utterly destroyed the reputation of—

**Mr Burns:** Why are you attacking Australia?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Well, why does the honourable member allow his unions to do it?

**Mr Burns** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Lytton! I have allowed it to continue for a while, but I now ask him to be quiet, please.

**Mr Goss:** How much money are you getting from Japan for your Federal campaign? That's what it's about.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Honourable members opposite know where the problem is. They know who created the situation that has beset Australia today. The policies of their colleagues in Canberra and of their colleagues in the trade union movement are the things that have completely discredited the nation and completely destroyed Australia's good reputation as a supplier of goods. The unions have held the country to ransom so many times on coal, produce and everything.

The Leader of the Opposition is the one who is guilty, because he is aiding and abetting them. He supports the policy that has built up that bad reputation.

**Mr Warburton:** You walk over the top of people because of your own political ambitions.

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The Leader of the Opposition is trying to incite me to attack him, but he has so many troubles of his own brought about by Mr Beattie and Mr McLean that I would not want to cause him more discomfort than he is feeling at the moment.

Be that as it may, the matter I was referring to is a very serious one. It is no good lying to people all around the world about what has happened to this nation, as Opposition members would want to lie. Obviously, members of the Opposition would tell lie after lie, if their conduct today is any indication.

When I go to Japan, a room the size of this Chamber will be full of press reporters. Again, I will be talking about Queensland, which has a very high reputation in Japan. The Japanese people know me and they know what the Queensland Government is all about; they know how the Queensland Government operates. The credibility of the Queensland Government is very high and it will remain high.

Members of the Opposition ought to be downright ashamed of themselves for trying to shift the blame for problems for which the Federal Government is responsible.

### *Streetwize*

**Mr FITZGERALD:** I ask the Minister for Education: is he aware of a comic magazine titled *Streetwize* that has been distributed? It has been funded by the Federal Government and has received the whole-hearted support of the Federal Minister for Health, Dr Blewett. If the Minister is aware, is he able to assure the House that *Streetwize* will not be distributed to Queensland schoolchildren?

**Mr POWELL:** I doubt that very many honourable members will have seen the magazine, which has not been available in Queensland. I hope that it never is available in Queensland.

The magazine is a cheap publication that has been funded by the Federal Government through a Community Employment Program grant. The grant was made to a very peculiar, small organisation engaged in promoting homosexuality and all types of other nefarious attitudes that are backed by the Federal Labor Government.

**Mr McElligott:** Tell the truth, please.

**Mr POWELL:** A Federal Labor Government Minister has expressed his regret at the provision of Federal Government funds for this particular organisation. The honourable member for Thuringowa, who enjoys making funny remarks to Government members across the Chamber, is an honourable member who supports the Socialist Left in Australia, and does not understand——

**Mr Hamill:** You are way out.

**Mr POWELL:** Have I named the wrong faction? I am sorry. I have difficulty in understanding which part of the Labor Party its members belong to. The National Party, because all of its members are united, does not have that problem.

The Federal Minister for Health, Dr Blewett, was one who was in favour of *Streetwise*. Apparently, its aim is to present in pictorial form some of the attitudes adopted by the organisation to issues such as AIDS education. I remind the House that the organisation has been funded to the tune of approximately \$38,000. All that that type of educational material does is promote homosexuality and promiscuity. I would doubt seriously that the vast majority of honourable members in this Parliament would support that organisation's activity.

The Queensland Government would never provide funds to any such organisation. I believe that the Federal Labor Government has been shamed into cutting the funds allocated to the organisation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! As today is a day allotted for debate on the Address in Reply, the time for questions has now expired.

At 11 a.m.,

In accordance with the Sessional Order, the House proceeded with the debate on the Address in Reply.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

### Fourth Allotted Day

Debate resumed from 25 February (see p. 305) on Mr Sherrin's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, to which Mr Warburton had moved an amendment.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the member for Murrumba. This is the member's first speech in this House and I hope that members will extend to him the courtesy that usually attaches to a maiden speech.

**Mr WELLS (Murrumba) (11 a.m.):** Mr Speaker, may I begin by observing one of the courtesies of parliamentary tradition and congratulate you on your election as Speaker. Like many of my colleagues on this side of the House, I was genuinely surprised at the even-handedness of a number of your early rulings. If you continue as you have begun, Sir, history will exempt you from the general condemnation it will pass on the Government from whose ranks you came, and you will be held in respect by all those who also respect parliamentary democracy.

Another of the customary courtesies of the Westminster tradition is that a new member may say a few words in honour of his predecessor. I think everybody in this place is aware of the differences of opinion between myself and the previous member for Murrumba, differences which were pursued in an electoral fight to the finish. Nevertheless, one can honestly wish to place on record the achievements of an opponent, and I do so now.

As a local member, R. C. Kruger entered fully into the life of the community he had the honour to represent for nine years in this House and six years previously as a local councillor. He had an excellent memory for names and faces, and knew many people in his electorate, just as he was well known. He regularly attended many local functions and took a particular interest in local sporting groups. He is still honoured as a patron of many of those groups, and is well thought of.

As a parliamentarian he served on the Opposition front bench between 1980 and 1986 in the capacity of, successively, shadow Minister for Lands, Forestry and Survey, and Primary Industries. In respect of forestry he was particularly interested in the dieback phenomenon and the threat it poses to our environment and timber reserves.

His main interest in primary industries was in fruit and vegetables, which had also been his own crops when he was farming.

Mr Kruger made a contribution both to the life of his community and to the work of this Parliament. I wish him well for the future.

The people of my electorate live in the suburbs of Petrie, Lawnton, Bald Hills, Bracken Ridge, Clontarf and Kippa-Ring. Some also live in Kallangur, Murrumba Downs and Dohles Rocks. They belong to three different municipal districts and, in some ways, do not have the sort of community of interest that would be expected under a just redistribution. They were placed in the one electorate because the Government wanted to take some Labor voters out of the electorate of Pine Rivers to make it safe for the Minister for Family Services. But they do have one important community of interest. They were determined to return a Labor member. This is because they know that for a long period now Queensland has led the way in Australia in terms of high levels of unemployment. They know it, because they experience it.

Redcliffe and Chermside Social Security offices, which service my constituents, are currently reporting the highest rates of increase in unemployment in the State. My constituents know that if they lived under a Labor State Government, that Government would be doing something to stimulate local industry, as other State Governments do.

My constituents also know that Queenslanders have the lowest average male weekly earnings in Australia. Families in my electorate experience that, too. They know that this National Party Government's attacks on the trade unions and the working class are effective, and they know who profits from them.

My constituents work constantly raising funds for their local p. and c. associations so they can provide their children with facilities that, in other States, are provided by the Government. They are hit by electricity tariffs and car registration increases. And when they look across the bay at Moreton Island, they know that its fragile ecosystem is about to be undermined by the vandalism of the Minister for Mines and Energy.

My local ALP branch members made great sacrifices of their personal time during the last State election campaign. They worked very hard in an electorate which many people said that Labor could not win in the circumstances. My local branch members worked so effectively among my constituents that the final Labor vote in Murrumba actually increased. My sincere thanks to all of them.

In sending me to this place, my constituents have paid me the highest honour it is in their power to bestow. It is no fault of my constituents that the Parliament they have sent me to is the world's most expensive rubber stamp. It is no fault of theirs that their votes are worth only half of the votes of the electors of Peak Downs and Roma. The 15 000 people who voted in those electorates, taking the two together, elect two members, while the 16 000 people who voted in mine can elect only one. Neither is it any fault of my constituents that the forms of Parliament have been subverted to the whim of the Executive.

The forms of parliamentary Government have been so far subverted in this place that a certain National Party political stunt that took place last week, which sums it all up, just passed for normal. His Excellency the Governor appointed as commissioners

for administering the oath or affirmation of allegiance the ruling triumvirate of the member for Barambah, the member for Somerset and the member for South Coast. Of course, in doing that, he was acting as always on the advice of the Premier, so it was the Premier who was responsible. The Premier had his own reasons for wanting to do a job which should have been left to the Clerk or some other politically neutral officer of the Parliament.

Having secured himself this commission, the Premier then went and sat in the Speaker's chair, thus insulting this Parliament. That chair belongs to an officer of the Parliament, not the Government. The Premier and his two henchmen then stood on the Speaker's dais and handed down Bibles to honourable members so that they could take the oath.

**Mrs CHAPMAN:** I rise to a point of order. Far be it from me to interrupt the maiden speech of a new member—

**Opposition members:** Sit down!

**Mrs CHAPMAN:** I will not sit down. I have a right to stand. I object to the honourable member's use of the term "henchmen" as he has done. I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr WELLS:** I withdraw the offending term. I will use instead the term "sidekicks".

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will not use that word, either. He will withdraw it.

**Mr WELLS:** I withdraw the word and substitute the word "colleagues".

As I was saying, Mr Speaker, the chair in which you are sitting belongs to an officer of the Parliament, not the Government. When the Premier and his two colleagues handed Bibles to honourable members so that they could take the oath, they were usurping the role of an officer of this Parliament. That is not the role of an officer of the Government. The whole exercise was designed to imbue honourable members with the idea that the act which legitimated them as members of Parliament had something to do with the ruling hierarchy of the National Party.

The metaphor they constructed by that charade was of political legitimacy flowing down from them on the Speaker's dais to the members below. In other Parliaments, the oath of affirmation is administered by the Clerk, with members, including the Prime Minister or Premier, standing with equal humility around the table.

The oath which I took was a contract between God and myself and had nothing to do with the hierarchy of the National Party. I would like honourable members to know that, if I choose to communicate with God, I do not need a group of political stunt-staging, interfering old men to act as intermediaries.

The particular abuse of democracy I have just been describing is only an abuse of form, not substance, I have spent a little time on it in order to show how far the pendulum has swung. The point is that the Government can usurp the functions of politically neutral officials, and neither the media nor the public notices, because they are so used to this sort of thing happening that they think it normal.

Much more important in the long run are the following subversions of the Westminster system—the management of question-time, the embedding in Standing Orders of procedures which make it impossible for the Opposition to bring on a motion of no confidence, the absence of a public accounts committee to examine Government expenditure for waste, extravagance and deceit and the politicisation of the public service.

First, I turn to question-time. Discussion has concentrated on the refusal of Ministers to answer questions. This is a fair point to make. However, it is only a point about tactics. The substantial point is that the Standing Orders which have been drawn up for the protection of this Ministry let them get away with it. In the Federal Parliament there is provision for an unlimited number of written questions on notice. A member can ask

as many questions as he, or she, likes—a hundred in one day, if necessary. These will be published in *Hansard* and, in due course, a written response will be published, also in *Hansard*. The whole exercise attracts parliamentary privilege, and it saves the time of the House. If a member wants information, the thing to do is to put a question on notice. If a member wishes to make a political point by asking a question, the time for that is question-time.

In this place, by contrast, it is practically impossible to get information. If a sensible question is asked, the Minister probably does not know the answer. If he does know the answer, it is probably in his interest to conceal it, so he talks about something else instead. Of course, that tactic is occasionally used in every Parliament, but in some places the tactic is a double-edged sword. If a Federal Minister evades a question, the evasion is like an electrical signal to the Canberra press gallery. They immediately set to work, like Woodward and Berstein of Watergate fame, to find out what is being hidden. The press receive information and documents from various sources, as do members, and these are exchanged. Where parliamentary privilege is needed, the press give documents to members so they can be quoted under privilege. Importantly, the Standing Orders of the Parliament are such that it is easy to ensure that such matters are raised.

From what I can tell, there is scope for a great deal more of that in this Parliament. The point is, however, that the sanction that makes the free flow of information inevitable in Canberra does not exist in Queensland. That sanction is unrestricted access to written questions on notice. The introduction of that system in Queensland would go a long way towards transforming Queensland from an information-poor political system to an information-rich political system. The cost would be minimal—much less than a few trips in a Government jet to Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Wagga Wagga—and the rewards in terms of open government would be immeasurable.

The next abuse is another instance of Standing Orders being used to protect an incompetent Ministry. In other Parliaments it is easy for the Opposition to bring on an urgency motion or a motion of no confidence. Throughout the history of Westminster Parliaments, motions of confidence have been the means by which Governments have demonstrated to the people to whom they are responsible that they had the confidence of their elected representatives. Such motions provide an opportunity for the Opposition to draw attention to a Government's shortcomings, and for the Government to provide a vindication of its record, or fall in the attempt. In this Parliament, one cannot do either. The Opposition could give notice that on the next sitting day it would move a motion that the Government had lost the confidence of the House, but there is nothing in Standing Orders that would make the Government bring it on for debate.

Alternatively, the Opposition could seek leave to move a motion of no confidence, but, judging by the previous form of this Government, leave would not be granted. The Leader of the Opposition has moved an amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply declaring no confidence in the Government. At least that is something. However, the Leader of the Opposition will never be given the opportunity of doing what any other Opposition Leader in this country is permitted to do, namely, to move a motion of no confidence, be heard and be answered on the spot by having the matter debated forthwith.

It is a sad travesty that it took 3½ months from the date of the election before the Government deigned to face the Parliament. It is a pathetic tragedy that this most lacklustre and talent-free of all State Governments governs, more than does any other Government, by Executive decree, with Ministers' rudimentary minds untutored by exposure to parliamentary debate. But it is a ridiculous farce that this Government has rigged Standing Orders so that it will not have to risk a motion of no confidence, even in a Parliament that it has itself gerrymandered.

The third of the major subversions of Westminster democracy to which I will refer is the absence in Queensland of a public accounts committee. Let me tell honourable members what a public accounts committee is. It is a committee drawn from all parties in the Parliament, its membership being in proportion to each party's numbers in the

Parliament. In other words, it is a committee that Government members can control. It is a devastating indictment of this Government that it is so lacking in intestinal fortitude, and has so much to hide, that it is afraid to submit itself to the scrutiny of even a committee on which it would have the numbers.

The job of a public accounts committee is to inquire into details of Government expenditure programs to ensure that the tax-payer is getting value for money. Such a committee is assisted in its role by the right to call people before it to advise on the programs being inquired into.

Witnesses to a committee can be public servants, citizens who are supposed to benefit from a program or persons otherwise affected. The result of a public accounts committee inquiry is very frequently a major saving of public funds. Combined with the introduction of program budgeting, the work of a public accounts committee would yield a tremendous saving of funds to the Queensland tax-payer. Program budgeting, by the way, is the system which operates in Canberra and elsewhere in Australia under which, when departments put in their requests for budgetary funding, they have to spell out in detail what programs they need those funds for. It is not just a good idea. It is blatantly, obviously, a good idea. It is an idea to which the Queensland Government is therefore relentlessly opposed.

To return to the Public Accounts Committee—the reason it is such a significant issue, apart from the fact that it is so obviously a sensible idea, is that the Government of Queensland has ensured that this is the only comparable Westminster-type Parliament that does not have one. The Legislative Assembly of New South Wales has a Public Accounts Committee. In Victoria, the Economic and Budget Review Committee and the Public Bodies Review Committee are joint committees of both their Houses. Again, in South Australia the Public Accounts Committee is a joint committee of both Houses. The Western Australian Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee is a committee of their Legislative Assembly. Tasmania has a Public Accounts Committee as a joint committee of both Houses. The Northern Territory has a Public Accounts Committee. The Federal Parliament has a Public Accounts Committee and a Public Works Committee, both of which are joint committees of the House and the Senate.

New Zealand has a Public Expenditure Committee. Great Britain, the mother of Parliaments, has a Public Accounts Committee that is a select committee of the House of Commons. Yet we in Queensland, who pride ourselves on inheriting our institutions from Great Britain and even have a knight of the realm as our head of Government, we in Queensland, who are proudly and aggressively Australian, are alone in the parliamentary tradition which flows from those fountain-heads. We are alone in that only our Government refuses to allow the people's elected representatives to inquire into the expenditure of the people's money. One would not need to have a suspicious mind to wonder why.

What sort of matters would a public accounts committee inquire into? Here are some suggestions. A glance at the departmental Accounts Subsidiary to the Public Accounts reveals a tremendous incidence of lapsed appropriations. A lapsed appropriation is a sum of money that was voted to a department by the Parliament, but which the department did not spend. Lapsed appropriations generally occur as a result of either incompetent planning or incompetent execution. I will deal with some examples.

From the last Budget for which accounts are available, the Housing Commission had lapsed appropriations of \$8,173,987. That is bad enough, but a glance at the subheadings makes it worse. The sum of \$2,940,300 was supposed to be for building houses. In other words, about 100 additional Queensland families could have had homes. I could find that many families wanting Housing Commission homes in my electorate alone. So could the honourable member for Caboolture, who was discussing the matter with me the other day. The sum of \$3,759,530 was supposed to be for advances to borrowers, that is, people who were looking for Housing Commission funds to build their own homes. The flow-on from house-building in terms of employment generation is greater than in any other industry.

That is what was forfeited by the Government's incompetent economic management—incompetent economic management which a public accounts committee would be able to inquire into and remedy, as happens in other States.

The Honourable Minister for Family Services, who took the liberty of interjecting on my maiden speech a little while ago, has decided to forfeit the role of Standing Orders watch-dog and has gone back to her ministerial kennel.

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

**Mr WELLS:** I withdraw the word.

The Minister's Department of Children's Services had lapsed appropriations of \$483,667. The biggest part was in capital subsidies to licensed institutions. Honourable members will know a few charitable institutions who could have spent that money usefully. The Railways Department had lapsed appropriations of \$16,359,868. The Department of Community Services had lapsed appropriations of \$4,763,462, most of which—a sum of \$2,927,738—was voted by the Parliament for the Aboriginal Welfare Fund but was not spent. Another \$502,296 was allocated for the development of Aboriginal communities but was not spent either.

The Electricity Commission had lapsed appropriations of \$32,168,552; yet it keeps hitting Queensland consumers with higher and higher electricity bills.

The Health Department had lapsed appropriations of \$37,840,005. The biggest failure of that department to use the funds that this House voted to it was in hospital capital development, where it failed to use \$12,246,115. That is a lot of life-saving equipment that could have been in place right now. It is important to remember that I am talking about people's lives and happiness, not just figures in a ledger. Had the then Minister for Health been more efficient, that much hospital capital expenditure or that much life-saving equipment would have meant that a calculable number of Queenslanders' lives could have been saved.

