

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 1987

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

ASSENT TO BILL**Appropriation Bill (No. 1)**

Mr SPEAKER: I have to report that on Tuesday, 11 August 1987, I presented to His Excellency the Governor Appropriation Bill 1987-1988 (No. 1) for the royal assent and that His Excellency was pleased, in my presence, to subscribe his assent thereto in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following Bills reported by Mr Speaker—

- Appropriation Bill (No. 1);
- Small Claims Tribunals Act Amendment Bill;
- Securities Industry (Application of Laws) Act Amendment Bill;
- Forestry Act Amendment Bill;
- Consumer Affairs Act Amendment Bill.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Bayside Bus Company Licence

From Mr Burns (77 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take action to review the licence to the Bayside bus company if adequate services cannot be provided in the Tingalpa district.

Patient Transit Scheme

From Mr Campbell (20 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will ensure the reinstatement of the previous level of benefit to recipients under the Patient Transit Scheme.

Support for Award System and Industrial Commission

From Mr Campbell (78 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will support the existing award system and the Industrial Commission.

Fire Levy Charges

From Mr Campbell (763 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will declare a moratorium on fire levy charges and establish a fair system.

Repeal of Integrated Resort Development Act

From Mr Beanland (302 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take action to repeal the Integrated Resort Development Act.

Similar petitions were received from Mr Campbell (13 signatories) and Mr Prest (395 signatories).

Repeal of Section of Land Act Amendment Act

From Mr Ardill (19 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will repeal that section of the Land Act Amendment Act 1987 which allows land to be leased in perpetuity for tourist development purposes.

Distribution from Australian Capital Territory of X-rated Videos

From Mr Casey (8 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will ensure control over distribution from the Australian Capital Territory of X-rated videos.

Petitions received.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS OF PUBLIC TO PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on the day on which Parliament last sat, there was a demonstration outside Parliament House which necessitated the Chief Parliamentary Attendant's having to close the gates to ensure security. The Chief Parliamentary Attendant acts through the authority of the Speaker.

Several members of Parliament moved out of the House during the sitting and conducted members of the demonstrating group, with their placards, through the gates and into the gallery of the Legislative Assembly.

I remind all honourable members of Standing Orders 328 and 329, which indicate that Mr Speaker only shall have the privilege of admitting strangers to the galleries of the House. There is no doubt that this power is necessary to ensure security for members in this Chamber and to ensure the dignity of the House.

In future instances when the gates are closed by the Chief Parliamentary Attendant acting under my authority, entry through the gates will be at the discretion of the Chief Parliamentary Attendant. During these times, constituents who approach the annexe in the normal manner will have access to members of Parliament in the facilities which are provided.

ADMISSION OF GUESTS TO MEMBERS' READING ROOM; READING OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES IN CHAMBER

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have recently made the decision that the reading room, B23, will be open at all times. This room is one of the most magnificent examples of the recent refurbishing and should be available for viewing by official guests.

However, during a parliamentary sitting it is only available to members of Parliament for use as a reading room, and guests must not be taken into the room. Newspapers and magazines will be available for general reading in that room. Newspapers will also be available in the lobby outside this Chamber.

Because these facilities are available so close to the Chamber, and for other reasons of etiquette, I am not prepared to allow the general reading of newspapers and magazines by members when they are sitting in this Chamber.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coal Sales to Romania; Cape York Spaceport

Hon. Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier and Treasurer) (10.06 a.m.), by leave: As honourable members would be aware, I recently travelled overseas, the main purpose of my trip being to initiate discussions in relation to future coal exports to Romania. I was accompanied by the Under Treasurer, Sir Leo Hielscher, and the Co-ordinator General of the Premier's Department, Sir Sydney Schubert.

During the course of my discussions, preliminary arrangements were made for an initial 2 million tonnes of Queensland coking coal to be supplied through the Romanian

port of Constanta. The Romanian Government will be sending a team of officials to Queensland in the next few weeks to complete the deal.

It is hoped that these arrangements will lead very quickly to a long-term contract of up to 3 million tonnes and more per annum of Queensland coal, mainly for the Romanian steelworks.

The Romanians have recently completed a 64-kilometre canal from the Danube to the Black Sea, an outstanding engineering achievement which shortens by 450 kilometres the distance which shipping would normally take through the Danube delta. The use of the canal will open up for easier trade access all the Balkan countries of Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Austria and Czechoslovakia. If successful, the concept could lead to the export of 10 million tonnes and more per annum of Queensland coal into those countries.

Together with my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Mines and Energy, I intend to hold discussions immediately with appropriate Queensland coal-producers to determine who are interested in the new orders.

The proposal is for a barter arrangement, with Romania paying in part for the coal with oil, fertiliser, steel, machines, etc. These Romanian products can be sold anywhere in the world and need not necessarily be imported into Queensland. Coal-exporters will need to set up a trading arrangement, probably with a third-party trading company.

Overall, although it is still reasonably early days, I believe it is very clear that the trip has been a major success. We have taken advantage of the new Romanian canal, recognised markets that this project opens up and have been first in with the promotion of Queensland exports to the potential benefit of our whole State economy and the State generally. I am most excited about the future prospects in this new market for our State's huge coal resources.

I would also mention that, whilst overseas, I took the opportunity to visit London and Geneva. In London I met with British Aerospace and the British National Space Centre for discussions on the latest developments in space technology. Both organisations were aware of the Cape York spaceport proposal and its potential for development and were very supportive and, indeed, very interested.

On the matter of privatisation—Sir Sydney Schubert and Sir Leo Hielscher had discussions with officials of the British Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, about areas and activities in which they have become involved relating to privatisation on the part of the Government. It is very interesting. Of course, this Government intends to pursue that direction also.

In Geneva I held discussions with Swiss bankers. In addition to dealing with Queensland's overseas banking business for the coming year, discussions ranged widely over the Queensland economic scene. One of the largest Swiss banks will be holding a large financial conference in Queensland during Expo in 1988, and intends to bring a group of very important Swiss businessmen to Queensland for that conference for the purpose of seeing what investments they can make.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table—

Proclamation under the Forestry Act 1959-1984

Orders in Council under—

Explosives Act 1952-1981

Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act 1958-1984 and the Statutory Bodies
Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1984

Water Act 1926-1987 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act
1982-1984

Water Act 1926-1987

Harbours Act 1955-1982
Forestry Act 1959-1984
Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976-1984

Regulations under—

Coal Industry (Control) Act 1948-1978
Explosives Act 1952-1981
Gas Act 1965-1985
Mining Act 1968-1986
Mining Fossicking Act 1985
Petroleum Act 1923-1986
River Improvement Trust Act 1940-1985
Water Act 1926-1987
By-law under the Harbours Act 1955-1982.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Employment of Staff at Overlander Homestead Motel, Roma

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Peak Downs—Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs) (10.13 a.m.), by leave: A great deal of publicity has been given to the employment conditions of staff at the Overlander Homestead Motel in Roma. I wish to inform the House of the current and true position with regard to this matter.

In answering a question in this House on 6 August 1987, I stated that the Trades and Labor Council of Queensland had sought great publicity for its allegations regarding the employment of 15-year-old Sonya Outen at that motel. The allegations referred to an employment contract given to Miss Outen, which allegedly applied to her predecessor.

By implication and innuendo, the TLC secretary, Mr Dempsey, is quoted as saying, "This is the sort of contract that will proliferate if the State Government's contract legislation is introduced." I told the House then, and I repeat it now, that, if a contract of the nature alleged were to be entered into under the voluntary employment contracts legislation, which is now before this House, it would be illegal. On the day on which I answered the question in this House, Miss Outen completed a statement and lodged a complaint with the district industrial inspector at Roma against the owner of the motel, Jural No. 19 Pty Ltd.

As a result, the district industrial inspector has carried out investigations, and arrears of wages totalling \$2,432.37 on behalf of eight past employees of the company have been paid to the district industrial inspector. A further \$1,319.29 has been paid to two current employees. A complaint by another former employee is still under investigation.

In respect of Miss Outen, who worked from 4 April 1987 to 24 July 1987, the company has paid to the district industrial inspector, Roma, an amount of \$121.15, this being an adjustment of wages due and holiday pay for the first four weeks of that period. The gross amount payable was \$151.35, from which the company had deducted income tax. The company has refused to make any further payment to her and it disputes her claims.

Yesterday, the district industrial inspector at Roma lodged a complaint and summons with the Clerk of the Court, Roma, against Jural No. 19 Pty Ltd, trading as the Overlander Homestead Motel, Warrego Highway, Roma, alleging the following breaches—

- (a) it failed to pay Sonya Maree Outen wages assessed due at \$1,542.75;
- (b) it failed to pay Sonya Maree Outen holiday pay assessed due at \$135.47.

A further complaint which was lodged with the Clerk of the Court against this company alleges that it failed to keep and have available for inspection proper time and

wage records. Another complaint alleging failure to provide details of weekly pay will be lodged this week. The matter is now one for resolution by the Industrial Magistrates Court, Roma.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cairncross Dock Yard

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services) (10.16 a.m.), by leave: In recent days the Opposition spokesman on Maritime Services, Mr Bill D'Arcy, in an attempt to discredit the State Government's decision to close the Cairncross Dock Yard, has put together the greatest collection of half-truths and humbug that I have seen for several years.

The claims of gross mismanagement and neglect provide a fascinating insight into just what an economic shambles the ALP would make if ever given the chance of running this State's economy. Instead of accepting economic realities, no matter how unpalatable, the ALP would, as a solution, throw away millions of dollars in tax-payers' money to keep this unprofitable dock yard afloat. To prove the point, it has made much of rushing straight to the Federal Government to bail out Cairncross, which has been losing about a million dollars a year for most years since 1976.

Over the last 22 years, the dock yard has serviced only three Australian navy ships. Four Australian National Line vessels and eight smaller Commonwealth lighthouse vessels have been serviced over the last five years. If the Queensland ALP had been sincere about keeping this yard open, the least it could have done was to encourage Canberra, years ago, to put even more Commonwealth work our way. Equally, the State ALP could have bitten the bullet and talked some sense into its union mates at Cairncross, who have driven away customers by their excessive work practices and record of low productivity.

Although I am sure that every man at the dock—and I refer to some 110 permanent staff employed by the authority and contractors, not Mr D'Arcy's phantom force of 3 000 employees—has now seen the error of his ways, the damage has been done. I do not like to see any family man put out of a job, but no responsible manager—and the Port of Brisbane Authority certainly falls into that category—could continue to subsidise the inefficient work practices and rorts of the unions. These work practices have been assessed as costing the Port of Brisbane Authority almost \$1m a year.

I seek leave to table with this statement a sample of these rorts, which are a shocking indictment of union greed and manipulation.

Leave granted.

Mr TENNI: I am well aware that Mr D'Arcy is trying to make much of a letter written by Maritime Engineering Pty Ltd of Bulimba on 7 August to the Chairman of the Port of Brisbane Authority, Mr Max Hodges. This dishonest and misleading letter, which I will table, makes a number of gross distortions, which I will now answer.

Firstly, the Port of Brisbane Authority bent over backwards last year to ensure that all eight submissions received for the proposed joint-venture operation of the yard with private enterprise were fairly appraised. The authority interviewed Maritime Engineering on at least two occasions, and it was obvious that that company was not prepared to commit immediately any capital to the future operation of Cairncross. Until this highly politically motivated letter surfaced, Maritime Engineering had not advised the authority that it had any concern that its proposal had not been dealt with fairly.

The second allegation concerns the competency of the Brisbane firm of engineering consultants, Macdonald Wagner, to report on the condition of the dock caisson. The company acted in a thoroughly professional and competent manner as experienced consultant engineers in reporting on the condition of the caisson, which requires almost

\$2m for repairs or replacement. For Maritime Engineering to suggest that Macdonald Wagner has been used as a "pawn in a political piece of opportunism" is utter rubbish.

The facts are that the Port of Brisbane Authority faced the totally unattractive prospect of spending an estimated \$6m to meet long-standing maintenance commitments and to upgrade the technology of a yard which has lost \$11.8m since December 1976.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr TENNI: Yes, it hurts. You cop it.

It is also a fact that the dock yard has been a casualty of a worldwide decline in docking orders, aggravated by low productivity and high labour costs.

The third allegation concerns the claim by Maritime Engineering that it had offered on more than one occasion to operate the dock yard on a profitable basis. The company's very helpful suggestion last year to overcome inefficiency was to recommend closing down the dock for three months to allow the renegotiation of the current work practices.

Maritime Engineering could hardly be called an expert in the field of industrial labour. It has not been an employer of Painters and Dockers Union labour and could not tell the authority exactly how it intended to deal with all the issues involved in the work practices.

The greatest and most inaccurate distortion of all has been the claim made by Mr D'Arcy and Maritime Engineering that the dock yard has not been marketed or promoted successfully. It is a little late in the day for Maritime Engineering to blame the Port of Brisbane Authority for the failure to attract orders. Each and every contractor working at the yard, including Maritime Engineering, shared the responsibility for marketing Cairncross. It should be pointed out that the contractors had the best of both worlds—the opportunity to sell their highly profitable engineering services but none of the responsibility to service the debts faced by the yard.

The last and most ridiculous claim is that the dock yard lands are to be sold off for real estate development. I have made it very clear that expressions of interest will be called on the following bases: (1) to maintain the present dock yard; (2) to attract an alternative maritime industry which can utilise part or all of the yard; or (3) to attract an alternative industry which requires a waterfront location. It is my strongly held view that only a maritime-orientated industry should be allowed on the site.

Over the last 10 years, the Port of Brisbane Authority has more than demonstrated its considerable ability to manage this port with the massive relocation of Brisbane's port operations from the Brisbane River to Fisherman Islands, a project which costs more than \$200m. I have every confidence that the authority will again do the best by the tax-payers of this State and fully utilise the Cairncross site to ensure that a more viable industry is established there. The authority is also doing its best to continue providing work for as long as possible for the 57 permanent staff it employs, with outstanding bookings for the use of the slipway and workshop jobs at Cairncross. Those men who cannot be effectively and productively absorbed within the authority's workforce will, of course, receive their full and just entitlement when they are retrenched.

The documents I table are very interesting. I suggest that all members get a copy of the documents because some of the work practices that have been instigated, which are in black and white, are the most shocking indictment on any union that has been seen in the life-time of this country. I would also like the documents incorporated in *Hansard*.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following documents—

**BARRIERS TO EFFICIENCY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS AT THE
CAIRNCROSS DOCKYARD**

1. The Painters and Dockers Union refuses to agree to the employment of its members on a permanent basis in the numbers required by the Employer. Casual employment is costly because of the 27% casual loading applying under the Award. This policy by the Union is imposed almost exclusively on Employers in the Port of Brisbane.

2. The Painters and Dockers Union in June, 1978 imposed weekly re-rostering of its members on the Employers in the Port of Brisbane and it continues to apply. This practice imposes very significant costs on the Port of Brisbane Authority, costs which are not experienced by Docking competitors in other ports of Australia. The weekly re-rostering forces Employers to accept both competent and incompetent labour and can and does result in costly interruption and poor productivity. Because of the nature of the work performed the weekly re-rostering has also significantly increased costs associated with the supply of safety and protective equipment.

Again this re-rostering of members is not imposed on any other ship repair Employer in Australia.

3. Painters and Dockers have historically and currently refused to work in light rain or to be re-located in dry working areas.

4. Painters and Dockers cease painting operations thirty minutes before walking and washing time at the cessation of the days work to clean out the paint machines, an operation which takes ten minutes.

5. Unless all Painters and Dockers hands are required for overtime, Painters and Dockers refuse to work on a mixed function as is the practice during the ordinary days work. This means that a Painter and Docker who is working overtime on spray painting and all painting work is completed, the Painter and Docker will not carry out any other work which might be available.

6. Painters and Dockers demand that a 'Dogman' be employed on all fork lift operations irrespective of the type of work being undertaken. This demand is not the practice in any other industry and is not a requirement of any legislation.

7. Painters and Dockers demand an additional paid crib break of ten minutes plus walking and washing time after two hours of overtime.

8. Stage towers or platforms (mobile—fitted with castor-type wheels) can only be moved by Painter and Docker labour. If metal trades are working on a propeller (this work does not involve Painter and Docker labour) using a mobile stage and it is required to move the stage, metal trade employees cannot move the stage. This is particularly costly during overtime hours in that Painter and Docker labour must be retained in order to move the staging even though it may only be moved once in four hours.

9. Notwithstanding that the Painter and Docker labour working in the dock during the overtime period could be transferred for berthing or unberthing operations, Painters and Dockers demand that additional labour be hired for such operations.

10. Painters and Dockers have historically placed restrictions on the transfer of labour from the Dockyard complex to any other working site where dockyard work may be carried out.

11. Overtime is strictly rostered in the metal trade area. The employee who happens to be working on a specific job during the day may find that, because of his place on the roster, he is not working during the overtime period. This restriction is counterproductive and can and has resulted in costly errors being made.

12. Port of Brisbane Authority crane drivers reserve the right to operate the maintenance hoist in the 30 and 50 ton cranes. This situation demands that a crane driver be present when a fitter is carrying out maintenance to operate a push button control hoist (5 ton capacity) which does not require a qualified driver to operate.

13. Shipwrights demand to always work in pairs. This practice in almost all situations doubles the cost of minor jobs which could be carried out by one man only. Shipwrights can be brought in on overtime on a Sunday to remove a docking plug or plugs (a plug takes a maximum of 15 minutes to remove) for which each of the two shipwrights are paid a four (4) hour minimum at double time.

14. Shipwrights impose restrictions on the amount of overtime to be worked in a week. Unless all Shipwrights on the Port Roster are employed, shipwrights will only work eight (8) hours overtime per week. This can mean for work of an urgent nature which must be completed involving overtime an additional shipwright/s would have to be employed from the roster.

15. Port of Brisbane Authority Leading Hands demand and are *non-working* leading hands. This situation is quite contrary to industry generally.

16. F.I.A. members impose restrictions on the driving of all dockyard trucks. This could mean when a foreman is transferring men to a job either inside or outside the dockyard premises in for example a dual cab utility, an F.I.A. employee must drive the utility even though he may not be involved in the work to be carried out.

17. F.I.A. members reserve the right to provide all First Aid Attendants. The Port of Brisbane Authority is forced to supply first aid men in excess of the requirements as laid down in Queensland State legislation. This situation was forced on dockyard management after a long and bitter strike in the early 1970's. Under the Construction and Safety Act, the Dockyard is designated as a *Construction Site* yet the first aid facilities and first aid attendants operating in the facilities are far in excess of those operating in any conventional construction site.

18. F.I.A. members demand the right to operate the fuelling pump when crane drivers are fuelling cranes and other plant. This can mean that the crane driver has to locate an F.I.A. member, normally the Storeman, before he can start fuelling.

19. Crane Drivers impose restrictions on their mobility between various items of plant in the overtime hours. This can result in overmanning or work not being done.

20. Restrictions are imposed on the working arrangements of the Port of Brisbane Authority Leading Hand Crane Driver during ordinary hours whereby he is not allowed to drive a crane unless there is a shortage of crane drivers due to whatever reason. Crane Drivers in the overtime situation demand that a Leading Hand be employed when three or more Crane Drivers are working. This is not an Award requirement.

21. Port of Brisbane Authority Electricians reserve the right to change light bulbs 240V, 110V, and 32V, AC/110V D.C. and to plug in equipment. This is especially costly in the overtime situation.

MARITIME ENGINEERING PTY. LTD.

Marine and General Engineers—Gladstone and Brisbane

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Telex 145 104 Tekmar, Fax 07 399 6164

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Rochem Marine Chemicals
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A/Hrs 72 2994, 72 5949
Fax 079 72 2366

7th August, 1987

Port of Brisbane Authority
AMP Place,
10 Eagle St.,
Brisbane Q 4000

Attn: Mr. Max Hodges

Dear Sir,

Re: Cairncross Dockyard

I am instructed by the Directors of this Company to write to you this day in response to the alarming reports that have recently appeared in our local press. Specifically, I refer to rumours of the impending closure of the Port of Brisbane Authority's Cairncross Dockyard.

As you are aware, this Company has for some considerable time attempted to hold meaningful discussions with the Authority as to the future operations of the dockyard. Those discussions have been thwarted on more than one occasion by firstly, the Authority's arbitrary decision to deal with another organisation and secondly thereafter its equally arbitrary decision to do away with the programme put forward by them. At this point in time it appears that the expressions of interest put forward by this company are not to be dealt with at all. It now appears that the real reason for calling for these so called expressions of interest has been merely as a blind to disguise the Authority's true attitude.

It is evident that the Authority intends not to spend any more money on the dockyard and to close the facility down. We understand that a recent report has been prepared by a firm of Engineering Consultants, Messrs Macdonald Wagner and Priddle to report on the condition of the caisson. This firm is not known to this organisation as being specialist marine engineers. It appears however from their report that the caisson is in need of an expenditure of approximately \$2,000,000.00 to restore it to its original condition.

Whilst that figure may not be completely erroneous it should be pointed out clearly and one hopes that it is in the report that for the dockyard caisson to be made serviceable, (that is to enable the operation of the dockyard to continue safely and without risk to personnel for a period of the next 5 to 10 years), a considerably smaller expenditure than that is required. It should be remembered that the caisson was built in the late 1940's and since that time despite the fact that proper routine maintenance has been neglected, the caisson has never had a failure of even a minor nature. This firm is able and indeed prepared, not only to give a further report on the condition of the caisson but has the expertise to carry out any necessary repairs, should it be so contracted.

It appears quite apparent also from the press reports and from the statements made by the Chairman that the true import of the closure of the dockyard has been completely overlooked. Figures of 120 employees being directly affected are of course quite completely inaccurate. The true situation, (this has been derived from a report prepared by the Ship Repair Group), shows that approximately 3000 jobs will be lost through direct and indirect consequences. In this day and age, those ramifications can hardly be overlooked for the expenditure of figures substantially less than those quoted by the Chairman.

It ought not to be forgotten that although the dockyard has accrued substantial debts over a long period of time, it is none the less a State Government facility which has cost the taxpayers a great deal of money in its construction in the first instance. The fact that poor management has allowed the debt to escalate over recent years is not, it is submitted, of consequence at the present time. This company has gone on record on more than one occasion as offering to operate the dockyard or at least advise on how management can be improved so that the dockyard can henceforth operate on a profitable basis. Despite all of those arguments which have been ignored, it is still a National facility which is required to be available in times of emergency distress or the necessity for conservation and as such even though it may be producing a negative cash flow it is still a facility vital to the State of Queensland. One can only imagine the dire consequences, should, for example, an oil tanker be holed and leaking crude oil onto our foreshores and natural reef and there be no dockyard facility available within 1000 miles to ensure its speedy and prompt repair and the preservation of our heritage.

It is commonly known and accepted throughout the marine and engineering services industry that the dockyard has not been marketed or promoted successfully or at all in recent years. With the devaluation of the Australian dollar, many ship repairs are now considered viable in Australia. The Australian Shipping Fleet badly needs an alternative and viable dockyard for its own repairs and the proof of the Cairncross dockyard viability can be seen in the absence of days lost through strikes over the last 3 to 4 years.

Unions are now prepared to co-operate. The lack of shipping available to our dockyard comes through poor management at the yard itself, all of which can be remedied if proper expertise is employed and bad work practices struck out.

The problems facing the dockyard are exacerbated by rumours that the dockyard lands are to be sold off to entrepreneurs in the area for real estate development. Whilst this organisation has no objection to surplus lands being disposed of, it is without a doubt an absolute misuse and abuse of government powers and authorities vested by the people of Queensland to close a facility of this nature. The Port of Brisbane Authority has, as its duty, the responsibility to manage and control all the harbour works pertaining to the port. The abdication of this responsibility will not be tolerated.

It seems that the conclusion is inevitable that Macdonald Wagner & Priddle have been used as a pawn in a political piece of opportunism. Their inexperience in the field has resulted in an ultra conservative report being produced which in turn has been used as the catalyst required by the Port of Brisbane Authority to close the books on its inability to make the dockyard run profitably. This in turn is a further example of the typical Queensland Government attitude that has prevailed lately that assistance will only be granted in areas that clearly and unequivocally support the National Party policies.

The dockyard, as everyone is aware, is on Crown Lands and it appears that help in the form of Federal Government intervention may be necessary. It ought not ever to be forgotten that the dockyard is first and foremost a national asset and one that is imperative to this country in times of defence as well as the more usual peacetime uses.

In closing, I would like to say that the directors of this company would again welcome the opportunity of discussing this issue with the officers concerned. A copy of the report by your consulting engineers ought to be made available to use for our perusal and examination and further detail as to the ramifications of such an action ought to be made properly public. In the event that these matters are not properly aired and a balanced decision reached, then we shall take such further action as we may be advised.

We look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,

Maritime Engineering Pty Ltd

B. T. DOHERTY—Director

- c.c. Mr Tenni, Maritime Services Minister
 c.c. Mr Darcy, Opposition Member for Maritime Services
 c.c. Mr R. T. McLean, MP
 c.c. Mr B. C. Humphreys, MP
 c.c. Mr S. Taylor, Peters Ship Repair

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr D'ARCY (Woodridge) (10.23 a.m.): In view of the statements made by the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services, I seek leave to move a motion without notice to debate immediately the closure of Cairncross.

Question—That leave be granted—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 26

Ardill
 Braddy
 Burns
 Campbell
 Casey
 Comben
 D'Arcy
 De Lacy
 Gibbs, R. J.
 Goss
 Hamill
 McElligott
 Mackenroth
 McLean
 Milliner
 Palaszczuk
 Shaw
 Smith
 Smyth
 Vaughan
 Warburton
 Warner
 Wells
 Yewdale

Tellers:
 Davis
 Prest

NOES, 57

Ahern Lane
 Alison Lee
 Austin Lester
 Beanland Lickiss
 Beard McCauley
 Berghofer McKechnie
 Bjelke-Petersen McPhie
 Booth Menzel
 Borbidge Muntz
 Burreket Neal
 Chapman Nelson
 Clauson Newton
 Cooper Powell
 Elliott Randell
 Fraser Row
 Gately Schuntner
 Gibbs, I. J. Sherlock
 Gilmore Sherrin
 Glasson Simpson
 Gunn Slack
 Harper Stephan
 Harvey Stoneman
 Henderson Tenni
 Hinton Veivers
 Hinze White
 Hobbs
 Hynd
 Innes
 Katter
 Knox

Tellers:
 Littleproud
 FitzGerald

Resolved in the negative.

QUESTION UPON NOTICE

Award Cuts for TAFE Teachers

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—

“Has he read the article in *The Courier-Mail* of 6 August entitled ‘Teachers of TAFE fear award cuts’ and, if so, are such cuts planned?”

Mr POWELL: I read the article and greatly admired its author’s creativity. Observers of the Australian scene could not have escaped noticing the industrial unrest generated amongst TAFE teachers in some other Australian States in recent times. South Australia, notably, has moved to change the award conditions of TAFE teachers, but in Queensland no move along these lines is necessary.

I support the document over Mr Hird’s signature, in which teachers in the Technical Correspondence School are urged to examine their roles in education. All teachers, whether they be in correspondence or in class rooms, from time to time need to be urged to re-examine their roles in education.

At no time could any reasonable person be under the misapprehension that the document was anything but an internal professional paper. What is happening at the Technical Correspondence School is an exchange between some teachers at that school and others in oral teaching positions in other TAFE colleges. Each teacher has an opportunity to make a decision on whether to seek a position in oral teaching or to remain in the external studies field. The program is in fact teacher-initiated; to construe it as heralding award cuts for TAFE teachers or having some vague links with the SEQEB workers is pure fantasy.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Romanian Coal Deal

Mr Warburton: In directing a question to the Premier and Treasurer, I refer to his comments this morning in a ministerial statement about his recent trip to communist Romania and plans for a barter deal for Queensland coal. I ask: will the deal be handled by a Hong Kong company, Burwill International, established by Mr Lang Hancock? If so, exactly how will Queensland benefit from a barter deal in which Romanian goods exchanged for Queensland coal are sold through that particular company? In addition, will the Hong Kong consortium be liable for reimbursement to Queensland coal companies or the State Government if bartered Romanian goods cannot be sold profitably on the world market? In other words, if the consortium defaults, will the Queensland coal-suppliers or the Queensland tax-payers have to carry the financial liability?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: As I have indicated to the media a number of times, the Queensland Government will have nothing to do with the contract, as it were, and no responsibility in relation to it. That will be between private companies and—

Mr Warburton: Lang Hancock companies?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Private companies. The coal companies will make the deal with the Romanian Government. Those companies will have the responsibility of negotiating terms and conditions and of deciding where the goods will be sold.

Mr Warburton: Like Utah does now?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: That is exactly right. That company is doing it now.

Romania has no unloading facilities, apart from a very small one that takes at least a month to unload a ship. However, in the very near future a much larger facility that

will unload a quarter-million-tonne ship in two days will be built. That is the sort of facility that is required to enable coal to be sold on a profitable basis.

People very close to the President, whom I have met, will come to Australia to talk with companies. Together with the Minister responsible, I will be talking further with the coal companies here who are interested. A number of coal companies have already informed me that they would like to be involved in the first 2 or 3 million tonnes. Before I left Romania I was told that they would sign a contract there and then, on the spot. I said, "Before we sign a contract, let's talk to the companies out in Australia." I was told that it might be 3 million tonnes, but perhaps 2 million tonnes, to start, with that amount increasing every year. That leads up to all the other countries that I mentioned, right up the Danube.

A number of countries want to buy not only iron ore but also coal. This State has a tremendous opportunity as the first to offer coal. As the Leader of the Opposition said, Utah has been doing a little for a number of years. The opportunity is there for the company that has the initiative. However, it has nothing to do with the Government. The companies will make their own deal and take the responsibility ultimately.

Availability of Condoms

Mr WARBURTON: In directing a further question to the Premier and Treasurer, I refer to Archbishop Sir John Grindrod's recent statement on the AIDS issue, in which he said that, if it is judged that the general population is being put at risk because such things as condoms are difficult to obtain, it would seem the right course of action, on the grounds of public health, to increase the availability of condoms, if necessary. As that statement is supported by the majority of Queenslanders, I ask the Premier why he continues to procrastinate, thereby putting public health at risk. In addition, why do the Premier and his Cabinet supporters pursue such a hypocritical and illogical attitude about condom vending machines in authorised places when any person, including very young customers, can purchase condoms off the shelf at Woolworths retail stores and at any K mart check-out counter?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Leader of the Opposition states that condoms are readily available everywhere, so what is the argument about? Archbishop Sir John Grindrod's letter contains his personal opinion. I could show members many letters from other church-leaders who hold the entirely opposite view and are very, very definite about it.

The Leader of the Opposition asked about health. In the other States that are using this procedure, condoms are available in schools to all young children, thereby giving the blessing of those Governments to their use. The other States have greater problems than Queensland in regard to AIDS. If it is a matter of health, then every single school, university, college and high school must have condom vending machines. If the argument for condom vending machines is based on health and protection, then every church school and college should have them. There is a demand, not only in universities but also in different schools, for permission to install these machines. These are moral issues on which I personally feel very strongly.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You don't have to shove it down other people's throats if you feel that strongly about it.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am not doing that. As the honourable member knows, condoms are readily available in different areas. All I will say is that personally—

Mr R. J. Gibbs: They ought to dress you up in one.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: If honourable members opposite will quieten down, I wish to emphasise that point. Does a Government proceed down a path like this—

Mr Warburton: Why be hypocritical?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am not being hypocritical. I will always be personally opposed to them. What the Government does afterwards is its business, but I will always take the lead and state that once one goes down this track and gives blessing or recognition——

Mr Warburton: It's a bit like massage parlours and illegal gambling.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: It amazes me how the Labor Party always wants to get involved in these moral areas.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. I believe that the Premier has completed his answer.