The then Health Minister also failed to use \$8,570,878 that had been voted to him for the purchase of stores. Few members in this House could not think of ways in which that money could be spent in their local hospitals. Another \$6,748,646 was supposed to be spent on home help for the elderly and disabled.

The lapsed appropriation in the Education Department was \$3,596,015. Everyone knows that the staff to student ratio in Queensland could be improved. Parliament voted \$226,424 for student teacher bursaries; however, it was never spent. In schools, an amount of \$208,827 was available for special projects and \$639,002 for equipment, but it was never distributed. Meanwhile, p. and c. associations throughout the State are slogging their guts out to raise funds for toilet paper, light fittings, set texts and library equipment. The TAFE sector could have used the \$511,096 that was supposed to be disbursed to it. Finally, an amount of \$1,614,834 was supposed to go to universities and CAEs. That is a lot of teaching equipment or, better still, a lot of student places. This morning during question-time the Minister for Education berated Canberra because his department was not able to provide the places that he wanted to provide. He needs only to talk to his book-keeper.

So far I have referred to the money that the Government was voted and that it was supposed to spend in the interests of Queenslanders but did not. What about the other side of the ledger? What about money it spent that it did not have?

This Government had no less than \$318,575,820 in unforeseen expenditure. That is \$318½ million that it did not put before the Parliament in the Budget, but spent anyway, because it was too incompetent to stay within its appropriations. All honourable members are familiar with the sacred red book entitled *A Guide to Public Financial Administration in Queensland*. It was put out under the authority of Sir Llew Edwards and Sir Leo Hielscher. Page 50 of that book states—

“The principle that should be observed is that recourse should only be had to unforeseen expenditure as a matter of urgency.”

It would have taken a lot of matters of urgency to add up to \$318½ million.

The role of a public accounts committee would be to investigate matters such as these with a view to making the functioning of the State more efficient. Hundreds of millions of dollars that have been designated for programs for the benefit of the people of Queensland are not being spent. Hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent outside of the Estimates approved by Parliament in each Budget. How can anyone deny that Queensland needs a public accounts committee?

The final abuse of Westminster democracy to which I will refer is the politicisation of the public service. The civil service tradition, also inherited from Great Britain, emphasised the idea of promotion according to merit. To secure this there was a universal system of appeals, whereby somebody who thought himself or herself better qualified than the person promoted could have his or her respective qualifications examined by a second judge to ensure that no mistake was made.

In Queensland, that system is being eroded. A glance at the *Queensland Government Gazette* shows that an increasing number of positions are being marked "non-appealable". Today the Premier admitted in this Chamber that a majority of positions above the level of class 1-15 are now marked "non-appealable". The result of excluding the safeguard of public service appeal is not good for the independence of the civil service; nor is it good for its efficiency.

Mr Speaker, this catalogue of abuses of Westminster democracy amounts to a damning indictment of the National Party Government. The House is demeaned by those abuses. I am proud to be a member of this Parliament, but only because I am proud to represent Queenslanders and the people of my area. I look forward, though, to the day when, once again, a re-enfranchised people will be able to elect to this place a group of men and women who have the will and the courage to reassert the democratic birthright of those who sent them here.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I call the honourable member for Toowoomba South. I remind honourable members that this will be his maiden speech.

**Mr BERGHOFER** (Toowoomba South) (11.26 a.m.): I am proud to be making my maiden speech in this House. For the last three or four days, I have been sitting back and listening to the speeches of various honourable members. Compared with those speeches, my maiden speech will be very meek and mild.

I congratulate the honourable member for Mansfield on the way in which he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate also the member for Townsville for seconding the motion.

I take this opportunity of expressing my loyalty and that of my electors to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and to His Excellency the Governor. I also congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to such a high level of office of this Legislative Assembly. I look forward to full co-operation from all members during your term.

I also take the opportunity to thank the electors of Toowoomba South, my supportive campaign committee, my family, and especially my wife Evon, for their efforts in getting me elected. Without their assistance I would not be here today. I assure all honourable members that I will be putting every effort possible into making my electorate of Toowoomba South, and also Queensland, a better place to live.

I pay my respects to Mr John Warner, the former member for Toowoomba South, who served the electorate for 12 years from November 1974 to the end of October 1986. During John's term as a member he was a representative on many parliamentary committees and was honoured for the last three years to hold the very high office of Speaker of the House. With John's dedication and hard work he turned Toowoomba South from a long-standing Labor seat into a very strong National Party seat for the last four terms. It is certainly an honour to be elected as a National Party member to fulfil the fifth term in a row. I am certain that I will have to work hard to follow in John's footsteps.

I extend my congratulations to all new members. No doubt, in common with me, they are finding it quite an experience. I extend my best wishes to them for a successful parliamentary career, and look forward to working alongside new and present members for the betterment of Queensland.

I am very proud to be a National Party member. It was with extreme pride that I learnt last November that the party was to govern for a second term in its own right. That proves that the people of Queensland want a stable and strong Government, which they have gained once again by voting for National Party representatives.

Considering the extreme pressure that he has received from the Opposition, unions and the media, I believe that the Premier has done a wonderful job. Fortunately, that pressure only seems to urge the Premier on to make life better for us all in the State of Queensland.

I was born in Toowoomba and have lived in the district all of my life. I left school early in life and started work in sawmills. When I was 18 I did national service. I then worked as a carpenter's labourer, and I taught myself carpentry.

In 1959 I started in my own business as a building contractor in Toowoomba, and built many houses and small commercial buildings until 1973. In 1974 I purchased my first land for subdivision. Since then, I have developed many thousands of building blocks in Toowoomba city. In 1972, I built, owned and operated the Wilsonton Hotel. For many years I had the highest licence fee of any liquor outlet not only in Queensland but also in Australia.

In 1973 I stood for election as an alderman on the Toowoomba City Council. I was elected and held the position for nine years. During that period I was very honoured to work with Jack Duggan, who was a very well-known politician representing the Toowoomba area. Jack Duggan served 33 years in Parliament and he was a true-blue Labor member. In 1982 I was elected as Mayor of the city. I was re-elected in 1985 and still retain that position. My council works well together and I would like to thank my deputy mayor, Alderman Tony Bourke, who was the member for Lockyer for 4 years prior to the election of Tony FitzGerald. I thank aldermen Albion, Alroe, Beer, Knight, Miller and Osborne and Alderman Peter Wood, who was the member to Toowoomba South for 8 years prior to the election of John Warner. I thank also my Town Clerk, Ian Farr, the city engineer, Ray Moore, and all other staff at the council. I intend staying on as Mayor, as well as member for Toowoomba South. By having council members on side, that will assist me to hold the two positions. It has been claimed that it is not possible to do both jobs, but over the years the two roles have been carried out quite successfully by many people such as Sir Bruce Small, while Mayor of the Gold Coast; Curly Anderson, while Mayor of Toowoomba; and Rex Pilbeam, while Mayor of Rockhampton.

Over the years I have proved to be a very successful businessman. I am certain that that background in business and local government will assist me in my duties as the member for Toowoomba South. After all, Government is very big business and I feel that it is important to have runs on the board and business experience.

Toowoomba is a very beautiful city. It is famous for the Carnival of Flowers and is known as the garden city of Australia.

Toowoomba's population is growing towards 80 000, with over 80 000 in the surrounding area. Because Toowoomba is the capital of the Darling Downs, a lot of pressure is put on all of her facilities. I am sure that there is a lot of money needed to be spent on upgrading facilities in the Toowoomba district.

Toowoomba is a very diversified city and basically consists of a very wide range of rural input. Education plays a very big part in the city. Toowoomba has its fair share of tourism and quite a lot of small industry. So, with all of the above-listed industries, it proves to be very viable.

Toowoomba boasts many fine schools, both State and private. I will endeavour during my term of office to make them even more superior, by giving them whatever

assistance that they may require in the coming years. Although funding is a major problem with the private schools, it is my aim to look at ways of offering assistance to them, as they play such an important role in my electorate. However, it is not only the private schools, but all schools that play an important part in Toowoomba's economy. The Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, which is also in my electorate, has a reputation of being one of the best institutes not only in Queensland but also in Australia. Toowoomba is extremely proud of that reputation. I feel that the teachers and staff out at the institute should be highly commended for making that reputation a reality.

The Toowoomba TAFE College plays a very important role in the city. However, in the past the TAFE has lacked suitable premises to accommodate students. The State Government has chosen the site of the old Toowoomba showground, which consists of an area of approximately 10 hectares. It is located in a prime position to build the proposed new TAFE College. That location actually falls in the Toowoomba North electorate. The proposed building will, however, benefit not only the Toowoomba North electorate but all of Toowoomba and surrounding areas. I certainly look forward to the Government's making funds available as soon as possible. The TAFE plays a huge role in the area of unemployment. With the unemployment level being very high, all such facilities to train people to help them fit into the work-force should be encouraged.

The Toowoomba Police Station and watchhouse were built many years ago and their facilities have become quite inadequate and antiquated, when taking into consideration the growth of the city and surrounding districts. I feel that Toowoomba needs more police in the district, and the Government needs to upgrade the present facilities to accommodate extra staff.

The Toowoomba General Hospital also caters for the whole of the district and naturally needs a lot of money spent to upgrade all areas of the complex. To date, the recently upgraded facilities at the hospital are being utilised to their capacity and I would like to see the remainder of the facilities brought up to that excellent standard to enable the hospital to cater for the growing daily demand placed on it.

One major project that I would like to see put into action in Toowoomba is the removal of the railway line from the centre of the city. I feel that that would help to solve a large portion of the traffic flow problems, and also the danger that is usually associated with level crossings.

Let us face it, a railway line, although it is a necessary part of a city, can hardly be described as an item of beauty. After all, beauty is what Toowoomba is all about.

Another major project that has been discussed over the years for Toowoomba is the proposed railway tunnel. I believe that that project would be a great asset to the city of Toowoomba. The possibility of its electrification would be such a tremendous boost for Toowoomba and the surrounding areas, as well as being the solution to problems suffered by the existing service. With the transport of grain by rail, and the future coal industry on the Darling Downs, as well as tourism and commuting passengers, the availability of those facilities would make our plan for decentralisation much more feasible.

I look forward with a great deal of enthusiasm to working on those two projects, and I am certain that the people of Toowoomba would welcome both of those proposals.

Toowoomba, like the rest of Queensland, has a great potential for the tourism industry. I will be working to take this potential to its highest peak, both at a local and State level. Why not make the proposed tunnel another Blue Mountains? The city certainly has the capacity to handle such a project, as well as the capability.

I am very grateful for the funding that the Main Roads Minister has granted over the last five years to upgrade the highways through the city, as Toowoomba was, unfortunately, missing out badly prior to that period. However, the Toowoomba to Brisbane highway has a heavy flow of traffic every day. I look forward to the completion

of the four-lane highway to cater for the heavy demand that occurs daily. After all, it is the highway to the west and to the Northern Territory.

These facilities are required not only for the Toowoomba South electorate but also for Toowoomba and district. I look forward to working with the honourable member for Toowoomba North, Sandy McPhie, the honourable member for Lockyer, Tony FitzGerald, and members who represent other surrounding electorates, to achieve as much as possible for Toowoomba. I believe that if we work together, we must be able to achieve much more for Toowoomba as a whole. After all, I feel that Australia's biggest problem is that the people are not working as a team, and everyone is pulling in a different direction.

From my experience as Mayor, I came to recognise the importance of the three tiers of Government. I cannot stress too greatly the importance of working together as one team.

I believe that local government should be given more recognition, not only by the other two tiers of Government, but also by the electors because I believe that not everyone appreciates the difficult task that councils are expected to cope with. For instance, local government really plays the role as a co-ordinator between the people and the State Government. The responsibilities that come under the role of local government are as follows: town planning; building of dams for storage of water; reticulated water supply; sewerage and drainage schemes; supervision of building and health regulations; construction and maintenance of local roads and streets; maintenance of civic cleanliness; and the provision and control of recreation grounds, parks, public swimming-pools and libraries. Some local government authorities also provide transport services, and have certain welfare responsibilities. Those are just some of the responsibilities that fall to councils.

As everybody will realise, this a mighty task to carry out. Unfortunately, people tend to underestimate the significance of local authorities.

I have been fortunate enough to see the situation from both sides of the court. Having viewed the position at first hand, my aim in the coming years is to seek a line of co-operation between the three tiers to enable Queensland to grow and prosper.

Toowoomba relies on the rural community. The financial difficulties that the farmers are at present experiencing are having a tell-tale effect on Toowoomba. I therefore feel it is necessary that the Government should give every assistance to the farmers to help get our economy back on the road again. It is not only the interest rates that are crippling the community and the farmers, but also the ever-increasing high cost of production and the subsequent over-production of agricultural lines that are having a devastating effect on the rural community, which automatically affects Toowoomba and eventually the nation as a whole.

I am looking forward to my career as a member of the Legislative Assembly, and equally to assisting my electors in the future.

In conclusion, I wish all members well in their efforts to improve and assist their electorate. I know each and every one will be working hard to achieve his aim.

**Mr BURNS** (Lytton—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.40 a.m.): Today, I want to speak about the myth and reality of free enterprise in Queensland. It must have come as a nasty shock to the Government when the Savage committee brought down its report on business regulations and concluded that Queensland was the most overregulated, bureaucratic State in Australia. Sir Ernest was biting the hand that fed him when he labelled Queensland the red-tape State.

How could this so-called free-enterprise State, with its National Party free-enterprise Premier, be the most overregulated State in Australia having, on average, double the number of regulations of the other States? Is a total of 7 673 regulations, to control the free-enterprise impulses of Queensland citizens, the Bjelke-Petersen idea of small government?

Queensland scored far higher than any other State in the regulations race. It is absolutely incredible to find that for the same period, Western Australia made do with just 458.

The picture becomes even worse when the footnote of the table is read. It states—

“For statistical reasons the table seriously underestimates the actual number of regulations promulgated”.

Nothing moves in Queensland without a regulation. I can just hear the Premier saying, “By golly, if we’ve forgotten something we’ll slap on a regulation so fast it will make your head spin. We’ll have none of those smart Alec southerners coming up here and trying out their free-enterprise practices in Queensland, like when that silly advocate of the New Right, Mr John Leard, tried to take over Evans Deakin and Walkers.”

Mr Leard must have had a very strange idea of Queensland National Party free enterprise when he criticised the Queensland Government for blocking the take-over of the Evans Deakin enterprise in 1980 saying, “The business community was getting tired of Governments which claim to be supporters of the free-enterprise system but which take action to obstruct purely commercial transactions.”

However, I suppose the free-enterprise system must have worked in some strange way for Leard, because although the Queensland Government managed to block his take-over of Evans Deakin and Walkers, the Nationals used tax-payers’ funds to give ANI a \$1m profit out of the fiasco, which it promptly used to buy up another Queensland company, Bundaberg Engineering. In the meantime, Queenslanders have lost about \$5m from the National Party Government’s foray to protect Queensland consumers from free enterprise. Given Mr Leard’s expertise with Queensland free enterprise, it is amazing that he should get Mr Bjelke-Petersen to launch a New Right book attacking the Hawke Government’s policies, Hawke having done more to free up markets than any Government in recent history.

Could it be that the main reason why regulations are so necessary is that many of the National Party appointees to the public service would be out of a job if they did not exist? The reason why this phenomenal growth in the size of the public service in Queensland has occurred—an 11.1 per cent increase since December 1983 compared to just 4.5 per cent in New South Wales—is that the National Party has to keep track of all the regulations it passes and all the jobs it creates. Essential public service areas have been starved of staff whilst this National Party-inspired growth occurred.

Now members are reading leaked reports on the second Savage report, which was supposed to be brought down in June 1986, proposing 19 steps to slash red tape in Queensland. The most radical suggestion is the abolition of commodity marketing boards and giving private enterprise a fair go when it comes to competing with Government agencies such as Suncorp. The report went much further and described the Local Government Act as a monster which prevented rather than promoted development. When this report landed on the Cabinet table Sir Joh and his Ministers must have thought Sir Ernest was talking about some southern State instead of free-enterprise Queensland.

The report clearly proved what the ALP and other informed commentators have been saying about Queensland for years. The reality of life in the sunshine State is very much different from the incoherent ramblings of the Premier about free enterprise. The Premier thinks free enterprise is when some developer donates to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation and then takes him to dinner. Then the Premier tells the departments to ignore the regulations.

From the cradle to the grave, ordinary Queenslanders and businessmen are subjected to a mass of Government regulations which have strangled free enterprise, driven up the cost of goods and created growing inequalities in our community.

The Bjelke-Petersen Government has taken Government regulations into every Queensland home through the highest milk, bread and egg prices in the country. Virtually

every agricultural commodity comes under some sort of regulation or goes through some marketing board, the rationale for which was often lost decades ago.

As one New Right commentator said recently, Queensland is in the thirty-fifth year of the Vince Gair Government because of the maze of controls which strangle free enterprise in this State. Even the New Right has seen through the Bjelke-Petersen facade. Many marketing boards in Queensland have become moribund. The only reason why they remain in existence is that they are stacked with National Party appointees.

One Minister admitted that when, at a fire brigade function, he said that positions on boards were useful pay-offs to the party faithful—appoint them to a board, give them a free trip every year, meet expenses and pass the cost on to the consumer.

Another Minister, Mr Lester, when he was addressing a group of industrial advocates said—

“And of course, I’m on public record, you might recall, as having said that perhaps we do have appointments as far as ‘jobs for the boys’ are concerned.”

He added—

“. . . it is a fact that on occasions I believe that some of the people appointed have been put there as a payoff for very good service . . . ”

Mr Lester then referred to his own principal private secretary as an example of that.

The members of the Peanut Marketing Board caused a pox on boards’ houses when they really opened up the till and awarded themselves huge pay increases and frequent first-class overseas trips, to the extent that they were sending the board broke.

However, in principle, marketing boards are for the National Party a good way of doling out the favours. The only trouble is that Queensland families eventually pay for the favours through the State’s outrageously high prices for commodities. A couple of years ago, financial expert Austin Donnelly referred in the *Australian Financial Review* to Queenslanders waking up each morning, having their breakfasts and realising they were being ripped off for virtually everything that was on the breakfast table—milk, bread, eggs, butter, cheese, sugar and so on—you name it.

The price of milk is fixed by the Milk Board. The Milk Board is not there to make sure that every dairy-farmer gets a fair go. It is there to regulate and control the production, collection, treatment, carriage, supply, delivery, storage, preservation, distribution and pricing of milk in Queensland. Yet the Queensland Government says that it does not believe in regulation and control, that it believes in free enterprise. In practice, this means that most dairy-farmers are excluded from the lucrative Brisbane fresh milk trade and, as a result, Brisbane has the highest-priced milk in Australia. Even Darwin has cheaper milk. How about that for free enterprise—telling two-thirds of farmers that they cannot sell milk in Brisbane.

The Queenslanders then looks at his bread, only to realise that the bread industry in Queensland is more tightly controlled than the condom industry. Of course, all honourable members realise that bread has to be controlled because bakers were selling bread where they liked, as cheap as possible, and, worse still, people were buying it, eating it and saving money. The Nationals will have none of that sort of free enterprise in Queensland.

The Bread Industry Committee Act of 1979, which provided for a minimum price for the manufacturer, a minimum retail price, a limit on manufacturers taking back unsold bread and determining distribution areas, was not strong enough to stamp out undesirable free-enterprise practices which persisted in Queensland. To protect vested interests, the free-enterprise Queensland National Party Government came to the rescue with new bread legislation, which gave the Bread Industry Committee new powers to enforce in the public interest the orderly marketing of bread—or, to use the committee’s words, “the orderly and efficient production, distribution and sale of bread”. Karl Marx could not have said it better.

Bread zones were established and only licensed bakeries could sell bread in those zones. Forget about drug-running in Queensland—inspectors were appointed to catch the bread-runners, with a set penalty of \$5,000 plus an extra \$200 for each day of the offence.

Under an Act of Parliament, inspectors were empowered to interrogate housewives, on pain of a penalty of \$1,000, about where and for what consideration they purchased their daily bread. When Queensland's finest are chasing wholemeal loaves all over the State, no wonder Queensland is the drug capital of Australia.

But nothing compares with the rabid Queensland control at the Egg Marketing Board. None of that free-enterprise capitalist propaganda of market determination and supply and demand nonsense for that board! The National Party has organised the Egg Marketing Board into a fighting revolutionary cell, ever ready to crack down on any unregulated egg which strays into its sights.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics concluded that egg-marketing arrangements in Queensland imposed significant costs on consumers, but producer incomes were increasingly being captured by a small number of producers with large flocks—big business. The Chairman of the Central Queensland Egg Marketing Board rallied the troops when he said, "Egg-producers had to stop paying lip-service to that free-enterprise supply and demand rubbish." That happened here in free-enterprise Queensland. Apparently, as a further thought, he said the board should certainly oppose having consumer representatives meddling in the affairs of the Egg Board.

The Queensland Commercial Egg Producers Organisation is just as vocal as Mr Small in supporting tight controls on egg production and sales, justifying its position by comparing egg price increases with other products produced under what it describes as the so-called free-enterprise deregulated system. The egg-producers produced a wonderful little graph—all honourable members have received one—comparing the price increases of Queensland Government regulated eggs against the price increases of free-enterprise toothpaste. Lo and behold! In Queensland's free-enterprise system eggs do much better than toothpaste. Too bad if Queensland eggs are more expensive than eggs in the south; too bad if the Queensland housewife is being ripped off! As the Premier would say—

"By golly, we showed that New South Wales egg-farmer a thing or two when he tried to sell those eggs in Ipswich 40c a dozen cheaper than good old Queensland eggs.

The egg board soon got rid of this cheap New South Wales egg-runner when it made him regrade his eggs and then slapped a few health regulations on him."

The Queensland housewife is forced by the National Party to pay 40c more per dozen, in the safe and sure knowledge that only Government-controlled Queensland National Socialist eggs will pass her family's lips in fine free-enterprise Queensland.

The Queensland family may then spread on its regulated bread regulated butter from the Queensland Butter Board and, until the Cheese Board folded a couple of weeks ago, slice some regulated cheese onto the regulated butter. Little Johnny may now be choking on some regulated peanut butter from the Peanut Marketing Board. No doubt that would be an after-effect from the many rorts which the peanut boys got up to a few years ago.

But it is when the Queensland family puts some sugar in the coffee that it discovers the jewel in the crown of National Party socialism—the sugar industry.

Sugar is the most regulated substance in Australia. Apparently all those free-enterprise, ruggedly individualist sugar-growers like it that way. They only talk about free enterprise; they do not want it implemented. Not for them any deregulation and restructuring which will, in the words of free-enterprise advocates, make the industry more responsive to change in the market-place. No free-enterprise ideas darken the cane-farmer's doorstep under the National Party free-enterprise Government.

Cane-farmers are told what mill to supply, what specific portion of their farm can be used for growing cane and what price they may pay to purchase a farm or receive when they sell. The authorities even have the right to decide who is a fit and proper person to be a cane-grower.

I support marketing boards, and I am a "dreaded socialist". The free-enterprise operators on the Government side are against any sort of socialist controls, any sort of regulated industry; yet they parade around with the largest list of regulations and controls in the whole nation.

**Mr Campbell:** Hypocrites!

**Mr BURNS:** "Hypocrites" is the word.

When those and other commodity marketing boards were established, it was hoped that they would advantage both the producer and the consumer by overcoming the disorganisation of marketing and nullifying the effects of gluts and shortages, providing farmers with access to Government funds, cutting out the middle man who previously had extracted large profits by withholding products from the market and by selling when prices had risen, and, last but not least, regulating prices to the consumer. Many of these ideals have been lost by most boards.

Many boards operate in the interests of neither the producer nor the consumer, but in their own bureaucratic or sectional interests.

However, the Premier says—

"Don't you worry about that. Don't you worry about the rorts in the Peanut Marketing Board which almost caused its collapse.

Don't you worry about the Milk Entitlements Committee, which says to two-thirds of dairy-farmers, 'You can't supply milk to Brisbane because we've given all the high-priced fresh milk quotas to our mates down the coast.'

Don't you worry when the Egg Board says you can keep only so many chickens and you can't sell eggs above your quota.

Don't you worry when the Bread Committee says you can't sell bread where you like or when you want to. Don't you worry when the Queensland Fish Marketing Authority tells you who can fish, where you can fish, when you can fish and to whom you can sell."

Years ago, a person could go and dig up worms and sell them. Now that person has to obtain a \$100 licence. A person who is on the dole cannot do that now.

During the Depression, my Dad dug worms and bought a cane and dairy farm in Maryborough with the proceeds. Today that cannot be done. People are regulated in free-enterprise Queensland.

People used to go and buy a bit of fruit from the market in a wheelbarrow and sell it on the street corner. Today in free-enterprise Queensland, that cannot be done. To do that, a person would need a permit or a licence. The sale of fruit must be handled by the marketing board at Rocklea.

All the way along the line the ordinary little free-enterprise fellow in this State is stifled and strangled by regulation implemented by the very people who parade all over the nation, pretending to be interested in free enterprise.

No wonder a collective shiver goes through the members of these National Party boards when every now and then someone stands up and says, "How about a fair go? How about a little free enterprise in Queensland?" Government members are really worried about free enterprise; if it ever arrives on the doorstep, they will wither up and die.

No wonder the second Savage committee report has concluded that many commodity marketing boards have outlived their usefulness, have become nothing more than National Party sinecures and that it would be better for everyone if they were abolished.

I do not believe that the Government should go that far, but many boards need a good shake-up. However, everyone knows that Sir Ernest has got Buckley's chance of having the committee's recommendations implemented.

Can honourable members imagine Russ Hinze's reaction in Cabinet when Nev Harper comes in and says, "Russ, we've decided to do away with the Milk Board and you and your National Party vice president, Charlie Holm, and your National Party mate, Hollindale, will lose your milk quotas."? Poor old Nev will wish he was back in Justice and in the middle of the abortion raid scandal.

As with most inquiries in Queensland which come up with some free-enterprise suggestions, the recommendations will get lost in some bureaucratic black hole.

Honourable members will recall the great quango inquiry which was going to shake up the system, solve all the rorts and get rid of all the unnecessary ones. What happened? The Government counted its quangos and, by golly, it found more than 1 000 of them. But virtually nothing else happened. All it did was count them.

All those quangos which did not reveal what they did were told to reveal what they did, and a few innocuous accounting and reporting guide-lines were laid down. No assessment was required on whether they were achieving their goals, and certainly no assessment was required on whether they were using public funds efficiently.

Just as the great quango inquiry ended up a fizzer, I predict that the Savage committee recommendations will end up as just as big a fizzer. Mind you, the inquiry has created a lot of activity around the departments. It has created a great deal of work.

The Regulatory Reform Act, which was passed last year, required that as at 30 June 1987 all regulations introduced prior to 30 June 1962 be revoked and that by 30 June 1989 regulations introduced prior to 30 June 1986 be automatically revoked. There are whole teams of people in departments who are now pulling their collective hair out in deciding which regulations they want to keep. It is my opinion that most will stay. They are not working on the basis that the regulations will all be thrown away; they are arguing which ones they will keep. At least a review will update all regulations that do not contain metric and decimal currency. I fear that other changes will be minor if not insignificant, as was the case with the quango inquiry.

Regulation in Queensland has run riot. Many good public servants have been concerned about this for a long time and if one talks to any of them one will be told that they often have extreme difficulty in following and interpreting the regulation schedule because loopholes, exclusions and exceptions are everywhere. The Stamp Act is a classic example of bureaucratic chaos.

For the benefit of the House, I have compiled a list of occupations, institutions and services requiring regulation under a State Government Act and, although the list is not exhaustive, it is pretty long. I am not asking for the list to be included in *Hansard*, but later I will table it for the information of honourable members after I have referred to it.

The Acts listed cover everything imaginable from abattoirs to wool-brokers and in between there are regulations for billiard saloons, bird-breeders, boat sales, chicken-sexers, crop-dusters, entertainers, fishermen, knackers' yards, pest-exterminators, riding schools and tattooing. Interestingly enough, masseurs and massage parlours are listed as "self-regulated". I think they should be licensed as joint ventures and, from what the Deputy Premier, Mr Bill Gunn has been whispering in the corridors, I am sure he thinks they are joint ventures between the massage parlour madam and the licensing branch.

Every year thousands of State Government charges are increased—charges on practically every regulation in the book. Last year well over 6 000 State Government charges were increased. No wonder this Queensland National socialist Government loves regulation! Every extra regulation means an extra Government charge. Introduce a regulation, and a fee is introduced in order to enforce the regulation.

Everyone is well aware of the outlandish level of some of the most common charges in Queensland. For example, in regard to electricity, there is a 25 per cent tax or charge on every household bill and it is called the capital works levy. The honourable member for Nudgee, Mr Vaughan, has raised this matter a dozen times. As a result of this, Brisbane has the highest electricity charges of any capital city.

Queenslanders have been ripped off on motor vehicle registration and third-party insurance for years. One reason why Queensland has the highest registration charges in Australia is that the compulsory third-party insurance schedule has not been updated for donkey's years and is being rorted left, right and centre. Stamp duties is another area of utter chaos, and Queensland land taxes are very high. Local government rates are high in Queensland——

**Mr FitzGerald:** Give us the comparisons.

**Mr BURNS:** It is all right for you. You passed a special law so that the farmers could get a rort out of it but businessmen could not. You passed a special law in this Parliament to look after your own because, where do you live? You live on the farm.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row):** Order! The honourable member must direct his remarks through the Chair.

**Mr BURNS:** Where does he live? He lives on a farm.

Local government rates are high in Queensland because this National Socialist Government has continually cut back grants to local authorities over the past decade. In 1971 it was \$50 per head and in 1982 it was reduced to \$39 per head. While the cost of living has gone up, the money given to local authorities has gone down. The Premier loves regulations, because he loves charging and the charges are often totally unrelated to the cost of providing a service. There is a new idea that the user pays. For example, how can you possibly argue that the charge of \$6.50 for photocopying one page in the Supreme Court is anything like the cost of photocopying that one page?

**Mr Underwood:** To stop you checking up on them.

**Mr BURNS:** That is right. It is designed to stop people checking up on them.

The Queensland National Socialist Government operates to squeeze as much of the regulation dollar out of private enterprise and ordinary Queenslanders as possible. No consideration at all is given to whether Government regulations are serving a useful purpose or whether they are strangling initiative and hindering production. No consideration is given to the efficient effects on the economy or to the ultimate employment effects of inefficient regulation.

To start up a business in Queensland, one begins by registering a business name and then goes through the process of licensing. Recently, I was involved in a matter in which a vet wanted to start up a clinic called the Wynnum/Manly Road Clinic. She wrote to the Corporate Affairs Office and asked to register the name. The office wrote back and advised that there were other clinics with names similar to Wynnum/Manly Clinic so he was not able to use that name. Half-a-dozen letters were written backwards and forwards before the office finally settled on the original name that had been proposed. In the meantime, all that money had been spent and there had been a great deal of fiddling around and bureaucratic bull. There is no other way of describing it. All the person wanted to do was set up a veterinary clinic in an area where she had been operating for some time.

No consideration is given to finding out whether the regulations are of any value. I do not know what great value people of Queensland receive out of the Government's making people register a business name.

In the building industry, it is estimated that the regulatory jungle adds \$5,000 to the cost of a house. Young people cannot afford to buy houses. Because of the regulations that have been passed by this so-called free-enterprise Government, \$5,000 is added to

the cost of a house. How can the Government justify not cleaning up its act when regulations have such a direct and inhibiting effect as that? Even a gypsy would have trouble operating in Queensland. He would have to register his horse, his cart and his ear-rings. As long as the Government could find a charge, it would impose it.

Nobody denies that regulations are necessary. But when regulations, often designed and implemented 50 years ago for the problems of 50 years ago, are not revised and updated, they can have the opposite effect to the intended one.

I wonder whether Sir Ernest's second report will ever be officially released and its proposals implemented. I have a feeling that it will go the same way as another report of the Premier's Department that was apparently too free enterprise. It was entitled "Queensland competing in a changing world", and it attacked the unproductive maze of regulations that exist in Queensland. The report proposed major deregulation, but, as one political commentator put it, the report "would not please a Government which may espouse free enterprise sentiments but clings to a maze of well-established institutions and regulations and feels beholden to many vested interests in the public service and the private sector".

There is no way that the Queensland National Party Government is going to streamline the system, deregulate and do away with unnecessary rules and regulations, when those rules and regulations are its very power base. Rules and regulations are the devices through which it manipulates the private sector, provides favours for its friends and through which quid pro quos flow back and forth between political and private vested interests.

The Premier's Department report described Queensland's private sector as weak, rent-seeking and highly dependent on Government. That means that too many companies and individuals go first to the Government looking for patronage, favours and joint ventures. It is the companies that get to ministerial ears, especially the ear of the Premier, that get the nod in Queensland, not the company that has the best proposal. Hence tenders and even expressions of interest are sometimes not called.

This morning, a Minister answered a question about tenders. It can be seen that they are just handed out to friends. As a result, Government contracts, leases and other business arrangements are not awarded on the basis of merit but are awarded on the basis of a favour done and of a vested interest created. It is an economic system of "you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours".

One commentator called Queensland a corporate State in which the Government consistently intervenes in the market-place, wheeling and dealing and operating for the prime advantage of favoured developers.

But what are tax-payers getting out of this system? The Government uses tax-payers' money to build a film studio for Dino De Laurentiis; it gives prime Crown land at Port Douglas to Qintex; it overrules the Brisbane City Council on the Toowong Village development; it exempts the failed used-car salesman Mike "white shoe" Gore—honourable members will remember Fuji Motors—from local council regulations for Sanctuary Cove; and it exempts Iwasaki from practically everything.

While I am referring to Iwasaki, I am reminded of the statement made this morning by the Premier. I cannot find a word to describe what he did to this country. I do not believe that anyone could be more traitorous and unfair to our nation than someone who travels to one of Australia's major trading nations and spends most of his time bagging this country. Before his departure overseas, he forwarded press releases to try to do this country in. He is un-Australian. He was not on our side during the war, and he is not on our side now.

**Mr FitzGerald:** That's bunkum, and you know it.

**Mr BURNS:** That is not bunkum. The honourable member should look at the laws that were passed by his Government for Iwasaki's benefit and the special deals that were made for him. Old Iwasaki conned the Government day in and day out. Although

legislation was introduced for his benefit, he never brought a Japanese tourist to this country. He was going to have five jumbo jets a week—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row):** Order! There is too much noise in the gallery. I ask the people in the gallery to come to order and to remain silent and seated.

**Mr BURNS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your protection. The people in the gallery are getting stuck into me because Government members cannot.

Government members have looked after Iwasaki. They are not on Queensland's side. All sorts of special deals are made. The honourable member for Toowoomba South, who spoke before me, is a Queenslander. When he built his pub in Toowoomba, he had to comply with all of the regulations. When Iwasaki built his pub, he received special favours. When Mike Gore, with Japanese money, builds his pub, he will receive special deals and special favours. That is the way in which the National Party operates in this State. Model legislation is now planned to allow special developers similar deals.

Suncorp has been turned into a superdevelopment tourist operator, hotel-keeper and land-developer conglomerate of the Government. Suncorp was not established for that purpose. Honourable members can forget about the original objectives of the SGIO—cheaper insurance and investments designed to benefit Queensland. Suncorp is now just another massive company that the Government uses to do its bidding for it.

I am always amused when, at National Party conferences, delegates attack this State Government enterprise, which they claim is unfairly competing against free enterprise. Just as surely, the Premier—that free enterprise operator—tells those conferences what a wonderful multimillion dollar Government operation Suncorp is, and why he also wants a State bank. However, the Premier wants Suncorp to remain because it is of great assistance to his cronies. It props up failing tourist and hotel developments. Joh's crusade—or the Premier's crusade to Canberra—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BURNS:** I referred to him as the Premier.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Lytton is insinuating improper motives. He should not do that.