Proposed World Heritage Listing of North Queensland Rainforest Areas

Mr FITZGERALD: I ask the Premier and Treasurer: what are the ramifications for Queensland of the proposal by the Hawke Federal Labor Government to have vast tracts of north Queensland declared on the World Heritage listing?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: This is a much more important and serious question than all these other arguments in regard to this area in which the Liberal and Labor Parties are particularly interested and supportive. I was going to conclude by reiterating that I personally will always oppose them. Whatever the party does is its own business, but I will oppose it. My word I will oppose it.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: I rise to a point of order. I understood the Honourable the Premier to indicate that the Liberal Party supports this proposal put forward by the Labor Party. I wish to put on record that the Liberal Party does not support that proposal.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: I withdraw it, in recognition of the statement made by the Leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The point of order is noted. The Premier will answer the question from the honourable member for Lockyer.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: That was what I was about to do.

Today Queensland has a very, very serious problem. The Government in Canberra is about to remove and destroy the rights, freedom, opportunity and life-style of thousands of people living in north Queensland. It will destroy the homes and lives, not only of the men, but also of the women and children by taking their livelihood from them and completely annihilating them.

On Thursday evening I am going to Cairns, and will be addressing public meetings there on Friday. This Government will make things very uncomfortable for all Labor members in north Queensland. The timber merchants and sawmillers were in Brisbane yesterday and I told them that what they should do to the Labor Party and some of the members of the Opposition in this House is make their lives uncomfortable by meeting them at the airport or waking them up at home at 6 o'clock in the morning and saying to them, "If you are going to take away our livelihood, we will remove you from office at the next election."

Mr Burns: How many members did you lose at the last Federal election as a result of your stand?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is a matter of what the honourable member will lose at the next election.

The Queensland Government will take a very strong and very positive stand on this whole issue of the Federal Government destroying the livelihood and the life-style

of people in north Queensland. As far as Canberra's intervention and interference in Queensland's activities is concerned, this is only the tip of the iceberg. I will have a lot more to say about that later.

Every Labor member of this House and every Federal Labor senator will have a very anxious time in the next few months. Those people will let the honourable member know in no uncertain terms that his history as a member of Parliament will be terminated at the next election. The honourable member should wait and see. He will regret the step that he has taken. I bet that he will be putting a bit of pressure on them to change their attitude.

Federal Government's Privatisation Policy

Mr FITZGERALD: I ask the Premier and Treasurer: is he aware of a move by the Labor Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, to implement a privatisation policy, which is in stark contrast to the policy of the Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party, which has criticised the State Government for calling for an expression of interest in relation to the Cairncross Dock Yard?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is true that in many respects at different times the Prime Minister has taken a different course from the one that the Labor Party has adopted officially. The Prime Minister has been supporting the privatisation of different activities, such as the airlines——

Mr Gunn: Telecom.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: As the Minister said, Telecom, and a number of other activities.

Mr Hinze: The Commonwealth Bank.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: As the Minister said, the Commonwealth Bank. Those activities are ones that the Queensland Government agrees should be privatised.

The Queensland Government will embark very strongly and very positively on the privatisation of a whole lot of its services and activities. I have given instructions to people at the top to come up with privatisation propositions covering a wide range of activities in Queensland. Because the Labor Government in Canberra has withdrawn funds from Queensland, the Government does not have the resources to provide certain services, and it will allow private enterprise and private industries to provide those services. It will be very interesting. I hope that members of the Opposition support the Queensland Government. However, I am sure that they will not. Be that as it may, the Queensland Government will continue to privatise many activities that previously were the responsibility of the Government.

Pesticide Levels in Beef

Mr BURNS: I have a question without notice for the Premier and Treasurer in relation to the beef industry and one on notice for the Minister for Industry and Technology in relation to the ICI chlorine plant. I now ask the Premier and Treasurer: as the USA, Canada, Taiwan and Japan have all expressed concern and are acting to protect their consumers from eating Australian beef containing high pesticide levels, can he give an assurance that Queensland consumers are not eating beef that has been affected by pesticides? Can he also tell honourable members how many times, because of high pesticide levels, meat from meatworks in this State has been rejected as unfit for consumption by Queenslanders?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Government has made a decision in relation to the ICI plant after very careful consideration. It was examined very carefully. As the Government sees it, no problem exists.

As to the meat industry—I have said to Mr Harper that he can go overseas, and should go overseas, at any time that he considers it necessary.

Mr Burns interjected.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: This has nothing to do with the price of butter.

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Lytton!

Mr Burns: KR Darling Downs at Toowoomba were caught with it. They are selling it locally.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Burns: Throw me out then, because I am entitled to ask the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Mr Burns: This is important. We're eating this meat. This is important to the people who are consumers.

Mr SPEAKER: I now bring to the attention of the member for Lytton the provisions of Standing Order 124.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: I want to assure the honourable member that there is very little——

A Government member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No. I have just brought the provisions of Standing Order 124 to the notice of the honourable member.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Speaker, you have drawn my attention to the Standing Order. It is perhaps my unpleasant duty——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have not named the member for Lytton. I have warned him of the provisions of Standing Order 124. The Premier will complete his answer.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: That was fortunate for the honourable member.

Mr Burns: Bad luck, mate.

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am sorry. I misunderstood you, Mr Speaker.

This Government has given careful consideration to all of these aspects. Cabinet has long since discussed the matter of contaminated meat. Queensland has very rigid regulations relating to the inspection of meat. This matter has nothing to do with the placing of the chlorine plant at Lytton.

An honourable member: Is our meat safe?

Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes, Queensland's meat is safe and will be safe.

Protection of the Environment

Mr LITTLEPROUD: In directing a question to the Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport, I point out that the Opposition continues to mislead the public by claiming that the Queensland Government has a poor record in relation to the protection of the environment. I ask: will the Minister outline the facts and give a comparison between Queensland's record and the records of other Australian States?

Mr MUNTZ: It is true that, by world standards, the record of the Queensland Government and the National Parks and Wildlife Service is setting an example not only to the rest of the world but also to the rest of Australia. I say that in deference to what Opposition members claim the effects of World Heritage listing will be on north Queensland. That listing will cost thousands of men and women in north Queensland their jobs. It will cost tens of thousands of men, women and children in north Queensland the opportunity to work not only in the timber industry but also in the tourist industry.

In relation to Queensland's record of rainforest preservation—55 per cent of Australia's rainforests are situated in Queensland. Of the original rainforest area that existed at the time of settlement, approximately 60 per cent is still standing in Queensland. In the area between Townsville and Cape York, 80 per cent of the original rainforest is still standing. When one looks at what is already conserved in national parks in Queensland, one sees that 25 per cent is locked away for future generations. In the balance of rainforest area across Queensland, approximately 70 per cent is protected in forestry reserves and as vacant Crown land. In the area between Townsville and Cape York, that percentage is 70 per cent.

Those figures should be compared with the records of the other States. I instance New South Wales first of all, which has only 25 per cent of its original rainforest still standing. In fact, only 8 per cent of its rainforest area is reserved as national park.

The hypocrisy in the whole situation is that the Commonwealth Government—the Federal Labor Party—is allowing the New South Wales Labor Government to log the other two-thirds of that rainforest, which should be protected. If the Federal Government thinks that it has a case with Queensland, it should look at its back door and look at New South Wales. The logging of that rainforest will provide the timber for the desks at which Mr Hawke and Senator Richardson will sit next year in the new Federal Parliament House. While the Federal Government allows that to happen, it denies the people of north Queensland and the north Queensland timber industry the very same opportunity to provide similar timber. The Federal Government is creating double standards and hypocrisy.

The Labor Government of South Australia claims that it has something like 224 nature conservation areas or national parks. On the application of the criteria that have been established in Queensland in relation to national parks, South Australia has approximately 11 national parks of the same standard as Queensland's national parks. There are approximately 314 national parks in Queensland, covering an area of approximately 3½ million hectares of land that is locked away for future generations. South Australia claims that it has 224 national parks. That is not so.

A perusal of the history of national parks in Western Australia shows that that State has allowed mining in national parks. In Queensland, no mining is allowed in national parks.

If honourable members look at some of the conditions that were applied to preserve the Grampians in Victoria as national parks, they will find that something like 17 conditions were applied to those national parks. The conditions included quarrying, grazing and many other activities that are against World Heritage listing criteria. The hypocrisy in the position is that in Queensland the Government has properly managed its national parks and reserves and retained them for future generations. There is no comparison with the standards that Queensland has set and the professional attitude of the staff employed to carry out those duties. The Queensland Government has set an example to the rest of the world in nature conservation and rainforest preservation.

For the Federal Government to make a naive, unintelligent decision to lock away for future generations north Queensland's rainforests—in fact, to create another State within a State—and to place on north Queensland and Queenslanders the demands of a bureaucracy in Canberra, dictated to by the Federal Government and influenced by the Gaddafis of this world, is to invade States' rights. There is no denying that World Heritage listing is influenced by the Gaddafis and some of the smaller countries. The Queensland Government believes that that is an invasion of States' rights. There is no way that north Queenslanders, let alone Queenslanders, will accept those stand-over tactics by Canberra.

I believe that members such as the honourable member for Cairns and the honourable member for Mourilyan will be the first to lose their seats at the next election. The people in Mackay, Townsville and Cairns, who are represented by Labor Party members, should rethink their attitudes to World Heritage listing. At present, that will result in a loss of some 3 000 jobs in north Queensland. In the future, it will result in the loss of tens of

thousands of jobs. In that area the tourist industry will be stifled, the timber industry will be stopped completely and no provision will be made for the infrastructure necessary for the development of the area.

If the honourable member for Cairns thinks for one minute that he will get away scot free, he has another think coming. The Cairns district and the city of Cairns will be the first areas affected.

The whole idea of duplication of the public sector work-force in Queensland is hypocritical. Honourable members will have heard Senator Walsh deny increases in pensions and talk about reducing pensions, yet the Federal Government will duplicate the services in respect of World Heritage listing in north Queensland. Those duties have been carried out quite professionally by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Government.

Pesticide Levels in Beef

Mr RANDELL: I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: does he believe that the Queensland beef industry is at risk as a result of pesticide residues detected in shipments of beef to the United States of America? Can the Minister assure the House that all possible steps are being taken to safeguard this great rural industry?

Mr HARPER: I thank the honourable member for the question.

The Australian and the Queensland beef cattle industry is certainly at risk by the continued accusations being made by some authorities in the United States of America in regard to pesticide residue levels in meat, particularly beef, shipped to that nation.

The Queensland Government responded very quickly when, on 25 May, DDT was identified in meat that had been inspected in the United States. The Government accelerated its testing within the next week or two.

At the week-end, a further alleged violation was reported in relation to meat that was consigned from Australia on 4 June. I point out to the House that at that time the full accelerated testing in that particular meatworks had not been implemented. As a result of the acceleration and the ability of the Queensland Government to provide facilities for additional testing of meat samples, such a situation would not occur in that meatworks at present, because lot testing would be implemented.

For some time the Queensland Government has been monitoring the levels of pesticide residue in meat produced in Queensland and has been conducting tests of the order of about 80 each week over a period of some 10 years. As a result of that, whenever a breach or violation was recorded, appropriate action was taken to quarantine the cattle on the properties concerned.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

National Party Industrial Legislation

Mr McLEAN (Bulimba) (11 a.m.): In the last few months, the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs has tried desperately to sell—with the aid of quite a bit of deceit—the principles of deregulation of the labour market. He and other National Party members have tried to push the lie that the contract labour proposal is for the benefit of workers in this State. This is nothing less than a deceitful attempt to hide the real story.

By means of this proposition, the Minister is trying to blatantly cut the wages and conditions of Queensland workers. He should be honest and come out and tell the people of Queensland exactly that. The Minister is trying to turn Queensland workers into second-class citizens. I point out that presently workers are approximately \$23 a week behind the rest of the workers in Australia and that, by this proposal, the Minister is trying to make that situation even worse.

Let me say that the Minister is fighting a losing battle. If he proceeds with this immoral scheme, he will feel the wrath of the workers of this State as he has never felt it before. At meetings I have attended throughout the State, it has been proven to me that workers are most certainly aware of what the Minister and his cronies are about. I can assure the Minister that they will not accept that sort of treatment.

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order. The matter that is being discussed by the honourable member is presently before the House in legislative form.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bulimba may continue, but he must take note of the point of order.

Mr McLEAN: Mr Speaker, I do so. As an extension of that argument, I point out that the Minister himself admitted that this issue was open for public debate. He is carrying out public debate——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have allowed the honourable member to continue.

Mr McLEAN: As I said, the truth of this debate lies in the history and origin of the proposal. The proposal for contract labour was formulated approximately 2½ years ago by very close friends of the National Party. Of course, I refer to the New Right, a section of the greedy small business community and, of course, the infamous white shoe brigade, to name but a few. These people and others have progressed through many meetings——

Mr LESTER: I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the accusation that all in the small business community are greedy. I suggest that at least that section—because it personally offends me and small business—be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I note the point of order, but there is no need for withdrawal.

Mr McLEAN: This proposal is aimed at smashing trade unions in this State. It is aimed at lowering wages and conditions and most certainly it is aimed at eroding the powers of the Industrial Commission and the award system. All the propaganda in the world that this Government can muster will not overcome the real reasons for this move.

For too long, Queensland has been a haven for the con man. The Premier of this State has been sucked in by every crank and nut who has happened to pass through Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member may not continue in that vein. The honourable member will withdraw those comments.

Mr McLEAN: I withdraw them.

We have seen the Premier welcome with open arms the fly-by-nights and the get-rich-quick brigade on numerous occasions. If this legislation is implemented, an open invitation will be offered to many more of those people. They are the sort of people who will benefit most from this type of proposal. They are the people who are presently exploiting workers in this State.

On a daily basis, I come in contact with problems of wages and working conditions. It seems strange to me that on just about every occasion, on checking out these complaints, it proves to be a staunch National Party supporter or donor that is involved in the exploitation or the problem. It seems sad that already, even though this legislation has not even been passed through this House and is still being debated publicly, many employers cannot wait and are pressuring their workers to sign contracts, or else. The rip-offs in Queensland are rife. Plenty of examples can be cited. This morning we heard the one that has been around for a while now—the one about the 16-year-old girl who was working under a contract at a motel in Roma. Today the Minister gave some explanation of that. I have personally seen that contract and I have seen a signed contract from that particular place. A lot more will be heard about it. I will now tell the House

about a couple of other similar instances which I have come across, one of which is a really nasty bit of work. It is a classic example of such contracts. It involves a company called Dino's Dial-A-Pizza, which is trying to open up business in this State. That company has a nomination form which young people wanting to get a job have to fill out. On the bottom of the form is an employment contract which reads—

“I , HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THAT MY EMPLOYMENT IS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT SET OUT BELOW.

1. I will make myself available to work rostered shifts as arranged, and will give at least 5 hours notice if unable to work a rostered shift, & on resigning from Dino's will give at least 2 shifts notice, (casual staff) or one weeks notice (full-time staff).
2. If driving a Dino's car, I am involved in an accident, in which I am at fault, I will pay half the amount of the insurance excess (ie half of \$400 for drivers under 25 years or \$150 for drivers under 25 years and over)
3. Will accept instant dismissal for abuse of Dino's cars.
4. Will bring to each shift \$20 change money, a biro, and if driving own car (Contract Driver) in addition, a Street Directory and a torch.
5. Will agree to pay for a Dino's uniform.”

The contract continues in that vein. Such contracts are already being signed. The company is trying to implement the conditions in those contracts. I am not talking about airy-fairy stuff; I am talking about things that are happening to kids in this State.

Let me tell the House about a case with which I came in contact only yesterday. It is a good example of what can be expected on a regular basis after the implementation of the contract system. It concerns a young 16-year-old lad and other employees and a business called Pic-A-Snack at Slacks Creek. That business employs some six or seven people and is owned and managed by a Steve Moynihan. It is a lolly-packing shop. The young lad concerned, Dean Grech, was a well-mannered and tidily dressed young lad from a respectable family. He asked his mum and dad if he could leave school and start work. His parents reluctantly told him that if he could find a job they would agree.

He went door-knocking through Logan and, unfortunately in this case, he found a job with the firm that I have just mentioned. Quite understandably, the lad was excited. And so he should have been, as it was his first job.

On 17 May he started work at Pic-A-Snack. He did just about any job that he was required to do. He handled dispatch and incoming goods. He painted floors and stands, swept floors, filled orders, sealed and packed lollies, etc. He started work at 7 a.m. and his finishing time should have been 4 p.m. Every day he worked overtime, which varied between half an hour and 2 hours. He was also allowed a half hour lunch break every day. There were no smokos or morning or afternoon teas. For that work he received \$3.15 an hour, overtime included.

When his employment was terminated on Wednesday, 12 August, he was told to come back on Friday and pick up the money that was owing to him. On that Friday his mother accompanied him to the shop. After waiting for more than an hour with no result, Mrs Grech asked if there was any problem. Moynihan began abusing her in such a manner that she left the shop and went to the police, who at that time could do nothing. She then phoned the shop and spoke to the owner's wife, who told her to come back and pick up the money.

When she and Dean went back to the shop, Moynihan began to abuse her once again, this time in an obscene manner. When young Dean asked him to stop talking to his mother that way, Moynihan threw him out of the shop. Moynihan then picked up Mrs Grech and pushed her against the wall, injuring her arm. Mrs Grech is proceeding with assault charges against Moynihan. Dean has still not received any of the money that is owing to him.

The industrial inspector has been notified of this case and he has told Dean that it will take four to five weeks before anything can be done to help him.

Mr Lester, I ask you: do you feel that this type of employer should have the opportunity to rob kids? Should this type of employer have the opportunity to sit down with 16 and 17-year-old kids and draw up contracts?

Mr Lester: It is illegal. You can't do it.

Mr McLEAN: Under your scheme it will not be illegal. You intend to legalise this type of exploitation. Is this the sort of thing that you want as the norm for young Queenslanders? Just how far are you and your Government prepared to go to cater for your mad, lunatic Right Wing supporters?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will withdraw that comment.

Mr McLEAN: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: And the honourable member will continue now to speak through the Chair.

Mr McLEAN: Cases such as that can be investigated at the present time. But that will not be the case when contracts between employers and employees are hidden in secret files in some niche at the Industrial Commission. The people will not know what is going on.

Mr Lester: You know that is not right.

Mr McLEAN: It is right, and the Minister knows that it is right. The exploiters will be given a free hand.

The Government has not made public the true intent of the Bill, which is to cut workers' wages and conditions and to destroy organised labour in this State.

Time expired.

Federal Election; Gerrymander of Federal Electorates

Mr MENZEL (Mulgrave) (11.10 a.m.): I wish to make a few comments about the Federal Labor Government's gerrymander of the Australian electorate and the corruption that occurred in voting in the recent Federal election.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MENZEL: Members opposite do not like hearing the truth.

I have heard media reports about how Marcos rigged the voting in the Philippines. From what I saw occur in the Leichhardt electorate, the Hawke Labor Government could teach Marcos a few things.

Firstly, I shall speak about the gerrymander of the electorates of Leichhardt, Herbert and Kennedy as they were redrawn in the last Federal redistribution. The Tablelands section of Leichhardt, which generally votes two to one in favour of the National Party and which is about only one hour's drive from Cairns, was excised from Leichhardt and put into the Kennedy electorate. The reason for that was to make Kennedy a safe National Party seat. Even with the swing against the National Party in the recent Federal election, it had no trouble retaining Kennedy. The redistribution made Leichhardt a safe Labor seat, even though the people of Mareeba, Atherton, Malanda, Millaa Millaa, Ravenshoe and Mount Garnet have no common interest with what must be considered to be the undisputed capital of Kennedy, that is, Mount Isa.

Mr Simpson: That is what a gerrymander is all about.

Mr MENZEL: Yes, that is a gerrymander.

On the other hand, Cairns, which is the undisputed capital of the electorate of Leichhardt, is no more than an hour's drive from the Tablelands.

Mr De Lacy: I think it is the capital of Queensland.

Mr MENZEL: I do, too.

There is no doubt that the boundaries of Leichhardt were rigged so that Labor could retain it.

The same applies with Herbert. The Labor Government gerrymandered that seat by taking out Tully and Ingham, which are traditional National Party areas, and putting them into Kennedy. Once again, the people of Tully and Ingham have no common interest with any part of Mount Isa. If they have a problem, it is certainly more convenient for them to go to Townsville than to Mount Isa. These are examples of the rigged boundaries and the shocking gerrymander that the Labor Government in Canberra has created throughout Australia.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It's an independent commission.

Mr MENZEL: Independent be blown!

Mr Campbell: Are you saying that the commission was biased?

Mr MENZEL: It did not do a very good job.

In Queensland, in the recent Federal election, the ALP won 54.2 per cent of the seats and the combined National and Liberal parties won only 45.8 per cent of the seats—that is a 10 per cent greater share of the seats for the ALP. Yet the ALP won only 43.7 per cent of the vote for its 54.2 per cent of the seats—while the combined National and Liberal vote of 56.3 per cent gained only 45.8 per cent of the seats.

Mr Campbell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MENZEL: If that is what is called one vote, one value, I do not want any part of it.

The same type of gerrymander exists throughout every other Australian State. In the nation the combined National and Liberal vote was 43.8 per cent, which is exactly the same percentage gained by the ALP, yet the ALP received 58.1 per cent of the seats and the Liberal and National Parties gained a combined total of only 41.9 per cent of the seats. What sort of democracy is that? Undoubtedly, Marcos could learn a lot from the Hawke cheats.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MENZEL: Opposition members are laughing. They appear to agree with me.

A check has been made in Leichhardt. I understand that more than 500 ballot-papers were issued and obviously filled in for one political party. They were not ticked off the rolls in the booths.

Mr De Lacy: At least the Labor Party doesn't sign enrolment forms.

Mr MENZEL: A lot of that has been going on in Leichhardt, too. I am pleased that the member for Cairns has raised it.

The ALP does not believe in one vote, one value; it believes in 500 votes to one man. Is it any wonder that John Gayler, the member for Leichhardt, did not bother to campaign in the last Federal election? He was so confident, I just wonder how much he knew about it.

A moment ago an interjection was made about enrolling. Throughout the Federal election campaign in Leichhardt, there were strong rumours that the Labor Party had enrolled dummies and then arranged for its supporters to go and vote for it at different booths. In fact, I gave the Commonwealth police the description of two women and their car registration number, and the names of witnesses who saw those two women going from booth to booth. I have not received a reply from the Commonwealth police.

However, one can only assume that those women must have been going from booth to booth to vote as dummies that the Labor Party had enrolled in Leichhardt.

In Cairns it was reported that at some booths ballot-boxes were not locked and that they were not allowed to be checked by scrutineers. The boxes just had masking tape around them; they did not have a padlock. That is an absolute disgrace. Even Marcos locked the boxes when an election was held in the Philippines. That is blatant dishonesty by the Labor Party.

I call for a public inquiry into the conduct of the Federal election.

Mr De Lacy interjected.

Mr MENZEL: The people who tore out 500 ballot-papers and filled them in when they were not ticked off the roll are the people who should be careful.

An Opposition member interjected.

Mr MENZEL: I think that Mr Gibbs would know all about it. He would not have to ask me.

One of the best examples of the way in which voting was conducted was at Boigu Island, where the ALP won 80 votes to nil with no informal votes.

Mr Hamill: Table your evidence.

Mr MENZEL: The honourable member should check with the Commonwealth returning officer. It is there in black and white.

The National Party scrutineers reported that 99 per cent of the ballot-papers appeared to be filled in with the same handwriting. I am not saying that they were. However, most of the people at Boigu Island must have the same handwriting, because the ballot-papers appeared quite clearly to be filled in by people who write in a similar manner. It is rather strange that there were no informal votes. It is probably the only booth in Australia that did not have at least one or two informal votes.

That is an example of the crook voting that is done in Federal elections. Australia badly needs electoral justice to clean up the electoral gerrymander that has been instituted by the Labor Government. That Government has the hide to talk about the unfair voting system in Queensland. It is only using that as a smoke-screen to try to cover up what it is doing.

Although I am personally opposed to the introduction of an ID card, I hope that, if the Federal Government gets its way and an ID card is introduced, it will ensure that every person has to present his ID card before he votes. That will stamp out the crooked voting that went on at the last Federal election.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MENZEL: It is inevitable that the ID card is coming in, and the only good reason why it should be brought in is to stamp out the crooked voting, rigged ballot-boxes and the issuing of 500 ballot-papers to faceless men.

Time expired.

Closure of Cairncross Dock

Mr D'ARCY (Woodridge) (11.20 a.m.): The decision taken by the Queensland Government, which was recommended by the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services, Mr Tenni, to close the Cairncross Dock in Brisbane, which is the largest commercial dry dock in Australia, is one of sheer vandalism. The Minister's statement to this House this morning was a form of flattery because, in giving his explanation as to why the dock should close, he used a large number of half-truths and half-lies.

The Government operates under the Bellevue syndrome. The Ministers of this Government are outdoing one another in turning this syndrome into an art form. The

process of allowing facilities to decay and then claiming that they are not viable and destroying them has become a trade mark of this Government. This morning the Premier made a statement in this House about privatisation. That statement is frightening when one thinks of what might occur in Queensland. Goodness knows that the Premier is talking about. The most successful organisation in Queensland is Suncorp, and it would be frightening if this Government were to dispose of it. If some of the boards in Queensland were privatised, farmers would be faced with additional costs and they would squeal about the Government. I would like to see the Government start to privatise some of the sugar authorities, the peanut marketing authority and many other quangos in this State. The people whom I represent in the Labor Party are wholly against privatisation, whether it be by Mr Hawke or by this Government.

This morning's press referred to a Cabinet reshuffle and the sacking of Ministers. I am amazed that Mr Tenni did not top the list. In the last few years his administration has been responsible for the disastrous rise in fire levies, when in his previous portfolio he was responsible for them, the closure of the Cairncross Dock and the disbanding of port authorities by the removal of local representatives. He has failed totally to bring down marine reports on the incidents involving the vessels Reeflink II and Noel Buxton. When will this House see those reports from this Minister? The situation is frightening. Because the state of surveyed vessels is open to question, the lives of Queenslanders and tourists are at risk. No-one has any idea what the reports will say. The day after Reeflink II burnt and sank the dogs were barking what the cause was. Why has not the Marine Board issued that report? There is something more than meets the eye.

The Minister's failure in the area of water resources is even greater when one looks at the state of the water supplies in the Gatton and Laidley areas and in the area from Bowen to Townsville. Many decisions have been based not on what is in the best interests of the economy but on political considerations. Many Queenslanders in towns and on farms have been left without water.

The decision to close Cairncross Dock smacks of a deal already being done by Mr Tenni, behind closed doors and in secret, with some undisclosed persons for the land and site. For years, the Government has operated in this way, and the Queensland public are coming to the conclusion that they can no longer afford such economic incompetence. This Government will lose the next election, in spite of trying to make every post a winner. This is pretty obvious. The reason that the Minister has given for the closure of the dock is totally fictitious. The economic problem that he has dragged out has not changed in the last few years and could easily have been solved with proper management.

The Minister also said that the work practices of the unions were another reason for closing the dock. That is an outright lie. It is amazing that the Minister could be so callous and stupid to outline that as a reason when no industrial disputes have occurred at the dock for the last two years and the turn-round times for ships entering the dock have all been met.

I will outline exactly what the Government has or has not done. The Government is supposed to be a manager, but it has made absolutely no attempt to obtain any business for the dock. The Minister's statement that no ships were booked into the dock is a half-truth. The Government refused to accept any ships at the dock. Ship-owners were told that the dock was not available. The fact is that the Government knocked back two ships, the Papuan Chief and the Forum New Zealand II. Rather than read out the names of all the ships, if the House agrees, I will table a list of them.

The Government had no meetings with the navy, the Defence Department or the Australian National Line to seek business. Mr Speaker, if it was your business, surely you would be out trying to get some business for the dock. However, the Government rejected business.

No negotiations on work practices were undertaken with the unions, despite promises of them by management. That makes an absolute lie of everything that the Minister said this morning. If work practices were the reason for closing the dock, surely negotiation

with the unions would have been an acceptable method of obtaining them. However, no such attempt was made by the Government.

There has been no modernisation of the hopelessly outdated equipment at the dock. The equipment with which the men were working at the dock was 40 years out of date. Neither the Government nor the port authority made any attempt to upgrade that equipment. No proper maintenance, not even day-to-day maintenance, was done on the dock. If a crane broke down, work was often put back for two or three days. The caisson and the breasting wall both need maintenance work carried out on them. This morning the Minister said that it would cost \$2m to replace the caisson. A report from one company stated that it would cost \$30,000. What lies is the Minister telling to this Parliament? Is it \$30,000 or \$2m?

Mr FitzGerald: He is not telling lies.

Mr D'ARCY: Of course he is.

The Minister will not show anyone the report that states that it will cost a lot of money to fix up the dock. In fact, the Minister will not even tell us what is wrong with it. He keeps talking about the caisson or gate.

Mr FitzGerald: How wide is it?

Mr D'ARCY: It will take an 85 000-tonne ship. It is the biggest dry dock in Australia. The Government is going to close it down. It is closing down not only the dock but also the metal industry in south-east Queensland.

Honourable members should remember that maintenance on the caisson would not modernise the dock but would only bring the facility back to standard working conditions. No reports on the state of the dock have been released to the public or to the Parliament. Only a 20-line telex was waved in front of me, and that was the report from Macdonald Wagner. That firm of consultants was asked to produce a report. It probably knew what the Government wanted. Why will the Government not release the full report?

No consideration was given to the heavy metal industry operating in south-east Queensland. The Minister referred to the loss of 50 jobs. He tabled a letter from Maritime Engineering that refers to a loss of 3 000 jobs, which would be a more accurate figure. Apart from a direct loss of 1 000 jobs, a major industry in south-east Queensland will be closed down. Maritime Engineering claims that 3 000 jobs will be lost through direct and indirect consequences of the closure of the dock. A proper economic survey should have been undertaken rather than the presentation to Cabinet, the unions and the people of Queensland of a few loose-leaf papers.

It becomes even more apparent that a proper economic survey has not been undertaken when it is realised that the Minister is virtually closing down the river. The employers—the Confederation of Industry and the Metal Trades Industry Association—are all up in arms because they have finally realised that there is only one other ship-repairer on the Brisbane River, which is Peters Ship Repairs. Peter Taylor, the manager of Peters Ship Repairs, personally told me that the land there is up for sale and that it is more than likely that it will be sold in the next 12 months. What will happen to the ships in the river? Approximately 16 vessels from eight companies, including Riverside Coal, Pioneer, Dennison Resources, Stradbroke Ferries and Barges, Brambles Barges and Moggill Ferry, will not be able to be serviced. Where will they go? Most of them could not get out of the river or go to ship-repairers that are located in far-flung regions. What is the Government doing in Brisbane's Year of the River? It is not making any attempt to look at the problems involved. If the other slipway goes, no repair facility will be available for vessels using the river. That is what the Minister will be told this afternoon. However, he has already taken the matter to Cabinet and a decision has been made.

The Minister has come up with rubbery figures. Honourable members have not seen the report. As the Government has done in every other instance, it has written up the debt to make it look worse than it is.

Many successful docks are operating in Australia. More importantly, the Minister was not fully aware that the Federal Government had provided a subsidy for ship-repair works. A subsidy of \$6m is available. The Queensland Government managed to claim on one ship that it has not even got, namely, the Cumberland Star.

The fact is that the Federal Government was prepared to subsidise that work, but the Queensland Government would not even go after that work. Either the Minister has directly lied to this House, because he has already got a contract, or he has been badly misled, as is demonstrated by the meeting that is arranged for this afternoon between himself, members of the Metal Trades Industry Association and the employers concerned. A ridiculous step has been taken by this Government.

Time expired.

Scallop-fishing Industry, Capricorn Coast

Mr HINTON (Broadsound) (11.31 a.m.): I wish to raise a matter of vital importance to the fishing industry in central Queensland, namely, the protection of the scallop-fishing grounds on the Capricorn Coast.

Those scallop grounds were first fished in 1969 and were so prolific that a 60-horsepower vessel could harvest up to eight baskets of legal-sized scallops per hour. Today, because of massive overfishing and misuse of the scallop grounds, a 260-horsepower boat is lucky to harvest one basket per hour. The future of the grounds as a fishing resort is seriously in question. Indeed, if measures are not taken to protect those grounds, they will be destroyed and the fishermen of the Capricorn Coast will lose their livelihood.

Management of the resource must include protection from prawning trawlers that work out of northern ports and fish the Capricorn Coast scallop grounds during the scallop season, which is between October and February, when the prawning resource has, in fact, declined. That coincides with the peak of the season for scallop-fishing.

The closure of the prawning season, which is to take effect from 15 December to 1 March, will add enormous additional pressure on the central Queensland scallop industry and will ensure, I believe, its destruction.

The northern trawlers have no regard whatsoever for the future viability of the scallop grounds, working the grounds 24 hours a day in virtually all weather and taking shells of all sizes, including undersized shells of less than 85 millimetres in size.

Until recently there was no effective policing of the taking of undersized shells, and no prosecutions have been laid because of the difficulty of proving in a court that more than 5 per cent of a catch is undersized.

I made representations to the Minister for Primary Industries, the Honourable Neville Harper, and I am pleased to say that I received a very positive response. Catches are being inspected and prosecutions will be laid where an excess number of undersized shells are detected.

Mr De Lacy: He did not make a positive response. All he said was that it was going to give it back to the QCFO or the QFMA.

Mr HINTON: The honourable member should consult the fishermen of that area. Because of policing, the problem of undersized catches has disappeared. Frankly, the honourable member does not know what he is talking about.

Mr Braddy: Is Mr Harper going to stop the northern prawners going down and fishing the scallop grounds?

Mr HINTON: If the honourable member for Rockhampton cares to listen, he might discover the answer to that question.

Policing has had a very positive effect on the taking of undersized scallops. I commend the Minister. However, it is time for urgent action to protect the central Queensland fishing grounds through a system of licences and quotas.

Northern prawning pirates—that is what I call them—should stay at home during the closed season. The Capricorn Coast area, which is included in management area No. 3—perhaps “non-management area” would be a better term—should be reserved for traditional users from the local and adjacent areas, who should be licensed and issued with quotas. Such quotas should be determined by the Queensland Fish Management Authority according to vessel size amongst local scallop trawlers. Only licensed boats should be allowed to fish for scallops in those grounds.

I have requested the Department of Primary Industries, as an independent arbiter, to carry out a resource assessment to determine what yield of scallops can be harvested whilst allowing the grounds to recover.

Contrary to the belief of the honourable member for Cairns, the Government is taking action. Such a study is now being undertaken by the DPI on behalf of the Queensland Fish Management Authority. I urge all fishermen in management area No. 3 to co-operate to the full. The economic viability of the fishing operation must be improved dramatically to ensure that the resource itself survives.

What is the view of the fishing industry? The Yeppoon branch of the Queensland Commercial Fishermen’s Organisation, which is my area, supports fully the stand that I am enunciating. It favours both licensing and quotas, as do the Gladstone and Tin Can Bay branches. That view is opposed by branches from Bundaberg and Urangan, whose boats operate off the Capricorn Coast on an opportunist basis.

I believe that processing works will also favour the move. Although it may initially lower production, the proposal will ensure the long-term viability of the processing business. However, the central Queensland branches that support quotas are outvoted consistently on this issue by other branches of the QCFO, whose trawlers visit the Capricorn Coast area. The Queensland Fish Management Authority is influenced strongly by QCFO decisions.

Similarly, because of parochial concerns, the scallop committee of the Queensland Fish Management Authority is also ineffective.

Following my expression of concern on the matter, the Honourable Neville Harper has initiated a review of the fishing practices Act, for which I certainly thank him.

Other propositions that are being considered by the Queensland Fish Management Authority include an increase in shell size from 85 millimetres to 90 millimetres, advocacy of daylight closures in October and November to discourage northern trawlers from entering the area, and a minimum meat weight of 6 grams per piece.

All propositions have some merit in reducing the fishing effort. However, I believe that only the imposition of quotas will have the ultimate result sought to relieve the scallop grounds from overfishing and allow regeneration to occur. That proposition will find increasing support in the industry and it needs urgent consideration by the Government.

It is vital that the management procedures to assess, control, nurture and manage in a rational manner be implemented, otherwise the Capricorn Coast will no longer have a scallop-fishing resource, the fishing industry off the Capricorn Coast will be extinct, processing plants will close down and the northern pirates will stay at home, anyway, during the closed season as there will be nothing left to fish for on the Capricorn Coast.

Mr Braddy: What is Mr Harper going to do about it?

Mr HINTON: If the honourable member had been listening carefully, he would have heard.

Pesticide Levels in Beef

Mr De LACY (Cairns) (11.37 a.m.): I wish to raise the vital issue of chemical residues in beef, which poses the biggest threat to the beef industry in recorded memory.

The value of Australian beef exports annually to the United States is approximately \$750m. At present, there is obviously a distinct threat to sales to Japan, to Taiwan and, as was reported in today's press, to Canada.

Queensland provides at least half of those exports. Yesterday, the *Courier-Mail* reported that it was estimated that Queensland's exports to the United States alone were worth \$320m.

It would be fair to say that the whole issue is taking on the dimension of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Although it would not be of the same magnitude or would not have the same disastrous repercussions to the beef industry, nevertheless it could have some catastrophic effects on that industry.

Already reports have been made of buyers not attending sale yards and of the price of beef starting to decrease. Ironically, the beef industry is one of the few primary industries in Australia that are currently going through fairly good times.

The great pity is that the warning signs have been there for a long time. Honourable members have heard about the contamination of fish by DDT residues entering the waterways. I have heard about pesticide levels in penguins as far away as the Antarctic.

Most of the other developed countries in the world banned DDT and other organochlorines many years ago. Unfortunately, the agricultural industry in Australia has not been prepared to see the obvious.

The whole issue is one as much of perceptions as it is of facts. It is only now becoming clear to Australia's beef and agricultural industries that, if the United States authorities say that 0.3 parts per million is the maximum permissible limit, that is the maximum permissible limit, and it is futile and counter-productive to say that it poses no dangers at levels significantly higher than the limit. This issue is very much like the issue of food irradiation; it is what people think and it is the decisions that Government's make, it is not a straight health issue. The Queensland Government is now reaping the reward for its ineptitude and its head-in-the-sand attitude over a number of years.

In late June, the Minister moved to ban organochlorines—and not before time. In all of the agricultural newspapers we now find an advertisement with the heading "Banned!" and with the ubiquitous photograph of the Minister making wise decisions. One of the organochlorines which are banned is chlordane. Let me tell the House that chlordane is still freely available at retail outlets in Queensland. In fact, I will go so far as to say that a person could go into any Woolworths store that sells garden chemicals and garden materials and buy chlordane.

After carrying out some investigation, I find that it is only illegal to buy and use chlordane. It is not illegal in Queensland to sell chlordane. Are the Minister and the Queensland Government fair dinkum about addressing this problem of residue levels in Queensland's beef?

The second issue I raise is the issue of dieldrin. As all honourable members would know, dieldrin is the organochlorine chemical that has been found in most of the suspect beef samples that have been identified in the United States. The questions are: is dieldrin banned or is it not banned? Or is it a Clayton's ban? Once again I will refer to the advertisement that has been published by the Minister. When it refers specifically to dieldrin it states that it is used "in the sugar industry to control soldier fly". Dieldrin can be used in special circumstances, provided that it is certified by the Director, Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. This becomes all the more serious when it is considered that dieldrin is the particular chemical that has been causing most of the problems and that it has been known for a long time that dieldrin can lodge in fat tissues and contaminate cattle in Queensland.

I now refer—and some time ago I did this in the press—to a study that was carried out for the Department of Primary Industries—the Minister's own department—as long ago as 1976. Ten years ago, DPI commissioned BSES to do a study on residue levels of dieldrin in dairy cattle in the Bundaberg area. The research was undertaken by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, which found that soil containing dieldrin that had been used to control soldier fly in sugar-cane could blow from caneland and be deposited on distant pasture. A press report states—

“The findings had grave implications for cattle fattening along the Queensland coastline . . . Although the investigations were into milk samples, beef cattle obviously could be, and have been, contaminated in the same way.”

The report was published in 1980 based on information gathered in 1976, yet nothing was done until June this year to ban the use of dieldrin and other chlorinated hydrocarbons in the sugar-cane industry.

Although the Minister moved to ban the use of dieldrin, we find that it is not really banned and that farmers can use it if they get a permit. Again, my questions are: is the Minister fair dinkum? Is the Queensland Government fair dinkum? Or are they not fair dinkum?

Another issue is the disposal of agricultural chemicals. I put it to honourable members that the Minister is sitting on an environmental time bomb by banning organochlorine chemicals without providing some mechanism or some service so that farmers can dispose of old stocks. Anybody, including you, Mr Deputy Speaker, would know that farmers have old sheds in which they keep many unused chemicals. Four-gallon drums of unused DDT, dieldrin and other organochlorine chemicals would be sitting in those sheds. Now, with the imposition of the ban, those chemicals cannot be used, so what will farmers do with them? Farmers would be tempted to dispose of the chemicals. If they start to tip the chemicals into the soil, particularly porous soil, or into waterways, a major problem of contamination will be created and that will affect Queensland agriculture and the health of Queenslanders for many years to come.

If the Queensland Government is seriously concerned about this problem, it ought to establish a service to take back all of those unused chemicals. Another thing that ought to be looked at is the provision of some sort of a high-temperature incinerator to dispose of agricultural chemicals and other toxic waste. Nowhere in Australia can agricultural chemicals be effectively and safely disposed of. I call on the Government and the Minister, Mr Harper, to consider this and see whether something can be put in train. Australia is the most underpopulated country in the world, yet it does not have an incinerator to dispose of toxic waste.

Finally, the latest violation of the permissible residue levels occurred in Queensland. A report in the *Times on Sunday* stated that KR Darling Downs was the source of the contaminated beef. At the same time, in other Sunday newspapers the Minister, Mr Harper, was reported as saying that there was no point in identifying the abattoir involved. That is an indication of how much he is on top of the problem.

As Mr Burns said today, Queenslanders are consuming beef that has come from KR Darling Downs, and the question that needs to be asked is: is there a health risk to the people of Queensland? It cannot be believed for one moment that all of the contaminated beef is being exported. In fact, the contrary would be the case. Because of the impact on exports and our export market, it could be reasonably assumed that all of the suspect beef is being consumed in Australia. Is there a threat to Australian consumers? I put it to honourable members that there is major concern on this issue and that it is about time that the Queensland Government and in particular both of the Ministers responsible told the Queensland public just what they are doing.

Time expired.

Ban on Andrew Slack and David Codey by Australian Rugby Football Union

Mr McPHIE (Toowoomba North) (11.47 a.m.): I wish to speak briefly about the disappointing ban that has been placed on two of our great Rugby Union players, Andrew Slack and David Codey. They have been banned from taking part in any test

football over the next 12 months. I wish to examine some of the reasons behind that ban, because there is far more to it than readily meets the eye.

I object to the ban. I wish to record my disappointment and disgust that this despicable action has been taken against two of our great players. I am sure that I am supported not only by everyone in this House who is interested in sport and a fair deal, but also by the public as a whole.

Mr De Lacy: You are not supported by me.

Mr McPHIE: I would expect that comment from the honourable member for Cairns, because he is so one-eyed in his views. They have been heard so often in this House. He is not interested in fair play; he is not interested in standing at the side and taking an objective view of a situation. He comes out on the party line every time. I know what the party line is. That is what I will expand on in this debate, if he cares to listen. It is absolute blackmail by the ALP Federal Government that has brought about this ban on these two great Australian players.

Let me refer to the records of Slack and Codey. Andrew Slack would be one of the greatest players that this country has ever produced. As a captain of the Australian team he has a record without peer. He has played in 39 tests. He has captained Australia on 19 occasions. He was captain on the grand slam tour of England when the Australian team was undefeated in all of its tests. He was also captain of the Australian team when it brought the Bledisloe Cup back from New Zealand, after that country had retained it for a long period. David Codey will follow in Andrew Slack's footsteps. Codey has played 13 tests.

Mr De Lacy interjected.

Mr McPHIE: The honourable member has probably never been on a football-field in his life. His knowledge of football is so poor that he would not know which end of a football to kick. He should be quiet and listen to what I am saying instead of trying to defend his cronies down in Canberra. They are the people who are responsible for this ban.

David Codey has played for Australia in 13 tests. He was the captain of the team that recently in Sydney put up a magnificent defence of the Bledisloe Cup but lost by only a couple of points in the final part of the game. These two men are fine examples of sportsmen from Queensland. Along with Mark Loane they will stand proudly for ever in the records of Rugby Union. Yet, the Australian Rugby Football Union, because it has been blackmailed by the Federal Government, has put this dreadful blemish on the records of the two men.

I will consider the effect of the ban. Codey and Slack were effectively banned from playing test football for a year. They will not be able to represent Australia, should they so wish, against Argentina later this year or against England or New Zealand next year. The ban has brought about a dreadful player reaction. Already that other great Queensland footballer, Roger Gould, has declared himself unavailable for selection. Nick Farr-Jones, the New South Wales captain, has been involved in special discussions because of the blot that has been placed for ever on the records of these two great men. It is not deserved. They have been made scapegoats by a gutless Australian Rugby Football Union, which is pandering to the Federal Government on the issue of sporting contacts with South Africa.

The two players went to South Africa to clear up confusion. The players had been misled by the ARFU and the State bodies; they were misled by the South African Rugby Board and the provincial unions that were involved in this despicable affair. Codey and Slack were simply two Australian captains who went to South Africa on behalf of their players to clear up the confusion, but they were misled. For their efforts on behalf of their fellow-players, they have been banned for a year.

The Queensland Government condemns apartheid; it does so as strongly as anyone else. However, the South African Government must be left to resolve its internal problems.

The Queensland Government condemns outside interference, which is exactly what is involved in this case. South Africa is coping as best it can with a most difficult situation. The Zulu nation as a whole supports what the apartheid program is doing for South Africa. The black workers who are gaining money by working in the mines have been imported into the country. If the South African Government sent them home, the countries from which they came would go broke, but South Africa would be a lot better off.

The banning of sporting links with South Africa is a political matter; and it is a nonsense. It originated from the Gleneagles Agreement, which was entered into by the Australian Government and which it was thought would resolve these problems. It sets programs for sport that, because of their irregular application, just cannot be implemented. The agreement does not look at uniform standards or moral standards that must be maintained. The Gleneagles Agreement grew out of pandering to the black countries of the Commonwealth in an endeavour to keep them in the Commonwealth. Now the price of that has to be paid. The implication of the agreement is that people involved in golf, tennis, surfing, car-racing and a host of other sports can play in South Africa whenever they like. British and Australian cricketers have been over there. The Brits involved were banned for a game or two against the West Indies; the Australians were banned for about year and now they will be allowed to play again. Last year a New Zealand Rugby Union team went to South Africa and played against coloured South Africans in the South African team. When the New Zealanders returned to their country they were banned from playing until the first representative game.

What has happened to our players? Two of them went to South Africa and were banned for a year. They did not play football and they did not organise a tour. At the behest of the Federal Government, they have been threatened with a life-time ban by the Australian Rugby Football Union if they dare to play in south Africa. In 1985 three of Australia's internationals, Gould, Campese and Ella, played as individuals in South Africa in the 1985 Durban sevens competition. They were honoured and this country recognised the fact that they could go to South Africa and play as individuals. Now if any Rugby player goes to South Africa, he will be banned for life. That is just not fair.

The signing of the Gleneagles Agreement and the entry of politics into sport saw Prime Minister Fraser try to ban the entire Australian Olympic team from competing in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. That was designed to bring pressure to bear on the Russian Government over its invasion of Afghanistan. Seven years later that war is still going on. Fraser had a great effect! All he achieved was to bring politics into sport, which deprived some of our great young sportsmen and sportswomen from representing their country at an Olympic Games. It is to Fraser's eternal discredit.

Fraser is back on the scene. He is one of the eminent persons who are meddling in South African affairs today. The ALP policy in relation to sport and politics and South Africa is to be condemned.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr McPHIE: The member for Brisbane Central should ask why these things have been done.

The Federal Government is wielding a big stick over the ARFU and the New South Wales Rugby Union. The Australian Institute of Sport is about to spend millions of dollars on establishing a Rugby Union section to help the sport probably in three centres: Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra. If the ARFU does not take that on board and ban these people from going to South Africa, it will receive no money. The New South Wales Rugby Union is seeking a big advance to help it to develop the Concord Rugby Union oval so that New South Wales will have facilities comparable with those available at the Ballymore oval in Queensland. If the New South Wales Rugby Union does not object to players going over to South Africa and does not put a ban on the tour, it will receive no money!

It is a straight-out case of blackmail and it is a gutless reaction by the two Rugby Union bodies concerned. It is to be condemned. The hypocrisy of the Government and the Rugby Union officials is dreadful. At the moment a Russian basketball team is touring this country.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr McPHIE: That Russian basketball team is in this country at the invitation of people such as the member for Brisbane Central. Sportsmen from a communist country are touring Australia and being honoured. Why? Because they pander to a Government that will not do anything for Rugby Union in Australia or let our own sportsmen tour South Africa.

The atrocities that the Russians are committing today in Afghanistan are far worse than anything that one would see in South Africa. Racing cars can be specially air-freighted into Australia from South Africa when it suits Mr Hawke's convenience to lift the ban.

This hypocrisy is quite unacceptable. I call now for politics to be taken out of all sport and for freedom for all sportsmen to play when and where they choose. I call for this dreadful ban to be lifted from Slack and Codey because it is one of the biggest blots that has ever been put on great Australian and Queensland sportsmen. The sooner the Federal Government stands up for Australian sportsmen and shows a bit of guts, the better.

Time expired.

Attack on Business by ACTU

Mr GATELY (Currumbin) (11.58 a.m.): In the two minutes available to me I want to talk about the intimidatory attack on business by the ACTU bosses, Simon Crean and Bill Kelty. I view with very grave concern indeed the attitude adopted by these so-called supporters of the workers. They would not know how to support their own grandmothers, let alone workers. After some hundred-odd years of ruining this nation by intimidating employers at the expense of employees' jobs, the ACTU bosses, including the senior vice-president, John McBean, who have recently been on a trip to Sweden, have the hide and temerity to say to Australians, "You either take notice of what we tell you, or else." The ACTU bosses have issued a warning to Australians, "Either adhere to what we are telling you, or else." Or else what? The facts are that the "or else" will be that the Australian Confederation of Industry and employers right across this nation will see them for what they are. I would remind this Parliament of the words of Simon Crean and Bill Kelty in the publication *Rydges* some months ago——

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Booth): Order! Under the provisions of Standing Order 36A, the time allotted for the debate on Matters of Public Interest has now expired.

OPTOMETRISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Minister for Health and Environment) (12 noon), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Optometrists Act 1974-1987 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Minister for Health and Environment) (12.01 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

As the House is no doubt aware, various amendments to the Optometrists Act 1974-1987 have been under consideration over an extended period of time. Honourable members will recall that a Bill which addressed most of the matters contained in this Bill was introduced early in 1986 by my predecessor, the Honourable Brian Austin, but lapsed when the adjourned debate had not been resumed prior to the prorogation of the previous Parliament.

The major aspect of this Bill permits optometrists to use facilitative drugs on patients in the course of their practice of optometry. This legislative provision has been a matter of some concern to the medical profession and resulted in a further in-depth review being undertaken with a view to ensuring that all viewpoints are taken account of in making a fair and realistic decision.

To achieve the objective of permitting the use of facilitative drugs, section 28 of the Act has been repealed to remove the current restriction imposed on optometrists in the use of drugs in the course of an optometrist's practice. An amendment to section 29, consequential to the repeal of section 28, also will have the effect of removing restrictions on the use of drugs. It should be noted that the use of facilitative drugs in the practice of optometry is entirely for the purpose of enabling a proper examination of a patient's eye. There is no intention or desire whatsoever that drugs be used for treatment by optometrists. The use of facilitative drugs will assist the optometrist to perform the key functions of optometry such as testing of the patient's sight, measurement of pressure and internal examination of the eye. The drugs proposed for use by optometrists will be of limited range and strengths relating to the functions I have just mentioned. The range and strengths of facilitative drugs that optometrists may use would be affected by amendment of the Poison Regulations in like manner to podiatrists being authorised to use local anaesthetics. Appropriate training is available for optometrists in the use of facilitative drugs.

The use of facilitative drugs by optometrists is widespread throughout Australia and the Western World. The Australian Optometrical Association has advised that legislation in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory grants specific rights to optometrists in the use of certain facilitative drugs. Legislation in South Australia and Tasmania has been the subject of differing legal interpretations, depending on the stance one wishes to adopt. However, in reality, facilitative drugs are used in these States. There is little substantiated evidence that use of facilitative drugs by optometrists has resulted in any significant occurrence of adverse side-effects. With regard to any suggestion that the use of facilitative drugs by optometrists would encroach on the professional areas of ophthalmology, it is pointed out that, on detection of eye abnormalities requiring medical treatment, optometrists would still refer patients to ophthalmologists, as they do now. Thus, the use of facilitative drugs should result in increased or earlier detection of eye abnormalities requiring referral for specialist medical treatment by ophthalmologists.

I now refer the House to amendments contained in this Bill, other than those of a machinery nature. Section 5 now makes it clear that the fitting and servicing of optical appliances are separate functions, with either to be viewed as being within the scope of the practice of optometry for the purposes of the Act. The amendment of section 19 will remove the requirement to open the Act where it is desired in the future to alter the educational qualifications required for registration as an optometrist.

Amendment of section 24 enables the Optometrists Board to recover from an optometrist reasonable costs incurred by the board in connection with the conduct of an inquiry into a breach of discipline on the part of the optometrist. It should be noted that an optometrist will only become liable for payment of costs where the board has concluded that the optometrist is guilty of a breach of discipline. This amendment also makes provision for the board, in the exercise of its discretion, to order the publication of its findings following an inquiry under section 24.

Section 40 is amended to make provision to permit the board to regulate advertising by any body or association of persons, corporate and unincorporated, particularly those

bodies engaged in the business of fitting and supplying spectacles. The objective of this amendment is to obviate a potential problem of undesirable advertising practices emerging as a result of increasing competition amongst firms engaged in the fitting and supply of spectacles to the public. Under existing legislation, the board has authority to regulate advertising by registered optometrists. On the other hand, companies supplying optical appliances direct to the public under special provision of the Act are not required to be registered with the Optometrists Board, and are therefore not subject to the advertising by-laws applicable to registered optometrists.

Finally, penalties provided under existing legislation have been increased in accordance with current-day values and are expressed as penalty units.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr McElligott, adjourned.

EDUCATION ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

On the order of the day being discharged, the Bill was withdrawn.

WORLD HERITAGE LISTING OF NORTH QUEENSLAND'S WET TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

Hon. G. H. MUNTZ (Whitsunday—Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport) (12.07 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That this House deplores the decision by the Commonwealth Government to nominate the wet tropical rainforest areas of North Queensland for inclusion on the World Heritage List and calls on that Government not to proceed with this ill-considered and totally unnecessary action for the following reasons:—

- (a) The nomination will result in timber industry and allied industry employees losing their jobs and they and their families having to rely on unemployment benefits for their livelihood.
- (b) The nomination shows complete contempt by the Commonwealth Government of States' rights and is an abrogation of an undertaking given by the Prime Minister to the Premier in September 1984 that the Commonwealth Government would not take action to nominate the wet tropical rainforest area without the agreement of the Queensland Government.
- (c) The relevant Queensland Authorities such as the Forestry Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Service have an outstanding record in the management of the State's forestry and national park estates and are fully capable of continuing to manage these areas without Commonwealth Government interference.
- (d) Listing of the wet tropical rainforest areas will stifle tourist development in North Queensland.”

Broken promises, double standards, contempt for Queenslanders and support for centralism are phrases that aptly describe the Commonwealth Government's despicable, irresponsible and unintelligent decision to nominate the Queensland wet tropical rainforests for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

In September 1984, the Prime Minister gave a written undertaking to the Queensland Premier that he would not—I repeat “not”—take unilateral action to nominate the wet tropical rainforests. But he has broken that promise. This is not surprising, as it is another broken promise in a long series of broken promises by a man who cannot be trusted. What value can be placed on the word of this man and his Government? “Snake-oil salesman from the deep south” would be an apt description of him.

Senator Richardson is determined to hang his political profile on an issue that has no effect on himself or his southern colleagues but has devastating effects on thousands

of north Queenslanders. The Federal ALP cares nothing for the rights of the States. It rode roughshod over the interests of the Tasmanian Government, and now it intends to try to do the same in relation to the Queensland Government and the people of Queensland. However, I can assure the Federal Government that it has a fight on its hands—a fight of the magnitude that our nation has not seen since the days when Prime Minister Whitlam was ground into the dust by the Queensland Premier and his Government and swept out of office by the people of Australia.

The honourable members for Cairns and Mourilyan will be the first to incur the wrath of the people of north Queensland. I suggest that they will be followed by members of the Labor Party from Cairns, Townsville and Mackay unless they repudiate the action of their Federal colleagues and stand up for the people who elected them to office. Last week, during my visit to Cairns and the surrounding areas, the strong feelings against the members for Cairns and Mourilyan were very evident. This House will have the pleasure of National Party members representing both those electorates after the next State election.

The Queensland ALP has an unrivalled reputation as the leading opposition party in Queensland. I have no doubt that it will continue in that role whilst it is led by the honourable member for Sandgate and has as its environmental spokesman the honourable member for Windsor. What an unlikely pair to stand up for Queensland against the centralists in Canberra, who are intent on hijacking States' rights. It is really unbelievable that the national Government has the gall to attempt to wipe north Queensland towns off the map. But this will be the effect of nomination for World Heritage listing upon towns such as Ravenshoe.

Last Thursday in Cairns, Senator Richardson made it clear that the logging of rainforest timbers would be banned in the future. Let there be no misunderstanding about the Commonwealth's position. At that time Senator Richardson said, "Those activities which would threaten the integrity of the World Heritage area will be discontinued. Logging of rainforest timbers is clearly one of those activities." As a result, 1 200 timber-workers in Queensland will be thrown out of work. However, that is only the tip of the iceberg. As timber-workers are forced to abandon their homes, local businesses will have to close and the whole economy of the affected areas will crash. That does not worry the Federal ALP Government. It will do anything to appease a small element of self-interested, so-called conservationists.

I was not surprised to read in the week-end press that the Federal ALP Government is being aided and abetted by the Federal Liberal Party. That once principled party has decided to adopt a new slogan of expediency before principles. I call upon the decent members in the Federal Liberal Party not to be led by the nose by the likes of their environment spokesman, Senator Puplick, and his greenie and centralist mates—the wets in the Liberal Party. Senator Puplick must accept a lot of the blame for the defeat of the Fraser Government. Whilst he is a front-bench member of the Liberal Party in Canberra, it cannot hope to be re-elected to office.

Of course, his Queensland State colleagues are no better. The remaining members of the old ginger group, such as the honourable member for Sherwood and the honourable member for Stafford, who helped wreck their party, have always supported the wets of the Federal Liberal Party. I trust that they will prove me wrong by standing up for Queensland; but it is a remote possibility and a forlorn hope. At the moment they appear to be having 20c each way, in view of the notice of motion given this morning by Mr Innes.

I mentioned double standards earlier. Let me cite some examples of the double standards adopted by the Federal Government in deciding to nominate the wet tropical rainforests for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

In Canberra's new Parliament House, both Senator Richardson and the Prime Minister will sit at desks that will be made from rainforest timber logged in New South Wales. The Commonwealth Government intends to allow logging of rainforests to continue in New South Wales but will ban such action in Queensland. What hypocrisy!

What utter discrimination against Queensland! If any rainforest in Australia needs protection, it is that of New South Wales. Of the rainforest that existed in that State at the time of European settlement, only one-quarter remains and, of that, only 8.5 per cent is in national parks. Compare that with the situation in Queensland, where 60 per cent of our original rainforests are still standing. That figure is even more impressive when the comparison is made with the rainforest in the region from Townsville to Cape York. In that area over 80 per cent of the original rainforest still exists. That is an overall figure. Remarkably, 95 per cent of the foothill rainforests and 86 per cent of upland rainforests still remain. Of the whole of Cape York, 12 per cent is national park. Is it any wonder that the Queensland Government can justly claim that it is quite capable of managing its tropical rainforests without Federal Government interference? Queensland has an outstanding record in nature conservation and will not be dictated to by the Canberra centralists.

Queensland's first national park was declared in 1908. Today Queensland has 314 national parks covering almost 3.5 million hectares. In addition, there are 147 environmental parks covering over 46 000 hectares as well as fauna reserves and fauna refuges.

One-quarter of all Queensland's rainforests are conserved in the State's national parks. It is important to point out that strict conditions apply in relation to what activities can be carried out in Queensland's parks. For example, mining is not permitted. Compare this with Western Australia, where mining is permitted in national parks. In South Australia, if the same rigorous criteria were applied to all the 224 conservation reserves as apply to Queensland's national parks, only 11 South Australian areas would qualify as national parks under the Queensland criteria.

In addition to the 25 per cent of Queensland's rainforests conserved for all time in its national parks, 40 per cent of rainforests are included in State forests and 10 per cent in timber reserves. Only 16 per cent of Queensland's rainforests are zoned for selective timber harvesting.

The greenies would have the world believe that logging of timber in our rainforest means the wholesale destruction by clear felling of vast areas of rainforest. This is absolute rot; but then one could not expect anything better from people who promote that idea. Lies and deceit are their stock in trade. The true facts are that only about six trees per hectare are harvested, and then only trees greater than 60 centimetres in diameter.

Queensland's management of its rainforest areas complies in every respect with the objectives of the world conservation strategy. It selectively harvests its timbers, which permits regeneration of the forest. Only last week, I saw areas that had been harvested 40 years ago in which regeneration has now resulted in the growth of forests that have reached a stage of maturity to allow them to go into the next cycle of timber-harvesting. The proper harvesting of a renewable resource is the essence of good management. That is the policy that Queensland has adopted for over a century.

Queensland's rainforests are in no danger of destruction. Because of the responsible selective harvesting practices adopted in Queensland that have resulted in the optimum and wise use of its timber resources, no species of timber is in danger of extinction. The Commonwealth has recognised the correctness of Queensland's selective harvesting policy by including in the proposed World Heritage area some areas that have been selectively harvested in the past. I repeat again: what hypocrisy on the part of the Commonwealth!

The selective exclusion of certain areas from the area proposed to be nominated is another example of Commonwealth deceit and hypocrisy. I had a couple come up to me in Cairns last Thursday to point out that 167 acres of their freehold land in the Daintree area is included in the area proposed to be nominated, whilst other freehold land is excluded. It was no surprise to discover that some land excluded is controlled by greenie interests. This is a classical example of the old adage, "Do as I say, not as I do."