**Mr BURNS:** I believe that they are fairly proper motives.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest that the honourable member is insinuating improper motives. I ask him to withdraw that comment.

**Mr BURNS:** I withdraw it.

The Premier's crusade to Canberra focused attention on the reality of life in the sunshine State, as opposed to the mythical ramblings of its ageing Premier. Private-enterprise spokesmen constantly distance themselves from the Premier by saying, "We don't want his type of private enterprise down here." McLachlan, Hay, Carnegie and a host of other people have told him to go and jump—I will not say where they told him to go and jump.

The Premier must be embarrassed when his so-called friends of the New Right tell him to stay away and suggest that he is a socialist. They have witnessed what he has done to Queensland. They can see how business is being strangled by regulation, and they know that if they do not fall into line and play the political patronage game they will not get any favours from the National Socialist Government. It is no wonder that they do not want the Premier to go to Canberra.

Do you recall that man who used to say, "I've been everywhere, man."?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

**Mr BURNS:** That man used to say, "I've been everywhere, man.", and he listed all of the towns that he had visited.

I turn now to some of the occupations, institutions and services that require registration under a State Government Act. They are: abattoirs, accountants, amusement centres, amusement parks, animal parks and zoos, apiarists, architects, art unions, auctioneers, auditors, banana-growers, barbers, barristers, billiard saloons, bingo halls, bird-breeders, boarding-houses, boarding kennels, boat-hire, boat licences, boat sales, bread-vendors, builders, building societies, bulk fuel storage, bus and coach services, butchers, car sales, car, caravan and minibus hire, caravan sales, carriers, charities, chicken-farmers, chicken-sexers, chiropodists, chiropractors, community centres, courier services, crane-operators, credit reporting services, credit unions, crop-dusters, dairies, day-care centres, debt-collection, deer-farmers, dentists, drainers, driving-instructors, electricians, employment agencies, entertainers, finance-brokers, fish and seafoods, fishermen, flats, hairdressers, hide and skin merchants, hotels, housing societies, insurance-brokers, investment-advisers, knackers yards, livestock-buyers, lottery agents, milk-vendors, mortgage-brokers, nurses, optometrists, pawnbrokers, pest-exterminators, pet shops, pharmacists, physiotherapists, plumbers, poultry-farmers, private investigators, psychologists, real estate agents, real estate salesmen, riding schools, roadworthy certificates, scaffold erectors, scrap-metal merchants, second-hand dealers, service stations, signs and advertisements, solicitors, spirit merchants, stock-brokers, stock and stations agents, swimming-baths, tanneries, tattooing, taxi-cabs, taxi-drivers, teachers, theatres, theatrical agencies, tourists operators, tow-truck operators, tug-operators, valuers, veterinary surgeons, waste disposal and wool-brokers.

I would continue listing the occupations, institutions, or services that require registration under Federal Acts, but I have only a minute left in which to speak, and I believe that I have already made my point.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the document referred to.*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Now that we have had our comedy act for the day, I call the honourable member for Broadsound.

**Mr HINTON (Broadsound) (12.10 p.m.):** As the first member for Broadsound, it is my pleasure to bring to the attention of this House the enormous potential of this marvellous central Queensland area, its rapid progress under the National Party Government, and my determination that that potential will be brought to reality. I solemnly pledge the loyalty of the people of Broadsound to the Crown, the principle of the Westminster system of Government and to the Australian Constitution.

I sincerely congratulate the Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the National Party parliamentary team and National Party organisation on its brilliant victory at the State election. The reality of the election result was recognition and faith—recognition of sound progressive performance, faith in the people involved, particularly in the Premier, and faith that it would continue. Those are factors on which the Government's strength continues to be enhanced.

I particularly wish to express my gratitude and pride at the vote of confidence in me by the people of Broadsound.

I came as an outsider to the electorate, won the confidence of the National Party selection committee and ultimately the confidence of the people. I have committed myself to getting things done, and I am doing just that. This is only the beginning. The people of Broadsound will not be disappointed. I pay tribute to the part played by my wife, Roslyn—to her charm, her grace, and to her trust and patience. She is an enormous asset to me and will be to the people of my electorate.

I deem it a great honour to join my parliamentary colleagues, in this esteemed House. I am a great believer in decorum, and pledge that I shall uphold the standards and principles of this House, and indeed humbly hope to enhance them.

I thank my electorate campaign committee. It was a difficult campaign, in a very marginal seat, but the support I received was very gratifying. I extend a special thanks to my campaign director, Garth Brownson, to the zone vice-president of the National Party, George Cowan, and other totally committed supporters such as Councillor and Mrs Mario Cresta, and Mrs Rhonda Gray and her family on the Capricorn Coast—people who, over a five month period, virtually committed their lives to winning Broadsound. To all my other campaign workers at all levels and in all areas, and to Mr Jim Randell, from whom I received great assistance as the former member for the western half of my electorate, where his standing is very high indeed—my wife and I give our heartfelt thanks.

I am sorry that he has left the Chamber, because I also thank the honourable member for Lytton, Tom Burns, for coming into my electorate and publicly stating that I had a paid job and business interests in Brisbane. Such untrue and unfounded remarks made the campaign all the more challenging, and victory all the more rewarding.

I turn now to my electorate. The beautiful Capricorn Coast, unique in its unspoiled natural beauty, stretches from the Keppel Sands, Zilzie and Emu Park districts to Yeppoon and the Capricorn Iwasaki International Resort. The tourist potential of the region is extremely exciting. It has been recognised by such operators as Australian Airlines at Great Keppel Island, and Iwasaki Sangyo Co. north of Yeppoon. Those two exciting developments of international standard are set to grow dramatically and are just a forerunner to the development of that magnificent region, an area aptly named the holiday playground of central Queensland. With the co-operation of the Livingstone Shire Council, the Government should encourage the development of the area whilst ensuring that its natural beauty, its greatest asset, is undiminished. To that end, I am co-operating with the Lands Department, the council and such interested groups as the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland to ensure the designation and retention of areas of unique beauty in their natural state, as national parks or environmental parks throughout the region. Such an area is Vallis Park on the top of The Bluff at Yeppoon. It must be preserved, and I am committed to doing so.

In this regard also I am exploring the ramifications of the proposed Byfield national park at Corio Bay, north of Yeppoon. I am aware that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has done considerable preliminary work on the proposal, which represents a unique opportunity to provide a preserved, beautiful area as a major tourist attraction in central Queensland. There are, of course, competing tourist initiatives for the area. It is my intention that this beautiful wilderness area be developed, as both tourist area and national park, for the benefit of the public. It is a major goal of my first term in Parliament.

I strongly support the development of the Capricorn Coast as a family holiday area and also in its traditional role as a retirement zone for central Queensland. In excess of 1 300 full-time pensioners live in Yeppoon alone, and their welfare is of great importance to me.

I will be strongly supporting local moves to establish a nursing home in the district—a facility that is vitally needed. Local initiative in this service area has been stagnating because of broken Federal Government funding commitments. I believe it is time for self-help in this regard, and I will be supporting such initiative.

The State Government subsidy on electricity accounts has been well received in the electorate, but some anomalies involving payment of accounts by landlords on behalf of tenants remain and are causing irritation. Those anomalies must be overcome.

The Capricorn Coast has a vibrant fishing industry with the Rosslyn Bay boat harbour as its focal point. I am indebted to the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services, the Honourable Martin Tenni, for his long-sightedness, and for his assistance in providing funds for urgent dredging, repair of wharves and the provision of funds for new wharf facilities. Those facilities are of great benefit to the harbour-users. The primary objective at the harbour is the construction of a major northern

seawall to provide protection for the existing harbour from siltation and northerly winds, and to provide a sheltered area for a modern small-boat marina. Such a facility could attract a major hotel complex at the site and a surge of increased tourist activity in the area. I am pleased that the Minister and his department are so forward-thinking and enthusiastic about the concept.

The fishing industry on the Capricorn Coast has its problems. Northern trawlers are ripping the heart out of the Capricorn Coast scallop beds, taking excessive catches of up to 20 per cent undersized shell. I am reliably informed that the scallop beds cannot absorb this over-harvesting and that the entire industry is currently at risk. The present practices are at odds with the recommendations of the Queensland Fish Management Authority, which recommends prosecutions and catch-confiscation when undersized shell exceeds 5 per cent. Because of technical problems of measuring the shell, there have been no prosecutions. That problem must be overcome. I have taken the matter up with the Minister for Primary Industries, the Honourable Neville Harper, who has in turn called for a full report from the Queensland Fish Management Authority. I thank the Minister. The problem can and must be quickly resolved.

The great rural industries of beef and grain are the major primary industries of my vast electorate. The beef industry outlook appears bright for those in the industry with a high equity in their properties. Beef prices appear to be on an upturn. However, seasonal conditions are patchy, with many areas recording poor summer rainfall. For those producers with high debts, the high interest rates being forced on the Australian community by Federal Government mismanagement of the economy are causing hardship and falling standards of living.

On the beef industry front—beef producers should be taking a hard look at the performance of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation. With a budget in excess of \$36m, the corporation has designated both computer-aided livestock marketing known as CALM, and Ausmeat—the authority for uniform specification of livestock and meat—as the corporation's No. 1 priorities for industry reform. It has allocated enormous amounts of producer funds to those projects. Both projects are long on theory but short on practical reality. CALM must experience extreme difficulties because it imposes additional cost between producer and buyer at a time when the industry is endeavouring to reduce costs. Ausmeat has largely removed third-party monitoring of carcass-classification putting grading principally in the processors' hands "on trust", a situation that should send shivers up the spines of most beef, sheep and pig-producers in this country because it will be highly beneficial to meat-processors. However, only the producers are paying for it—and paying through the nose.

The problems of high interest rates are having a horrendous effect on our stricken grain industry, which has been annihilated by low world commodity prices and internal inflation. That could be alleviated if the Australian dollar were allowed to float freely on the international currency markets—free from the Australian Government's interference. With our national overseas debt rising to Third World status—in excess of \$100 billion—the currency has held above US60c in recent times because of recognition internationally that the Reserve Bank will buy dollars to support the Australian currency at that level.

The grain industry would benefit enormously from a lower-valued Australian dollar. With current grain prices well below cost of production and predicted to be lower this coming harvest, there is little to cheer about in that industry. In human terms, the struggle by rural people is something few people in urban areas can comprehend. The depressing weight of debt, costs, poor seasonal conditions and adverse factors beyond the farmer's control, with no light at the end of the tunnel, is taking all the heart and determination that they can provide. Some of the State's farmers will see it through; some will not. The State Government must ensure that off-farm costs, particularly rail freights, are contained. I am pleased that the Government is deeply committed to assisting.

Without question, the biggest industry in the western half of my electorate is the coal industry. The dormitory towns of Dysart and Middlemount service the Utah mines

at Saraji and Norwich Park and Capcoal's German Creek mine, both open-cut and underground mining.

Both Dysart and Middlemount are towns of exceptional beauty, providing excellent sporting and recreational facilities for their people. They are a credit to the mining companies, the State Government and the communities who live there. However, both are isolated communities and have the normal problems of such areas—large distances to specialist medical facilities and the absence of immediate and extended families and friends.

Living expenses in the mining towns are very high. Telephone, petrol, holiday and education costs exceed those of coastal centres. Such expensive living conditions are hard on the whole community, but particularly so on those employed in the public service, such as railway, Telecom and council employees, who pay high rents. I believe that the State Government should be making rent concessions to employees such as railway workers in Housing Commission homes in those areas. I will be taking up that matter with the appropriate Minister.

Dysart is fortunate to have a first-class hospital facility. However, Middlemount does not. It has no emergency medical facilities apart from one doctor's surgery. There is a need for such a facility, properly staffed on a casual basis, at the community health centre, and I will be pressing strongly for State Government assistance to achieve it.

Educational facilities in the electorate are generally excellent, but there is a need to upgrade the secondary department of the Middlemount Primary School to high school status, with a new administration block. My submission on this matter is currently receiving attention at the Education Department.

Dysart High School needs a new library complex, as the present facilities are cramped and inadequate, as well as a large covered area so that school assemblies and such activities as physical education may be held out of the sun.

The Yeppoon High School needs considerable upgrading, including the provision of a new school library, for which tenders have been called, an assembly hall and a new administration block. The school has an active and effective parents and citizens association. I have no doubt that these much-needed facilities will be provided.

I am concerned enormously about the problems of education for isolated children, particularly in the communities of Marlborough, Ogmoo and St Lawrence. Isolated children's allowances, both State and Federal, are totally inadequate for the effective subsidisation of boarding school and tuition costs. In effect, the children of families in the lower socio-economic group in isolated communities are effectively having a high rate of illiteracy forced upon them because of inadequate assistance. I do not support the provision of small bush high schools in isolated areas, as such institutions will never achieve educational standards that would provide entrance scores applicable to tertiary education courses. However, there is a simple choice for the Government: substantial isolated children's subsidies, small bush high schools or high rates of illiteracy. I support strongly the former course and urge the Minister, the Honourable Lin Powell, to examine fully the situation, which for many rural communities, I believe, is little short of diabolical.

The continued upgrading of main roads and highways is vital in Broadsound. Two road needs stand out. One is the reconstruction and widening of the Dingo-Mount Flora Beef Development Road. During the election campaign, the Main Roads Minister, the Honourable Russ Hinze, gave a commitment that this would be completed within three years, with a further 7 kilometres just north of the Mackenzie River Bridge to be constructed in the near future. The Rockhampton-Yeppoon road is also an urgent priority, with widening and straightening of 9 kilometres at the Rockhampton end a vital necessity. This road carries a high traffic density, and, because of the winding, narrow nature of the present track, which leads to dangerous overtaking, is responsible for many accidents. I am delighted to remind the House that the Honourable Russ Hinze has already, since the election, recognised my case in this area and allocated \$6m

towards the construction of a four-lane highway, commencing at the Rockhampton end of this road.

I am also indebted to the Minister for his foresight in providing \$60,000 for a hydraulic model to study tidal effects at the causeway lake on the Yeppoon-Emu Park road. The triple problems of lake siltation, beach erosion and a narrow, dangerous causeway are being investigated by the CIAE, Rockhampton, in conjunction with the Main Roads Department and Beach Protection Authority. I am assured by the Minister that the Government will build the facilities necessary to overcome these problems and I have no doubt that, as a result, this magnificent area will blossom with eventually a modern boat marina and other tourist attractions. I give recognition to the energy and the intellect of the chairman of the Causeway Progress Association, Mr Bruce McLean, for his efforts in this regard.

Rural roads such as the Ridglands road, which is a school bus route, and which is very dangerous, the Yeppoon-Byfield road and the Ogmoo access roads are in urgent need of upgrading. I strongly press for increased allocation in funds for rural local roads in central Queensland. Communities in these areas can be certain that I will continue to press their case.

I am concerned about the level of unemployment in the electorate, both in the mining towns and amongst our young people on the coast. The building industry is nearly defunct on the coast but would be boosted by increased tourism. The promotion of tourism will be a major goal. I strongly support the efforts of the electorate's tourist organisations, particularly the tourist road signs recently constructed on the Bruce Highway by the Capricorn Coast Tourist Organisation, with the assistance of the Livingstone Shire Council, and such ventures as a tourist steam train to the coast being investigated by the Capricorn Tourist Development Organisation. But these constructive efforts do not go anywhere near far enough. Colour brochures of panoramic size are needed in every tourist office in Australia. The Capricorn Coast must be made the prime tourist destination that it deserves to be. Its tourist facilities must be upgraded to attract that trade.

In this respect, I support optional unrestricted trading hours for coastal tourist destinations, although I cannot support extended trading hours for non-tourist destinations. I did a street survey on the Capricorn Coast and found overwhelming support for unrestricted trading hours for tourist destinations but not for deregulation in non-tourist destinations, where there is little overall gain for the community and a high cost to small business.

I am very concerned about the industrial relations in the central Queensland coal-fields. The Queensland Colliery Employees Union, in particular, has a long history of excessive industrial disputation where the first prerequisite to any rational discussion on a dispute is the 24-hour softening-up stoppage. This union is dominated in the State from Ipswich and federally by New South Wales. It supports policies totally alien to the welfare of my constituents and to the interests of the Queensland coal industry. The QCEU is totally opposed to coal industry deregulation, and this is to the disadvantage of Queensland mines.

It has recently implemented an overtime limitation of 7 hours per week—in effect, a 42-hour week—which has caused havoc in the industry and created an enormous financial burden on coal-miners in my electorate.

This week that ban has been lifted, not because the union has had a change of heart, but because the Coal Industry Tribunal will not hear the miners' federation superannuation claims whilst bans and limitations are in force. The ban will be reimposed as soon as the superannuation claim has been won.

The QCEU has an appalling record of broken agreements. In June 1986, it agreed to a no-strike provision of two years. But since that time there have been in excess of 200 stoppages.

I am deeply concerned about the 42-hour week limitations that the union will reimpose.

Miners and their families moved to towns such as Dysart and Middlemount to earn the maximum amount possible, not to have their incomes restricted by union executive bans. People make financial commitments according to their earning capacity. Any reduction in income causes liquidity problems and family hardships. That is happening now in my electorate.

The union is seeking to create jobs for its members from Ipswich, Newcastle and Wollongong, to the financial disadvantage of central Queenslanders. And have the central Queensland miners had a democratic say? No, they certainly have not!

Miners have telephoned me from all over central Queensland, telling me their voting figures at branch meetings, and how they resent their union leadership. One mine, Moura, voted 114 to nil against the union recommendation, but still it went ahead!

On a State basis, at the Riverside Hotel in Rockhampton, central Queensland miners voted 28 to 11 against the union overtime ban. Each mine was represented by two delegates. Southern division delegates voted 19 to nil in favour of the overtime ban, whilst being watched over by the union boss, Andrew Vickers.

On a State basis, 30 votes to 28 sounds all very democratic, until one realises that there are 2 800 members in central Queensland and only 569 members in south Queensland. Yet the central Queensland miners were outvoted.

Rank-and-file union-members are being manipulated; rank-and-file union-members are being cheated. Rank-and-file union-members must demand more democracy, and if they do not get it, they should boot out the present leadership.

And what is the effect on the industry? The coal industry is beset with shrinking world market outlets and falling prices. The overtime bans will mean substantially reduced train loadings on week-ends, lack of maintenance on coal-washing plants and crushing plants—a normal week-end activity; in other words, reduced productivity, reduced profitability and reduced capacity to pay coal-miners. And all in the name of union power! This madness must end.

Yet, to a large extent the coal-owners have only themselves to blame. By a long record of acquiescence to union power, they have encouraged ridiculous work practices, such as the overtime ban.

By putting today's dollar ahead of tomorrow's industrial nightmare, they have reaped as they have sown, and will need considerably more backbone if they are to successfully contend with excessive union power in the rough times ahead.

As a result, I support strongly the deregulation of labour and the introduction of further strong legislation limiting union power, with secret ballots supervised by the State Industrial Commission.

Compulsory membership of unions should be illegal, and all employers should be protected by law from union excesses resulting from non-compulsory unionism. The actions of the State Government are consistent with that goal. It has introduced non-compulsory unionism in the public service.

That should extend to the universities, where compulsory membership of the students unions is forced on the Government because of funding agreements with the Commonwealth. Part of the union dues supports Left Wing publications and, frequently, opposition directed at the State Government. The compulsory nature of union dues is undemocratic and should be abolished.

I totally support the Premier's push to fill the political vacuum in Canberra and I totally support his taxation policies. Tax and its cohort, excessive Government spending, are strangling progress in this country, and the high rates charged are totally self-defeating. The higher the rate charged by the Federal Labor Government, the more the evasion and the lower the taxable earnings on which the tax is levied. I totally support the

concept of the flat 25 per cent tax rate to restore incentive and productivity, without necessarily reducing the amount of tax collected.

Once again, I thank the electors of Broadsound for their resounding vote of confidence at the election. I promised the electors of Broadsound that I will get things done. I am getting things done. Their confidence in me will be justified. I thank the House for its indulgence.

**Mr EATON (Mourilyan) (12.36 p.m.):** Firstly, I congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your elevation to the panel of Temporary Chairmen. I congratulate the Speaker on his election to that high office in this House, and I congratulate the Chairman of Committees, Mr Row, on his appointment. I congratulate all other members who came through the last election campaign. That is not an easy thing to do because everyone is the same—we all want to survive.

I congratulate my two worthy opponents in the Mourilyan electorate who put up a good, strong fight. It was a good, clean, hard fight, with no animosity after the election. We are all still on friendly terms and have a cup of tea together. I hope that situation continues because we are all doing the same job, that is, helping the electorate and the people of Queensland.

I have a couple of pats to give to the Government and I will give them first in order that I can deliver the kicks later. A seminar was held in north Queensland in which the Mines Department played a significant role. It is to be congratulated. All honourable members are aware of the problems within the mining industry and the hardships suffered by many miners during the last three or four years. Many miners have had to walk away from the industry with nothing. All their years of hard work and toil have gone down the drain.

Miners believe they should never stop digging because a fortune is always just a couple more inches away. They are the men who went out and developed this country. If one goes back through the early history of Australia, during those hard economic times—which were similar to those that this country is about to enter—gold came to the fore. Many of the old-timers and pioneers helped to develop Australia by fossicking for gold. Gold is more valuable than most other minerals, but the fact that these men pioneered this industry and laid the foundation for further development in this country speaks well of Australia's ancestors. The hardships faced by Australians now are not as great as those that they faced many years ago.

The other pat I want to give to the Government is in regard to the stocking of dams for fishing. I have here a copy of the Atherton newspaper called the *Tablelander*. Last year the Queensland Government announced in its Budget that it was going to stock dams for fishing. Prior to that announcement by the Minister for Water Resources, the Government emptied a few thousand barramundi fingerlings into the Tinaroo Falls Dam. Alongside the article is a photograph of a young lad who caught five barramundi in an hour and a half. He is Nigel Clarke aged 15 years and is from Yungaburra. The article states—

“Nigel Clark 15, of Yungaburra, with his catch of five barramundi caught in the Tinaroo Dam, all within an hour-and-a-half on Sunday night. The fish were well over the 50 cm minimum with the largest measuring 60 cm. They were caught on a lure, but like all keen fishermen, Nigel is not saying exactly where. Several other junior fishermen from Yungaburra also caught barramundi in Tinaroo Dam and now they are planning to form a fishing club with the help of their parents.”

There should be more dam-stocking. I compliment the Government on its actions and hope that it is able to do the same in other dams in Queensland. As the shadow Minister for Water Resources I travel round the State visiting the irrigation dams in central, south and north Queensland. I hope that the Government can find the time and the finances to replenish stocks in some of the rivers in those areas. Aquaculture and fish-breeding are booming, particularly in north Queensland.

**Mr Newton:** They are doing it down our way in the Imbil area.

**Mr EATON:** Yes. The Government employees in north Queensland at the Walkamin Research Station do a very good job. Although they receive a great deal of criticism, they receive little praise. Some of their good work goes unnoticed. The article continues—

“Mr Mackinnon said the fish now average two kilos (4lb) in weight and are just over the legal limit in size. ‘Our latest study, last Thursday, showed that they had put on 500 grams (1lb) in the last month.’”

That growth rate is well above the average. It is phenomenal. I do not know of any other sporting fish or edible fish in the same category as the barramundi that has ever put on so much weight in that period.

A great deal of research is being carried out and the situation is being monitored. The employees at the research station should be congratulated. I know that they carry out work that is beyond the usual call of duty. Workers at research stations do not stop at 5 o'clock in the afternoon or when the whistle blows. Often they carry out extra duties at night-time and on week-ends so that other people will receive the benefit of their research. I know that the employees are very keen and that they show great enthusiasm in their work.

The article to which I referred also states—

“Mr McKinnon said that the fisheries department would soon carry out a more detailed study using tags.

. . .

According to Mr MacKinnon, there has been good catches of bream and silver perch as well as the barramundi.”

That is a reference to fish in the Tinaroo Falls Dam. Dam-stocking will benefit many families in Queensland. Fishing is a sport that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Because of the large population in the south-eastern corner of the State, I am sure that a call will be made for more research to be carried out in that area. I hope that, when the program for the next 12 months, 2 years or even longer is being formulated, the requirements of north Queensland are kept in mind.

I have given the Government a pat on the back and I would now like to give it a gentle nudge. I turn first to shopping hours. Prior to Christmas, the Government decided to deregulate trading hours on a trial basis. That is a time of the year when shopping hours are usually extended. Because working families must honour their commitment to their employers, during the holiday period they do not have time to do their shopping or to browse in the shops before making their purchases. The Government chose an opportune time to implement its trial on deregulated trading hours. The trial resulted from pressure being applied by the big companies.

Everyone must realise that the small shop-owner does not have the same purchasing power as chain stores, which can order items by the thousand. A small shop-owner provides a service after hours and on Saturdays and Sundays when other shops are closed. If his store is closed and an emergency arises, the small shop-owner will open his business. That happens particularly in rural areas. For most of my life I have lived in a rural area. If the water supply breaks down at night-time and water is needed on a dairy farm for milking or for sterilisation of equipment the following morning, it is possible to get the shop-owner out of bed at midnight. I have been guilty of that on a few occasions. The small shop-owner has provided such a service to the public.

As I have said, small shop-owners do not have the same purchasing power as the larger stores. A small-businessman cannot purchase 5 000 teddy bears just prior to Christmas, because he would be lucky to sell 50 of them. Some small shops cater for the needs of the community by selling groceries. That is a service that is available whenever it is needed. The Government listened too much to the chain stores in trying to deregulate shopping hours. In order to obtain some feedback, complicated forms were

sent out to all shop-owners. However, chain stores conducted surveys of their own. Representatives from the chain stores interviewed shoppers about their views on the trial of deregulated shopping hours.

I can provide the Minister with the names of two persons who were approached by the manager of a chain store. These two people heard people at the next counter talking about how happy they were with the deregulated trading hours. However, the two persons to whom I have referred were small shop-owners who required an item that was not sold at their own store. When approached by the manager of the store to indicate whether they were in favour of the change in trading hours and to supply their names and addresses, they introduced themselves. The manager told them his name.

He took their names and addresses and told them that he was conducting a survey into the extended trading hours. He asked their opinion of those extended hours, and they replied that, because the hours interfered with their routine, they did not suit them. Those people then asked the manager of the store if he would keep a record of those people who were not in favour of extended trading hours. The manager then said, "No. We are only keeping a record of the people who are in favour of them."

The results of that survey will be provided to the Minister, who will take notice of them. However, only the names and addresses of those people who are in favour of extended trading hours have been included. No record has been kept of those people who are opposed to them. The State Government should consider that. Widespread publicity should be given to the inquiry.

Of course, the deregulation of trading hours suits many people. A few years ago, when my four children were still attending school and I was working, I often gave them lists of items that I wished them to purchase after school. If they could not do that, I had to wait until Saturday mornings, when I could visit major shopping complexes and purchase those items that were not readily available from a corner shop. At that time, deregulated trading hours would have suited me.

The Government must consider the overall benefit to the community of the extended trading hours. Many small businesses are family concerns where Mum, Dad and the children help out in the store. The State Government must take cognisance of the importance of the family unit and, if necessary, introduce legislation that will protect it. I concede that there are advantages in deregulated trading hours. However, the Government must consider their overall benefits to Queensland. If he requires it, I can show the Minister letters that support my claims. I will be speaking with him about this some time during this session of Parliament.

Honourable members would recall that, at the beginning of this session of Parliament, a condolence motion was moved in respect of the Gillies Highway bus accident. Prior to that, I had received a few complaints from parents whose children are required to travel long distances on school buses. Those buses are licensed by the State Transport Department. Although I sympathise with parents, I also understand the problems that bus-owners face.

Whereas bus-owners receive fares from each child, they cannot afford to provide additional buses. They are in a no-win situation. If a bus-owner wishes to provide an additional service, he must pay the wages of an additional driver. In view of the number of children that he carries on his buses, it would be uneconomical to do so.

The Government should consider that problem. Those school transport operators do a tremendous job in transporting children to and from schools. They keep regular timetables and often provide buses at cost for excursions. Often they make no charge. They certainly play their role in the community.

By law, a bus that is licensed to carry 40 children can accommodate an additional 20 children, who are required to stand. However, on some occasions, up to 70 children are transported by bus, often for long distances. The bus-operators are not complying with specified maximum carrying capacities.

Following the tragic Gillies Highway bus accident, I was inundated with further complaints from parents. By that time, certain measures had been taken in an endeavour to overcome the problems that existed on school buses.

The State Government has put up a rock wall between itself and the bus-operators. It says to them, "That is the fare that will be paid by each child, and that is the system under which you will operate." The Government is allowing them no latitude. Of course, at times, the Government must take a firm stand, but I believe that this is one aspect that it should look at more closely.

Governments are encouraging young people to further their education and to obtain a trade or qualifications that will carry them through the early part of their lives.

The young people have to receive a basic grounding at primary and high school level. The problem has existed for quite some time; however, the Government has not been prepared to make any concessions. Some day, the Government will have to face up to that problem.

The Young Farmer Establishment Scheme was referred to in the Minister's annual report. An amount of \$1,600,000 is available from that scheme. The Labor Party supported the introduction of that scheme, although at the time it was a little critical of the interest rate and the service charges. Many young people today cannot service the debt.

Today, a person in his early twenties who has finished his trade and is receiving a reasonable adult wage cannot save enough money to buy a block of land, let alone build a \$60,000 home. Those young people depend on help from family members who will go guarantor for them.

When a large amount of money remains unused, something should be done to improve the scheme. In my electorate, many young people want to go into grazing, dairying, pig-raising or banana-growing. The Government should change the present system so that those young people can afford to get on the land. Not only do the farmers want land, many other Queenslanders, too, are looking for acreage today. They want to get out of the rat race in suburbia and keep a horse for the children, a house cow, chickens, and have a bit of freedom—all those things that the average family desires. Because the land is not available, they cannot do that and when it is available, it is too expensive. The average person cannot afford to buy land.

The Government could assist young people by releasing land. At present, it does not release enough land, which keeps the price up. According to the Minister's report, blocks of land are available in Queensland; but the major problem is the cost of that land. That is why young people are not moving into primary production.

Over recent years, the price of land has continued to rise. The people are faced with a two-edged sword. Many people have bought land as a tax dodge. They are keeping the price of land up, avoiding income tax and not giving young people the opportunity to purchase land.

In my electorate, one person told me that he and his wife had worked for five years and saved every cent so that they could take their parents' advice and pay a little bit extra for good land rather than purchase cheaply bad land which will keep them poor for the rest of their life. They took that advice and then there was a downturn in marketing of primary industries. Those people have survived, but they are surviving under duress. They worked all their life, made sacrifices and saved money, and were greatly disappointed.

If honourable members were to examine farmers' production costs, they would find that the price of land in Australia is one of the major problems faced by primary producers. The Government does not take that into account.

The average farmer has to compete against the professional investor who can buy land and write off huge amounts of money in depreciation. He can make false maintenance claims for taxation purposes, which allows him to produce the article more cheaply.

Then he whinges like the devil when the Federal Government tries to close loopholes in the taxation law.

If a person has three businesses, he cannot lump them all together and have the accountant come up with the right figure. He has to balance the figures of each business.

The people of Queensland should be given the opportunity to go on the land. Thousands of people in the community want that opportunity. The Minister tabled some figures in the House. I cannot be exact, but I believe they show that in excess of 2 000 applications were received for two blocks of land in central Queensland. The number of applications was narrowed down, on the basis of qualification, to approximately 1 800 in the final ballot. One of the successful applicants has decided that he will be unable to go ahead with the development of the block, and that block will again be the subject of a ballot in April. It will be interesting to learn how many applicants will be involved in that ballot because each applicant will need \$150,000 to qualify for a ballot number and more than \$100,000 will be needed immediately for improvements.

Considerable sums will be required to fulfil the terms of the acquisition and to demonstrate that development and stock management can be carried out successfully. The large number of applicants for the two blocks that I mentioned earlier illustrates the need for land in Queensland.

Unfortunately, big companies have been allowed to take up holdings of land that have not been subject to the ballot process. I make the point that acquisition of land by ballot is the fairest way of making land available, because it is not discriminatory. It provides equal opportunity for both the rich and the poor because the result is determined by the fall of a marble. People will not be able to buy their way into land acquisition simply because they are wealthy or because they represent vast corporate enterprises that take up land-holdings in an endeavour to reduce income tax. In the latter case I have mentioned, the difficulties caused are twofold, because the ordinary people in the community are burdened with making up for the tax that the corporate enterprises should be, but are not, paying and the price of land is maintained at a high level. Those two difficulties make life harder for people who are genuinely involved in primary industry.

I now cite the prawning industry boom that occurred many years ago. Big business investors purchased prawn trawlers and did not care whether the cost of marketing the prawns was \$20 a pound or more, because a loss sustained in selling prawns could then be set off against profits made by other businesses that they were involved in. At present, the Federal Government is attempting to curtail tax avoidance, but has been knocked for doing so. There are thousands of examples that are similar to the one that I have mentioned, but I will not cite them today.

I turn my attention now to the doctrine of regulation that is being preached by the New Right. Increased regulation of business activity will have a serious effect if it is introduced into Queensland. The Queensland National Party Government, led by the Premier and Treasurer, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, is canvassing support for certain aims and is leaning towards advice from the New Right, particularly in respect of deregulation. Members of the National Party are trying to be subtle, but people who will be affected by deregulation are aware of what is going on.

Before the 1986 State election, the Queensland Government empowered the Minister for Primary Industries to remit for review decisions made by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board. Prior to the amendment to the Sugar Act, the board's decision was endorsed automatically by the Minister and the board's decision became legally binding. The present position is that, because there is no obligation on the Minister to endorse the board's decision, the Minister can remit decisions to the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board until the decision that the Minister wants is produced. That change in procedure represents a break-down that will have an effect on the sugar industry.

I remind honourable members that the sugar industry is one of the primary industries that are experiencing a period of turmoil. I refer to cane-farming not just in my electorate,

although I could speak at length about the problems associated with the Goondi and Babinda mills. Problems associated with the sugar industry are widespread, and are to be found also in areas around Mackay. I inform the House that cane-farmers do not want deregulation of the industry at farmer level. The Opposition supports the farmers' view of deregulation.

I am aware that the very things that have carried the industry through periods of drought and disaster have been the regulations that apply in the sugar industry, particularly those set by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board. The farmers will tell any honourable member that they have not been happy always with individual decisions that have been made by the board; yet they know that the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board is beyond back-door politics and above political influence, and they respect it for that. I remind honourable members that the board is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland and that the board's deliberations are not affected by political interference.

The Queensland Government has attacked the Federal Government's intention to impose deregulation. I state openly in this Chamber that members of the Opposition were not in favour of the extent of deregulation that was recommended in the 100-day committee report. The Queensland Government and members of the Opposition opposed deregulation, and it is worth repeating that on that occasion, the Opposition supported the stance adopted by the Queensland Government. Honourable members will remember that the Federal Government was adamant about having deregulation implemented exactly in accordance with the recommendations made in the report.

Members of the Opposition held discussions with their Federal colleagues and expressed their support for the attitude adopted by the Queensland Government on the need for some changes in the recommendations and sorting out of the proposed arrangements.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

**Mr EATON:** In the short amount of time remaining to me I will not be able to cover all the matters that I wish to regarding the needs of my electorate. However, I will deal with some of them briefly.

The Queensland Housing Commission should spend a lot more money on programming its future developments in far north Queensland. Because of the shortage of housing in Cairns, some of its residents, who are prepared to move to Innisfail if they can get a decent Housing Commission home, ring me up. The waiting-list in Cairns is the main reason for that. At times in Innisfail, as many as 80 or 90 people are on the waiting-list for a Housing Commission home. It is with hope and confidence that I ask the Government to consider establishing more Housing Commission houses in Innisfail. Other areas in my electorate such as Ravenshoe and Herberton on the Tableland have a stable population. If the Government should spend money on building suitable homes there, it will have no difficulty in finding tenants for them.