The bungle associated with the inclusion or non-inclusion of the township of Kuranda in the proposed World Heritage area is a prime example of Commonwealth inefficiency; yet this is the Government that wants to interfere in Queensland's affairs and to create a State within a State. It cannot hope to efficiently administer an area stretching from Townsville to Cooktown. This is the same distance as from Canberra to Melbourne.

Senator Richardson claims that World Heritage listing will increase tourism to the wet tropical areas and compensate for loss of jobs in the timber and allied industries. Nothing could be further from the truth. World Heritage listing will stifle tourism. The existence of a proper infrastructure is the life-blood of our tourism industry. However, the Queensland Government will not be able to build a dam to provide water for the supposed influx of tourists; nor will it be able to provide access into the forest without Commonwealth Government approval.

It has been claimed by Commonwealth representatives that listing of the Great Barrier Reef on the World Heritage List serves as a valid precedent for the listing of the wet tropics. This is an extremely fallacious argument. No valid comparison can be made between an area of water and an area of land that has been expertly managed over many, many years to take account of a multiplicity of uses that can maintain all conservation interests. Nevertheless, this is what the Commonwealth would have us believe. How naive can it get?

Particularly since the early 1970s, Commonwealth Governments of all political persuasions and their associated bureaucracies have striven to become involved in local land-management decisions within the States. This has applied in practically every area of Government and has resulted in massive duplication of effort and enormous increases in the proliferation of Commonwealth departments and associated bodies. All of this adds up to a waste of public funds, and this has contributed to the high taxation levels of which we are so painfully aware. Confusion and frustration for State conservation authorities and State land-holders have also resulted from an abuse by the Commonwealth of the Australian Constitution.

The Commonwealth Government has no direct head of power under the Constitution to deal with environment matters. It seeks to misuse and abuse its other powers to enable it to become involved in matters in which the founding fathers of the Constitution never intended that it should have any involvement. By this means, it has undermined the very basis of our Federation.

We have heard the Commonwealth Minister for Finance, Senator Walsh, recently float the idea that it will be necessary to reduce pensions because of Australia's financial problems. However, it is his Government that is prepared to close down an industry and allied industries and to export jobs to other timber-growing countries in south-east Asia. Any Government that prefers greenies to pensioners has its priorities all wrong. I call upon all thinking people in Queensland to stand shoulder to shoulder to defeat this unwarranted attempt by the Commonwealth Government to interfere in Queensland's affairs.

I table two papers outlining the facts about rainforest conservation in Queensland and World Heritage listing, which I have prepared for the information of honourable members. I seek leave to have these papers incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following documents—

**THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT RAINFOREST CONSERVATION IN QUEENSLAND AND
PROPOSED WORLD HERITAGE LISTING OF THE WET TROPICS**

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service was established in 1975 as a new initiative of the Queensland Government. The first Director appointed was the most senior officer in staff transfers both from the fauna conservation branch of the Department of Primary Industries and the national park branch of the Forestry Department. The withdrawal and amalgamation of these two branches from their parent departments was the nucleus of the

new Service—Queensland's nature conservation authority. The Director (subject to the Minister) administers all of the Acts of the Queensland Parliament relating to the conservation of nature.

Queensland is thought to be the first Australian State, and probably the first country in the world to have the word 'conservation' in the title and definition of any parliamentary statute. Under the law it is the Director's responsibility and duty to advise the Minister, and through him the Queensland Government of the day on how nature should be conserved in Queensland. In other words, recommend areas that should be set aside as national parks; recommend the levels of kangaroos and wallabies which farmers and graziers may safely cull without endangering the species; recommend rural nature conservation programs to private landholders who in the end have the custodianship of most of the land area and its associated wildlife.

To help the Director in this enormous task there is a band of the most dedicated, committed, enthusiastic and loyal staff to be found in any Australian public service. The Queensland Service is recognized internationally for its professionalism. International conferences are attended regularly. The film "Messengers of the Gods" on the world's cranes, co-produced by the Queensland Service, filmed in 10 countries, has now been seen by millions of people on TV screens in many overseas countries. Another similar film on turtles is in the pipeline.

The current Director is the longest serving head of any nature conservation agency on the Australian mainland. As a young scientist he lived and worked in and around north Queensland's rainforests for fourteen years. It was for studies relating to the ecological changes that had taken place from clearing and transforming rainforest into dairy pastures on the Atherton Tableland, in which he discovered and interpreted information new to science that he was awarded a higher doctorate—the degree of Doctor of Agricultural Science.

These are the facts—

1. In 1975 the national park estate in Queensland was 0.6% of the land area. Today it is 2.0%—more than trebled—most of which was achieved during the period 1978-1981.
2. In 1975 the budget of Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service was \$2.6 million. This year its total expenditure will be nearly \$30 million.
3. In 1975 there was no national park of any significance in Cape York Peninsula—an area of magnificent wilderness and adventure land, larger than the State of Victoria. Today over 12% of Cape York is national park or nature reserve under Service management.
4. In 1975 there were 207,000 approx. hectares of rainforest in national parks in Queensland. Today the figure is 313,000 hectares. This is an increase of 106,000 hectares which by itself is 27,000 hectares greater than the total of all rainforest in national parks in New South Wales.
5. Queensland still has 60% of the rainforest which was present at the time of European settlement. In some locations this has actually expanded, for instance significant parts of the area that is now rainforest along the controversial Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield road was actually open forest as recently as 90 years ago. There is photographic proof of this. (The dynamics of nature is unfortunately little understood by the urban dweller.)
6. Greater than 25% of Queensland rainforest is now preserved forever in national park or nature reserve. Important additional areas are being added each year.
7. The area of rainforest in the Wet Tropics now being selectively logged amounts to only 18.79% of rainforest land set aside for Crown purposes over the past 100 years. In other words most of the State rainforest land in Queensland will never be logged. The Forestry Department themselves do not permit logging in areas of special scientific or ecological significance.
8. Of all the plant communities tropical rainforest probably regenerates more completely than any other communities. In Australia we should be directing our limited resources to research and management of the far more fragile ecosystems such as the arid lands.

The facts concerning World Heritage listing are as follows.

9. In 1900 the Australian colonies became States and united to establish a Commonwealth Parliament to legislate and administer on their behalf collectively matters of national and international importance such as defence, foreign affairs, currency and so on. The State retained for themselves all other powers inherited from Britain and certainly did not hand over to the Commonwealth any powers relating to land and land management from their sovereign parliaments. Hence the establishment of the Senate as the guardian of the State's rights.
10. Probably since early after Federation, but particularly since the early 1970's Commonwealth Governments of all political persuasions and their associated bureaucracies have striven to become involved in local land management decisions with the States. This has applied in practically every area of government and has

resulted in massive duplication of effort, enormous increases in the proliferation of new Commonwealth departments and other bureaucratic authorities. All of this adds up to unnecessary duplication and waste of public funds and has contributed to our resultant high taxation levels as a nation. And what have been the benefits? For the long established State and Territory nature conservation authorities and their landholders it has meant confusion and frustration, e.g. kangaroo conservation and management. This is a matter of public record.

In the current National Rainforest Conservation Program Queensland had requested \$5.1 million for acquisition of privately owned rainforest land for addition to our national park estate. Queensland has not received a cent of this money because it appears elements in the conservation movement have convinced the Commonwealth into believing that by waving the big stick of World Heritage listing over the head of the Queensland Government the State will be forced to completely stop logging on State forest land. The result of this action is that two prime lowland rainforest blocks near Babinda, which came on the market recently for private auction, had to be purchased by expending precious Service funds already earmarked for other areas. Nevertheless this quick action by the Queensland Government saved those two magnificent rainforest areas from possible clearing for development.

11. The nature conservation achievement in Queensland over the past twelve years have not happened because of World Heritage listings in Paris or National Estate listings in Canberra. They have been achieved by sheer hard work at the local level. The Service has had to work hard to gain the confidence of other Government departments, local authorities, industry groups and individual landholders. The big stick cannot be anything but counter-productive (this has been proven worldwide)—the Service simply has the task of educating people to appreciate and love nature and prove by results that a nature conservation agency can be a sound and sensible land use manager and a good neighbour. Every party must be prepared to compromise a little.

There is still strong suspicion, misunderstanding and opposition to national park. Some well meaning but misguided conservation groups are at time making it difficult for government nature conservation agencies to achieve their goals.

12. Most local north Queenslanders feel that there is now an implication that they are not Australian enough, not international or national enough in their outlook to have the concern, competence and ability to properly manage and conserve their local areas of outstanding world significance. Queenslanders would consider themselves as Australian as anyone who lives and works in Canberra, Melbourne or Sydney.
13. **THE THREAT TO NATURE IS PEOPLE.** Some promoters of World Heritage Listing are claiming our tourism industry will boom overnight. Sustainable yield logging in our State forests is of infinitesimal impact compared with the management problems the Queensland Service will have controlling the impact of a people invasion into national parks. Since World Heritage listing of the Great Barrier Reef (an area of joint Commonwealth/State responsibility) and the resultant promotion of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park we are being inundated by individuals and groups who all want to beat everyone else into getting their own slice of it.

While mentioning the reef it should be stated that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is one of the few highly successful Commonwealth/State co-operative exercises ever undertaken—both at the political and bureaucratic levels. This is largely due to the ability, wisdom and competence of the Authority Chairman who insisted on his staff becoming north Queenslanders—living, working and raising their families as part of the local community—near the reef. Day to day management is carried out by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service officers on behalf of the Authority. There is absolutely no duplication of expenditure as the boundaries of responsibility are clearly defined and accepted. This could not happen in the Wet Tropics.

Tourism in Queensland is based largely on the attractions of its natural environment. This will continue. This makes the marriage of tourism and national parks absolutely essential. The Queensland Government is handling this extremely difficult task with the very sound 'feet on the ground' approach of placing tourism and national parks in the one portfolio.

14. Conservation is simply sound land use. It is the responsibility of every individual in his or her own backyard—whether it be a suburban block or the rainforest of north Queensland. It is an ethic we must educate into our children.

INFORMATION ON ISSUES RELATED TO QUEENSLAND'S WET TROPICS

Failure of the Commonwealth Conservation Programme at 17 August, 1987.

Very misleading claims have recently been made by the Commonwealth Government and certain conservation groups regarding the Wet Tropics of Queensland and this region's possible listing on the World Heritage Register.

These claims, in part, have acted as a smoke-screen between the Commonwealth and the electorate to block out the real issue—the almost total failure of the Commonwealth Government's Rainforest Conservation Programme.

86.5 percent of Australia's rainforest is located in Queensland (54.9 percent) and Tasmania (31.6 percent) and not 1 cent of the much flaunted \$22.24 million of Commonwealth funding ear-marked for this has been allocated to these States. In fact to date this exercise has probably cost Queensland \$100,000 with no return.

Worse than this, the Commonwealth's position rates even lower credibility than first impressions convey. For whereas New South Wales was allocated funds for a hurriedly prepared submission within a month of the commencement of the funding program Queensland which has been advised that it was to receive \$12 million and which has prepared by far the most detailed and rigorous strategic programme of all the states involved continues to be placed at a disadvantage with these funds being blocked by the Commonwealth. This is ironic because Barry Cohen in 1983 stressed that the major focus of this programme was to be in Queensland. The program has been a failure in this context.

Commonwealth misrepresentation of the land-use situation and conservation issues.

The Commonwealth has misled the public entirely regarding the real nature of land-use in the Queensland Wet Tropics. The situation here is nothing like that in South Western Tasmania with its limited development and land-use options. The region of tropical Queensland between Townsville and Cooktown is in fact a genuine and diverse example of a multiple-use landscape and will remain so. Areas of rainforest for conservation form a mosaic with other land uses that include agriculture, forestry, mining, grazing, tourism, water management, urban development and port complexes. The future of this area lies clearly in a balanced refinement of what is already there. Yes, tropical timber plantations and agro-forestry could if justified be established on already cleared land as part of these refinements, but overall the present land use patterns will set the stage for the future with tourism developments becoming significant features in the region.

Whereas the Queensland Government already recognises the conservation values of rainforest within this area and is in fact enhancing these—future land management should seek to optimise the diverse land use options listed above.

In proposing the area for World Heritage nomination, the Commonwealth has naively chosen to ignore the reality of the diverse multiple land-use existing in the region.

Commonwealth's and conservation groups' misrepresentation of the job situation and job futures.

An appropriately balanced use of the rainforest resources into the future will allow the continuity of a small selective, sustained rainforest timber industry in parallel with plantations and agro-forestry developments and tourism with an overall increase in job opportunities while still satisfying conservation needs.

There is little evidence that the listing of the Wet Tropics rainforest of Queensland on the World Heritage Register will increase tourism any more than the natural increases already being experienced. Any claim to the contrary by conservation groups would not be able to be substantiated.

For instance, what has the nomination of the 70,000 hectares of New South Wales' rainforest in its national parks done to enhance its tourist industry—probably nothing! Notably also, logging continues in the remaining two-thirds or so of the rainforest outside national parks in New South Wales. Their electorate has been confused if not duped by the Commonwealth's rhetoric on this matter. By comparison, Queensland with 313,000 hectares of rainforest in its national parks is in a very strong conservation position.

Conservation groups mis-use of the name Daintree.

Conservation groups continually mislead the electorate by making confusing references to the Daintree area. This is an appeal to people's emotions rather than their knowledge of the Wet Tropics. In relative terms the Daintree River valley does not support much rainforest at all.

The greater Daintree areas as described by conservationists extends from the southern margin of the Daintree valley to the Annan River south of Cooktown. This area contains a mixture of rainforest and drier eucalypt dominated vegetation and is in no way under threat. The area has substantial key areas of rainforest conserved in national parks and protected in Timber Reserves. The press releases made by conservation groups refer to the Daintree area very loosely. They often state that the Daintree is being put up for World Heritage listing when in fact the Commonwealth Government is proposing that the whole area from just north of Townsville to Cooktown be registered. This has totally confused some of the electorate.

Hon. W. H. GLASSON (Gregory—Minister for Lands, Forestry, Mapping and Surveying) (12.20 p.m.): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion moved by my

colleague the Minister for National Parks. In doing so, I wish to make the following comments.

On 5 June this year, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment jointly announced that the Federal Government would immediately proceed towards nomination of the wet tropics of north-east Queensland to the World Heritage List. I would like to point out to this House exactly what are the implications of World Heritage listing—

- The Commonwealth could take control of rainforests by deciding which activities could not take place.
- The Prime Minister has made it clear rainforest-logging will be terminated.
- This could happen at any time (under World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983).

Impacts would be—

- A timber industry worth \$33m in 1985-86 would be extinguished overnight.
- Some 765 people directly employed in sawmilling, logging and forestry would lose their employment.
- Many hundreds whose employment indirectly relates to these industries would also lose their employment.
- Some 3000 family members could become impoverished.
- Investment of some \$50m will become redundant.
- Many townships and rural communities would suffer economic hardship—if not extinction.
- Communities involved are Ingham, Tully, Innisfail, Cairns, Mareeba, Atherton, Yungaburra, Malanda, Kuranda, Ravenshoe, Kairi and Gordonvale.
- There would be adverse flow-on effects to other wood-using and wood-servicing industries.

Quite contrary to what has been read, seen and heard on radio and TV, particularly in the lead-up to the July Federal election, the Queensland Forestry Department is strongly conservationist based. Were it not for our early foresters who stood up in the face of considerable public pressure there would be little rainforest left today. The graziers and farmers of the day cleared large tracts of scrub and forests for primary production. There was no legal provision then whatsoever to protect the forests from the axe and the plough.

Thanks to the tenacity of those earliest foresters and far-sighted Government support, Queensland today retains not less than 54.9 per cent, or 1 237 200 hectares, of the nation's remaining rainforests. This compares with 11.2 per cent, or 253 000 hectares, left in New South Wales; 0.6 per cent, or 13 300 hectares, in Victoria; 31.6 per cent, or 711 500 hectares, in Tasmania; 1.7 per cent, or 38 000 hectares, in the Northern Territory; and little or none in South Australia and Western Australia. Of our 1 237 200 hectares, 1 130 700 hectares is owned by the Crown with 850 000 hectares, or over 68 per cent still in an unlogged condition.

Today the Queensland Forestry Department's multiple-use management system monitors our forest estate and covers a wide spectrum of operations. These range from safeguarding forests against fire to recreational use and education, to flora, fauna and habitat protection, to water catchment protection and to scientific study and of course to sustained yield logging. Sustained yield logging—in clearly defined areas—involves forestry officers in individual tree-marking on a highly selective basis, within the department's minimum-cut diameter guide-lines for particular species. In the rainforest, this normally results in the cutting of only 8 to 10 trees per hectare. Those trees one or two centimetres in diameter below this minimum-cut figure become the stems for the next rotational cut in around 40 years' time. With something like 15 000 trees—from seedlings to giants of their species—growing per hectare in the forest, the removal of 8

to 10 trees causes relatively little disturbance. More importantly for future Queenslanders, it ensures that the forest can sustain this rate of rotational logging virtually for ever.

In north Queensland—Townsville north to Cooktown—the centre of the current World Heritage listing debate, the total rainforest area is 856 700 hectares. Of this, 810 700 hectares, or just over 94 per cent, is owned by the Crown. The actual area involved in sustained-yield logging is 160 000 hectares, or a little over 18 per cent. Of the remainder, about 650 000 hectares, or nearly 76 per cent, is still in a virgin condition, with about 46 000 hectares privately owned.

National parks contain about 198 000 hectares, or nearly 23 per cent, of north Queensland's rainforests, while statewide nearly 25 per cent, or 313 000 hectares, is protected by national park status. Put another way, within our national park system there is an area of rainforest equivalent to the total rainforests in three States—New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory—and of course South Australia and Western Australia. Quite obviously Queensland, through its forestry and national park departments, has been the major rainforest conservation State in Australia—as mentioned this morning by my colleague in answer to a question—since even before Federation.

The greenies conveniently ignore this fact. In the short term they want to shut down the viable north Queensland timber industry worth \$33m a year in production earnings, providing jobs, directly and indirectly, for some 1 200 people. Why should that occur when under the present system just on 76 per cent of our northern rainforest is totally—and I repeat “totally”—excluded from timber production? That 76 per cent, which stretches for hundreds of kilometres along the eastern seaboard north from Townsville, contains a wide diversity of species adequately representing every rainforest type within the overall forest.

Even within logging areas, there are scientific reserves which are used to monitor everything from the diversity of species types to animal habitats within the logging area. The question of protecting the forest at any cost for future research into possible new medical discoveries, possible new species types, possible new animals and bird types and anything else yet undiscovered by mankind is, we believe, more than adequately covered. Just as important is the twofold aim of the State Government to protect and preserve the future of the north Queensland timber industry and its jobs to meet specialised Australiawide timber requirements, while ensuring that the vast majority of the forest will be retained for the benefit of future generations.

We firmly believe that between the management plans of the forestry and national parks departments both goals will be achieved.

The saturation media treatment provided by newspapers, television and radio stations has grossly oversold the “lock it up at any cost” mentality of the more militant greenies. The Queensland Government believes that three-quarters of this north Queensland heritage can be locked up in perpetuity, as the Government has done, but that at the same time and without threat to its long-term existence the industry can continue to utilise in perpetuity the current 18 per cent under timber production as an ideally renewable and valuable material resource.

The claim by the conservationist movement that rainforest plantations will adequately replace the current native rainforest logging areas and save the existing timber industry is a glib fallacy. Queensland currently has no rainforest plantations to speak of—only research plantations, which in most instances have proven unsatisfactory. Even if they were totally satisfactory and if plantings commenced tomorrow, there would be a 50 to 70-year growing period before commercially usable logs became available. What happens to the industry in the meantime? There are not sufficient pine plantations ready for harvest in north Queensland to keep them operating; so most of the industry would collapse—at very substantial compensation costs to the Commonwealth, meaning you and me, the tax-payers.

The conservation movement, and now the Federal Government, say that tourism will magically produce jobs to fill the gap. They do not say that already our State forest

parks played host to no fewer than an estimated 1.2 million visitors in 1986, approximately one-quarter of whom went to the rainforests north of Ingham. Surely this shows logging has not impaired the growth of tourism and that sustained yield logging within a little over 18 per cent of the forest is more than compatible with tourism and general recreational uses.

On 11 July, the ALP blatantly bought the votes of the greens at, I estimate, a compensation cost to our timber industry alone—if it is to get the promised “fair compensation”—of \$200m plus the expenditure of up to another \$30m a year on projects to develop hardwood plantations. The equation is even worse when we know, based on more than 50 years' field trials and today's levels of scientific research, that rainforest plantations will not produce an economic return. The only way known to man today to successfully grow commercial rainforest hardwood species is within the rainforest itself, where young trees are forced to grow tall and straight—a necessary prerequisite for timber production—to reach the sunlight filtering through the forest canopy.

The ALP's election promise of \$15m over the next three years to an afforestation program did not publicise the fact that this amount is to be spread over all States. When one considers that Queensland is spending more than \$20m a year on plantation development, one sees through the rhetoric of this gracious piece of pork-barreling.

The Federal Government has announced the probable boundaries of the proposed wet tropics World Heritage area, which takes in all State forests and so will effectively destroy the north Queensland timber industry; but at the same time it excludes some 46 000 hectares, or 460 square kilometres, of rainforest—mostly equal to anything in the State forests—which is on freehold land, obviously to avoid high compensation payouts. I ask the obvious question: if the Commonwealth is prepared to destroy an industry worth \$33m a year to north Queensland and put at least 1 200 people out of jobs and destroy entire towns, by claiming that the State-owned rainforest is of such unique and high world class and character that it must be preserved at such high cost, why the exclusion of private rainforest? Suddenly, it appears, there is a difference. It is dollars and cents! Does this mean that the Commonwealth feels it can close down the State forests without considering itself liable for compensation? In other words, the State-owned forests can be forced to close down; but, owing to the probable extremely high compensation costs courts may award to private land-owners, the Federal ALP Government is afraid to front up to the fact that it, itself, would have to face huge pay-out costs. Perhaps it realises that such pay-outs, no doubt running into many millions of dollars, would not sit comfortably with its tax-paying electors.

World Heritage listing will involve very stringent hands-off implications to private and leasehold land-holders who may yet be involved. It must be remembered that the actual boundaries of the proposed areas are not finalised and that future development could require the written permission of the Federal Environment Minister before literally anything can be changed from its existing state.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth Government is attempting to frighten north Queensland timber companies into stopping their rainforest operations long before there may be a legal requirement to do so. In Friday's *Australian* the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Richardson, was quoted as saying that companies which continued to log the rainforest were putting their Federal compensation entitlements at risk. However, there is absolutely no legal compulsion for any change whatsoever in north Queensland logging activities until the rainforest areas are actually listed, if in fact this eventuates. There is no guarantee that Queensland's wet tropics will be put on the list. The Commonwealth has merely said that it will go through with a nomination procedure.

It is up to every Queensland, and indeed every Australian, to ask why the Federal Government is trying to pressure a responsible industry into sacking its employees and throwing yet another burden onto this nation's already groaning social welfare system.

The Queensland Government firmly believes that our present sustained-yield logging and multiple-use management program has protected, and always will protect, our rainforest heritage in north Queensland. Queensland intends to fight for its rights as a

sovereign State to allow its people—Queenslanders—the undisputed right to make this choice.

Mr WARBURTON (Sandgate—Leader of the Opposition) (12.36 p.m.): The Opposition vehemently opposes the motion which was moved and seconded by Ministers who, frankly, are two of the most junior Ministers in this National Party Government. If the Government considers that this matter is so important, it surprises me that it would leave the leading of the debate to the two Ministers who have just moved and seconded the motion—not only two of the most junior but also two of the most incompetent Ministers.

Frankly, members of the Opposition view this motion as a last desperate attempt by a very confused and incompetent Cabinet—I repeat “very confused and incompetent Cabinet”—to try to muster what it sees as some flagging political support. I ask why it is that two of the most junior Ministers in this Government have been chosen to lead the debate on this issue. The Minister who is third in line for the chopping-block is obviously trying to diminish his chances of losing his Ministry.

Why isn't the Premier of Queensland either participating in or leading this debate on what is certainly, I agree, a very, very serious issue? Has he dinged out of this debate as he dinged out of his desire to be the Prime Minister of this country? Do all honourable members recall that? Has the Premier dinged out of this debate in the same way as he dinged out of running for Federal Parliament?

Members of the Opposition have good memories. The Opposition remembers that this country has just had a Federal election and it remembers the antics of the Queensland Premier, who deserted the State of Queensland—ran away from the State of Queensland—from the early part of this year until he returned recently from his trip overseas. Today the Premier has left this debate—would you believe it—to two of the most junior Ministers in this National Party Government—a confused, incompetent Government.

I reiterate the position of the Labor Party. On the one hand, it fully supports World Heritage listing of Queensland's tropical rainforests. Make no bones about it; that is the clear position of the Labor Party. On the other hand, the Labor Party condemns the National Party Government for its poor record in the management of Queensland's rainforest timber resources and its lack of provision for alternative timber supplies. This Government has fallen down by its lack of co-operation and effort to preserve the heritage value of Queensland's rainforests. That is where this Government has blundered and let the people of Queensland down.

Instead of merely having two junior and incompetent Ministers move this pious motion—the reason why this motion is being debated in this House is that the Government has no other work—the Government should develop plantation forestry and agro-forestry as a major industry to create employment and economic wealth in north Queensland. The Labor Party urges this Government to do that, just as back in 1986 the Labor Party urged the Government to do that. Certain things are inevitable in this life and, rather than join in such a debate led by two junior Ministers of this Government, the Labor Party wants this Government to give consideration to joining with the Federal Government on a joint management authority. The Labor Party sees that joint management authority as being similar to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, which everyone in this House would agree has been a tremendous success. If that type of authority were developed through co-operative effort, all objections could be considered, a management plan could be devised and consultation could take place with all legitimately interested groups. The ultimate result would be something that all Queenslanders would be proud of.

Statistics can become boring. When the Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport has the gall to move a motion suggesting that the listing of wet tropical rainforest areas will stifle tourist development in north Queensland, quite frankly I think it is about time that he gave the job away. His position as Minister for Tourism is not supported by one person of consequence who is involved in the tourist industry in north

Queensland. The motion moved by the Minister today is not supported by one person with any real interest in the tourist industry in north Queensland.

In recent times several polls and surveys have been conducted. During October 1986, which is only 10 months ago, in north Queensland a detailed attitudinal survey was conducted by environmental consultants known as Environplan. This survey showed that 61 per cent of people agreed that logging of virgin rainforest in north Queensland should be stopped, 71 per cent of people agreed that more of north Queensland rainforest should be declared national park and 53 per cent of people agreed that all north Queensland rainforest under Government ownership should become national park. A second survey was carried out by the Cairns City Council and the Mulgrave Shire Council as part of a joint tourism study. This survey showed that in that region 93 per cent of the community believed that some existing undeveloped areas and landmarks should be left in their natural state and the majority of those people who expressed a view, that is, 49 per cent of the people surveyed, believed that rainforests should be preserved.

As far as national polls are concerned, the first major public opinion poll on the issue of protection of rainforests was carried out in November 1985. The survey conducted by Spectrum Research showed that respondents agreed that the Federal Government should take urgent action to protect Australia's wet tropical rainforests. The survey showed that 74 per cent of Brisbane people agreed, 84 per cent of Sydney people agreed and 88 per cent of Melbourne people agreed.

Those poll results must be interpreted in conjunction with the survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. That survey, which was conducted in the latter part of 1986, resulted in these figures: almost half—47 per cent—of the population aged 15 years and over were concerned about problems with the environment in Australia; and so they should be. The percentage in the 25 to 44 years age group was significantly higher than the percentage in other groups. Most people surveyed—40 per cent of Australians—were concerned about nature conservation and tree deforestation. To the Minister's discredit, Queensland had the highest percentage of persons concerned about the environment.

Mr Glasson: Of course we would.

Mr WARBURTON: As the Minister says, of course they would. They were especially concerned about the issues of nature conservation and tree deforestation. The figures I have cited exclude the Territories and Tasmania.

The big problem with this incompetent, rambling Government, particularly its Ministry, is that nothing positive is forthcoming from it. Members of the Government seem to forget that it was only a few weeks ago that they were devastated in this State by the Hawke Government. They seem to forget that the National Party in this State suffered because of its attitude towards the environment. That is on record and will continue to be the case. Nobody is more pleased than I am to have this debate, which was led by two of the most junior Ministers in the Queensland Cabinet. Nothing pleases me more, because Government members have finally and conclusively stamped in the minds of every Queenslanders that they do not care about the environment; that they do not care about environmental planning; and that they have no economic strategy. Whilst they may think that what they are doing today is clever and may result in the return of some support in certain parts of Queensland, I tell them that what they are doing today will ensure one thing: they will lose more votes and they will not be able to convince the people of Queensland that they care one iota—one damn—for the environment and what it means to the people of Queensland.

In 1986, when the Labor Party was considering policies to put before the people, it examined the timber industry, which it strongly believes is a growth industry. The timber industry in far-north Queensland faced at that time and still faces a continuing decline because of the failure of the National Party State Government to plan for future development needs. Government members are running away from that. They have set

upon blaming the Federal Government for something that is really their fault. I reiterate the point that the timber industry in north Queensland is facing a continuing decline because of the National Party Government's failure to plan for future development needs.

Failure to plan for and establish effective forest management practices has resulted in a sharp reduction of sawlog quotas and the number of jobs in the industry. Members of the Government do not tell the people of Queensland that their incompetence and failure to recognise that the timber industry is a growth industry has in fact cost jobs.

On 1 October 1986, sawlog quotas were reduced from 130 000 cubic metres to 60 000 cubic metres, a reduction of 54 per cent, which has resulted in a loss of jobs. That is what has resulted from the Government's lack of foresight and lack of planning. No other Government acted in that way.

The Opposition believes that, to preserve jobs and provide for future growth, there is an urgent need in Queensland for the development and implementation of a timber industry strategy, which is something that this Government would know nothing about. Such a strategy would balance the social and economic needs of the community, environmental values and the capacity of forests to provide sustainable levels of production. That is what it is all about; not a debate by a Government with no business to go on with, a debate led by a couple of junior Ministers. The Opposition wants Government action in respect of the real issue, namely, making the Queensland timber industry a growth industry.

All honourable members are aware that forestry is often the mainstay of many local economies in this State. As such, the timber industry strategy to which I am referring would have to be directed towards achieving long-term sustainable development of the industry through the promotion of efficiency, innovation and the identification of new market opportunities.

Given the current projection of a wide shortage of quality timbers and a decline in hardwood availability, the challenge is—and this Government has never faced up to this challenge—to formulate effective management strategies of Queensland's forest resources.

If the Labor Party were in Government in this State, it would commission a comprehensive timber industry strategy that bases forest management on principles of production and utilisation that are economically viable and environmentally sensitive. There is no evidence that the State Government has done anything of consequence in that regard. In addition, the Opposition would base that strategy upon the principles of production and utilisation that are sustainable in the interests of future generations and are assisted by public participation in the planning process.

Against this background the Opposition believes that initiatives to boost reforestation should be implemented. The Opposition believes that agro-forestry and the provision of an adequate tenure over forest resources are necessary to develop an efficient, cost competitive industry. The Opposition wants to upgrade industry research, to see development and technological efficiency and to encourage the development of value-added process industries, which is terribly important.

In relation to reforestation—in 1986 the Department of Primary Industries estimated that 53 000 hectares of degraded farmland on the Tablelands of north Queensland, which we are discussing today, is and was available approximately six to 12 months ago for forest plantations and agro-forestry. The Minister talks about north Queensland. What has he ever done about that?