The other matter with which I want to deal, and which I mentioned before, is land. However, I will make a special request to the Minister for Lands. In the Mission Beach area a large amount of development has taken place. However, several entrepreneurs who own a vast area of land in that area which is suitable for development, not only now but also in the future, have made a submission to the Government asking it to grant them 25 acres of a 50-odd acre recreational and camping reserve. The people who make up the company which has applied for that area of land are themselves land-holders. At a public meeting they agreed that their land was equally as suitable for the building of a marina as was the Government land. I repeat that the area is well developed. It has a great future. Many of its good citizens are quite concerned that those land-holders have dollar signs before their eyes and are eating up the available land. That is a matter that I want to bring to the attention of this House.

That area has great potential. Although people are not against progress as such, they want it to be planned progress so that some of the benefits that they already enjoy can be maintained, as those benefits were the reasons for their settling in the area. The

Government should not accede to the request of those land-holders to grant them 25 acres in order to develop a marina, especially when they have admitted publicly that the land which they already own is equally suitable. In fact, one of the persons involved with the company which has requested this land from the Government has his own land up for sale. Somebody has said that he does not want to sell it because the asking price is exorbitant. However, that does not stop the entrepreneurs moving into this area and destroying its beauty and the comforts of the people who go there to live, particularly in their latter years.

Some people also prefer to live there and work in the Tully area. I know of people living in that section of my electorate who are actually working in your electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker. Such people live in that area because it is a comfortable and reasonably good area. If such developments are allowed to take place, the commercialisation of the area will force those people out, all for the sake of a few dollars. Not only will the development interfere with the existing community life that is there, but it will also destroy part of the area's beauty for future generations.

One of the proposals is that the marina entrance will be through the beaches, much the same as the new seaway at Nerang. As I said before, the people wanting this proposal to go ahead have already admitted that the same thing could be done using their own land. Of course, if their own land is used, they cannot then sell it for development. They want to use the people's land for the development so that it will enrich the value of their own land. That is not a real and a reasonable reason for the Government to grant their request. I would certainly like the Government to reject that request.

The other matter to which I refer concerns the Fish Management Authority. Because many people in my electorate have complained to me about the barramundi season I am in the throes of drawing up submissions to make to that authority. They have not actually complained about the closure of the season. However, as all members would be aware, this year was exceptionally dry. The barramundi season was closed from November to 1 February. No decent rain fell until 1 February. People were concerned that at 12 o'clock on 1 February all professional fishermen and licensed net fishermen would be allowed to race out and put their nets in the river.

The barramundi do not start to travel up the rivers until sufficient rain causes a reasonable fresh. Only when that happens do the barramundi move up to spawn. Because of the seasonal conditions this year, the barramundi moved up the rivers after the season had reopened. That meant that all those net fishermen who placed their nets trapped the barramundi on the way up the river and there will be no spawning.

Earlier in my speech I mentioned the benefit of putting young fry into lakes such as the one at Tinaroo. North Queensland has a severe shortage of barramundi for both recreational and professional fishermen. I believe that, when seasonal conditions dictate, the Minister should have a discretionary power to delay the start of the barramundi season. Had that occurred, I am sure that the majority of people in the community, including the professional fishermen, would have agreed whole-heartedly. That must be considered in the future.

I now turn to the licensing of crab fishermen and the restriction on the size of catches. One of the traditions of north Queensland is that, when a family member is having a birthday, the men from a couple of families get together to go crabbing to bring home a good catch to have at a barbecue. Restricting the size of the catch too much will have an effect, to a certain extent, on family life in north Queensland. I will be making these submissions to the Fish Management Authority in the hope that planning for the future will ensure that these resources are not depleted to such an extent that in the long term the community will not be able to continue to take part in these recreational and festive pursuits.

**Mr GATELY (Currumbin) (2.37 p.m.):** It is with a great deal of pride and an overwhelming sense of responsibility and humility that I stand before you today, Mr Deputy Speaker, as the member for Currumbin. In doing so, I express my loyalty to

Her Majesty the Queen and her most worthy representative, His Excellency the Governor. I join with my colleagues in congratulating the Speaker on his election to that high office. In doing so, I thank him, his staff and the officers of Parliament for the goodwill, patience and invaluable assistance that has been extended to me since my election, as will be recorded in history, as the first member for Currumbin.

I am mindful of the need for enthusiasm to be tempered with responsibility and restraint. However, I believe one should always strive to achieve attainable goals with a positive approach. I pledge that my contribution to both the Parliament and the Government of Queensland will be a sincere, honest and constructive one.

I am deeply appreciative of, and grateful for, the overwhelming support given to me by the electors of Currumbin on 1 November 1986. On that day, after topping the primary vote, I am sure that the electors of Currumbin were registering a vote of approval for the policies presented to them by the National Party, and more importantly, their approval of the leadership, guidance and sincerity of our Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, and their total rejection of the mismanagement of our nation by the Hawke/Keating Federal Labor Government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you would be aware, the electorate of Currumbin is an area cut off the southern end of the seat of South Coast, held by the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing, the Honourable R. J. Hinze, MLA, who has been a member of the Government for more than 20 years. I can assure him, as the former member for the area, and the Premier and Deputy Premier, of my deep personal commitment to loyal and positive participation in the decision-making process and of my respect for the great need for Government solidarity and unity. It is an assurance that I give, one which I believe is important and necessary in respect of all Government members for the viable and proper functioning of the democratic process.

When crossing the border to contest Currumbin, I am pleased I was not a footballer—I may have been called a cockroach. I am also pleased I was not like a Mexican attempting the USA border-crossing—I may have been thrown back. However, the media were kind and gave me the catchy phrase “border-hopper”. I would like at this point to record my personal thanks to the media, both print and electronic, for the vast amount of free publicity afforded to my campaign by their doing their job of reporting the news in a responsible and unbiased manner. I found their reporting fair and reasonable. I look forward to working with them in the years to come, particularly the *Daily News/Gold Coaster*, the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the *Daily Sun*, radio stations 97, 4GG and 4CRB and Channels 0, 7, 9 and 11/8.

On a more serious note, I make no apology for having become a border-hopper, because I believe—and I am sure all in this great and noble place would agree—that I have come to the greatest and best-run State of our nation.

I am overjoyed at having been given the confidence of and responsibility for the electors of Currumbin in the Forty-fifth Parliament of Queensland. However, my heart was saddened to leave a once-great State such as New South Wales—a State whose present Labor Government, by its actions, shows clearly that NSW stands for Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. The rest of that State is short-changed in every way by the New South Wales Government.

I grieve also for the citizens of New South Wales because of the level of corruption, drug and other criminal activity that is so evident, the cancerous tentacles of which have penetrated into many areas, including the law-enforcement agency, members of the Labor Government itself and, through poker machines and illegal activities, including SP betting and selling of stolen property, in registered clubs.

I raise the subject of these illegal activities in registered clubs because Seagulls Leagues Club at Tweed Heads purchased Greenmount Resort at Coolangatta and bought into Valleys Football Club in Brisbane with the intention of gaining approval for the installation of poker machines when this Government was to be defeated in 1986.

On that score alone, that club and its Labor friends must now be sadly disillusioned. I am advised that, as at the end of September 1986, the club had sustained a loss of approximately \$500,000 at Greenmount Resort.

I was concerned when I became aware that Greenmount Resort was offered to Twin Towns Services Club for \$9m the day before Seagulls Leagues Club purchased it for \$10m. The members of Seagulls Leagues Club were not given a vote on the feasibility or desirability of purchasing Greenmount Resort or entry into Valley Leagues Club. Where did the extra million dollars go? The members of the club want to know where that money went.

When the former secretary/manager of Seagulls Leagues Club expressed concern at not being consulted or informed prior to the purchase, his services were terminated and his life membership was withdrawn. Some members have complained that directors and former directors have been given jobs with salaries of \$50,000, and these members are not happy.

A matter emanating from Seagulls Leagues Club culminated in the stabbing of a person at Rainbow Bay in the electorate of Currumbin. That incident is the subject of an inquiry, the report on which has been presented to the Deputy Premier, Minister Assisting the Treasurer and Minister for Police, the Honourable Bill Gunn.

That inquiry has highlighted other criminal activities at Seagulls Leagues Club and the employment of a criminal at Greenmount Resort. I believe that these matters should be given urgent attention by the Government, particularly in view of the fact that the current president of Seagulls Leagues Club, Mr Jack Meekin, is also the owner of the Jet Club in Coolangatta, which is a haven for under-age drinkers. I believe that that club should have its licence cancelled or at least suspended for a period long enough for the operator to understand that the Government will no longer tolerate such practices.

I would now like to pay respect, and convey an expression of my deepest gratitude, to all who were responsible for my election to the high office of member for Currumbin. I commence with my loyal wife, Helen, and our four sons—Michael, Christopher, Robert and Stephen. Special thanks are extended to the National Party and the selection committee for endorsement as its candidate for the election; the Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen; Senator Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen; Senator Glen Shiel; the Honourable William Gunn, Deputy Premier, Minister Assisting the Treasurer and Minister for Police; the Honourable Neville Harper, Minister for Primary Industries; the Honourable Russ Hinze, Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing; the Honourable Ivan Gibbs, Minister for Works and Housing; the Honourable Yvonne Chapman, Minister for Family Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs; Mr Rob Borbidge, MLA; the many party members of the Queensland and NSW National Parties; and the private citizens who assisted with door-knocking, attending functions, fund-raising, installing advertising signs, manning booths, supplying sandwiches and drinks, and financial support in the form of campaign funds. The character who made the sandwiches was a genuine Labor person the like of which is not found in this House.

I believe that honourable members of this noble place, and Queenslanders generally, particularly the electors of Currumbin, are entitled to know something of my background. Having been born at West Wyalong in the central western wheat belt of New South Wales, I have had experience in wheat, sheep and cattle production; wholesale grocery and produce sales and clerical duties; banking; travelling/collecting; law enforcement; administration in the aluminium industry; administration of a deaf and blind children's centre; racecourse management; administration of a nursing home; and operation of a small business.

Since suffering spinal and other injuries in a head-on smash in Newcastle in July 1963 and my subsequent retirement as medically unfit for further police duties, I have been involved with and contributed to community projects in areas where I have lived. I have also suffered the humiliation and despair of being unemployed on three occasions during my life.

My involvement in community projects led me to joining the Labor Party, at the request of a friend, in order to obtain assistance for the establishment of a library for local children. I had no knowledge of politics or political parties at the time. I have never been a member of any faction within the Labor Party but knew I wanted no part of communist-thinking members of the party or unions. Out of frustration, as no progress was being made with the library, I nominated for and was elected to Newcastle City Council. The library approval was to follow soon after.

I make no apology for having been a member of the Labor Party, because, having become a member, I was made aware of the reasons why I should not have been. My parents had given me a set of principles to live by and, when I was advised by Alderman Peter Morris, now Peter Morris MP, Minister for Transport and Minister for Aviation in the present Federal Labor Government, that the former senator and late Mr Justice Lionel Murphy had set up the ballot for the Shortland pre-selection after offering Alderman Morris three alternatives so as to ensure that he, Morris, would win the ballot, I became very annoyed at such an unfair arrangement. When questioned about this at a branch meeting, Alderman Morris confirmed it to be true. However, the rigged ballot failed and Morris was defeated. Following appeals and further defeat for Morris, the Federal executive of the party, controlled by Left Wing members, selected Morris as the candidate. One might ask, "Who else?"

In the lead-up to the Federal election in 1972 as an Independent candidate, I advised the nation that Senator Lionel Murphy, as he then was, should not be trusted in any position of authority anywhere or at any time. Unfortunately, subsequent events in later years proved this statement to be true.

Many electors in the electorate of Currumbin continue to ask what is happening to our country and why today they are finding it so hard to make ends meet and save. I wish to place on record some cold, hard facts that, when studied, show the true colours of the Hawke Federal Labor Government and its unelected coalition senior partner, the Simon and Bill/ACTU show. R. J. Hawke, when president of the ACTU, is reported in the *Australian Financial Review* of Thursday, 25 March 1971, at page 17 as follows—

"I have never made any secret of the fact, in fact I have asserted it proudly, that I am a socialist.

I believe that ultimately the welfare of the people of Australia is best going to be served when the means of production, distribution and exchange are removed from private ownership and are owned by the people.

Because I believe there is an incompatibility ultimately between the pursuit of a private profit motive and the pursuit of the public good.

That is my belief but I am also a democrat and I understand that at this stage, the Australian people have not been prepared to democratically make the decision to have a socialist society. Now I accept that fact and as far as I have an educative role or time for it, I will try and change it."

During a superannuation conference in 1981, Mr Simon Crean of the ACTU said—

"What we must recognise at this early stage of union involvement in the superannuation issues, is that control over the funds will provide union and government with considerable financial leverage.

That leverage can be used to advance the cause of socialism in Australia."

On numerous occasions Bill Hayden has stated, as Labor Party policy, that the aim of the Federal Labor Government is to redistribute the wealth of this nation. This, I believe, is being done by manipulation of interest rates, which are at unrealistically high levels, in an attempt to try to maintain value in Keating's sinking—or should I say "floating"—Australian dollar. The Federal Government is also redistributing wealth by imposing excessively high fuel excises, very little of which is passed on to Queensland for road maintenance or construction. High interest rates have soaked up any excess

liquidity of average home-owners who, together with farmers and small-business owners, are going to the wall with monotonous regularity.

I would like members of this Parliament to consider for a few moments the often-repeated remarks of the Federal Treasurer, Paul "Cheating"—oh, sorry, Keating—when he says, "Our economic strategy is on target." Conservative members of Parliament here and in other places gasp in horror, as do business-leaders, who think that Keating is handling the truth carelessly. Sadly and unfortunately for Australia, for once he is telling the truth. The economic strategy that we perceive is millions of miles away from the reality aimed for by Hawke, Keating and the ACTU alliance. Their target is the socialisation of this great nation through financial disruption and mismanagement.

The latest assault on the very fabric of Australian society is the public hearings by the Constitutional Commission that is sitting in Brisbane today. The commission has published an issues paper that outlines the matters it will be considering. They include such questions as—

- Should Australia be a monarchy or a republic?
- What powers should be exercised by the Queen?
- What powers should be exercised by the Governor-General?
- Should the Prime Minister be elected by Parliament?

Those questions were asked in an advertisement that appeared in the *Daily Sun* on Wednesday, 18 February 1987.

What a sham! The Constitutional Commission does not even appear to print the full list of items to be discussed.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I believe that these examples clearly expose the present Federal Labor Government for what it really is—an insincere, unjust, despicable Government robbing the nation of its self-respect and its stable foundation for generations to come. It is stealing the nation's life-blood through, for example—

- shameful increases in the cost of lodging appeals against taxation assessments;
- capital gains tax;
- an assets test that robs the pensioners;
- fringe benefits tax;
- 3 per cent superannuation productivity allowance;
- 30 per cent tax on superannuation payments; and
- 100 per cent increases in pharmaceutical charges and cost of passports.

Mr Hawke and his Government parade around adding insult to injury by spreading more cow yard confetti than a herd of bulls on a fresh lucerne patch, by suggesting that we must all have an Australia Card. An Australia Card, indeed, to prevent welfare and tax fraud in this country!

Mr Hawke can tell Mr Keating that we tax-payers have no more. High taxes, high inflation and an astronomical balance of payments deficit have robbed Australians as surely as Dennis Conner has relieved us of the cup.

This House is fully aware of the great achievements of the Honourable R. J. Hinze, MLA, member for South Coast and Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing. I pay my own personal tribute to that great man.

The enormous impact of the honourable Minister's past achievements is self-evident. There is ample testimony to them and the friendships which have been formed over the years.

The Currumbin electorate commences at the Queensland/New South Wales border at Coolangatta, and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean up to Tallebudgera Creek. It follows the Tallebudgera valley to the Cougals at the south-western end of that valley, follows the border back to Coolangatta, and includes the whole of Currumbin valley.

The older settled areas of Coolangatta, Kirra, Currumbin and parts of Palm Beach were the tourist Mecca of years gone by. However, age and usage have taken their toll, and those areas could and should be urgently redeveloped to recapture their former glory as the destination not to be missed on the Gold Coast.

Any redevelopment should be of a balanced type, taking into account the need to create employment opportunities, whilst still ensuring environmental aspects and that buildings of an aesthetically acceptable appearance and standard are constructed. There should be low, medium and some high-rise projects.

The long-awaited redevelopment of the Coolangatta area will be commenced when a start is made on the Zarrow project in late March or early April 1987. That development will include a tavern or hotel and a bold new concept for the southern end of the Gold Coast. The local Chamber of Commerce has provided me with information relating to a proposed project between Lanham and Chalk Streets.

Another existing project will be the Currumbin Palms Hotel, which has yet to be approved. Both of those projects are coastal developments. Approval has also been granted for Inglenook, a hinterland proposal. It is only pending finance before a start can be made.

Because of their limited size and their popularity for sailing, wind surfing, paddle boats, surf skis, body surfing, surf-board riding, and their use by both amateur and professional fishermen, both the Tallebudgera and the Currumbin estuaries should have no development below the high-water mark.

Permanent residents of the electorate live primarily in single-storey dwellings and home units. I refer specifically to the problem of subsidence of an area of Palm Beach, bounded by the Gold Coast Highway to the east, 28th Avenue to the north, 2nd Avenue to the south and the new by-pass of the Pacific Highway to the west.

Between 80 and 100 homes have sustained structural damage as a result of a number of factors—

- (1) Tea-tree vegetation of varying sizes has been felled and then covered with sand and fill without being burnt.
- (2) It would appear that the ground was not correctly consolidated during development.
- (3) The Gold Coast City Council aggravated the problem in 1983 by de-watering the area whilst installing sewer mains.

For a number of years, affected home-owners have been trying to have the matter rectified.

This scandal can be described only as a disaster, and is reflected in the downgrading of valuations in the area. If that happened to the home of a member of this Parliament, he would not tolerate it for one minute.

Prior to the election last year, my Labor and Liberal opponents were not able to help the affected home-owners. Alderman Trevor Coomber found that 1 November 1986 proved to be a black day for his political aspirations. He was exposed for using that disaster to project himself into the Parliament. That is shameful behaviour. The affected residents were not amused and will not forget. At that stage, the Labor Party candidate said that the National Party was taking the seat very lightly and it made it easy for him to win. That shows how much he knew.