The Opposition wants plantations of native species to be established on those cleared, degraded lands. It believes that that can be done successfully and economically at an initial rate of approximately 2 000 hectares per year. That is a reasonable start. The Opposition believes that those plantations should be managed for intensive timber production with approximately 1 000 hectares per year being established in far-north Queensland, particularly the Tablelands.

Mr Innes: Plantations of what—hardwood or softwood?

Mr WARBURTON: I thought that I had indicated that. Had the honourable member been listening, he would have heard what I said.

Mr De Lacy: Hardwood and softwood; hardwood in particular.

Mr WARBURTON: Hardwood and softwood, and hardwood in particular. I thought I had indicated that.

A Government member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Booth): Order! There is too much cross-firing in the Chamber.

Mr WARBURTON: Today, the debate has been brought on mainly to hide the incompetence and the inadequacies of the National Party State Government. That is what the debate is all about. The Government is for ever endeavouring to blame somebody else for its woes. It does not matter whether the issue is the chlorine plant at Lytton, the fire levy fiasco or the myriad things that have been happening because of the Government's incompetence and mismanagement, particularly since the early part of this year, the Government is consistently endeavouring to hide its own inadequacy by blaming somebody else. Honourable members only have to look at the history of the timber industry in the State to see very clearly that it is that incompetency and lack of forward and strategic economic planning that has caused the main problems that are facing the industry today.

The Opposition could not possibly support a motion of this kind, which was moved and seconded by two of the most junior Ministers in this place. One would have hoped that such an important debate would be led by the person who is for ever putting forward points of view on this matter, that is, the Premier of Queensland. However, he has failed to appear. I suggest that it is something similar to the manner in which he failed to appear in his bid to be Prime Minister and a member of the Federal Government. He got done like a dinner in that case. He dinged out of his unequivocal commitment to the people of Queensland and Australia to run in the Federal election. In Queensland, as a result of the very policy that has been put forward by the two junior Ministers today, he was beaten and devastated. Quite frankly, I reiterate what I said earlier: this motion will be the Government's further undoing.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

Mr GILMORE (Tablelands) (2.30 p.m.): This is a matter of such grave public interest that it had to be brought before this House as a matter of urgency. By now, all honourable members would have become aware of the disaster that befell far-north Queensland last Thursday. That was the day that Senator Richardson chose to destroy our forest industry. That was the day that our Federal Government chose to throw away any pretence of being moderate and democratic. Last Thursday, north Queensland's economy was pack-raped—pack-raped, and cast aside by Bob Hawke and his Canberra rabble.

Mr Vaughan: Oh, what flowery terms.

Mr GILMORE: And the honourable member for Nudgee supported them in it. No longer is there any pretence by Canberra about consultation. No longer is there any pretence about a benign presence in Canberra looking over our shoulder. No! Now we face the reality of a rampaging Bob Hawke standing over a State Government and local authorities.

Mr Vaughan: You made the big mistake by letting Joh back in.

Mr GILMORE: The honourable member might laugh, but he is not losing his job.

Mr Comben interjected.

Mr GILMORE: You bristling whiskers!

Bob Hawke is threatening private land-holders, snatching away their life's work and savings of thousands of people in a manner paralleling that of Stalin. I remind you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and honourable members that this is Australia; this is not Russia.

I will not debate the World Heritage listing today, because already much has been said on that matter—too much, as it turns out. The ALP continues to push this desperately bad line even today when the Leader of the Opposition simply failed to recognise and failed to respond to the pain, suffering and dislocation that members of the Labor Party have caused. They appear as nothing better than robots who are simply, mindlessly trumpeting the Canberra line rather than taking the responsible attitude of trumpeting the Queensland line. Luckily, they are not in Government in Queensland today.

Mr Smyth: Sack all the railway workers.

Mr GILMORE: The Labor Party might as well. It has sacked all the timber-workers, so it might as well get rid of the rest.

My role here today is to reopen the wounds of this debate and to draw to the attention of this House the manner in which Opposition members tried to mislead the House and the people of Queensland. I draw to the attention of this House the ignorance of members of the Opposition, their lies and their distortion of the facts.

The *Hansard* record of the previous debate will rise to haunt them again and again, until it finally swamps them at the next election—mark my words!

I would like to quote the honourable member for Cairns. On 4 August he rose in this House and said—

“The World Heritage listing . . . obviously is a threat to logging. I concede that, but I do not think that the whole timber industry will be destroyed.”

How naive, how naive. The honourable member continued—

“There will certainly be job losses in the industry, but nothing like the magnitude of numbers that has been suggested.”

How stupid. Moreover, he went on to say—

“The point that needs to be made, and made most strongly, is that the timber industry is a dying industry.”

Mr Deputy Speaker, I put it to you and to all members in this House that as of last Thursday, the timber industry is a dead industry. It is no longer a dying industry—in fact, it never was. The gentlemen of the Opposition have made very sure that it is now dead.

The honourable member went on to state—

“I am very suspicious”—

he is very suspicious—

“of people who come up here from the south. Government members are always talking about the southerners telling Queenslanders what to do.”

Mr De Lacy: Don't you take interjections?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Booth): Order! The member does not have to take interjections. I call the honourable member for Tablelands.

Mr GILMORE: The honourable member for Cairns went on to refer to the member for Toowoomba North, Mr McPhie. He had a shot at poor old Sandy McPhie—saying that he was going to the north and telling the people what to do.

The honourable member for Cairns is suspicious of people from the south. I wish he was a little more suspicious of the people from Canberra who have come up here and done this to our industry, got rid of our workers and closed our mills. Oh no; the

honourable member is not suspicious of them. He is suspicious of Sandy McPhie, for God's sake!

The honourable member for Cairns went on to say—and I am very glad that he did—

“... I support World Heritage listing. I have always supported it... I accept the fact that jobs will be lost in the timber industry. I accept that. However, there is such a thing as what is for the greater good, what is the most important; what will create more jobs in the long term.”

I wonder what will create most jobs in the long term.

How long will those people have to wait? How long will they have to be on the dole? How many will have to lose their homes while they are waiting for Canberra to send down this munificence from the sky? In response to a question from the Minister, Mr Glasson, about whether World Heritage listing would preclude timber-harvesting, the honourable member for Cairns said—

“Yes, it will preclude timber-harvesting, and that fact has to be faced up to.”

The member for Cairns is a very caring member, particularly since most of the people who are losing their jobs are AWU members and ALP supporters. He is a very caring gentleman. He went on to say that the Federal election campaign in north Queensland and particularly in the seat of Leichhardt was fought on the basis of a mandate for World Heritage listing. The people who sought a mandate on that subject during the election campaign were the National Party, its candidate, the timber industry and, to a certain extent, the Forestry Department—I wonder what happened to the Labor Party when it was looking for a mandate to do this World Heritage listing—but they were not even worthy of a mention by the honourable member.

The honourable member continued—

“They said, ‘When you vote, this is what you will be voting on.’ All I can say is that the people have spoken. They have made their decision and said, ‘We would prefer World Heritage listing.’ ”

I put it to the House that those people did not believe that it would happen. Many of those people have come to me and said, “I voted Labor because I believed that this was something of an election gimmick. I believed it would go away and we would never hear from it again. I have now lost my job. Goodness gracious me, what are you going to do for me?” I suggested to them that they go and see the honourable member for Cairns, as he was the joker who promoted this idea.

The honourable member later said—

“That is the trouble with all Government members. Their paranoia about State rights and conservationists has closed their minds and they cannot think objectively.”

What the Commonwealth Government is doing is simply a cold-blooded take-over of State rights and the circumvention of the Constitution of Australia. It is not just a matter of trees, it is not just a matter of people; it is a matter of the Constitution and all that is held dear in the Australian Constitution in terms of people's and States' rights. The honourable member said that the Queensland Government should get behind the World Heritage listing in a responsible way and see what can be done. Nothing can be done; it has been done. As I said before, north Queensland has been pack-raped.

The honourable member for Cairns went on to say—

“Let us iron out the problems as they occur. I appreciate that, there will be plenty of problems.”

Goodness me, there will be no problems; there is no industry. How will the Federal Government compensate those affected? We have heard that yes, there will be compensation.

I would like to refer to the case of a person with a truck who hauls logs out of the rainforest. He might owe \$100,000 on that vehicle. Somebody else might have another truck that he owns in his own right. How will the Federal Government go about the business of equitably compensating one and not the other?

This same honourable gentleman went on to say that, quite apart from Ministers of the National Party Government, other people emerged from the election campaign and the World Heritage listing debate with their reputations and credibility gravely damaged. I suggest to the House that the reputation of the member for Cairns is in tatters; it is not only gravely damaged, but it is mortally wounded. He has no reputation. The ALP supporters in far-north Queensland who have something to do with the timber industry will have nothing further to do with the AWU or the member for Cairns.

Mr De Lacy: Do you think I won't be able to sleep now?

Mr GILMORE: If the honourable member for Cairns had one spot of decency, he would not be able to sleep at all.

I now wish to speak about the member for Cook, Mr Scott. It is a sad state of affairs that he is not presently in the House, but I am prepared to bet that Mr Scott is sorry that he indulged in debating this matter when he spoke to the Forestry Act Amendment Bill. At some length he went on to say that he was very pleased to hear the member for Cairns, Mr De Lacy, outline the way in which public meetings were held in Cairns. At those meetings the local member, John Gayler—a dreadful chap—the incumbent for Leichhardt and candidate for the Australian Labor Party, was described by the member for Cairns as a marvellous chap. He said how proud he was of him. He was just destroying the timber industry—but there is nothing wrong with that. The State should have dozens of people like that. On the other side of the House, there are dozens of them. It is lucky that there are not more of them.

The member for Cook described to the House how John Gayler and the member for Cairns sought an opportunity to speak at those timber industry forums and were denied that right. It was said that the meetings were not political meetings and that politicians were not wanted there. He also said that that attitude is totally fascist. Those meetings were organised by AWU supporters—the timber-workers of far-north Queensland—and they have been declared by the Opposition to be totally fascist. What a dreadful state of affairs it is when members of the Opposition in this Parliament have to come down on the poor old timber-workers of far-north Queensland and, because members of the Opposition have such a limited ability with the English language, declare them to be fascist because they do not agree with them.

Mr Menzel: The AWU is the minority faction in the Labor Party. That is why they call them fascists.

Mr GILMORE: They are in the minority because they are no good.

The member for Cook went on to say that he deplores the attitude of the National Party when it nudges up very closely to the fascist idea that—I ask honourable members to listen very carefully to his words—“We can rule. We will tell you what is right and what is wrong and we will not give you the opportunity to debate these things because we will cut you off at the knees if you try.” I think he was talking about Bob Hawke. That is the sort of thing that Bob Hawke has done to the timber industry in far-north Queensland. That is the sort of thing that Bob Hawke has done to the Queensland Government and to the local governments of far-north Queensland. Bob Hawke has said, “We will tell you what is right and what is wrong.” He has said that he will not give us the opportunity to debate. He has cut the period down to two months and he has spread the maps around the country so that no individual can see all of them at any one time. He has not even indicated to the owners of land that they are involved. He has not even had the decency to send them a map. So I am very pleased that Mr Scott has finally figured out who his friends are, and that he made the statements in the

House, which are recorded in *Hansard*, that clearly define what Bob Hawke is doing to Queensland.

The member for Cook was not satisfied with that. He went on to speak about the election campaign. He said that timber-getters placed their trucks in front of polling-booths—he was talking about Ayton or somewhere—and claimed that that type of move was made to influence people. He claimed that people had their little children standing there with placards around their necks and tears running down their little faces. He said that those little children, who should not have been at polling places, were holding signs that said, “My daddy will lose his job if the Labor Government is returned.” Their daddy lost his job when the Labor Government was returned. He went on to say—

“What utter nonsense and what despicable tactics promoted and supported by the National Party!”

It is not utter nonsense; what the Government is concerned about is the business of losing jobs. The Government is doing its utmost to continue with the logging industry and the Opposition has done nothing but aid and abet the Federal Government in its desire to close down the forestry industry of far-north Queensland and to give these people a very, very difficult future.

I am also very pleased that Mr Scott was prepared, as he said, to have his remarks from *Hansard* quoted to him in his electorate. He said, “I will stand by what I have said in this House and I support what the Federal Government is doing.” I can assure Mr Scott that his remarks, which are contained in *Hansard*, will be quoted in his electorate ad infinitum, ad nauseum. He will not be allowed to forget what he has done to the timber industry in far-north Queensland and what he has supported being done to the timber industry in far-north Queensland.

I turn to the last of the Labor Party representatives in far-north Queensland, “honest” Bill. He proclaimed himself to be “honest” Bill in *Hansard*. It is there for everybody to see. I refer, of course, to the shadow Minister for Forestry. I am very sorry that Bill Eaton is not in the Chamber today. Poor old “honest” Bill. He told me as recently as Wednesday night at a meeting in Mareeba that he did not believe that it would happen. He told me that, on his understanding of the matter, logging would continue. On Thursday, he was devastated, because the rug had been pulled out from underneath his feet.

Mr Eaton believed in what Mr Scott called a Government of probity in Canberra and that remarkable saviour of mankind, Bob Hawke, and in his blind belief in that Government, he misled this House. He said—

“In conclusion, I ask the Minister to negotiate on even ground with the Federal Government over the World Heritage list. If the Queensland Government approaches the Federal Government in the right way and negotiates with it, much of that timber will be allowed to be harvested.”

That is how innocent that man was. He was the unwitting dupe of the conservationists and his Federal colleagues. He was used as nothing more or less than a court jester and thrown out when he no longer amused the emperor.

Where is Mr Eaton today, I might ask? I understand that he is down south somewhere, trying to recover some credibility for the Labor Party's position. He is trying to save his own neck.

Mr De Lacy: You're wrong.

Mr GILMORE: I am right. So serious is this matter that he cannot attend this Parliament, take part in this debate and answer these very grave questions.

Mr COMBEN: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is obviously deliberately misleading this House. Mr Bill Eaton is at present attending the ANZAAS conference in Townsville in order to learn more about rainforests. The Opposition was not given any warning that this debate would take place today. Had the Opposition been given such notice, Mr Eaton would have attended Parliament today.

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

Mr GILMORE: Opposition spokesmen peddled the conservation line in this Chamber. They derided the maps that the Minister tabled as being wrong, as being indicative only, as being the maps that the Prime Minister produced. Opposition spokesmen said that it was unfortunate that the Prime Minister should produce such maps, which were indicative only, that were deliberately vague. Who was right?

Subsequent events have shown that the Government view in this Chamber was accurate. The Government members who spoke on the matter spoke the truth. Opposition members, on the other hand, lied to this House. They tried to present the people with a story which was wrong and they did not expect to be picked up on it.

Mr COMBEN: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member has just said that Opposition members who spoke in that debate lied. I was one of the speakers in that debate. I did not lie. I ask for that statement to be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member asks for what to be withdrawn?

Mr COMBEN: Where the honourable member said that Opposition members who spoke in that debate lied. He referred to all of us.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am afraid that I cannot give such a ruling because the honourable member has not named any particular member. If he had, I could have so ruled. I ask the honourable member for Tablelands to continue.

Mr GILMORE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will not keep Opposition members on tenterhooks any longer. Apparently they are getting a bit agitated, so I will draw my comments to a close.

The damage done to north Queensland is so profound that it is a national disgrace; nothing more, nothing less. Northern towns such as Ravenshoe, Mareeba, Kairi on the Tablelands and some of the towns on the coast will suffer a crippling economic blow if this proposition goes ahead. I call on this House to condemn it.

Mr INNES (Sherwood—Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) (2.50 p.m.): It is interesting to stand in this House with my hand on timber that was placed here during the renovation of this House in the 1980s in order to reproduce the timber that was used in the furniture for this Chamber and the Upper House in the 1860s. Sawlogs were taken by sailing ship from Queensland to England to make the suites of furniture for this House. This timber is called Queensland yellow-wood. It is a type of tulip and is a hardwood from the rainforests of north Queensland.

Mr Davis: Is it still available?

Mr INNES: It is still available in the 1980s.

No-one in the Liberal Party advocates or believes in despoiling Queensland's tropical rainforests. Over the years people in this country have admired the quality of timber that is available and the craftsmanship that produces fine furniture from great quality timber. The remarkable thing about trees is that, unlike rock and minerals, they are a growing thing and can regenerate. There must clearly be some capacity to use timbers from rainforests and other forests. Indeed, in some of the gullies in north Queensland where timber was felled previously or was taken from the hillsides by fires that sometimes spread out from the cane-fields, the rainforest has come back. It is capable of regeneration.

Sir William Knox: Quite a lot.

Mr INNES: Quite a lot.

Naturally, it takes an enormous period to replace a tree that might have taken a thousand years to grow. An emotive and real factor is involved in wanting to preserve something that has taken hundreds of years to grow to full maturity. It is not inconsistent to believe in preservation in some areas and in conservation in other areas. The attitude

of the Liberal Party involves both those strands of thought. It supports the reference in the Government's motion to the States' rights argument and to the good things that have been done by the Government over the years.

If one goes back far enough, one finds that Labor Governments in this State in the past have preserved elements of rainforests in national parks. The coalition Government added enormously to that preservation and in 1983, under the present Queensland Government, more additions occurred. The record of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service is an indication of the dedicated work that has been performed by expert and caring people. The National Parks and Wildlife Service started in the Forestry Department and some of its most ardent proponents and administrators have been foresters. I believe that Mr Clyde Price, who retired some two or three years ago, is still extremely keen to prevent the stealing of vegetation and plants from national parks. He was a forester. In the Institute of Foresters of Australia are people who passionately believe in the maintenance of areas of virgin forest as well as areas of forest from which trees can be taken. It is part of the preservation of their own jobs. Thank God they do not all believe in the conversion of the whole of Queensland into a pine forest.

There is a sensible, balanced view in this exercise, but where has the balance gone astray? The balance clearly went astray last Thursday in Cairns when Senator Richardson launched his proposal that included a map which went with the intended declaration of World Heritage. I am sure that the majority of members of this House—apart, perhaps, from those Labor Party members in the know from north Queensland—and the majority of people in north Queensland, in southern Queensland and in the rest of Australia believe that this bid for World Heritage listing is about the preservation—to use words that were used by the environmental movement in beautifully illustrated dishonesty before the last Federal election—of the last remnants, which, even as one read the pamphlet, were falling to the bulldozers in far-north Queensland. That was the pitch. The places and the titles that were used have become almost synonymous with the preservation of the Daintree.

At times there has been talk about the preservation of Downey Creek. There has been debate about the Windsor Tablelands. Put the Daintree together with the Windsor Tablelands and Downey Creek and one would have something that is not one-thirtieth of the size of what was released for intended declaration last week in Cairns by Senator Richardson.

If one takes the most southerly point north of Cairns, one sees that the proposed area is a continuous tract of land 450 kilometres long from just north of Cairns to Cooktown. In some places it is up to 60 kilometres in width. In fact, Wujal Wujal type of detachments extend out into the dry country of western Queensland. Two large areas south of Townsville, one of which is State forest, contain only microscopic stands of rainforest in areas of general forest which is even preserved, as I said, in one case, by national park.

The area to the north consists of highways. It straddles the highway south of Cairns and the railway. It goes from Bartle Frere, across the coastal strip through dry sclerophyll scrub. I think that it probably embraces the pine forests that have been planted in those areas, across to Hinchinbrook Island. It covers the dry gum scrub that straddles or is beside the coastal road from Cairns north to the Daintree. The area extends westward of the coastal ranges into cattle-grazing leases, through dry scrub areas. It includes mining leases. It encircles a dozen towns and cities in north Queensland. I have not had time to examine the matter in detail. However, if the forestry map is used as a reasonable outline and as being indicative of the broad outlines of vegetation types, and if that is put with other knowledge that we have of the area, probably only half of the proposed area can be described as rainforest. Significant proportions of the rainforest are already sacrosanct and in national parks declared by the Queensland Government. Mining and exploration cannot take place in those areas. Of course, that is a matter that has been the subject of objections by the mining industry.

We know that the arguments have been based upon the effects that adjoining land use can have on other land use. The members of the Liberal Party understand the concept of buffering. The reality of the rainforest situation is this: with the intrusion of agriculture onto the coastal plains, particularly cane on one side, and with the intrusion of the clearing that obviously led to the development of grazing and the dairy industry on the tablelands, people nibble back towards the coastal ranges. So generally the rainforest is on the high country, on the peaks and on the watersheds. The argument that areas upstream need to be preserved because what happens upstream can detrimentally affect what happens downstream does not apply. Certainly, there are some areas of coastal rainforest.

I will digress to have a swing at the Labor Party in its pristine purity. For Graham Richardson to manifest a latter-day interest in the environment—anything other than crunching numbers opposed to his own faction in the Labor Party—is like leaving Charles Manson in charge of his victims.

Mr White: Do you think he's a born-again greenie?

Mr INNES: He is still a numbers-cruncher.

Approximately six months before the last Federal election, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service wished to acquire some small parcels of private land in the Babinda district that suddenly came up for auction. That was lowland rainforest south of the Daintree, which is a rare commodity. Because of its rainforest conservation strategy, the Federal Government refused to assist the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service to purchase that land. By reallocating acquisition resources, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service bought that land, which was in jeopardy. If that land had not been bought at auction, that rainforest would not be there now.

I notice that the honourable member for Windsor is shaking his head. Certain extreme elements of the conservation movement pressured the Federal Government by saying, "No, we want all or nothing. Don't assist the honest and pragmatic attempts by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service to add to its bank the subject of the whole exercise, namely the preservation of rainforests."

That is indicative of the types of nonsense, extremism and political interference that are involved. The record of the Queensland Government is respectable by any interstate standards. I say that with some pride, because perhaps 300 000 hectares of tropical rainforests has been given national park status.

Mr Davis: What about Cooloola?

Mr INNES: The Liberal Party can take pride from having pressured the Government into declaring that area as a national park. That was a Liberal Party pressure initiative. The Liberal Party has shown a balanced interest in the environment.

The honourable member for Brisbane Central has probably never visited a rainforest. He had better not go into one, because he might find himself in distinct danger of being captured as a unique species. He would cause as much of a stir in the halls of the Royal Society in London as did the finding of the platypus. That society would have very great difficulty in classifying him.

The reality is that the Queensland Government has in part—and I can certainly speak for the coalition's part—a respectable and progressive record of adding to, identifying and respecting conservation values and building up a conservation estate. The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and the forestry service both have respectable records of working to add to and preserve that estate.

The attitude of some of the leading spokesmen of this Government—and some members of the latter-day Ministry—has been so demented, so belligerent and so insensitive that the good work that has been done by the Government and its agencies has been completely masked.

The pushing-through of the Bloomfield road was probably one of the greatest acts of environmental vandalism that this State has ever seen. The Government's attitude was to push that road through so that it would be one up on the greenies or anybody else who wanted to do something to the Government. Putting a road through an area that gets 9 feet of rain per annum and filling in gullies with 40-foot embankments and providing no culverts is just crass insanity. Of course, the results of that can now be seen.

That "up the greenies" type of action, together with belligerent statements calling anybody who expresses an interest in the environment a communist, a socialist or a greenie, and lining up with people such as the Deen brothers—the destroy-by-night type—and treating them as some sort of folk heroes have meant that the people of Queensland and Australia would not trust this Government with anything fragile or delicate. That has set an emotional climate and a political climate that has handed to the Government's political opponents not only the ammunition but also the guns to fire that ammunition. It has set up a political climate in which nothing was seen to be done by the Queensland Government in that area.

I recall another case that has always fascinated me as a lawyer. Back in the 1970s, certain ill-considered pressures from a small part of the cattle industry were exerted upon members of the National Party and the Queensland Cabinet to prevent the selling on the open market of a cattle station to a group of Aborigines, on the grounds that vermin and that sort of thing would infest the country. That was the first known record of stopping a free market sale of land at a good price by a land-holder to a willing buyer. The sale was stopped on quite novel grounds. I think that one of the churches backed the Aborigines. The case went as far as the High Court. It was the Koowarta case. In the High Court, the action by the Queensland Government was overturned. The High Court took certain legal principles to new levels. It was a classic case of "hard cases make bad law". If a case is clearly contrary to justice and principle, the courts will usually find a way to rectify it, but in finding a way they will sometimes distort established and entrenched principles. That case became the strongest precedent for the argument by the Commonwealth of Australia in the Tasmanian dam case. Short-sighted, stupid decision-making became ammunition to be used against the very interests that were professed by the people and the States.

I noticed that today Mr Muntz, unlike Mr Glasson, had a gratuitous swipe at the Liberal Party, including myself. It was the usual simplistic, poor-quality insult that some Ministers make from time to time. I would note that Mr Muntz comes from a distinguished line of failed predecessors. One has been sacked and another has had his senior public servants goaled. In many ways, that record, particularly in the areas of tourism and national parks, is one of poor-quality administration. Precisely what I saw to be the dangers that exist with this Government have come to pass. That administration has been controlled by people who cannot think any further away than one foot in front of them. They have no understanding of where their decisions might lead them or of the effect that stupid put-down statements against people have. Ministers of the Crown are engaging in virtually bar room brawl-type verbal play and have no understanding of where it might lead them.

I will tell them where it has led them. Stupid actions by Ministers led to the National Party's losing the last Federal election. Their actions affected a lot of other people. The Government has handed this sort of decision-making process over to a Federal Labor Government. The Federal Labor Government has been able to convert the idealism of some Australians and the goodwill of a lot more Australians who have some feeling for the environment into a situation in which the nation thinks the Labor Party is stopping the destruction of the last remnant of rainforest in a small locality of Australia and a massive removal of rainforest. The Queensland Government is in danger of losing control of a major region of Australia to the Federal Government. The Federal Department of the Environment will control an area from the low-water mark out to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and from the back of the cane farm in, over a strip of 450 kilometres in north Queensland. It will mean that the Federal Department of the

Environment will be the strongest planning authority, the major Government authority in the fastest-growing region of this State and possibly this nation. That is what it amounts to. It involves a monstrous dishonesty, a dishonesty that those boundaries released by Senator Richardson correspond to the boundaries of rainforests. They do not. It is the most naked attempt by ambitious centralists and ambitious Federal public servants—

Mr De Lacy: You are getting as bad as Muntz.

Mr INNES: Look at the boundaries. Having regard to the statements that this House knows the honourable member has made, I can only hope, in his interests, that he has no comprehension of the enormity of what was proposed by Senator Richardson. I am sure that some of those people in the honourable member's area who believe that there is great value—biologically and for tourist purposes—in keeping the rainforest had no comprehension that it was intended to extend the boundaries right down over the north coast road. In the *Cairns Post* this morning, a land-owner who lives on approximately 180 acres of land in the area around Gordonvale now finds that his private land is included within or covered by the proposed boundaries of the World Heritage proposal. Where does that leave him? How many dozens of people are in a similar position?

I do not agree with everything that the foresters have done. Foresters—like miners, farmers and lawyers—will kick over the traces from time to time, but one thing is for sure: every sensible Queenslander believes that there are areas of natural Queensland that should be preserved. The Liberal Party believes that the Government should preempt the Federal Government's strike in taking over this State's own capacity to make decisions by prohibiting logging in all virgin rainforest on Crown land.

On the figures presented by the Minister for Lands, Forestry, Mapping and Surveying, Mr Glasson, all we are arguing about is approximately 20 per cent of the virgin rainforest in that proposition. We already know that there are prohibited logging areas within the State forest and that already areas in national parks are sacrosanct. If the Government starts to develop a bit of latter-day wisdom and faces the sort of loss of jurisdictional rights that it should face in this exercise, it can kill off the central argument as quickly as a snap of the fingers.

I will make the position of the Liberal Party perfectly clear—unlike that of the Labor Party. The Liberal Party believes that some logging—and I emphasise “some logging”—is tolerable and possible within rainforest that has already been logged, and that it should be done on a strictly controlled basis. Members of the Liberal Party know what the standard of control should be. It should be a level of sustained yield, preserving the species mix and the canopy cover to 90 per cent or so, within the areas that are logged. It can be done. It must be strictly controlled.

People have ignored the controls in some areas, and they should be prosecuted. I am darn sure that the Forestry Department is mindful, after this exercise, of the dangers of letting things get out of control. The Liberal Party believes that there is a possibility of logging on a sustained yield basis.

I would certainly say that the Liberal Party does not believe that the timber should be taken for low-value uses. If it is a toss-up between virgin rainforest timber and treated softwood to be used in timber framing, people might as well go for the softwood that has been treated. There must be high-quality uses for rainforest timber. Rare and valuable timber can be put to use in making high-quality articles.

In Cairns, perhaps a special college of technical and further education should be set up and perhaps some of the finest Danish or European furniture-designers ought to be imported for three or four years on a contract to set up a course that adds high value to a limited take of timber out of the rainforest. Honourable members need only look at Parliament House. This House was restored and new furniture installed by totally Brisbane-based tradesmen who carried out tremendous work.

In many ways, it is a tragedy that the new Parliament House in Canberra will be lined by using timbers taken from the back yards of other countries instead of making

use of the finest examples of Australia's timber and trade work. A tragic and shocking waste befell that contractual wrangle.

One could say that the Liberal Party's view is middle of the road.

Mr Vaughan: As usual.

Mr INNES: That is where good sense is found. Preserve the virgin areas and control the areas that have been previously logged so that the area remains rainforest.

I hope that some of Mr Gilmore's constituents and other constituents in north Queensland read or get some indication of the background to this debate. I think that they will be shocked to read some of the interjections. A Labor Party member interjected and said, "You did not show any care for the people of Ipswich." I hope that we all care for the people of Ipswich and for the people who will lose their jobs on the Tablelands and in other regions of north Queensland. What is all this federalism about? What is this States' rights business about? Surely the justification for States' rights is that in areas that are vast in size and diversity, more devolved locally based decision-making is needed.

Mr Warburton: You had plenty of opportunity when you were in coalition, and you did nothing.

Mr INNES: That is a complete nonsense, and the honourable member knows it. I will not use an unparliamentary word.

Everyone knows that even though people in some towns and cities in north Queensland are involved in timber-getting, they are also involved in water-getting for expansion. The water that is necessary for the development of new towns in north Queensland or for the expansion of existing towns has to be gathered somewhere. Power has to be taken to those areas. Roads have to be built. There will be a constant land-use conflict situation that has certainly not been assisted—in fact, it has been complicated—by this proposal by Senator Graham Richardson. At least local people have some capacity to know when it is necessary to build another dam or to put in another pipeline or power line. That is what will be enormously complicated. Those sorts of locally based decisions will be taken away by this proposal and are to be propelled to reside in people—the bureaucrats in Canberra—who know little about the regional areas of Australia.

On behalf of the Liberal Party in this House, I move the following amendment—

“That Mr Muntz's motion be amended by adding the following words:

‘And this House calls upon the Queensland Government:

1. To exercise its own jurisdiction to remove the central argument used by the ALP to justify the Commonwealth land grab by reaffirming and securing the prohibited logging status of the majority of virgin rainforest which is on Crown land and by declaring the remaining small percentage of virgin rainforest on Crown land which is not so protected as a prohibited logging area.
2. To reaffirm that logging of previously logged areas on Crown land will be strictly controlled to ensure the maintenance of the rainforest.’ ”

Hon. R. C. KATTER (Flinders—Minister for Northern Development and Community Services) (3.17 p.m.): Section 9 of the World Heritage Act states fairly specifically that absolutely nothing can take place in the area that will be designated a World Heritage authority area. So let me clearly place upon the record the utter impossibility of introducing any activity whatever into such an area. One of the specific requirements is that no trees can be removed and no tracks can be made.