Those homes were those people's castles—or so they thought. Now they are their nightmares. I say in this Parliament that those people have done no wrong. They are entitled to have their homes repaired or rebuilt. I believe that the developers, Hooker Rex, laid the foundation for that disaster by burying the area with tea-tree vegetation as part of approximately 1 metre of fill which was not consolidated. The Gold Coast City Council aggravated their problem in 1983 by de-watering the area and sucking sand fill out at the same time. Honourable members should have no doubt about that.

Insurance claims to the Gold Coast City Council by home-owners have been referred to Suncorp. Suncorp management's attitude is one of "We have no responsibility"—a predictable response with total indifference to the people's problem.

So now the home-owners, many of whom are retired pensioners in their twilight years, with little or no fight left in them, are bewildered at the awesome task of having to take legal action to get justice.

If those people cannot obtain justice through the legal system, as they are attempting to do, I shall be appealing to the Government to negotiate with the Federal Government for a special grant, to be matched dollar for dollar by the Queensland Government, to effect repairs or rebuild, as may be required, to restore those homes.

Cycling is a pleasant means of local transport and, apart from keeping one fit—the present speaker excluded—it keeps fuel consumption down and reduces the emission of pollutants into the air.

A committee comprising representatives of the Albert Shire Council, Gold Coast City Council and interested State and Federal members should come together to look at possible locations and funding for safe cycleways.

Tourism is a keystone for development of the Gold Coast and is vital to the Currumbin electorate. All segments of the market have shown improvement, that is, interstate, intrastate and international visitors. The increased rate of growth in tourism is obvious when we see a total of 1 437 new international-class hotel rooms that came on stream to June 1986. More are currently under construction. A tourist information centre should be located at Coolangatta Road, adjacent to the Land of Legend, to properly service the motoring visitor to the Gold Coast.

Coolangatta Airport is currently experiencing a tremendous upsurge in growth in the volume of passenger movements. During the year to 30 September 1986, domestic air passenger movements through the airport increased by 16.9 per cent.

The Federal Minister for Aviation, the Honourable Peter Morris, MP, should, in the interest of the utmost safety for passengers and people living under the flight-path into and out of Coolangatta Airport, install radar and an instrument-landing system, because that airport is used if Brisbane is closed. The ILS will allow aircraft to track down to an altitude of 300 feet in line with the runway. At that height, the aircraft would be approximately 120 metres from the runway threshold.

Road traffic congestion is ever present on the Gold Coast and will continue to create problems until an overall study is completed, covering vehicles, buses, trains and/or a monorail.

It is appropriate to seek assistance from the Government to arrange for joint talks between the Queensland and New South Wales Governments to extend the railway line from Robina to the border and then on to Murwillumbah. Such a facility would be of tremendous value to our southern visitors, who have to change from the train at Murwillumbah into a bus for a 24 kilometre journey to complete their trip.

Bus timetables are often the subject of complaint to me from a number of sources. I recommend that a thorough investigation be undertaken. The membership of such a committee should include all Gold Coast State members of this Parliament, if possible.

Through the good offices of the Honourable R. J. Hinze, many main roads have been provided. I believe that the section from Tugun to Nerang should be upgraded to a four-lane carriageway, with additional entry and exit points in the vicinity of Guineas Creek Road at The Pines shopping centre. I would hope funds will be allocated for bridge-widening, road-widening and tar sealing of Tallabudgera Creek Road and Currumbin Creek Road.

Mr Speaker, as you were formerly a teacher, I am sure you would agree that a student population of 1 600 at Palm Beach/Currumbin High School is large indeed. I shall be seeking advice from the Honourable Lin Powell, Minister for Education, and

the Honourable Ivan Gibbs, Minister for Works and Housing, about possible funding for the construction of a new high school in the electorate.

I was advised by the Premier during the 1986 election campaign that an announcement could be made, which subsequently was made, that a multipurpose, all-weather shelter would be constructed at Palm Beach/Currumbin State High School during my first year in office. I have requested funding for construction of that shelter.

During a recent visit to the Elanora State School, I discovered that the deputy and assistant principal were sharing a very small room because of a shortage of adequate office space. The staff room is also far too small. In 1983, there were 183 enrolments. That has increased to 575 in 1987, for which I also seek relief by the provision of additional rooms.

I have left till now what is normally a wet subject—water, or the lack of it. I believe that, with the population explosion on the Gold Coast and its hinterland, the Government should be seeking additional areas suitable for the construction of dams in the area.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Looking at the clock, I would ask the honourable member if he would like to conclude his speech?

**Mr GATELY:** Yes.

In conclusion, I draw the attention of every member of this noble House to that wart on the Australian political scene, the Australian Democrats. Members of that despicable party were elected on the policy of their former leader—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I was being very nice to the member. I now must call the honourable member for Toowong to make his maiden speech to the Parliament.

**Mr BEANLAND (Toowong) (3.07 p.m.):** On behalf of the electors of Toowong, it is with great pleasure that I affirm our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is worth while noting, although the role of the monarchy is constantly questioned, support for the monarchy by the people in this State and country has never been stronger. Queenslanders, and indeed all Australians, are very much aware that the monarchy provides an important safeguard against the centralisation of power by socialist Governments.

At a time when groups around this country seem intent on changing the Australian flag, I wish to express my strong commitment to it. The mere fact that 1988 is Australia's bicentennial year has brought forth a rash of proposals for, and interest in, change; yet support for Australia's current flag, which so readily identifies Australia's past and place in the world, is so strong that not even the Federal socialist Government appears prepared to support a change at this time.

Congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, on your election as Speaker of this House, and to your Deputy, the Chairman of Committees.

I wish to thank my friends and supporters in the Toowong electorate for their confidence in electing me as their member in this Parliament. I will, as I have over the last 10½ years as an alderman in the Brisbane City Council, strongly represent the interests of my constituents, expressing my views openly and forthrightly.

In an environment where Governments are steadily accumulating more powers, the freedom of the individual is constantly under threat. The founder of the Liberal Party, Sir Robert Menzies, once said—

“The real freedoms are to worship, to think, to speak, to choose, to be ambitious, to be independent, to be industrious, to acquire skill, to seek reward. These are the real freedoms for these are the essence of the nature of man”.

In today's society, to fully utilise and appreciate these freedoms, we must educate the individual, particularly the young person. Experience of life is no longer sufficient. In the Toowong electorate, which contains a number of leading schools and the University

of Queensland, education is considered of the utmost importance. I assure parents, students and teachers that I will continue, as I have in the past, to take a strong interest in education. If the people of Queensland are to prosper in the future, the youth of today must be educated.

One of the greatest assets our young people can be given is a full and proper education. Yet this State faces a tertiary education crisis. The shortage of tertiary places is of major concern in my electorate. Both State and Federal Governments must start immediately creating additional tertiary places.

How often does one see Queensland students scrambling for the small number of tertiary places only to find that even with a very high tertiary entrance score they fail to gain entry to their preferred course of study.

Although competition in itself is good, the continual cramming and pressure, and the complete lack of places has become a nightmare for young Queenslanders, yet in some parts of Australia tertiary places go unfilled.

The State Government should be striving to ensure that Queensland leads Australia with the highest number of tertiary places per head of population. Unfortunately, Queensland has 5 706 places per 100 000 population, the lowest in Australia. The Australian average is 7 678, while Canberra has 15 339 places per 100 000 population. This year 13 800 Queenslanders were unable to gain tertiary places, while thousands of others did not even bother to apply.

Failure to act will lead to young Queenslanders being unable to fill the skilled employment opportunities and ending up on the unemployment queues with young people from southern States taking these skilled jobs.

Of all the mainland States, Queensland already has the highest number of young people unemployed even though the latest figures available show that for the 12 months to 30 May 1986 there was a net migration of young Queenslanders to other States. In the 15 to 19-year-old bracket 800 more left the State than entered it, while in the 20 to 24-year-old bracket 2 600 more left the State than entered it.

Young people are flooding out of the State, not into it. This unemployment figure relating to our young people will certainly increase unless urgent action is taken. One solution the tertiary education crisis would be for the State and Federal Governments to co-operate and turn the Carseldine campus of the college of advanced education into another university.

The New South Wales and Federal Governments are already co-operating to build a new university in Sydney's western suburbs, yet Queensland's need is greater.

It is pleasing to observe that the majority of students on campus at the University of Queensland are becoming more supportive of the free-enterprise system and the freedom of choice, whereas 10 or 12 years ago the university was effectively a hotbed of socialism. No longer does one see radicals marching down Coronation Drive seeking to change the world. Instead, the majority of students at the University of Queensland are now conscientiously seeking higher academic results and better jobs.

It was Liberal Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies who introduced what is now known as "State Aid", that is Government funding for non-Government schools. I am strongly committed to the continuation of this funding as it allows families to have a choice of where to send their children and provides competition to the State school system. Further, it saves the Government huge sums in having to provide additional schools, teachers and general assistance. For example, in 1984-85 the average per capita grants for students in Government schools was \$2,737. However, non-Government schools received an average of only \$1,454 per student.

I can assure all parents and teachers that I will continue to press for maximum non-Government schools funding, which is continually being cut by the Federal socialist Government.

A free-enterprise system is the only economic system that will allow an individual to experience and enjoy real freedoms. A free-enterprise system does not mean the ownership or part ownership by Government of companies functioning in a competitive environment.

In November the people of Queensland were informed that the Queensland Government would put up \$7.5m for a 20 per cent share to assist in the development of a Hollywood-style studio at Cades County, just north of the Gold Coast. Subsequently it has been disclosed that the public subscription for shares is considerably oversubscribed, with many investors missing out. Why did the Government need to take a share in this venture, which could clearly have been left to private enterprise to fund? If the State Government was concerned about its gaining sufficient private capital, it could have participated as an underwriter, not an investor in competition with private enterprise.

The Port Douglas Qintex/Sheraton \$150m tourist resort development is yet another example, with the State Government's Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation holding millions of shares in the development company, Mirage Resorts Trust.

With the interest by private tourist-operators and promoters in new tourist projects, the question has to be asked: why does the Government need to own a percentage of these developments? It is not the role of government in a free-enterprise system to be investing large sums of people's taxes in various private-enterprise undertakings. Taxes should be reduced, or the funds spent on the provision of Government services.

Suncorp, the State Government owned and controlled insurance and investment corporation, with investments of more than \$1,345m, has a share-holding of more than \$50,000 in over 100 Queensland companies, with interests of about 20 per cent in companies such as Kern Corporation Ltd and Queensland Cement and Lime Company Ltd and well over 30 per cent ownership of the Bank of Queensland Ltd. In fact, it could be said that the State Government owns the main street of every town and city in Queensland. These are not the actions of a free-enterprise Government.

A Government committed to free enterprise would find a strong argument for selling off part or all of Suncorp to the public. This would allow tax-payers' funds to be spent on the provision of Government services for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Daily, one reads of Governments around the world selling to the public airlines, banks, telephone corporations, and so on—why not Suncorp? In Suncorp, not only does the Government have a State bank and State investment company, but also a State building society, a State insurance office and a merchant bank.

As part of a free-enterprise approach encouraging individual initiative and enterprise and allowing reward for effort, it is essential to cut red tape and to have less Government interference in the market-place. However, all Governments must ensure that they have strong anti-monopoly legislation and that safety and health requirements are observed at all times.

One of the fundamental requirements of Government in a free-enterprise society is a fair and open public tendering process whereby contracts are generally awarded to the lowest-priced tenderer conforming with the tender documents. In this manner both the tax-payer and the companies benefit, as it ensures that the tax-payer pays no more than necessary for the contract and it keeps companies efficient and competitive in the market-place if they are to be successful tenderers. Unfortunately, in recent times on too many occasions expressions of interest are called and the decisions made behind closed doors.

Smaller government is essential if people are to be allowed to make their own decisions and pay less tax. The abolition of at least one-third of Queensland's quangos and the cutting of red tape is essential if smaller government is to be achieved. A committee set up by the State Government to review Queensland's regulations has even recommended a cutting of this Government's sea of red tape.

The abolition of at least one-third of this State's quangos—which now total 1 052 and are increasing constantly—is essential. These largely appointed semi-government authorities and boards are a constant drain on the public purse with their ever-growing

staffs. Smaller government is something that has not been achieved in this State, although that is the perception that is fostered.

From December 1983 to September 1986 the figures show that Queensland increased its public service by 11.1 per cent. During the same period, the number of Commonwealth public servants increased by 5.2 per cent. In contrast, over the last 18 months, the Liberal Brisbane City Council has reduced the number of council employees by 800. Unfortunately, the record shows that this State Government is more committed to big government than the socialists in Canberra.

During that same period, this State Government also increased the number of State parliamentarians by seven and voted with the Labor Party to increase by six the number of aldermen in the Brisbane City Council.

In Canberra, National Party senators crossed the floor to vote with Labor and thus give Labor the numbers to increase the size of Federal Parliament by 36.

That meant 49 more politicians as a result of the actions of the National Party, at a cost to the tax-payer of more than \$11m.

All supporters of smaller government must be horrified at such action, as in no instance was there a need for more politicians.

Although I have time only to touch briefly on the issue of trade unions, I want to stress that trade-unionism in this State and in this country is in need of major reform.

Union membership should be made voluntary. The necessary legislation should be passed, and it should be made illegal to give preference to employing union-members, which occurs at present.

For example, in order to be employed in Queensland's public service employees are required to be union-members, and even Government contractors and sub-contractors must employ union labour.

Union-leaders who threaten to use muscle to have preference given to union-members should be liable to prosecution. It should be the fundamental right of an individual to have the choice of joining or not joining a union. For several years surveys have shown that voluntary unionism has been supported by more than 75 per cent of all Australians.

Restrictive work practices need to be outlawed. Unions and their bosses need to be made equal before the law and not allowed to continue operating above the law. Employers must be encouraged to take civil action against unions and their bosses when they hold their members, business and the general public to ransom.

The political activity of trade unions should be changed and union-members given the right to have a say in whether they wish to contribute to a political party. A trade union should only be allowed to engage in political activity if a majority of the members support such a move. Contributions for political activities should be placed in a separate fund for that purpose. Any individual member should have the right to opt out of paying political contributions without affecting his membership.

Pay-roll tax was introduced by the Commonwealth Government in 1941 as a tax to finance the larger part of the cost of the family endowment scheme. In 1971 it was transferred to the States as a growth tax.

Today, pay-roll tax is a tax on jobs; it is an iniquitous tax. At a time of such high unemployment, when the Government and the community should be fostering job-creation, there can be no justification for this tax. It no longer relates to child endowment, and is now purely a revenue-raising tax on jobs in this State. It is presently adding to the costs of many businesses and preventing them from employing thousands of unemployed Queenslanders.

At present, any employer who pays more than \$324,000 per annum in wages must pay pay-roll tax. I support strongly the immediate easing of the threshold to \$600,000. That would encourage business to immediately start employing more people.

On many occasions I have heard small-business operators say that they have to put off staff because of pay-roll tax. The incentive that the abolition of pay-roll tax over a long term would give to business would lead to many thousands of additional Queenslanders being employed. My goal is to have this iniquitous tax scrapped. Just think of the appeal this would have to thousands of businesses being crippled by pay-roll tax in other States.

Within the Toowong electorate a high demand exists for child-care facilities, as more women with children go into the work-force or, alternately, educate themselves. It is imperative therefore that adequate facilities be provided. Shortly I will be holding a meeting with community groups and interested individuals to discuss the need for additional facilities. From this meeting I would expect that it will be decided to form a community group to establish additional child-care facilities, within my electorate.

At a time of a growing crime rate there has never been a greater need for additional police, and the establishment of neighbourhood watch schemes, particularly in my electorate of Toowong. Other Australian States and overseas countries have already introduced the neighbourhood watch scheme with a degree of success. Reports suggest that the trial on the Gold Coast that commenced last July has been a success and that crime has decreased. Several neighbourhoods in the Toowong electorate are extremely keen to see this scheme introduced.

Queensland has the lowest number of police per head of population and, although the Queensland police force efficiently uses the resources that it has, a much better job could be done with increased police numbers. In 1986 Queensland had one policeman for every 525 people, while South Australia had one policeman for every 418 people. One of the top priorities in any democracy must be to provide a set of laws and an adequate police force. Queenslanders have the right to expect a police force of sufficient size and skill to protect the community.

Local government can truly be said to be that level of government closest to the people. While it certainly deals with basic issues such as roads, rates, and rubbish, today the community also expects local authorities to take a much wider view of the quality of life changes taking place around them. The community no longer takes it for granted that change is good for the residential character of the neighbourhood.

More and more society is turning to town-planning, with its checks and balances, to ensure that the standard of living in each neighbourhood is not diminished, but improved. When town-planning checks and balances are tampered with, the community, quite rightly, becomes alarmed.

Just over 12 months ago Queenslanders became concerned when the State Government decided that the courts would have the discretion to award costs against aggrieved residents in what are known as third party appeals before the Local Government Court. Prior to that, parties could have costs awarded against them only in frivolous and vexatious circumstances, and therefore were concerned only about their own costs. Many Queenslanders were able to conduct their own Local Government Court appeals at little or no cost to themselves, or if they did employ professional legal or planning advice they knew approximately what costs they would be up for at the outset. I have been involved in a number of these appeals. The system worked well. So why change it? The Government said that Queenslanders were making frivolous and vexatious appeals, and were delaying town-planning applications.

However, the changes mean that residents are now intimidated from protecting their homes or businesses by challenging in good faith the value of nearby developments. So what do we have now? Individuals, families, and small-business operators are too scared to take on the much richer speculators and big businesses because they are afraid of losing their life savings or, worse still, being added to Queensland's growing bankruptcy list.

Speculators and big businesses employ the best professional advice to argue before the Local Government Court or to delay their opponent's case. However, ordinary

Queenslanders, families and business-operators are once again being intimidated. This was an issue in the recent election in Toowong, as I strongly opposed these changes when they were brought in by the Government in January 1986. I will continue to fight for a return to the previous system that gave all Queenslanders a fair go.