Mr De LACY: I rise to a point of order. I would like to draw to the Minister's attention that in section 9 (1) to which he is referring, (a) to (g) have been ruled invalid by the High Court. They do not apply. The Minister used the same tactic last week. He

is again using it now, which indicates that it is the Government's intention to merely mislead the House and not to stick to the facts of the debate. So if he talks about (a) to (g) he is misleading the House.

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

Mr KATTER: I am not aware of the latest legal situation with respect to the modification of section 9. I will not enter into debate upon that. I accept the honourable member's point of order. However, I will take the words of the Prime Minister of Australia, even though they are probably the least likely words that I would rely upon in all of Australia.

He told a meeting in Sydney, "As for the Daintree road, nothing can be touched in this area whatsoever. The trees will grow. The road will cease to exist." Those were his words, not mine. He also said, "No forestry can take place. Only 500 jobs will be lost." "Only 500 jobs will be lost"—his words, not mine.

The Prime Minister has firmly and clearly stated for the record that this area will become a national park in every single sense and ramification of the word. In spite of the remarks of the member for Cairns about section 9, which I am quite sure can be covered later in this debate, I regard the Prime Minister's statement as quite ridiculous—that is unless the member for Cairns is calling his Federal leader a liar. If he is, he joins most of the Australian community.

An Opposition member interjected.

Mr KATTER: I think a lot of people in the ALP do it regularly.

I will switch to a subject which has vital importance to the debate, that is the issue of national parks and their protection. An area of 12 000 square kilometres will be set up. The Government is advised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service that it costs \$875 per square kilometre to run a national park. If the figures that I have before me are correct, it will cost \$10.5m for Mr Muntz to be able to look after this area. Therefore the Queensland Government expects the Federal Government, which has designated this area, to come forward and provide that money. For the 7 000 square kilometres that was in dispute in Tasmania, the Federal Government promised \$50m in compensation. The facts of the matter are that the Tasmanian Government has received about \$6m. The Federal Government has agreed to the figure of \$2m a year to look after a park area that, according to the history of national parks in Tasmania, costs some \$6m a year to look after. All that the Federal Government has given is \$2.2m per year, on the condition that the Tasmanian Government dips into its own pocket to the tune of more than \$1m a year as well. The arrangement is on a subsidy basis. So the Tasmanian taxpayers have been screwed for an extra \$1m per year. Because of the huge area involved and the limited funds provided, the area can be, by definition, only half looked after. The result of that is that degradation is taking place.

Whether or not the Federal Government likes it, there will be intrusion into this area in Queensland—intrusion by civilisation and some natural intrusion. A few years ago a very big fire in the Hidden Valley area took out a large segment of the Paluma rainforest, some of which has been designated by the Federal Government. If a rainforest is to be kept and preserved, some positive acts have to be undertaken. One of them is protection against fire. Unfortunately, that fire is often created by human hands, whether by way of camp-fire, arson or just recklessness. Unless the Federal Government gives the State \$10.5m a year or the Queensland tax-payers are hit for \$10.5m, this area will not be looked after properly. I submit that the area will not be looked after and that it will be intruded upon and destroyed by fire, wild pigs and wild cattle. As no roads will be built in the area, no-one will be able to gain access to remove the wild pigs and wild cattle. That will bring about a very quick degradation. For those who are not familiar with the Australian environment and ecosystems, I point out that those areas have never been subjected to hard-hoofed animals. When pigs and cattle intrude on an area it shows very rapid deterioration and very rapid erosion. So the actions of the Federal Government

will cause the destruction of large sections of the park by fire, pigs, cattle and the dieback diseases that unfortunately are rampant in our eucalypt forests, especially those north of Townsville.

Mr Vaughan: What are you doing about it?

Mr KATTER: A number of things can be done about the dieback problem. A number of fungicides can be used to overcome the problem. They are being sprayed for protection purposes in certain areas of rainforest where these problems arise. In addition, parts of the infected tree are removed——

Mr Vaughan interjected.

Mr KATTER: The honourable member should listen. I will educate him. Parts of the infected tree are taken so that research can be carried out and ways and means devised of overcoming whatever is causing the dieback or other disease that is intruding into the rainforest. So there is a protection mechanism in national parks against this sort of problem which will not be operating in this huge area.

Mr Vaughan interjected.

Mr KATTER: "Dieback" is a general word that incorporates a number of diseases. A number of those diseases have been dealt with effectively. In response to the interjection—I admit that not all of them have been dealt with. However, if the area is looked after, some of the diseases will be stopped. Of course, a forestry area is looked after. In the proposed situation, the area will not be looked after.

Floods and erosion, which are unfortunately speeded up by the influence of man—walking tracks and various other things—will of course occur and no-one will be able to repair the damage. Honourable members will recall the Cedar Bay incident, which received so much publicity. What was not given much publicity was that arguably those people had cleared an area of some 2, 3 or 5 acres. They destroyed the timber and used it for housing purposes. They attempted to grow marijuana plants.

If that can be done over a very small area, it would be interesting to see what could be done over a 12 000 square kilometre area of Queensland. Such activities will most certainly take place, as they have taken place in the past, but on a speeded-up basis. Human destruction will take place and, of course, the creatures that inhabit the rainforest will face danger from feral cats and feral dogs who wreak very great destruction upon the natural wildlife.

Tasmania was promised \$50m. That promise has been honoured by the provision of only \$6m. In spite of the promises, that is the maximum amount that has ever been given to Tasmania. I doubt whether there would be one honourable member who did not see one of the most world-renowned aspirants for the credibility gap in the entire world history, Mr Hawke, appear on television and promise \$50m. Mr Comben is shaking his head. Does he deny that Mr Hawke promised \$50m? Would the honourable member like me to produce newspaper clippings and references to the television advertisements?

Mr Comben: I'm not here to debate Bob Hawke.

Mr KATTER: I can understand that. I know that he is an embarrassment to members of the Opposition.

Mr Randell: That was before the election.

Mr KATTER: That was before the election. After the election, the Federal Government gave Tasmania \$6m. Because of the dishonesty of the Federal Government in the past, the Queensland Government will treat any promises made by the Federal Government with the contempt they deserve.

When I first heard about this proposal, I thought that the designated area would take in about 3 000 square kilometres, including the dense rainforests. I thought that it

probably would not make much difference, that most of it was already covered by national park, and I did not worry about it. To my horror, I discovered that the mining council was talking about 12 000 square kilometres. I thought that that was an over-reaction, that it was wrong, that that council could not possibly be designating that area.

On many occasions I have camped in areas which, at the very kindest, could be called sparsely populated lowland scrub. That is all it is. Yet this area is designated as though it is some great virtuous wilderness that must be protected. What utter rubbish! The selection of 12 000 square kilometres is disgraceful. The fact that only two months has been taken to discuss and debate the matter is a further reflection upon a Government that promised a period of three months. Of course, a number of years should be allowed to elapse before a decision is made, if in fact anyone ever makes a decision.

Very large extractive industries are based within this area. I do not want to bore the House by discussing the numerous extractive industries in this area. I am talking about extractive industries, not mining industries.

Mr Vaughan interjected.

Mr KATTER: The honourable member is Opposition spokesman on Mines, and I have not heard anything from him.

It has been said that some \$300m worth of resources are locked up in this area. A loud roar of laughter has come from Mr De Lacy, and very shortly I will say something that will put the laugh on the other side of his face. He is in very desperate trouble. He should stay and listen to the end of my speech because he will find it interesting.

I believe that \$300m is a fairly conservative estimate. The back of Hidden Valley, which is a traditional tin and gold-mining area, abuts all of the traditionally best tin and gold-mining areas of Queensland. It is inevitable that immense riches will be locked up in this area to which Queenslanders or Australians will never gain access. To those people who want to sit on riches and not utilise them for the benefit of the world and its population, all I can say is that history passes a very harsh and consistent judgment upon such nations and races.

Mr Vaughan: Do you know the old saying that all that glitters is not gold?

Mr KATTER: That may be true and that is a very good analogy. Once upon a time it was thought that all the sand waste at Cape Flattery and Shelburne Bay was useless. Now it has been discovered that the sand is conservatively valued at \$3,000m or \$4,000m in its upgraded state. I am pleased that the honourable member for Nudgee stated that all that glitters is not gold. It most certainly is not.

There are \$300m worth of resources in that area, but it is not known what minerals are there that may have no value at the present time. Who would have ever thought that silica was of value? Now it is one of the hottest minerals around.

The 12 000 square kilometres include very large areas used for cattle-fattening purposes that are desperately needed in order to secure the future of the meatworks in north Queensland. It has been mooted that all five of the meatworks in the north should shut down. As the Opposition knows, two meatworks have already closed in north Queensland and some 700 or 800 men have lost their jobs.

Mr Comben: Why?

Mr KATTER: Because of the reduction in cattle numbers due to drought and the TB eradication program imposed by the Federal Government.

In order to increase cattle numbers and achieve the kind of cattle poundage that has to be put through the meatworks to make them profitable, access must be given to cattle-fattening areas on the coast. Those areas are being locked up. The death-warrant will most certainly be signed on one of the meatworks in north Queensland. I am sure that the AMIEU will express its appreciation to those members in this House who have aided in the closure of the meatworks and the subsequent loss of 300 jobs.

Anyone in this House who knows anything about the sugar industry realises that it also sounds the death-knell for one of Queensland's northern sugar-mills.

Mr Comben: I cannot believe your reasoning.

Mr KATTER: I wish all honourable members in this House to register the fact that the Opposition spokesman on Environment is claiming that a sugar-mill will not close. Let the record show that the Opposition spokesman on conservation issues is shaking his head and stating that a meatworks and a sugar-mill will not close. Those words will come back to haunt the honourable member for Windsor.

Mr Comben: Because of what?

Mr KATTER: Because the mill needs to expand. Those mills whose tonnage or throughput is below 1 million tonnes will in fact have difficulty in surviving because of the economics of the sugar industry.

Mr De Lacy: Which mill are you talking about?

Mr KATTER: I am not naming mills or meatworks. I am telling honourable members opposite that one mill and one meatworks in north Queensland will close. The honourable member for Cairns has his feet on the sticky paper as well. The words of honourable members opposite will be carefully recorded and noted. At the proper time and place, members of the AMIEU and the AWU who have lost their jobs will be reminded of who was responsible for the loss of those jobs.

Mr Davis: Give the sugar-mill a name, Mr Loudmouth, or else keep quiet about it.

Mr KATTER: I point out to the honourable member that the AMIEU officials have already had discussions with the Government. The Government is very pleased that at least those people are aware of the dangers that are being created by the proposal. I would hope that the members of the AWU also realise the dangers that are being created.

As the Minister responsible for Aboriginal affairs, it is with great sadness that I witness the taking-away of land from the people of upper Mossman and Borabinda who have relied on and built up a very wonderful industry. The member who represents the area, Mr Menzel, took me to see Borabinda. I saw the most beautiful exhibition of bark-painting that I have ever seen in my life. It now stands framed in the DCS offices. The major part of the exhibit in the DCS offices was prepared by the people of Borabinda. I pay a very great tribute to the member for Mulgrave for the assistance that he has given to those people. All of their timber and bark resources will be cut off completely and the factory will be closed. A similar tragedy will overcome the people of upper Mossman and Mossman Gorge.

I do not know where Mr De Lacy stands on this issue. I would hate to be in his shoes. The Yarrabah community was given ownership of its land under the deeds of grant provided by the Government. Half of their Yarrabah deed of grant area has been taken from them by the Federal Government and declared as a World Heritage area.

Mr Comben: Nothing has been taken off them.

Mr KATTER: What rubbish, you hypocrite! You hypocrite!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Honourable the Minister will withdraw those words.

Mr KATTER: I will withdraw those words. I put on record that once——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr KATTER: Mr Speaker, for the benefit of yourself and the members of this Chamber, I point out that the Opposition spokesman on conservation matters said that it is rubbish that the people of Yarrabah will lose half of their land. He is saying that, although they own the land, they are simply not able to use it.

Unfortunately, the head of my department proposed to me that they should be handed over their land but have it shorn of all of the usage of the land. I would put the honourable member for Windsor in the same class and classification as that person. The phrases used are identical: "You can have the land, but you are not allowed to use it for anything." If someone gives me a piece of land and tells me that I am not allowed to use it for anything, he can take it back and do with it what he will, because it is of absolutely no use to me whatsoever.

Traditionally, these people have taken their food, their timber and all the other resources they have needed for survival in recent years and been able to exercise their rights within that area. They will now lose those rights. The Yarrabah community has the forestry rights in that area and the timber-mill. Those people were given the land. They will now say that the white man has once again deceived them and taken back the land. I am very proud to say that it was my Government that gave them the land; it is the Federal Government that is taking it from them. I think that all honourable members know what the people of Yarrabah are like. I am pleased that Yarrabah is in Mr De Lacy's electorate and not in the electorate of a Government member, because a terrible backlash will result from the decision that has been made by the Federal Government. I will leave that headache to the honourable member. It will be interesting to see how he performs in looking after the interests of the Yarrabah people.

A most important matter is that a nation survives by utilising its resources—particularly this nation, which has traditionally derived its overseas revenue from sheep, which feed on the grasses that grow upon our lands and plains, from cattle and from the mining industry. This country has lived off the land for 200 years and, arguably, for 40 000 years. Suddenly 12 000 square kilometres of resource has been taken away from the people of north Queensland.

For those members who are not familiar with what is happening, I point out that Australia is seeking heritage registration with UNESCO. The present Director-General of UNESCO is Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, who lives in Senegal. In fact, if we meet the directives and guide-lines laid down by UNESCO, we will then receive heritage listing. If the directives are changed, presumably we will have to change the rules and laws that are made in Australia to meet that listing.

Of course, the legal technicalities are such that if it does not obey the UNESCO guide-lines it will not have the foreign affairs head of power and—as the honourable member for Toowong, as a lawyer, would advise—it will not have the legal locus standi to be able to exercise any authority within this sphere. In fact, it is locked into a UNESCO directive. Because of someone who lives in a far-off country, the Government is being dictated to as to what it can or cannot do with that 12 000 square kilometres of north Queensland rainforest.

Mr Innes: Keep thinking Sherwood, not Toowong.

Mr KATTER: Sherwood. Perhaps I am getting a bit ahead of myself.

Of all the months that could have been chosen for the declaration, and to cut off so many thousands of jobs in all of those industries——

Mr De Lacy: You have not done the Gaddafi bit yet.

Mr KATTER: Is the honourable member denying that jobs will be lost?

Mr De Lacy: I do not think that Gaddafi will——

Mr KATTER: Is the honourable member for Cairns denying that jobs will be lost?

Mr De Lacy: I do not think that Gaddafi——

Mr KATTER: The honourable member is not denying it. Good. He agrees that jobs will be lost, and he is sitting idly by, twiddling his thumbs while approximately 500 north Queenslanders are given pink slips.

Of course, the Cairns region has been selected. The honourable member for Cairns has a marvellous record of employment in his electorate, which has the highest unemployment figures in the State. Post code 4870 has unemployment recorded at 19.7 per cent. The area from which the Federal Government has taken approximately 2 000 jobs is already the hardest hit economically in the whole of Queensland and, arguably perhaps, the whole of Australia. I doubt whether too many other places in Australia would have unemployment in excess of 19.7 per cent. The State's representative for that area is Mr De Lacy, the honourable member for Cairns, and the Federal representative is Mr Gayler.

An honourable member asked what the figures were for the last election. There was a 3 per cent swing against the Federal Government. Although it was unable to get its message through to everybody, the State Government managed to get its message through to a fair number in the community. There was a 4 per cent swing against the Federal Government in the Tablelands area of Kennedy. There was an overall swing of 3½ per cent throughout that area. If I were carrying the ALP banner, I would not like to be going to the polls at the next election.

Mr De Lacy: I will be doing all right. Don't worry about that.

Mr KATTER: Yes, I am sure that the honourable member will be doing all right.

Unfortunately I do not have the figures for 1984 or the first half of 1985. However, the month that the Federal Government selected to take away from the people of north Queensland ownership and control of and access to 12 000 square kilometres of their homeland showed the second-worst current account deficit in Australia's history. Each of those figures is revised upwards. The figure of \$1.4 thousand million for this month will, on past experience, be revised upwards to about \$1.6 thousand million at the end of the 12-month period.

I believe that I can safely conclude that the month that was selected by the Federal Government showed the worst current account deficit in Australia's history. Why has the Hawke Government more than doubled the current account deficit figures of the previous Government? Why did the Whitlam Government treble the current account deficit figures that existed prior to its coming to power? The reason is the policies that lock up 12 000 square kilometres of Queensland's resources.

That is the type of decision that the Federal Government has taken. The Prime Minister has blithely said that "only 500 jobs" will be lost. Because of those sorts of decisions and that philosophy, within two years—arguably three years—the average per capita GDP in Australia will be less than that of Taiwan. Under the stewardship of the ALP, this nation—our country—will have become poorer than Taiwan. Who in this Chamber would have thought that in his life-time he would see the Taiwanese being richer than Australians? However, that has been achieved in this life-time. The reason is that the people sitting opposite do not have the courage—and I am sure that some of them agree with what I am saying—to stand up to their ALP masters in Canberra and say what they know and believe.

In a country in which poverty is rife, in which according to the Presbyterian Church there is the highest number of people in soup kitchens since the Great Depression, in which according to the *Catholic Leader* a quarter of a million people are living in caravan parks and in which, according to the Salvation Army spokesman, the highest number of people do not have a home—

Mr Comben: What's this got to do with rainforests?

Mr KATTER: I take the interjection, Mr Speaker, because it really is a lovely interjection—"What has that got to do with this decision?"

Poverty is the result of not being able to earn money, yet the honourable member opposite is treating the matter in a flippant manner. Opposition members are treating in a most flippant manner the fact that today a quarter of a million Australians are living in caravan parks. According to the figures on poverty that I am quoting, there is

a 40 per cent drop in new motor-vehicle registrations. No register is kept of how many vehicles are on the roads, but there is a register of new vehicle registrations. The single statistical indicator that is available shows that new motor-vehicle registrations are down 40 per cent on last year. I have more poverty indicators. In Logan City, housing approvals have dropped from 2 600 to 1 200. I am flying by memory, but I hope that the statistics are right.

I must draw to the attention of the House that the member for Ipswich and the Opposition spokesman on conservation matters find this extremely humorous. I really am amazed that they would find it humorous that 40 per cent fewer people are able to own a motor vehicle this year than last year and that housing approvals have dropped by more than half. They find that screamingly funny.

Mr HAMILL: I rise to a point of order. The Minister is misleading the House. I do not find those figures humorous. I find it humorous that he would quote figures off the top of his head and hope that he could correct them in *Hansard* tomorrow.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The Minister's time has expired. Is there a seconder for the amendment moved by the member for Sherwood?

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Leader of the Liberal Party) (3.47 p.m.): I rise to second the amendment moved by the honourable member for Sherwood, and reserve the right to speak, if time allows, later.

Mr COMBEN (Windsor) (3.48 p.m.): I welcome the opportunity to defend the Australian Labor Party's position on rainforest preservation. Firstly, I comment on points raised by the previous speaker, the Minister for Northern Development and Community Services. In the four years that I have been in this House, I have never heard such a grab-bag of emotionalism, half-truths, falsehoods and innuendoes.

Mr Hamill: Not since the last time.

Mr COMBEN: As the member for Ipswich said, not since the last time he spoke.

I understood from the late Kevin Hooper that the Minister came from the western areas and that there was some connection with camel trains. I never did understand that until this afternoon, when I realised for the first time that when he was in the west he took on the ways of the dingo—sly and vicious to smaller creatures——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will withdraw the comment and will not continue with those comments.

Mr COMBEN: I will not talk about dingoes.

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

Mr COMBEN: I withdraw the comment.

The Minister made a number of references to spheres that would be supposedly hurt by the listing of the wet tropical rainforest. He spoke at first about tin and then moved on to meat, sugar and Aborigines and talked generally about resources. What he did not talk about was the Tully mill steam power station. Just before the Federal election, honourable members heard that the Minister was announcing in the north and had the general secretary of the North Queensland Electricity Board telling the world that that project was not going ahead because of World Heritage listing. They said that they were uncertain and did not know what was going to happen; yet on 7 April this year, a press release from the Minister appeared in the *Daily Sun* to the effect that the project was not to go ahead and that the Burdekin scheme was the preferred one. Which is it? Is it that the Minister's memory is so bad that he should resign, or was he just being dishonest? I do not know which is the case, but either his health is suffering or his honesty is suffering. It is either one thing or the other. I was waiting for the——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member will speak through the Chair.

Mr COMBEN: I am surprised that the Minister does not respond, because there is certainly something wrong with him. He said that the tin-mining in Hidden Valley would now be finished; that all those jobs would be lost. Does the Minister know nothing of town-planning principles and continuing use? Does he not look at the Great Barrier Reef and see the continuation of fishing, etc., in that area?

Mr Katter: Are you seriously telling us that tin-mining will continue to take place in World Heritage areas?

Mr COMBEN: No. I am saying that tin-mining will continue in Hidden Valley. There will be continuing use in some places where it is not harmful to the rainforest. As the Minister would know from having been in the area, the rainforest is already destroyed. The area is open. On the Minister's own argument, he is saying that some areas that have been cleared should not be in that World Heritage area. Those areas, if they should not be there, will be allowed to continue in their present usage—and that includes tin-mining.

The Minister also complains that the meat industry would not be able to continue because the fattening areas will no longer be available. That claim is on a par with what the honourable member for Aspley told me last Thursday when I was in the north. The honourable member said that the bees will not be allowed to go into the World Heritage area. The honourable member said that, because nothing can go on in that area, the bees will not be allowed in. I do not know whether or not the honourable member was referring to the birds and the bees, but she certainly said very strongly that the bees would not be allowed to go in there and that somebody had better find out what is going on in that area.

At the same time as she was telling me that, in the strongest possible terms she was defaming Rosemary Hill, who is a well-known conservationist in this State and a great worker in the north for conservation issues. The honourable member pointed to a map and told me and a half a dozen other people, "Look, you people have taken out the freehold land that Rosemary Hill owns. You have made sure that she is okay. You look after your own." Our own would be proud to have World Heritage listing over their property. It was not Rosemary Hill's land that was excluded.

Mrs Nelson: She has a sawmill on her property. Did you know that?

Mr COMBEN: My advice to Rosmary Hill was that she should sue the honourable member for everything the honourable member is worth, but that she would not be worth the court costs.

These are the half-truths that are being told by this National Party Government as it strives to find some sort of support for its emotional response. The Minister ended up talking about Aborigines and said that they had lost half their land. Three times the Minister said, "They have lost half their land." The Minister then softened that statement by saying, "They are not able to use it." The Minister said that their food had been taken away and that they would not be able to use the timber.

One of the four elements that qualify this piece of land—it is one of seven areas in the world to be given all four classifications of World Heritage listing—is that there is still in place a pristine rainforest and a culture vested in Aborigines who still use the rainforest. That is one of the elements that are sought to be preserved by World Heritage, but the National Party Government in Queensland would take that away. The Aborigines at Yarrabah will be protected because their environment will be preserved.

The Queensland Government talks about resources. The traditional resources—especially those that are rooted in the last 200 years of Australia's history—are the resources of the land. The Government claims that the Labor Party is somehow locking up those resources. What the Queensland Government fails to understand is that in the late twentieth century a new economy based on tourism has emerged. The economy is no longer able to be based on primary production and basic resources. The resources for the new economy in Queensland will be partly in the wet tropics. That is the sole

resource that will be developed in the next hundreds of years in Queensland. The Minister cannot see it because he is too blind. He is too blind to see it.

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. The inference from what the member has said is that I have engaged in some sort of deceit. Sales to tourists by the Aboriginal people exceed \$1m.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Speaker has drawn no such inference. The member for Windsor will continue.

Mr COMBEN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is an excellent ruling.

Mr Innes: Will any logging be allowed within the World Heritage listed areas?

Mr COMBEN: I would certainly hope that it will not be. That was the clear statement from Senator Richardson last week; it is the clear statement from me. That is a major integral part of World Heritage listing. The integrity of rainforests cannot be preserved if logging is allowed inside them.

Mr Katter: The Yarrabah people have a timber-mill. That is what I just said to you. They have forestry rights over half of their area, which will now be in the World Heritage area.

Mr COMBEN: That has yet to be seen. I am talking about the ability of the Aboriginal people to own their own land and to develop their own industry based on the rainforest in the area and on tourism. They will be able to do that.

The Minister referred to 500 jobs. We on this side of the House are fascinated to hear that 500 jobs are in jeopardy. Until recently, the Premier has been talking about 3 000 jobs. That was referred to in Sunday's newspapers.

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. Once again there is an inference that I am deceiving the House. I only ever quoted Mr Hawke. I do not know how many jobs are being lost. I am just quoting Mr Hawke.

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

Mr COMBEN: I will reply to the Minister. I made handwritten notes of what the Minister said about a number of topics, and there was no reference at that moment to Bob Hawke. He spoke about 500 jobs being lost. I will examine *Hansard* tomorrow. Certainly, that is one-sixth of the jobs——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member for Windsor to return to his speech.

Mr COMBEN: I am on my speech.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to continue.

Mr COMBEN: I am referring to and rebutting the previous speaker. I am on my major speech. That is my major speech. I am on it. The figure is of 500——

Mr Katter: Are you calling Mr Hawke a liar?

Mr COMBEN: The honourable member is stopping my speech.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have given the honourable member for Windsor his first warning. I ask him to continue.

Mr COMBEN: Thank you. As the first clause of the motion relating to people losing their jobs is being debated, I would like to draw a parallel between the figure quoted by the Minister this afternoon and that quoted by the Premier in the week-end press that 3 000 jobs would be lost.

Mr Hamill: Mr Glasson mentioned 1 200.

Mr COMBEN: Yes. That is an indication of the total inconsistencies of the rabble on the other side when they try to find some sort of a peg on which to hang their hats

by saying that the listing of the wet tropical areas is in actual fact detrimental to the people of Queensland. The Government does not know what that listing will be. It does not know the benefits. It is trying to find a number of issues which it says will be of detriment to the people in the north. It is thrashing around everywhere trying to find those issues. However, there is still a difference when its members talk about the number of jobs that will be lost. According to Mr Katter, it is 500 jobs; according to Mr Glasson, it is 1 200; and, according to the Premier, it is 3 000.

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. The member has said constantly that I said that. I was quoting Mr Hawke. I have said that I am not saying how many jobs will be lost. It is Mr Hawke whom I am quoting. I would appreciate it if the member for Windsor stopped deceiving the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member for Windsor to continue with his speech. I ask the Minister to refrain from too many interjections and I ask the member for Windsor to speak through the Chair and not to be antagonistic.

Mr COMBEN: I am never antagonistic. I am a very docile, quiet, young man.

Mr SPEAKER: I now give the member for Windsor his second warning.

Mr COMBEN: The State Government comes into this place and huffs and puffs, claiming that it wants to have Queenslanders standing shoulder to shoulder on the issue; but the truth is that the Government comes into this House as the divided rump, rejected by 60 per cent of Queenslanders and 85 per cent of all Australians.

Senator Richardson, an accomplished numbers man, as the member for Sherwood has already told the House, knew precisely what he was talking about when at last week's press conference he stated that he supported the 7 million people who voted in the Federal election for the save-the-forest campaign and not the few hundred objectors in the north. The Queensland Government has always been quick to dismiss the various Brisbane protesters against the street march legislation, the SEQEB dispute, etc., as a handful of ratbags. Now it is time for us to dismiss those short-sighted few people in the north who stood outside the Pacific Hotel last week and wanted to tear one ALP journalist apart limb by limb when he took a perfectly good message out to them. If there had not been intervention, they were prepared to lynch him. Those short-sighted ratbags up there were stirred up by people such as the Minister for Northern Development and Mr Muntz.

Mrs Nelson: Talk about ratbags!

Mr COMBEN: Will the marsh mallow from Aspley let me get on?

The Labor Party's policy is one for the future.

Mrs Nelson: Talk about ratbags—what a disgrace you are to this House.

Mr COMBEN: The marsh mallow from Aspley continues to interject. Mr Speaker, I am having some trouble keeping to my speech.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will give the member for Windsor one more chance. If I have to give him another warning, I will stop his speech. The member for Windsor will now continue and will speak through the Chair.

Mr COMBEN: It is a policy that is supported by a clear majority of Australians, who, unlike the Queensland Government, want to know that something of our natural world is being preserved for the future. It is a policy that will preserve jobs into the future.

Mr De Lacy: I note that you are now very moderate.

Mr COMBEN: I do not know what else to be.

It is a policy that will allow sustainable development in the State's north. I am cutting out all references to the Government, too. This policy of vision is in stark

contrast to that of the National Party, which is the party of environmental vandalism, and the Liberal Party in this place, which is the party of environmental opportunism.

I wish to examine section by section the motion under debate. The first part states—

“The nomination will result in timber industry and allied industry employees losing their jobs and they and their families having to rely on unemployment benefits for their livelihood.”

This is obviously not so. The Labor Party has given a commitment to sustainable development and substantial compensation for the northern areas. The Opposition's shadow Cabinet has passed a resolution calling on the Federal Government to provide immediate compensation payments and programs to minimise any employment dislocation problems.

Mr Newton: Tax-payers' money again.

Mr COMBEN: Mr Speaker, he is not in his correct place.

As I was saying, the Queensland Opposition's resolution calls on the Federal Government to provide immediate compensation payments and programs to minimise any employment dislocation problems associated with World Heritage listing and to assist in establishing plantation reforestation programs in north Queensland. Under such a policy, for the first time in Queensland the Labor Party will put into place an employment and economic strategy to ensure economic development in the area, an area that for the past 10 years has seen declining employment in the timber industry. Only three weeks ago, in a debate on the Forestry Act Amendment Bill, the Minister for Forestry admitted that there were problems of employment in the industry, that there had been a 60 per cent decline in the timber products taken out of the north and in employment in those areas. However, now the State Government has undertaken an hysterical campaign to blame every north Queensland woe on the Federal Government and World Heritage listing. What the State Government should do is co-operate with the Federal Government to see that the restructuring of the economy of the north is hastened. Large amounts of money will be, and are, available to the State Government from the Federal Government for this compensation and will be of enormous benefit to the north.

Mr Katter interjected.

Mr COMBEN: That money will ensure that the social dislocation will be minimised—unless, of course, the State Government has its way and squanders all the compensation on enormously expensive High Court cases.

Mr Speaker, the Minister seems to laugh at the concept of compensation. He spoke at length about the lack of compensation that was paid by the Federal Government to the Tasmanian Government. I remind the Minister that the Federal Liberal Government originally offered some \$70m to the Tasmanian Government if it did not go ahead with the dam. That is the money to which the Minister keeps referring. No such compensation was promised after the stopping of the Franklin Dam. The Tasmanian Government was given the option to take the money or try the court case. That Government chose the court case, which it lost, and it lost the money as well.

That is the problem with the Queensland Government. It is always out to grab the money but it does not want the responsibilities. Some \$25m was made available under the national rainforest program. A previous speaker referred to the fact that the National Parks and Wildlife Service of this State wanted to use some of that money to acquire small areas of rainforest. However, part and parcel of the \$25m was the adoption of an entire program to preserve the northern rainforest. It was not to be taken in dribs and drabs to establish interpretive centres, walking tracks and so on. It was to be an overall policy; an overall program. The Queensland Government would not accept it. It insisted on maintaining the logging program. The Federal Government negotiated for a year. The Queensland Government was intractable. We have the Federal power and we have

used that Federal power. Government members can rant and rave and be as hysterical as they like——

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member has just said that he has the Federal power. That is a very curious statement. I think the record should be corrected.

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

Mr COMBEN: Just to clarify the position, I said "we". I referred to myself as a member of the Australian Labor Party, which is presently in Government in Canberra. I have no doubt at all that the Federal Government will win the court case. It is interesting to reflect on how many High Court constitutional cases Queensland has won. It would also be interesting to know how much money has been spent in that way.

The truth of the matter is that the Federal Government will provide employment opportunities in the north. The resultant tourism will be of enormous benefit to the north. That is a resource. People visit the north to see the Great Barrier Reef. However, I think that the Minister knows perfectly well that people arrive in Cairns and for one day they visit Green Island and for one other day they visit somewhere like Michaelmas Cay in glass-bottomed boats. That is about all the tourists see of the Great Barrier Reef. However, the tourists take trips to various parts of the rainforest. That is the sort of area which will see an expansion of tourism in the next few years.

The people of the north have supported people such as my colleague the member for Cairns, my friend the member for Mourilyan and members of the Federal Parliament. Those people know that the future of the north lies in tourism. Its future is not in short-sighted logging programs, which are being reduced by greater amounts every year.

A Government member interjected.

Mr COMBEN: The honourable member interjects that there is a sustainable yield. The Opposition was told 30 years ago that there was a sustainable yield in the north. Every year it has had to be reduced. The tooling for the logging mills has been reduced and the Government still cannot guarantee that there is sustainable yield in the north. The number of jobs that are available in the forestry industry is small compared with the number available in the tourist industry.

The next part of the motion that is being debated states that the Queensland Forestry Department and National Parks and Wildlife Service have an outstanding record in the management of the State's forestry and national park estates. The truth of the matter is that they may well in actual fact manage national parks when they are acquired. However, it is known that the Queensland national park estate is the smallest in Australia. In New South Wales more than 5 per cent of land is given to national park; in Victoria, 5½ per cent; in Queensland, 2 per cent, which is an appallingly small figure; in South Australia, 4½ per cent; in Western Australia, 5½ per cent; in Tasmania, 14 per cent, which is about to be increased again; and in the ACT, a third of all land is national park. Queensland has the poorest record of national park acquisition of any State. Shortly after announcing the creation of Queensland's National Parks and Wildlife Service——

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. I am sorry to take up the time of this House, but the other States include environmental parks which Queensland does not include. If the environmental park areas are included—something that this uninformed person has not done—it will be found that Queensland has the highest percentage in Australia.

Mr COMBEN: In reply to the irrelevant point of order raised by the Minister, if environmental parks in Queensland are included the figure increases from 1.98 per cent to 2.04 per cent.

Mr KATTER: I crave your indulgence once more, Mr Speaker, and rise on another point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. I will not allow debate and the Minister will remain seated. I call the honourable member for Windsor.

Mr COMBEN: If one wants to accept the bodgie figures put out by the National Party, one finds that they include such things as forestry areas and the Great Barrier Reef. If the Minister had said it properly, he might have got away with it.

Shortly after announcing the creation of Queensland's National Parks and Wildlife Service in April 1975, the Premier claimed that the new service would make Queensland's national parks network among the largest and best in the world. Three years later he declared, "Queensland's aim is to have the highest percentage of national parks in Australia." Today Queensland's national park estate is the poorest of any Australian State. It covers the smallest percentage of land area and is the least representative of plant communities and habitat. The Premier and the National Party have forgotten the promises they made a decade ago. Queensland's unique heritage is being sold, bulldozed, grazed and eroded out of existence, and that is why the Federal Government has had to come into Queensland and declare that area to be a World Heritage area.

The area has to be protected. There is a twofold reason for this. There is a section of the world's tourist population that looks at the World Heritage List and says, "I would like to go there because it is unique. I will not be able to see that anywhere else."

Mr Littleproud: Who says that?

Mr COMBEN: There is a whole group of tourists throughout the world and they will come to Queensland. There are only seven places in the world which meet all four criteria to become part of the World Heritage listing. They include the Galapagos Islands—a place I would like to visit one day—Yellowstone National Park and a number of sites in Australia. It is time that Queenslanders realised that we have a tremendous asset. It is to the advantage of Queenslanders that this area is listed. The National Party Government has a short-sighted view of a declining and antiquated industry and, if the Government wins the battle, the cost to Queensland will be the loss of a massive future tourist industry. The Labor Party must look to the future. Its policy is all about the future.

I am proud and happy to stand in this House as a member of the Australian Labor Party and be able to support World Heritage listing. If the Premier would like to extend an invitation to me to go to the north with him on Thursday evening in the Government jet to attend meetings with the loggers up there, I am quite happy to put the other side of the argument. I am not scared of a few people who are opposed to the bulk of the Australian population, who passed judgment on this issue on 11 July this year. People have tried to say that they did not know what the candidates were talking about and did not know what they were voting for. It is very clear that they did know. There is a clear distinction between the Australian Labor Party Government in Canberra and the environmental opinions and policies of the Liberal Party down there. The National Party was irrelevant at that election. It was the environmental vandal and no-one listened to it. It polled less than 10 per cent of the vote across Australia. Over half the people of Australia said that, because it lists the World Heritage areas, they would support the Australian Labor Party.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr COMBEN: As the honourable member for Brisbane Central has said, the Federal election was a choice between good and evil. I am proud to say that the Labor Party won that election. The environmental lobby has recently released a booklet showing the results of its lobbying in targeted seats. In Queensland, where the effect of World Heritage listing should have been biting, if it was going to bite anywhere, what happened? The Labor Party won four new seats and two of them were won from the National Party.

Many Government members should be very concerned about that. It is interesting that the member for Aspley is ready to enter the debate. She knows that the figures from the last State election show that next time she will go.

Mrs Nelson: I must be a real worry to you, because that's the fifth time you have mentioned me today.

Mr COMBEN: I do not think that the member for Aspley is any worry at all, but we do know that the environment in Queensland is a vote-winner for the Australian Labor Party. Its members have no hesitation at all in supporting World Heritage listing and in stopping the logging in that area, as Australians and Queenslanders want. I remind members of the National Party, who win about 35 per cent of the vote, that in this place there are two other parties which are reasonably environmentally sensitive and which are winning a majority of the votes at each election in this State. The environment will be on the agenda for the next three years.

Mr Davis: Quality of life is more important than a lousy dollar.

Mr COMBEN: The honourable member is right. I will certainly again ask him for his contribution of \$100 to the environment movement in this State and thank him for pledging it.

The environment is on the agenda in this State. The Federal Government has put it there squarely. The Government is squirming because it knows that it is losing the political battle with the people. It will certainly lose its court battle with the Federal Government. Members of the Opposition give notice that places such as the bat cleft at Rockhampton and the whole range of promised national park declarations will be pursued by them.

I remind the Minister that during the Lindeman Island fiasco in the middle of last year, 27 islands were promised as national parks, but not in exchange for Lindeman Island. Members of the Government said, "We are good people. We will sell off Lindeman Island, but we will also make sure that you get 27 new national parks." Not one of those islands has been declared. It was an act of environmental vandalism that those islands, promised quite clearly and unambiguously by the then Minister for National Parks, were not delivered in any way.

National parks make up 2 per cent of the area of this State. Government members have no idea about the quality of life. They have no idea of the modern themes of Government and politics in this State. The Opposition is developing those themes. It knows that it is on a winner in those directions. Members of the Opposition will be winning with the Federal Government on a World Heritage listing of which we are proud. We have no trouble in standing up. We do not need to rabble-rouse. We will be going into the north to sell the positive attitudes of the proposal and outline the benefits that will accrue to Queenslanders, especially to north Queenslanders. We will tell them that without a shadow of a doubt the present Minister for Northern Development is no longer in touch with anyone in Queensland, let alone the people of the north.

Mrs NELSON (Aspley) (4.18 p.m.): Before I commence my speech, I think that I should deal with the issue of the species identification of the member for Brisbane Central. Far from the honourable member for Windsor asking for \$100, I think that perhaps the boot should be on the other foot. If the member for Sherwood is seeking any species clarification, I think that there are a number of, as yet, unrecorded species in north Queensland that would fit the bill, one being the dropped bear and the other being the killer koala, which are both well known to Australian tourists.

On 5 June the Prime Minister made a press announcement to the people of Australia which, in part, stated—

"The Prime Minister and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, the Honourable Barry Cohen, said today that the Government would immediately proceed towards nomination of the wet tropics of north-east Queensland to the World Heritage list. As part of the process the Government will be consulting with the Queensland Government and parties with interests in the region and will invite submissions to be made within a period of three months. This process is necessary

as a nomination would need to be made by 31 December 1987 for consideration by the World Heritage Committee by the end of 1988."

Necessary for whom is not quite clear.

Any decision that has the potential to have such an impact and effect on human life as this decision has must be made on three criteria. It must be based on well-informed, prepared and documented research; it must be a socially and economically responsible decision; and it must be in the public interest. I will come back to those three criteria later.

On 23 June, the very same month as that press release, the Prime Minister wrote to the Queensland Premier—

"My dear Premier,

I am writing to advise you formally of my Government's decision to immediately proceed towards nomination of the wet tropics of north-east Queensland to the World Heritage List. As you know, the Government's approach to rainforest conservation has been based on negotiating co-operative arrangements with the States."

The Prime Minister went on to say—

"My Government has decided to proceed towards listing of the wet tropics as a recognition of the outstanding universal values of the region. Central to the Government's decision is the desire to seek the views of the Queensland Government and of other parties with interest in the region. I have requested that the Minister"—

the other Minister—

"write to you shortly on this matter."

Twice on the public record the Prime Minister indicated that there would be consultation and negotiation; that three months would be set aside during which people could present submissions. He pointed out also to the people of Australia his reasons for the necessity of moving in December this year.

The proposal to nominate Queensland's wet tropics for World Heritage listing does not meet any of the criteria that I have mentioned. I do not believe that it is based on well documented and scientific research, despite the glossiness and prettiness of the proposals that have been put forward by some so-called outstanding conservationists. I do not believe that it is socially and economically responsible, nor do I believe that it is in the public interest.

One must look at why this decision is being made. To do so, the powers or lack of powers of the Commonwealth Government must be considered. Its powers over conservation issues are limited. It has no direct head of power under the Australian Constitution to deal with environmental matters. In order to implement its environmental policies, the Commonwealth Government must use its other powers outside those specifically mentioned in the Australian Constitution, such as grants powers or external powers. The point must be made that, in this case, external powers refer to the use of the World Heritage Conservation Act. The limitations that are placed upon the Government by that Act mean that the Commonwealth Government's powers relate to prohibition only. I will refer to that section of the Act later.

I wish to draw to the attention of this House and the people of Queensland some examples of the type of consultation and negotiation that the Commonwealth Government has entered into in the past in this regard. It is very important that the people of north Queensland be made aware of the track record of the Australian Labor Party while it has been in Government.

The case of the Franklin River is well documented. It involved a High Court challenge. I am delighted that the honourable member for Windsor put on the public record in this House, "You took your chance. You went to court. You got no money because you went to court." Robin Gray was presented with the ultimate political and

moral blackmail, "Take the cookies now and don't go to court, or go to court and get nothing." The people of Tasmania got little out of that episode. Because of the risk of contracting hepatitis B, people are now avoiding the Franklin area.

I turn now to the Commonwealth Government's attitude to World Heritage listings. The Commonwealth Government's unilateral nomination of the rainforest totally abrogates an agreement that was reached at the July 1984 meeting of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments on procedures that should occur before a site in Australia is nominated for World Heritage listing. That agreement provided for full consultation by the Commonwealth with the State or Territory concerned. It included the statement—and this is important—

"The Commonwealth Government has indicated that it will not take unilateral action to nominate areas for World Heritage listing without the agreement of the State or Territory concerned."

That agreement with the Northern Territory was completely broken in respect of Kakadu Stage 2, despite assurances. Mr Early, the Director of National Estate and World Heritage Section, Department of Arts, in a letter dated 26 June 1986 wrote—

"As you note, proceedings for nominating possible future Australian sites for World Heritage listing were agreed at the July 1984 meeting of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers and included, inter alia, a commitment by the Commonwealth to full consultation with State and Territory Governments. Should the Commonwealth decide to pursue World Heritage listing of the former Stage 2 area, the Northern Territory Government will be consulted in accordance with the CONCOM agreement prior to any approach being made to the World Heritage secretariat in Paris."

Barry Cohen, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, in a letter to the Territory Minister for Mines and Energy on 16 September 1986 said—

"Should the Commonwealth decide to pursue World Heritage listing of the former Stage 2 area, your Government will be consulted in accordance with the CONCOM agreement prior to any approach being made to the World Heritage secretariat in Paris."

The same day that that letter was written, the Commonwealth Minister issued a joint press release with the Minister for Resources and Energy stating that immediate steps should be taken to nominate Stage 2 of the park for inclusion on the World Heritage List. No mention was made of prior consultation with the Northern Territory.

The following day, 17 September, the nomination of Stage 2 was forwarded to Paris. Steve Hatton, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, has had to allocate quite substantial sums of money out of his Budget to try to fight that loss of its rights as a territory.

What is this debate about and what is this listing nomination all about? It is about power. It is not about protecting the environment of north Queensland. A few moments ago, the member for Windsor spelt out what it was about. What the Commonwealth is saying—and he said it throughout his speech and it filtered through all of his words—is, "We will decide what happens in north Queensland. We will say who can go where. We will decide what industry will stop and what industry will proceed." The only power that the listing will provide the member for Windsor's party with is a power to prohibit. It will provide him with nothing else.

Since the honourable member is obviously not aware of section 13 of the Act, I will read it to him. It states—

"In determining whether or not to give a consent pursuant to section 9 . . ."

I liked the little play on words by the member for Cairns when he said that subsections (a) to (g) had been cancelled. The only subsection that was required was the next one which stated that anything that happens can take effect. As the honourable member well knows, only one subsection was required in section 9. All the others could be declared

invalid because the last subsection covered every other subsection. The honourable member knows that, so he is being a little two-faced about it. Section 13 stated—

“In determining whether or not to give a consent pursuant to section 9 in relation to any property in which that section applies, the Minister shall have regard only to the protection, conservation and presentation within the meaning of the convention of the property.”

He does not have the power to decide what will take place. He does not have the power to say how the area is managed. That is the tragic reality of the whole situation. The people of Queensland, through their sovereign State, the Queensland Government, have the power to decide what will happen. This listing will usurp those sovereign State powers by power of prohibition. That is what the people of north Queensland have to understand.

The fact is that the environmentalists of north Queensland and Australia are interested in only the cessation of logging. The member for Windsor made a fool of both himself and his party, when challenged by the member for Flinders, by saying that it was all right for bees to go in the forest; that it was all right because the Aboriginal lands were not going to be affected and that the Federal Government would allow this and something else. It is not in a position to do that. All it can do is prohibit. If there are areas on the World Heritage listing that contain virgin, unique or endangered species of rainforest timbers, because of the Commonwealth Government's powers of prohibition, nothing will be allowed to take place on that land. The people of Australia—especially the people of Queensland—need to understand that this is a power struggle within Australia. It is the first of a number of power struggles with the ALP seeking to impose its views on the people of Queensland.

Members of the ALP cannot win an election in this State. Let's get the figures right, fellows. The National Party wins office in this State with 55 per cent of the two-party vote. The National Party wins 40 per cent of the primary vote and wins the remainder on preferences. If four out of 10 people vote for the National Party primarily, four out of 10 people also vote for the ALP primarily. The National Party gets 55 per cent of the two-party vote. Members of the Opposition should look at the figures from the last election and they might find out what the position is.

Mr Speaker, the ALP cannot win an election in this State. The Federal colleagues of the Opposition have washed their hands of them. The way that the Federal Government tries to manipulate the economy of this State—downwards, not upwards—is by abrogating the sovereign rights of the State through the use of external powers because it does not have the power under the Australian Constitution.

I wish to speak for a short time about some of the implications of the listing. I will not address issues that have already been raised in the House. However, after speaking with a number of groups in north Queensland, it became very clear to me that there is a very real paucity of caring—I suppose that is the word—among some of the most radical conservationists who believe that, by shutting down or locking up the rainforests of north Queensland, the problem is simply being transferred to south-east Asia. This problem has not been addressed by any of the Labor spokesmen I have heard today or on any previous occasion.

Cabinet-makers in Sydney and Melbourne have already contacted me, as chairman of the National Party's natural resources committee, to say that the timber-sellers of south-east Asia have already doubled their price. The rainforest timber-suppliers in south-east Asia see this move as a golden opportunity. Australia's timber cannot be sold. The south-east Asian markets will go berserk, and the people of Sydney and Melbourne will get a very rude shock at this time next year when they want to buy a chair that is made out of any sort of unique timber. Firms such as Chiswell and Parker and any other major furniture-manufacturers are quite beside themselves over the future of the whole industry. People involved in quality furniture manufacturing believe that their costs will sky-rocket. They will have to put staff off and will have to buy their timber elsewhere.

Let us look not merely at the economic effects. Australia will lose an export industry and will become an importer of another product. Consequently, Australia's deficit will blow out even further. For the moment, however, let us ignore that aspect and look to the environmental impact.

If the Opposition claims that the National Party Government in Queensland does not manage its rainforests particularly well—and I do not agree with that for a minute because I believe that they are splendidly managed—there is no doubt that the rainforests of South America and south-east Asia are threatened. I believe that the United Nations stepped in recently with a \$10m bribe to try to stop one of the South American nations continuing to use its rainforests in a reckless manner.

I believe that Australia has a valuable opportunity to show the world how successfully rainforests can be managed. I believe that keeping the logging industry open is terribly important, not merely from an economic and social point of view but from the point of view of preservation of world rainforests also. If Australia locks up its rainforests and they are kept in a pristine state—and of course another aspect that has not yet been examined is that the rainforests would deteriorate if that were to occur—the problem will simply be transferred from one nation that has the skill and ability to deal with the issue to a number of nations that do not have the skill.

Mr De Lacy: You are saying, "Let's destroy our rainforest in order to save theirs."

Mrs NELSON: I point out to the honourable member for Cairns that a number of people who came to see us were genuine, well-intentioned and cared about their country. They loved the rainforest, but they had a very myopic view of the issue. As far as they were concerned, it did not matter what happened in south-east Asia and it did not matter what happened in South America, as long as Australia did not do anything. The tragic reality of that point of view is that the world's rainforests will be endangered if that happens.

Another aspect that has not yet been addressed today is the issue of alternative employment, which has been put up by Senator Richardson. In his speech on Thursday he made great play of the fact that plantations would be able to replace jobs in the forestry industry and that those jobs that could not be covered by that substitution would be taken up by tourism. Those two issues need to be addressed very briefly. Firstly, are the workers of Ravenshoe and other timber towns expected to wait about 80 years while those forests grow? They do not have the skills. It would take 10 to 15 years to train them. That is the stupidity of the Labor Party's flippant and—

Mr De Lacy: That's a stupid statement.

Mrs NELSON: No, it is not a stupid statement. It is an example of the naivety and the lack of scientific base to the radical environmentalists' claim to this territory. It is one of the great weaknesses in their argument. In the Conservation Foundation's own document, which has been circulated to everybody, an article states that plantations and tourism could replace the jobs.

Mr De Lacy: What alternative jobs did you offer the people from the West Moreton coal-fields?

Mrs NELSON: I will take that interjection. I am talking about declines in world markets for an oversupplied product.

The honourable member is talking about declines in world markets for an over-supplied product. I am talking about a ruthless and unnecessary decision outside the market-place to close down an industry. The Federal Government has an obligation to compensate those people and to provide them with jobs. The honourable member should not compare the two. He cannot compare what happens in the market-place to the forcible imposition of the Government's views on innocent people. That is what the Federal Government is doing.

In regard to the issue of plantations—different skills and years of training are involved. Firstly, there would simply not be enough land anywhere in north Queensland

in which to develop plantations. Are those people to be relocated? Are they to be brought to south-east Queensland? Honourable members should go out of their own electorates and talk to those people and see how they feel about being relocated. There is simply not enough land or enough time. Those people will not gain jobs in plantation development. Could I also ask: is plantation development suitable? If all of that buffer zone is locked up with plantation development, it would have a horrible aspect; it would be ugly and unappealing and completely against the natural nature of the rainforest and the wet tropics area. That is a furphy put up by the conservation movement. It will not work and, what is more, I believe that the conservation movement knows that it will not work.

I now refer to the other particular and critical area, namely, that of tourism. Again the member for Windsor sees tourism as the panacea to the nation's ills. Certainly the development of our tourist industry has been a great boon to Queensland. The area in question is a multiple land use area. It cannot be converted into a single land use area or a minimal land use area. The point about tourism is that people are the world's worst polluters. It cannot be suddenly said that national parks and rainforest reserves will be flooded with tourists, simply because more damage will be done by them than any cyclone or forester has ever done. The number of people entering such areas has to be limited. At the moment there is enough trouble coping with the pressures and stresses caused by the increasing number of tourists going through such areas. In fact, part of the Government's whole proposal to Canberra, which the Opposition claims was never presented but was, spells that out in a very clear detailed management plan for the area.

The Federal Labor Government has a tiger by the tail. It does not yet have the faintest idea of the real implications of what it has undertaken. I believe that the people of north Queensland will indicate that to them in the very near future. I sincerely hope that reason does prevail. My view about the listing is that there are ways in which those areas that are precious and that people wish to set aside can be negotiated. But to take a blanket approach, to put a complete cover—there has been talk about canopies of 90 per cent—or a canopy over north Queensland and close it up to benefit a few articulate minority groups who, despite their passion, are not really all that knowledgeable about the issue, when one digs deep and finds out that their qualifications do not match up to their claims, would be a great tragedy for the people of north Queensland.

If the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for the Environment genuinely have a commitment to ordinary working people, they will delay this decision for at least 18 months until proper consultation takes place.

Mr De LACY (Cairns) (4.40 p.m.): I am pleased to enter the debate—although I wonder why, as this matter was debated in the first week of this sitting, it is being debated again. As has been suggested, it may be that it coincidentally arrived on the day of the appearance of a press report stating that the Premier intended to undertake a ministerial reshuffle, that some junior Ministers looked like losing their positions and that two Ministers were expected to go. Three junior Ministers have contributed to the debate; I just wonder whether they are concerned for their positions.

Their performances today have not done very much to bolster their position except insofar as they mouthed the old National Party clichés of commitment to development and progress and all of that sort of thing. What they forget is that the people of Queensland and the people of Australia have changed their perception towards the environment and towards general quality of life issues.

Mr Elliott: Could you just tell me one thing? If those areas are going to go into the Heritage listing—

Mr De LACY: Don't make a speech; just ask a question.

Mr Elliott: Is it not hypocritical to list areas that have already been logged, in some cases three or four times? How can you justify putting those areas into the World Heritage List?

Mr De LACY: I have heard the question. I will come on to that later on.

Government members interjected.

Mr De LACY: I am answering the question. My understanding of what has occurred is that indicative boundaries have been announced. Interested parties have a period within which they can object. If it can be proven that the areas have no World Heritage value, they should not and ought not be in the designated areas.

Let me say something else so that I can answer the question in a perfectly genuine manner. I argue that the conservation movement cannot have it both ways. I do not believe that conservationists can say that logging irreparably damages the heritage values of a rainforest and at the same time say that logged areas must be put onto the World Heritage listing on the basis that they have World Heritage value. I believe that that is a basic contradiction. If I have anything to do with it, I will say that those forests will have to be looked at. If they have been logged and if those real heritage values have been destroyed, there is no justification for putting them on the World Heritage List and, furthermore, there is no justification for preventing logging in those rainforests on a sustained yield basis. That is a personal view. I hope that it answers the question asked by the honourable member for Cunningham.

I wonder why I am the person who is in the firing-line in this debate and why everybody has been threatening me with the loss of my seat of Cairns. I am very comfortable about retaining the seat of Cairns for a number of reasons, not the least of which is my attitude to World Heritage listing. Because my position has been challenged a half a dozen times here today, I will reiterate it in general terms. I have supported World Heritage listing ever since I became a member of Parliament. I have continued to support it. I have supported it publicly and will continue to do so. When I launched my campaign prior to the last State election, I said that I am unashamedly a conservationist who supports World Heritage listing and that there is no way that I will back off that.

I am prepared to state that I will continue to be the member for Cairns and a thorn in the side of the member for Cunningham for a long time yet. I will not be worried by any mischief made over this issue. I will not lose any sleep over it.

I wish to speak about the Federal Government and the allegations made against it not only by the National Party—I expected them from that quarter—but also by the member for Sherwood, who used words such as “belligerent”, “domineering” and “dictatorial”. Anybody would think that the Federal Government had done something underhand or conspiratorial.

Mr Elliott: They reduced the period from three months to two months.

Mr De LACY: Everybody is making a big issue over whether it was three or two months. So what? The Federal Government said three months and now it has announced a time of two months. That is a technical point. I do not consider that it is an essential point. If that really is the best argument that Government members can put up against what has occurred, they really ought to give the argument away because it is not worth prosecuting it further.

One would think that the Federal Government won the election without mentioning World Heritage listing and, as soon as the election was over, pushed it onto the Australian people. Exactly the opposite is the case. It became a mandate election.

It was announced throughout Australia. Members of the Government in this State said, “They are only looking for votes.” I do not know how many times I heard that said in north Queensland and, indeed, throughout Queensland. Members of this Government said, “You are only going in for World Heritage listing because you are looking for votes.”

In the key electorate of Leichhardt, it was a mandate election. The election was fought on the basis of, “To be or not to be World Heritage listing”. The National Party

spent more money in the electorate of Leichhardt trying to unseat John Gayler on the basis of World Heritage listing than it spent in any other electorate throughout Australia.

Mr Menzel: He lost ground.

Mr De LACY: I wish I could lose ground like that in an election and still be re-elected with a 4 or 5 per cent majority.

Mr Davis: Like Billy Snedden.

Mr De LACY: Yes. He did not lose; but he did not win, either.

A Government member interjected.

Mr De LACY: It is not 3 per cent. Martin Tenni said that to me before. He had a swing against him of 1 per cent, not 3 per cent.

Mr Katter: I will give you the figure in a moment.

Mr De LACY: Until I hear it, I cannot say whether I will accept the Minister's figure.

Over \$200,000 was spent against John Gayler as the member for Leichhardt in a very professional, hard campaign fought on the basis of World Heritage listing. In an incredible speech prior to the luncheon adjournment, the member for Mulgrave said that John Gayler did not campaign because he gerrymandered the election.

The fact is that John Gayler did not run an expensive campaign because he did not have to. Do honourable members know who was running his campaign? The Honourable Minister for Northern Development and two or three other Queensland Ministers, including the Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Time and time again the Premier and his Ministers visited that electorate and made incredible, ridiculous, alarmist statements, which turned away the very sensible people of north Queensland in droves. John Gayler did not have to campaign. He sat back and let the Premier and his Ministers campaign for him. I am pleased to see that they are still carrying on in the same vein.

The Minister for Tourism and National Parks moved this motion. I find it absolutely incredible that a Minister for Tourism should actively oppose in the market-place the World Heritage listing of our tropical rainforest. It is a free international advertisement writ large for the environment of north Queensland. At present, all parties are placing their eggs in the tourism basket. Both sides of the House agree that one of the roads to economic recovery lies in attracting international tourists to Australia. Now the opportunity has been seized by stating that Australia has a unique natural attraction in order to bring tourists to this country.

I can understand the Minister for Forestry opposing World Heritage listing of our tropical rainforest. However, it is unbelievable that the Minister for Tourism would actively oppose it and try to make political capital out of it. As I said the week before last, it only goes to show how a narrow-minded, blinkered political attitude stops people seeing common sense. That is what it does; it stops them seeing common sense and what is in the common good.

I will return to my position. The week before last, honourable members heard me speak on this matter. They heard what I said again this afternoon when at that time the member for Tablelands used half of his address to quote my comments. I consider that an honour. I respect him for the quality of his reading. He has tried to make a point out of the fact that I admitted that World Heritage listing would cost jobs. I have accepted that fact right along the line. I regret that it will cost jobs.

Mr Littleproud: Get your hanky out.

Mr De LACY: Talk about getting your hanky out—did honourable members hear Tom Gilmore this afternoon? His was a wonderfully rehearsed speech, although inappropriate for this Chamber. It would have gone down well in a theatre and he may have

received an Academy award. A couple of times he took his finger off the mark and lost his place.

Mr FitzGerald: Did he quote you accurately?

Mr De LACY: Not too accurately. Mostly he read out what I had said, and I appreciate that because it saves my having to repeat it this afternoon. Does the honourable member for Cooroora have anything intelligent to say?

Mr Simpson: Your record in national parks was 1.08 per cent of Queensland, when you were in office. That is a shame. We have doubled that.

Mr De LACY: Words of wisdom from the honourable member for Cooroora. I suppose the next thing he will do is quote the length of the bitumen roads when the Labor Party was in government.

I will compare like with like. I will compare the percentage of land in New South Wales that is under national park with the percentage of national park land in Queensland in 1987.

Mr Elliott: How much rainforest is left in New South Wales?

Mr FitzGerald: Rainforest with rainforest.

Mr De LACY: That is a nonsensical and absurd analogy. You would not know that it is, because you do not have the intelligence to be able to pick up the absurdity of it. I suppose one should look at rainforests in Western Australia. There are no rainforests in Western Australia. What sort of an absurd—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Booth): Order! The honourable member for Cairns must speak through the Chair.

Mr Simpson: Per capita.

Mr De LACY: Per capita? The honourable member for Cooroora never ceases to amaze me.

The honourable member for Sherwood accused the National Party of creating a political climate in Queensland that allows the Hawke Labor Government—the opponents of the National Party—to sway public opinion in its direction. That is a fact and I agree with him. The people of Queensland were turned off the National Party over the issue of the Cape Tribulation road. The construction of the Cape Tribulation road is not the greatest environmental vandalism that has occurred in Queensland. The greatest environmental obscenity in Queensland occurred when approval was given to the freehold development of George Quaid's estate north of the Daintree River. That, together with the Cape Tribulation road, created a climate that enabled the Australian Government to say to its people that it is about time something was done to preserve the last vestiges of a fast-disappearing resource. This is something that ought to be preserved, not only for the tourist industry—to me, that is peripheral—but also for our children, their children and succeeding generations. The National Party Government has created circumstances under which the Federal Government is able to announce World Heritage listing during the heat of an election campaign and be re-elected to office on that basis. The honourable member for Sherwood was spot on when he said that.

The Queensland Government is carrying on in exactly the same old way; a way that is losing favour with the people of Australia. The time for World Heritage listing has arrived and, together with concern for the environment and a whole range of issues clustered under the heading of quality of life, these issues are now the most significant determinant of the way in which people vote. The National Party is missing the boat.

I do not know whether the members of the National Party have access to the party's research, or to the analysis that was carried out on the result of the last Federal election, but what has become crystal clear to the National Party hierarchy is that it has been seen, and quite rightly seen, as being opposed to the whole range of quality of life issues.

Government members are mad developers. They talk about progress but they define "progress" in terms of constructing buildings, pouring concrete and that sort of thing. What they do not understand——

Mr Katter: Have you had a look at poverty figures in Australia?

Mr De LACY: Yes. I am worried about poverty more than the Minister is worried about poverty. It would be strange if anybody in the National Party was worried about poverty except his own. Members of the National Party have a great deal of poverty of intellect.

Mr Katter: We're doing something about poverty, and you're doing just the opposite.

Mr De LACY: I will deal shortly with what the Minister said.

Mr Katter: I look forward to it.

Mr De LACY: I am pleased about that.