More than ever, for architectural, cultural and historical reasons there is a keen interest to retain a certain number of buildings that are recognised as part of our heritage. Why should some individuals and companies be penalised simply because they own and wish to retain on a site a heritage building of one, two or even more levels? The erection of a multilevel building on the same site could give to the owners a much greater return on their investment.

If society requires retention of a small number of commercial buildings because of their heritage potential, the community should pay for that. This can be achieved through the limited use of transferable development rights and the relaxation of set-back and car-parking requirements. This greater flexibility would mean that the owner of a heritage building was not penalised and the community could contribute at no financial cost. It would discourage the destruction of fine buildings in the dead of the night and give incentive to property-owners to retain buildings as part of the State's heritage, adding much character to streets in towns and cities throughout the State.

In a State as large and as decentralised as Queensland, it is essential that we have a strong democratic system of local government free from interference at State level. As the Liberal Party's spokesman on local government, I will be taking a keen interest in this sphere of government.

The Brisbane City Council is playing a major role in promoting Brisbane as a major tourist and travel destination. The late Kevin Cairns, as the Liberal Federal member for Lilley, led the fight to gain Brisbane a new international airport. With the new runway nearing completion, the need for a new international terminal becomes more obvious, as Brisbane's tin shed is a disgrace to the travelling public. With Brisbane gaining more and more travellers and in particular becoming a more popular convention destination, with conventions such as the International Lions Convention in 1991, which is the world's largest convention of about 30 000 people, it is imperative that work start immediately on a new international terminal.

Road safety is another area of transport that must receive much greater emphasis. Young Queenslanders in particular need to be better educated on all aspects of road safety. That can be done through the school system. Only through the education of the young will the ever-increasing carnage on our roads be halted. Certainly the publicity associated with the recent RID trial has gone some way towards reducing the road toll. However, if the lives of many of our fellow-Queenslanders are to be saved, much more attention must be given to random breath-testing.

With the new Liberal Brisbane City Council elected almost two years ago, Brisbane has become a dynamic world city. Bread and butter issues have once again become the main areas of concern, while at the same time the council is vigorously promoting Brisbane as the sport and convention capital of the southern hemisphere. This is highlighted by the 1991 world Lions convention, which is the largest convention in the world.

As promised at the last council election, huge sums of money are being spent on the upgrading of roads, and that has already become apparent around the city. New sewerage mains are rapidly being laid to develop new areas and to attract people back to the city.

In the Liberal council's first year of office, almost \$20m was spent on completing the treatment plant at Mount Crosby, thereby ensuring that Brisbane had sufficient treated water. Recreational and cultural activities have been given a great boost by the council, and Brisbane's Year of the River has certainly attracted the enthusiasm of the community. All Queenslanders can justifiably feel proud of Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson and her Liberal council's achievements. I am proud to have served as Deputy

Mayor of Brisbane for 18 months prior to my election to this House when, under the City of Brisbane Act, I ceased to be an alderman of the Brisbane City Council.

Only if Government encourages an individual to enjoy and experience the real freedoms of life will the family, the basic unit of society as we know it today, survive and prosper.

It is vital that society establishes an economic environment that allows wealth to be produced by the majority of people, not just a select few; an environment that encourages the creation of wealth and not the redistribution of wealth from one section of the community to another. Only a free-enterprise system that encourages initiative and enterprise will allow all Queenslanders to fulfil their goals.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I call the honourable member for Tablelands to make his maiden speech to this Parliament.

**Mr GILMORE (Tablelands) (3.37 p.m.):** It is 30 years since my father stood in his place in this House to deliver his maiden speech. As he did in his turn, I now pledge my allegiance and that of my family and the people of the electorate of Tablelands to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, and to His Excellency the Governor.

I have very great pleasure in speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Opening Speech.

I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment to the high and honourable position of Speaker of this House. I hope and pray that, in that capacity, you will be as hard and as fair as is necessary to maintain the decorum and dignity befitting this place. I give you every assurance that I respect your position and am determined to co-operate in the restoration of this forum to its previously held position of high esteem within the community.

I express my innermost feelings at having been elected to represent my electorate. I feel the awe of the responsibility of Government and the history and dignity of this magnificent structure and all it stands for. No words can adequately express my feelings of respect for this institution. I pray that, in years to come, I will retain that respect for what it has become instead of nostalgia for what it might have been.

One of Australia's all-time great sportsmen and commentators, Alan McGilvray, on being selected to play representative cricket for the first time, was counselled by his father to "ensure that the game of cricket was the better for his having played it". He followed that counsel and what an ambassador for the game he became. I trust that I and all the members assembled in this Chamber will strive for that ideal, and that this place will be better for our having served in it. If all honourable members followed that counsel, what a truly great forum this place would be.

The population of the electorate of Tablelands is one of extraordinary ethnic and cultural diversity. People have come from the four corners of the earth to settle there, and to strive for a future which was not within their grasp in their homeland. With them they brought their culture, creed and religion, and now after one, two or in some cases three generations, have fused together into a strong and capable Australian community, while retaining the best of their diverse cultural heritage. Their contribution to the area has been remarkable and must not go unrecognised.

The electorate of Tablelands is the product of a redistribution that sought to bring equality of representation to the people of Queensland. Compared with other rural electorates, it is small—only about 12 000 square kilometres. I am fortunate to have inherited an electorate previously represented by two of the most productive and hard-working members of this House, the Honourable Martin Tenni, Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services and member for Barron River, and Max Menzel, member for Mulgrave, whose dedication and unreserved commitment to their electorates has seen the completion of much of the developmental work. Their contribution to the

well-being and future direction of my electorate has been extraordinary and cannot pass into history without the recognition they so duly deserve.

However, some areas still need to be addressed. In the far-western end of the electorate lies the old mining and smelting town of Chillagoe, which is enjoying something of a resurgence due mainly to the newly established Red Dome Gold Mine and to its magnificent marble, which is only now being recognised worldwide for its quality, colour range and lustre.

Chillagoe is also the site of those renowned limestone caves that one hears so much about. However, regrettably, the road to Chillagoe from Mareeba is a nightmare of dust, pot-holes, and rocks protruding through the surface of the road. Much has been done in the past few years, but much more must be done, and quickly, or that isolated western region may well miss out on the passing boom and never reach its full potential. The further development of that road to bitumen standard is a top priority, and I will pursue the matter further with the Minister for Main Roads in the near future.

The economy of the region is based on agriculture and mining. The region has a wide range of crops including maize, about one-third of Queensland's peanuts, two-thirds of Australia's tobacco, and others such as avocados, citrus, rice, coffee, mangoes, potatoes, pasture seed, cattle, dairying and exotic tropical fruits, to name a few.

Those industries are all susceptible to the vagaries of the weather, overproduction, insect attack and myriad other disasters, large and small, which beset primary industry from time to time.

Federal Government policy is squeezing primary industries out of existence. That is due to high interest rates, lack of support and a failure to recognise unfair competition both from Third World countries and from developed countries that support their rural industries with subsidies.

The tobacco industry, for 50 years the mainstay of the economy of the Mareeba/Dimbulah area and the very reason for the construction of the Tinaroo Dam, is now under pressure, not because of lack of demand for our product, which ranks with the best in the world, but because of the policy of the Federal Government, which insists that our industry becomes internationally competitive in a short time. The Federal Government has enlisted the aid of the Industries Assistance Commission, more properly known as the industry assassination commission, to ensure that that industry either competes or disappears.

The tobacco industry is required to become competitive against imports from such places as Zimbabwe, Brazil and Malawi, which produce a poor quality product using peasant labour, and with no capital outlay.

Our farmers pay fair wages to Australian workers, fuel prices that are inflated by Federal Government policy, and interest rates that are the highest in the world. They also face an inflation rate that is higher than any comparable economy.

But for all that the tobacco industry saves this country \$72m in foreign debt annually.

Can anyone in this Chamber understand the stupidity of a Federal Government that seeks to destroy a viable Australian industry? The industry cannot compete with imports because of the regulations and cost imposts that the Federal Government placed on it in the first place.

A sobering fact is that this packet of cigarettes that I am holding in my hand contains 6c worth of Australian leaf, 5c worth of imported leaf, and 83c Government revenue of one kind or another. If the Australian tobacco industry were to be liquidated, banished from the face of the earth overnight, the price of this packet of cigarettes would alter either 1c or, more likely, would not alter at all. The largest industry of my electorate would have been sold out not for that biblical 30 pieces of silver, but for one worthless cent.

The National Party Government of Queensland has never applied a tax to tobacco product and has been of tremendous support to Queensland's tobacco industry over the years. I go on record to thank the present Government for the help and understanding extended to the industry, which I trust will continue.

If our industry disappeared, Federal Government revenue would not alter by 1c, the consumption of tobacco in Australia would not alter by one kilogram; but Australia-wide 600 viable farmers would be lost, as well as innumerable small communities, sacrificed on some pagan altar of Federal Government policy, injustice, and stupidity.

Mr Speaker, Queensland already has the most efficient tobacco-producers in the world. They are innovative, hard-working, adaptable and effective. They have led the race in the development of such things as harvesting aids, bulk-curing and, indeed, mechanical harvesting. Their wives are working in the fields, as are their children, before and after school. They have reduced their costs to a minimum, but still the Federal Government demands more. They pay their dues; they are independent of direct Government subsidy; they build and employ, and strive for a better future; and still the Federal Government demands more. I ask you, Mr Speaker: what more can they give?

I ask this House for its support for their industry. I do not ask honourable members to espouse the virtues of the consumption of tobacco products. I ask only that while ever a single kilogram of tobacco product is consumed in this country, it should be Australian tobacco, and if ever tobacco product is no longer consumed, we will fold our tents and steal quietly into the night.

In the meantime, the search is on for more crops to grow in the area, such as coffee, tea, nuts and fruit. Although a considerable effort has been expended in the search for viable crops to supplement existing industries, much more must be done. Doubling and redoubling of research effort has been made into areas such as coffee and tea to establish not only whether these crops will grow, but also whether the plants will yield top quality product, particularly on the deep granite sands of the Tinaroo irrigation area. I have already made approaches to the Honourable Neville Harper, Minister for Primary Industries, in this regard.

The Walkamin Research Station is involved in exciting research and development work in the fish industry, and is already stocking streams and dams with fingerlings of black bream, silver bream, sleepy cod and of course, the magnificent jumping cod of northern streams, the barramundi. Its work has guaranteed that the Tinaroo Falls Dam is destined to become a major recreational fishing ground, and soon fishermen will be travelling great distances to fish for barramundi in its waters.

One of the major problems faced by small communities in my electorate is the continuing one of poor quality water. Throughout the year, these small communities suffer from water so contaminated as to be unfit for human consumption on occasions. With the onset of the seasonal rains, the level of turbidity rises to such a degree that washing with the water is futile, and consumption of it could be dangerous.

The towns of Kuranda and Chillagoe in the very near future must have access to funds such as those available under the Commonwealth COWSIP arrangements. I will be making submissions on this matter to the Honourable the Premier and Treasurer in the near future.

My electorate of Tablelands encompasses some of the most beautiful areas of this State, areas with unlimited tourist potential including portion of the Mareeba Shire and the entire Atherton Shire. There are wide areas of tropical rainforest, lakes and rivers, and views second to none. Recently, the four local shires have co-operated to form the Tableland tourist promotions bureau, which has been charged with responsibility for promotion of the area for tourism development.

This organisation has been singularly effective in the promotion of the Tableland area, which is set to become a serious alternative destination for domestic travellers. The tourist destination of Cairns is, of course—and will remain—the foremost attraction

in North Queensland for international tourism. But the hinterland regions, such as the Tableland, will play an expanding role in the international tourist trade and must not be ignored by regional tourism bodies. The role of the Tableland promotion bureau is to ensure the continued effective promotion of the region, both nationally and internationally, by our regional and State tourist promotion bureaux.

Ours is an exciting State, filled with great achievement and the promise of more, much more, to come. Our strength has been, and remains, our people. We are still the pioneers of a great land, not only in the sense of the pioneering of a wilderness, but also in the sense of the pioneering of new and exciting business ventures, new inventions and new ideas.

Need I remind this Chamber that this is the land of the Anzacs, a proud and strong people, capable of prodigious quantities of work and productivity. In this we have the potential to be second to none. All that is required is the proper incentive, and the people of this nation will grasp the reins of opportunity and our once great nation will bloom again.

Sadly, we are now so financially constrained by our beloved Federal Government's policies on interest rates that virtually no individual acting alone can now endeavour successfully in the field of pioneering research and development without help.

I believe that the Queensland Government could put in place a pioneer or sunrise industry development commission with its own budget allocation of venture funds with which to aid in the development phase of a new product or industry. Too many of our most inventive and visionary people are destroyed financially in their early development work, and the profits are left to the second or even third generation of companies or individuals involved. The injection of funds early in the piece would serve several purposes. Firstly, it would hasten the development of new industries to bolster our economy and improve employment opportunity, and, secondly, it would put the money in at the business end of a venture, instead of at the other end when the business, be it an industrial undertaking or a farm, is staggering financially.

Steps such as those must be taken to reduce our involvement in loans of last resort to prop up already doomed enterprises. The third positive benefit from this type of scheme is that the money would be lent at concessional rates, rising to commercial rates as the business grew, and the loan would be far more likely to be repaid than is the situation at present. I commend this concept to the House, and I will be pursuing the matter further at a later time.

The most exciting of all agrarian industries is that of forestry and reforestation. There has long been a sawmilling industry in my area, but because of the inevitable depletion of natural forest reserves and the reduction of mill quotas to a sustainable harvest yield, many jobs have been lost or are in jeopardy. Of course, the obvious answer is an increase in the reforestation effort in the area.

The Queensland Department of Forestry has developed a wide-ranging depth of knowledge of appropriate species, both native and exotic, and management techniques for the area. All that is required is the direction and the money for land acquisition. Much of the land really should not have been denuded of its natural forest. The planting of trees offers short-term gains in employment, aesthetics and reduction in land degradation and erosion and the long-term benefits of a renewable resource to maintain employment prospects for generations to come. I will spare no effort to accelerate reforestation programs in the electorate.

I understand that the recent Savage inquiry has prescribed for the abolition of commodity marketing boards in this State. Commodity marketing boards came into being in this State because for generations our primary producers had been subjected to unfair pricing by ruthless companies, uncaring for the well-being or otherwise of the farmers and their families.

Within my electorate I have several marketing boards. They came into existence by virtue of referendums, supported by a majority of growers in each particular industry. They can be dissolved in similar fashion.

I give notice to this House that, while the majority of farmers in an industry support these orderly marketing arrangements for their industry, I will support them without compromise. As a farmer of many years' standing and having been involved in industries both organised and otherwise, I understand the need for co-operation in marketing strategy. It is simply for the sake of survival. A prerequisite qualification for any person who recommends the dissolution of orderly marketing arrangements should be that he has previously made his living off the land.

In this speech I have alluded briefly to interest rates. I would like now to address this matter further. If I was asked to draft a scenario for the destruction of a democratic economy, I could not come up with a more devastatingly effective fiscal policy than the one currently being followed by the present Federal Government. Our economy, simply put, is in an ever-diminishing spiral from which it may never recover.

Because of the high cost of borrowing, and the low expectation of return, existing business is prohibited from expansion or even from the modernisation of plant. Because interest rates are so prohibitive as to make a venture into a farm or other business quite impossible, new business does not even come into consideration. Because of interest rates, business is not competitive. Therefore, it cannot modernise or expand. Because it cannot modernise or expand, it cannot compete. Until this lunatic regime of J-curves and discredited amateur socialist philosophy is destroyed, our country is doomed.

For Australia to return to those pre-socialist halcyon days, we must be allowed to invest, to trade, to work, and to build ourselves out of the hole we are in. To achieve this we must curb social spending, we must lower interest rates, lower taxes, increase incentive and get government out of the lives of ordinary citizens and businesses. If we do not, God help Australia!

The State recently tried a period of deregulated trading. The intention was to focus attention on anomalies within the current regulations on both trading hours and specific goods. Over a number of years the laws governing retail trading in this State had been flouted by progressively larger numbers of both large and small traders across the State, more particularly in the tourist regions south of Brisbane. There is no doubt that the exercise was successful in focusing attention on, and raising the level of awareness of traders and consumers alike to, the regulations.

I have convened several meetings in my electorate and have found to my dismay that there was a general lack of knowledge of the regulations. That has now been rectified to a degree. Having now been through the trial and having now looked at the existing regulations in some depth, the traders of my electorate universally reject any suggestion that sweeping change is required. There are already sufficient exempt stores of various kinds—which, I might add, have not been taking advantage of extended hours, even in areas such as the central business district of Cairns and even at the height of the tourist season. That gives the lie to the assertion that the tourist industry needs and demands an extension of trading hours and a relaxation of trading regulation.

I applaud the appointment of the committee of review and hope and trust that in its deliberations it takes into consideration the small-businessman, the family store and others, particularly in regions peripheral to large cities. I have no sympathy for the grasping cutthroat tactics of the chains such as Coles and Woolworths, whose single-minded ambition appears to be the total domination of Australian retailing. This drive for dominance by these retail giants is neither in the best interests of the State nor in the best interests of small regional towns and districts. I submit that fine tuning and ruthless policing of current legislation will be more than sufficient to ensure the continued existence and profitability of small business in our State, while offering wide scope to the aspirations of the large retail chains.

I thank those dedicated and hard-working members of the National Party who, by their single-minded dedication, have made it possible for me to represent in this Parliament the most beautiful part of Queensland.

I thank also my campaign committee, chaired by Tom Marks, my electorate council, chaired by Murray Whitehead, and all those other people who have worked so hard with no desire for reward other than to see the continuation of this so successful National Party Government.

Lastly, I pay tribute to my wife and children, who have been kind enough to recognise my ambition, foster it, and make its achievement possible.

We have a beautiful State. Queensland is the place of the future, and I am proud and honoured to represent part of it in this Chamber.

I offer my total commitment to the future well-being of my electorate and of my State.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. L. W. POWELL** (Isis—Leader of the House) (4.01 p.m.): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 10 March 1987.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.02 p.m.