I never cease to be amazed by the new ways that the Government finds to rationalise the outcome of the last Federal election. Although the Government fought the election on this issue, I now hear it saying something like, "The people really did not know what was meant by it. If they did not know, it is no fault of members of the National Party." One thing that I will say about them is that they get out and state their case and they will pay money to state their case. They will use the free media and the paid media. During the last Federal election campaign they spent millions of dollars telling the people of Queensland, particularly those in the electorate of Leichhardt, what would happen if World Heritage listing was obtained.

Somebody has coincidentally dropped some information on my desk. It shows the final figures for Leichhardt. It shows that Gayler received 31 501 votes, and that Byrne, the National Party—\$200,000 later, I might add—received 22 551 votes. The National Party candidate, after spending \$200,000 in a campaign, was almost 10 000 votes behind the Labor Party candidate. The member for Mulgrave said that John Gayler, the Labor candidate, did not campaign in that election.

Mr Katter: What are the Liberal figures?

Mr De LACY: I will tell the Minister.

Mr Katter: Have you forgotten about them?

Mr De LACY: No. I will tell the Minister. The Liberal candidate received 5 942 votes.

Mr Hamill: What did the Democrats get?

Mr De LACY: The Democrats received 2 085 votes.

Mr Comben: So we won.

Mr De LACY: It was an absolute majority of some thousands and a two-party preferred majority of about 4.5 per cent. I wish that I could get "beaten" like that!

Mr Simpson: We'll fix it for you.

Mr De LACY: Who is going to fix it for me—the member for Cooroora? If Mr Simpson as well as Mr Katter come up to the north to campaign in the next election, I will be looking for a landslide victory.

I compliment the member for Tablelands, Mr Gilmore, for his speech, because his quotations were spot on. He quoted extensively from what I had said. When he got sick of that, he quoted extensively from what Bob Scott had said.

Mr Hamill: Impeccable sources.

Mr De LACY: As the honourable member says, impeccable sources. Unfortunately, he would not take interjections for fear of losing his place.

Members of the Opposition never quite know which side the member for Sherwood is on. Some time ago I thought that he was on the conservationists' side, but today he has done an about-face. He has obviously done his own research and seems to think that the numbers are not that way. He is wrong. He has made a mistake. He would have been better off sticking with Chris Puplick, because he has more idea than the member for Sherwood. Now he has lost every side. Anyway, I do not have to worry about the honourable member.

The member for Sherwood said that some of the land included in the indicative boundaries is unsuitable for listing or is not genuine rainforest. I understand that that is so. He also said that it contains some private land. He said what a shock it would be for someone to find that his own private land was included on the World Heritage List. I need to make two points. One is that they are indicative boundaries. As I said at the outset, if people submit that there is no good reason for having a certain piece of land included on the list because it does not have values of international significance, it should not and will not be included, because it is not included for any other reason. If it involves private land, the owner has the right to appeal or to lodge a protest or objection. It is quite conceivable that in those circumstances it would be removed from the proposed listing. The fact that private land is included does not mean that people have lost the land. I guess that that is the concept of World Heritage that Government members do not fully understand.

At this stage I take up once again the point raised about Rosemary Hill by my colleague the member for Windsor. The honourable member for Aspley made all sorts of defamatory statements about Rosemary Hill in a public place, namely, the Pacific Hotel in Cairns. The honourable member claimed, "It is not what you know, it is who you know." She added that Rosemary Hill's block of land had been conveniently excluded from the World Heritage List. I did not know whether or not Rosemary Hill owned a block of land. I happened to meet her afterwards and we had a look at the maps. The statements by the honourable member for Aspley are not true. They are absolutely false. The block of land that Rosemary Hill owns has been included on the World Heritage List. In fact, she said, "I would have been most disappointed if it wasn't included." She understands what it is all about. To own a block of land that is included on the World Heritage List is something that she would——

Mr Elliott: Is there any logging there?

Mr De LACY: Of course she is not logging. I have heard that sort of defamatory nonsense, too. Why would Rosemary Hill be logging?

Mr Elliott: I'd like to know, because I heard that up there.

Mr De LACY: What an incredible statement! The honourable member does not believe those statements that Rosemary Hill is in the logging industry, does he? This is the sort of thing that happens; someone starts off a story by telling lies, somebody else grabs hold of that story, and the next thing it becomes conventional wisdom. What utter, unadulterated nonsense!

Mr Simpson: What is the advantage to her of the listing?

Mr De LACY: It is of great symbolic advantage to Rosemary Hill. She sees things in symbols and in heritage values for both this generation and future generations. That is a concept that this Government could not even begin to understand. The Government understands only if it can build something on land, mine it, cut it down, develop it or make a quid out of it. The Government would not even begin to understand what people such as Rosemary Hill see in rainforests, virgin forests, land and that sort of thing.

Mr Simpson: She would be prepared symbolically to give it to the Crown, would she, for the use of the people?

Mr De LACY: She would do that, but she would never give it to the Queensland Government. If the Government was going to get its rapacious hands on the land, she would never give it to the Government.

The only reason why Rosemary Hill owns land is to keep it away from greedy developers and exploiters whom most of the members of this Government represent. I do not expect the Government members to understand that concept. They do not and cannot understand it. That is why the Federal Labor Government has finally had to say, "Enough is enough. We will list it. The period for negotiation, for consultation and so forth is finished because you cannot talk to planks of wood."

Mr McPhie: You don't really believe this, do you?

Mr De LACY: Yes, I believe it absolutely.

Once again the Minister for Northern Development has proved that he has no idea of what a rainforest is, let alone what its ultimate heritage value would be. He spoke about cattle, pigs and hard-hoofed animals destroying a rainforest. Has the Minister ever seen cattle running around in a rainforest?

Mr Hamill: Only National Party members.

Mr De LACY: Perhaps National Party members, yes. Billy Newton looked as though he had been running around when I saw him come out.

The Minister spoke about erosion in a rainforest. Erosion of a rainforest occurs after people have been in there and have knocked the trees down by using timber jinkers, bulldozers and that type of machinery. Erosion does not occur in a rainforest that is left alone, covered with trees and other vegetation.

The Minister then went on to talk about dieback and said that, if the Government had sufficient funds, it could go into the rainforests with fungicides.

Would honourable members believe that a so-called intelligent—that may be a misuse of the word—Minister of the Crown would talk about saving rainforests by the application of fungicides? A rainforest certainly changes—

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. I have been accused of deceiving the House by saying that cattle are running in rainforests. A grazier at the back of Hidden Valley runs 600 head of cattle inside a rainforest. I would not expect the honourable member to know that.

Mr De LACY: Are they eating the big leaves? Which part of the canopy are they dining out on?

The Minister also spoke about mining in rainforests and the \$300m in resources that have built up.

Mr Katter: It has been made a World Heritage area.

Mr De LACY: I beg to differ. It has not been made a World Heritage area. It has been put on an indicative list for nomination to the World Heritage, which is very different.

The Minister spoke about meatworks and sugar-mills. When the Opposition challenged him as to which sugar-mill would close down, he would not say, because it is a figment of his imagination.

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. Again I have been accused of deceiving the House by saying that this mill will not close down. The honourable member knows very well the mill to which I am referring. He also knows the reasons that I am not disclosing the name of the mill.

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

Mr De LACY: I fail to see how the Minister can establish a causal link between World Heritage listing and the closing of meatworks and sugar-mills. One has absolutely nothing to do with the other. I heard the Minister talk about expanding the sugar industry. It is a nonsense comment to be talking about expanding sugar-cane land into rainforest areas in this day and age. If the Minister really believes that, he should talk to the Queensland Cane Growers Council or somebody who knows what is going on. I am surprised that he is even contemplating cutting down rainforests to save sugar-mills in this day and age.

The Minister then started to talk about Woorabinda. He said that the member for Mulgrave took him into Woorabinda. Where is Woorabinda? I do not know, but it is not in the electorate of the member for Mulgrave.

Mr KATTER: I am sorry to take up the time of the House, but I am deeply disappointed that the honourable member does not know that it is Borabinda, which is a small Aboriginal settlement that, if it is not in that electorate, is very close to it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Cairns will continue.

Mr De LACY: I will accept that the Minister said Borabinda.

The Minister then said that the people of Yarrabah will do terrible things to me at the next election. I am waiting. The Minister spoke about the Federal Government taking half of the land away from the people of Yarrabah. The Aboriginal people of Australia would understand the concept of World Heritage listing a lot better than the Minister would ever understand it. They would be able to empathise and come to grips with it much better than any National Party member in this House would.

It is clear to me that members of the National Party have been lost altogether on this issue. They have been passed by. They do not understand what it is about, so the Federal Government had to pass them by. Members of the Government have become irrelevant to 1987.

The Minister spoke about M'Bow of Senegal running Queensland. He happens to be the President of Senegal. I was waiting for the Minister to mention Gaddafi, but he did not do so. I understand that the Minister for National Parks spoke about Gaddafi. It really is that kind of ignorant, childish scaremongering that Government members engaged in prior to the Federal election that made it so easy for John Gayler to sit back and wait to be elected.

The Minister referred to section 9 (1). I pulled him up before he had a chance to make a complete fool of himself, just like the Minister for Forestry did last week. Prior to the election, the loggers and people in the National Party were quoting section 9 (1) (a) to (h). Previously in this House the Minister, Mr Glasson, started to say, "This is what you cannot do under the World Heritage legislation." He forgot to say that paragraphs (a) to (g) had been specifically invalidated; therefore the provisions do not remain in that World Heritage legislation. Today, Mr Katter was going to go through it all again, but he got caught out. Government members will always get caught out. One thing that can be said about members of the National Party is that they keep saying it again, whether it is right or wrong.

Mr Katter: Can I ask you what section you are relying upon to enforce the World Heritage listing and to stop loggers from going in? There must be a section that replaces section 9.

Mr De LACY: I do not know. I have not read the whole Act. Just let me say that it is that section that enables the Federal Government to stop any activity that destroys World Heritage values.

Time expired.

Hon. L. W. POWELL (Isis—Leader of the House) (5.10 p.m.): I move—
“That the question be now put.”

Question put; and the House divided—

AYES, 52		NOES, 27	
Ahern	Knox	Ardill	
Alison	Lee	Braddy	
Austin	Lester	Burns	
Beanland	Lickiss	Campbell	
Beard	McCauley	Casey	
Berghofer	McKechnie	Comben	
Borbidge	McPhie	D'Arcy	
Burreket	Menzel	De Lacy	
Chapman	Muntz	Gibbs, R. J.	
Clauson	Neal	Goss	
Cooper	Nelson	Hamill	
Elliott	Newton	Hayward	
Fraser	Powell	McElligott	
Gately	Randell	Mackenroth	
Gibbs, I. J.	Schuntner	McLean	
Gilmore	Sherlock	Milliner	
Glasson	Sherrin	Palaszczuk	
Gunn	Simpson	Shaw	
Harper	Slack	Smith	
Harvey	Stephan	Smyth	
Henderson	Stoneman	Vaughan	
Hinton	Tenni	Warburton	
Hinze	Veivers	Warner	
Hobbs		Wells	
Hynd	<i>Tellers:</i>	Yewdale	<i>Tellers:</i>
Innes	Littleproud		Davis
Katter	FitzGerald		Prest

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 8

Beard
Innes
Knox
Lee
Lickiss
Schuntner

Tellers:
Beanland
Sherlock

NOES, 71

Ahern	Littleproud
Alison	McCauley
Ardill	McElligott
Austin	McKechnie
Berghofer	Mackenroth
Borbidge	McLean
Braddy	McPhie
Burns	Menzel
Burreket	Milliner
Campbell	Muntz
Casey	Neal
Chapman	Nelson
Clauson	Newton
Comben	Palaszczyk
Cooper	Powell
D'Arcy	Prest
De Lacy	Randell
Elliott	Shaw
Fraser	Sherrin
Gately	Simpson
Gibbs, I. J.	Slack
Gibbs, R. J.	Smith
Gilmore	Smyth
Glasson	Stephan
Goss	Stoneman
Gunn	Tenni
Hamill	Vaughan
Harper	Veivers
Harvey	Warburton
Hayward	Warner
Henderson	Wells
Hinton	Yewdale
Hinze	
Hobbs	
Hynd	<i>Tellers:</i>
Katter	FitzGerald
Lester	Davis

Resolved in the negative.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 52

Ahern	Knox
Alison	Lee
Austin	Lester
Beanland	Lickiss
Beard	McCauley
Berghofer	McKechnie
Borbidge	McPhie
Burreket	Menzel
Chapman	Muntz
Clauson	Neal
Cooper	Nelson
Elliott	Newton
Fraser	Powell
Gately	Randell
Gibbs, I. J.	Schuntner
Gilmore	Sherlock
Glasson	Sherrin
Gunn	Simpson
Harper	Slack
Harvey	Stephan
Henderson	Stoneman
Hinton	Tenni
Hinze	Veivers
Hobbs	
Hynd	<i>Tellers:</i>
Innes	Littleproud
Katter	FitzGerald

NOES, 27

Ardill	
Braddy	
Burns	
Campbell	
Casey	
Comben	
D'Arcy	
De Lacy	
Gibbs, R. J.	
Goss	
Hamill	
Hayward	
McElligott	
Mackenroth	
McLean	
Milliner	
Palaszczyk	
Shaw	
Smith	
Smyth	
Vaughan	
Warburton	
Warner	
Wells	
Yewdale	
	<i>Tellers:</i>
	Davis
	Prest

Resolved in the affirmative.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ACT AMENDMENT BILL**Second Reading**

Debate resumed from 1 April (see p. 1211).

Mr McLEAN (Bulimba) (5.35 p.m.): The Construction Safety Act was passed in 1971. It was then amended in this House in 1975 and 1985. Tonight we are debating further amendments to it.

Over the years, the Act has been strengthened to cater for the changing workplace and changing work practices. In 1975, as the records prove, the Opposition supported amendments to the Act, as it did in 1985. Again, the Opposition is not opposing the amendments to the Act. However, I must point out that, on each occasion that an amendment Bill has been before the House, the Opposition has said that the amendments should go further. The same comments could be made on this occasion.

The 1985 amendments covered the handling of asbestos—particularly the removal of asbestos from buildings—by the inclusion of that type of work under the definition of “construction work”. The powers of inspectors were strengthened. Penalties for breaches of the Act were increased considerably.

On this occasion it is proposed to alter the meaning of the terms “construction work”, “constructor” and “project”. The chief inspector is to be given a power to exempt a person from the necessity of holding a certificate of competency or permit under certain circumstances. It is claimed by the Minister that these changes will provide clear and precise guide-lines for industry to adopt. He also claimed that it will allow industry to operate in a more effective and competitive manner.

In his second-reading speech, the Minister said—

“The intent of the provisions of the Construction Safety Act 1971-1985 is to assist industry to perform construction work safely.”

So it should be. The Opposition has no beef with that.

Construction work is carried out in dangerous areas. The nature of construction work is varied. A wide range of equipment is used. New and varied work practices are being implemented. The constantly changing work-force on any one job creates unique industry problems. No two building sites are the same. New workers are constantly arriving at job sites. A regular understanding cannot be maintained on building sites as it can be in other work areas. Sometimes employees work in confined areas. At times, their work is unrelated to other work being carried out on a site. It is necessary that strict guide-lines exist and that they are well supervised.

The standards of safety in the construction industry affect not only the workers on the job but also, on many occasions, the general public. To mention just a few examples—employees are required to work on scaffolding, to operate cranes with loads being taken from and over roadways and footpaths and to operate explosive power tools. Honourable members could walk down the streets and see a great deal of scaffolding above footpaths. I do not know how many times I have stopped and looked in amazement at the cranes on building sites that have lifted large loads of concrete, steel and timber over the street when many hundreds of people and vehicles have been on the roadway below. One slip or mistake by those persons responsible for such operations could end in a major tragedy. That important consideration must be taken into account when debating this Bill.

On the last occasion that the Act was amended, I expressed concern about the clause that provided for the issue of temporary permits. Although I have not heard of any problems with the provision since its implementation, I still have reservations about it, particularly when I examine the activity that is taking place on some big city construction sites. Probably because of pressure from unions and workers in industry in general, and not always through Government initiative, construction safety has improved greatly over the years.

Mr Lester: Sometimes.

Mr McLEAN: Sometimes, yes, I agree. Sometimes the Government does bow to pressure. I hope that that attitude flows into other aspects that we have been discussing today in this House.

In comparison with other State Governments, this Government does not have a good record in occupational health and safety. Job safety should have a high priority. Workers should be guaranteed that they will return home in the evening in the same condition as they leave home in the morning. They are entitled to arrive home in the evening with their feet, arms and legs intact—with their bodies in the same condition as when they go to work in the morning. For that to occur, job safety must be a major priority, particularly in the building industry. As a young person I spent many years in that industry, and I realise its problems and dangers.

Although the Opposition accepts the proposed amendments, it must be pointed out that the Government's priorities are all wrong. The Minister and his Government have strange priorities and are quite hypocritical in their approach to the industrial arena.

It is well known that the industrial inspectorate is undermanned. That fact has been mentioned in almost every annual report that I have perused during the last few years. Because of the shortage of staff, many jobs cannot be serviced by industrial inspectors. Industrial accidents cost Queensland four times as much in monetary terms as do industrial disputes. When one takes into account pain and suffering, family hardship and heartbreak, the comparison becomes greater. A comparison between the money that is spent by the Minister in his attacks on workers, their wages and conditions and the efforts and money that are expended to provide a safe and healthy workplace provides a prime example of the hypocrisy to which I have referred.

How much money has been expended, how many people are employed and how much time has been spent in formulating industrial relations policies such as the Industrial (Commercial Practices) Act and the proposed contract legislation? No doubt the costs involved are enormous. It is a shame that money and energies have been expended by the Minister's department in that way when they could have been more constructively used by being channelled into occupational health and safety. Had that happened, the Government would have achieved quite a deal more.

In his second-reading speech, the Minister stated that the proposed amendments would provide a more responsive and practical approach to the needs of industry. I agree with any moves towards improving safety standards in the workplace. Unfortunately, no amount of legislation can be effective unless the Minister attacks the problems of staff shortages in the industrial inspectorate so that the law can be properly supervised. The Minister is aware that his department is undermanned. There are not enough industrial inspectors. They are overworked. Because those inspectors cannot get to all the jobs, they cannot do their work properly.

I ask the Minister to reconsider his priorities. He should take some of the millions of dollars that have been spent or are to be spent to cut the wages and conditions of Queensland's workers and transfer them into industrial safety.

For how long have amendments to the Factories and Shops Act been considered? That debate has been continuing for a long time. As all honourable members are aware, that Act covers a large proportion of worker-safety legislation in this State. The Government sees no problem in introducing industrial legislation that attacks working conditions and wages of workers in this State. Within a short period the contract labour legislation will come before this House. However, for a long period the Factories and Shops Act has been debated and put on the back burner. If the Minister were to get people together to discuss the safety Acts and make a worthwhile attack on some of the problems, he might make some of the savings that he is looking for in the industrial arena in Queensland.

Mr FitzGerald: Do you back the demands of the workers at the Fouxex brewery?

Mr McLEAN: I do not know what the honourable member is talking about.

Mr FitzGerald: About the alcohol demands; they want super instead of light beer in their allocation. Do you back them?

Mr McLEAN: What I will back is true conciliation where workers and employers sit around a table and discuss a problem. I will never back either side for going like a bull at a gate and making its own decisions. The honourable member is referring to a matter that he knows nothing about. If he had sat around the table with the workers and the employer, I would accept his argument. However, his attitude is typical of the National Party's attitude on most industrial issues.

Mr Davis: And he is also a teetotaller.

Mr McLEAN: And a teetotaller on top of it—although he might have a whack of potato whisky.

This Bill alters the meaning of the terms “construction work” and “project construction”. The Labor Party sees no problem with those alterations. I have spoken with industry people and they appear to have a general acceptance of the Bill.

It is proposed to allow owners of buildings and sites to nominate a person as the constructor for that project. This proposal should be of benefit to ensure that provisions of the Bill are maintained, or at least it should cut out many of the problems that could arise in that area.

It is also proposed that site boundaries be nominated and clearly and conspicuously marked. That should be of benefit to ensure that there is less confusion and that possible conflict is minimised.

The Bill alters the powers of the chief inspector of construction work to allow him to exempt a person from the necessity of holding a certificate of competency or a permit to perform certain tasks. Presently, the chief inspector has no power to vary a prescribed method of work or standard of scaffolding. Although I can understand that, with modern methods and new technology appearing regularly, there must be an amount of industry flexibility—a word that I do not like to use because it has been used so often in the wrong context recently—granted to the chief inspector, I ask the Minister to indicate in his reply how far that will go and if he could provide any examples. In his second-reading speech, the Minister stated also that this initiative would allow the industry to operate in a more effective and competitive manner. I see no problem with that.

I noted that the Minister said also that a computerised system has been introduced in the construction safety branch of the department to monitor high-risk situations and, if necessary, to deploy staff rapidly to ensure that maximum safety is achieved. I would be most interested if the Minister could outline in his reply how often that is used, in what areas and with what results. It sounds like a good idea to me.

Queensland's industrial safety record during the 30 years that the National Party has been in Government in this State has been substandard in comparison with that of other States.

Mr FitzGerald: Why are our workers' compensation rates lower than those in other States?

Mr McLEAN: Because it is a socialist scheme. It is run by the Government. In the other States, it is run by private insurance companies.

Mr FitzGerald: Are claims in Queensland less or more than in other States?

Mr McLEAN: No. It is run more efficiently because it was organised and developed by the Labor Party many years ago. It is a socialist scheme, to use a term that would be used by the honourable member, and it is an efficient scheme. It is the best scheme in Australia. I agree with that.

Mr FitzGerald: Less claims than in other States?

Mr McLEAN: No, there are not, but they are more efficiently handled. The scheme is better than schemes in other States. I admit that quite freely.

Mr Lester: And they have a good Minister, too, don't they?

Mr McLEAN: The Opposition may debate that.

Queensland's industrial safety record during 30 years of National Party Government does leave some room for improvement. It has only been during the last 10 years or so that any real attempts have been made to come to grips with some of the many problems that exist. Those attempts emerged from pressures that come from industry rather than from Government initiatives.

Although I have stated that the Opposition will not be opposing these amendments, the Opposition does believe that much more could be done and should be done in occupational health and safety in this State. The Opposition will not oppose the legislation, but will assist in any way it can in the field of work and safety.

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Leader of the Liberal Party) (5.50 p.m.): The Liberal Party supports the legislation proposed by the Minister, but some observations should be made. It is true that from time to time it is necessary to modernise legislation, particularly this type of legislation, which deals with changing circumstances in the workplace. Changing circumstances involve new methods of doing business and new methods of carrying out tasks on the site. Naturally, the supervision of amending legislation must keep pace with changes in industry.

I wish to raise a couple of queries. When the Minister introduced the Bill, he spoke about conspicuously marking the area that was to be the nominated area according to the constructor. However, it is not clear from the second-reading speech exactly how that is to be done—whether the area that has to be marked is to be marked by a sign, by a line on the ground, by a tape around the area or by a barricade—and how it is to be distinguished from any other area which might be adjacent, in circumstances in which a constructor might be working cheek by jowl with a different constructor. Of course, it could easily happen that two owners side by side could be affected. Presumably a method of demarcation is envisaged so that the inspectors will know which area belongs to which constructor.

I sound a note of warning. I notice in the proposed amendments that there is a move to give more discretion to inspectors, which is probably very reasonable. However, I hope the Minister will resist the sorts of moves that have been made in Victoria and at the Federal level to make industrial safety subjective, not objective. A matter of great pride in this State is that rules relating to construction safety are understood by all—by the employer, the employee, the inspector and the people who have good cause to enter a site. In the south, subjective decisions are being made. Many rules are being made and nobody knows what the rule is until somebody thinks about it. I hope that the industrial safety legislation of southern States will be resisted in this State. I hope that Queensland does not adopt those processes.

Mr Lester: I can assure the honourable member that the Queensland Government would not want to have anything to do with what is happening in the south. The honourable member has raised a good point.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: I am pleased to hear that. I can foresee that in places such as Victoria anarchy will result in the field of industrial safety because people will ultimately determine their own attitudes toward industrial safety. One day it could be one view. On the next day it could be a different view. That could be very damaging indeed to stability in the industry.

While on the topic of safety, I make this comment. The National Safety Council in this State performs a wonderful and useful function for private enterprise. As a result

of the education policy pursued by the National Safety Council, a very high standard of safety has come about. Moves are being made—again by Federal authorities—to wipe out the National Safety Council—to virtually emasculate it and to make it impotent. That is regrettable, because the National Safety Council gained the co-operation of employers and employees in a very real way. In this State the National Safety Council not only gets co-operation but also receives a certain amount of funding provided by way of assistance through Government agencies.

I hope that a determined effort will be made in this State to retain the valuable services of the National Safety Council, because it does provide an opportunity for private enterprise employers and their employees to work together in safety programs. The need for programs applies just as much to the construction industry as it applies to the floor of the factory.

Hon. N. E. LEE (Yeronga) (5.54 p.m.): As our leader said, the Liberal Party supports anything that improves safety for people who work in what is at times the particularly hazardous construction industry. The Bill could be called a simple little piece of legislation, but it is very far-reaching. It reaches a lot further than many people think. It is not what is in the Bill but what is not in it that worries me.

The Bill provides for regulations to be published in the *Government Gazette*. The *Gazette* is published on a Saturday. Queensland is a big State. Somebody out at Mount Isa has to have a copy of it so that within 24 hours he can introduce the methods that the chief inspector has made up his mind to introduce by way of regulations and publish them in the *Gazette*. It is unreasonable to expect that a contractor or someone in the construction industry anywhere in Queensland would have the ability to implement those regulations within 24 hours. The Bill states distinctly that the chief inspector, by notification published in the *Gazette*, can enforce those regulations within 24 hours. To me there is an enormous vacuum. People could unknowingly break the law because the regulations are to be published only in the *Gazette*. It is a great mistake that a regulation can be altered overnight by a chief inspector. I am not blaming the chief inspector, but he could have a change of heart overnight and publish a notification in the *Gazette* that becomes the regulation for Monday morning. As everyone knows, the *Gazette* is available to the public only on Saturday morning. That is the earliest it can be obtained. By the first working day of the following week, a new set of regulations has been introduced.

Another aspect of the Bill that concerns me is that an owner of a building will be able to nominate as the constructor any person the owner regards as the most responsible. I would like to know what sort of a person the Bill envisages. Is it a labourer, a butcher or a baker? It is possible that the person appointed will not even have to know about the industry. The Minister may be able to enlighten me on that. However, that is a possible deficiency in the Bill. I am not trying to be overcritical, but people in the industry have expressed concern that the person nominated may not be as skilled as he should be. Therefore, that greatly worries me and the Liberal Party. The person who is appointed as the constructor bears the total liability for the construction of the building, project or whatever it may be. He may be worth millions or he may be worth only peanuts. In my opinion, it is a big responsibility. Perhaps the person who accepts the responsibility of acting as constructor does not in fact understand what liabilities he is taking responsibility for. As I said, the Bill does not mention the skills, qualities or qualifications he should have. That is very important indeed.

Like my colleague the Leader of the Liberal Party, I too worry about the definition of boundaries on the sites. For instance, what happens when a road with a couple of bridges is being constructed, but the contract for the bridges is let to one contractor and the contract for the road is let to another? To traverse the length of road, it would be necessary for those involved in its construction to travel over the bridges. It would be necessary for those involved in such construction works to cross each other's project. How can that overlap be stopped? The Bill refers to no overlap. The boundaries are very difficult to define. It is important that they overlap and it is important that people can traverse back and forth, particularly on road and bridge constructions. Bridges do

not have to be across large volumes of water and, as I said, two separate contractors could be involved.

As it is almost 6 o'clock, I will not continue at length. I worry about circumstances when several contracts have to be undertaken at the same time, such as with the building of a powerhouse. The entire shell of the building cannot be constructed before the installation of equipment is commenced inside. Two contractors have to be used. How can those contracts be overlapped? How can that overlap be stopped?

Quite often separate contracts are let for the laying of the foundations, for the installation of water and sewerage and for the steel construction. I ask the Minister to heed the fact that trying to separate these overlaps is very difficult. Provided some of these questions are answered, we in the Liberal Party are quite happy to support the Bill.

Mr Lester: I am quite happy for you to bring a deputation to my office to have a yarn with me on these matters.

Mr LEE: I thank the Minister.

Sitting suspended from 6.01 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Peak Downs—Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs) (7.30 p.m.), in reply: The honourable member for Bulimba spoke about permits. Only a few permits have actually been issued. The amendment will modify the current restrictive requirements in respect of prescribed occupations to allow industry to operate more efficiently while not decreasing safety. The member for Bulimba spoke about flexibility of approvals by the chief inspector. These are used in a limited capacity, keeping a level of safety required by the regulations. This provision has been used to allow the use of new types of materials instead of timber or steel as prescribed in the Act.

The member for Bulimba also commented about the department's computer programs. These are simply to allow for the quick redeployment of staff to high hazard situations. It also provides for in-depth studies of accident causes and provides information that helps to overcome the causes of isolated accidents. It is very important to be as modern as possible in these sorts of dealings.

Queensland has a much lower accident rate than other States. I am very proud of the occupational safety inspectors in my department. All of the available positions are filled or are being filled. Occupational safety inspectors have not been working on industrial legislation, as the member for Bulimba perhaps suggested. They have too many other things to do in the important area of occupational safety.

Mr Lee: He is not too interested in your reply, is he?

Mr LESTER: He will have some fun in a minute when my second piece of legislation is called on for debate. I do not know what will happen if he is not here. I hope somebody from the Opposition is ready.

The member for Nundah, Sir William Knox, yet again has made a solid contribution to the debate. He commented about the marking of areas. That will be done by stakes on the project site or by identifiable points on a plan.

The Workers Compensation Board supports the National Safety Council in Queensland. Obviously that support will continue. Before I took over the Ministry, that is one area in which the honourable member for Nundah was very involved. It is a matter very close to his heart.

The member for Yeronga raised some interesting points. I stand by the offer I made to him. If he wants to bring some of his people in, we will have an in-depth discussion on the matters that he raised. If my officers and I can be of help to make sure that things are kept on the straight and narrow, I assure the honourable member that we will do everything possible. I value very much the advice I get from the honourable

member, because he has extensive experience in the construction industry. After all, this game is about taking advice from those people with the experience.

Mr Lee: The point is that a deputation is not much good after this legislation is passed. You, with all of your goodwill, cannot then alter it. That is the great problem.

Mr LESTER: Right.

Mr White: At least the Minister is willing to talk to people.

Mr LESTER: I thank the member for Redcliffe for that comment. This debate is going a long way; consensus is ruling.

Mr McLean interjected.

Mr LESTER: I thought the honourable member would find that comment interesting.

I thank very, very much all of the members who contributed for the part that they have played and for the very amicable yet serious spirit in which they have taken this debate. I am sure that safety standards in the State of Queensland will improve and that at a later time, after appropriate consultation, I will be in a position to introduce more legislation on matters that might then be in issue.

Motion agreed to.

Committee

Clauses 1 to 14, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Lester, by leave, read a third time.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TRAINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18 March (see p. 879).

Mr McLEAN (Bulimba) (7.35 p.m.): The Industry and Commerce Training Act was first passed in 1979. It replaced the Apprenticeship Act and allowed for the amendment and consolidation of the law relating to apprentices and provided for the training of other persons. This Bill, of course, deals with a very important subject, that is, our youth, and it should be treated with the importance it deserves.

Young people are our most important and valuable resource. Meeting the needs of youth in today's climate is a most pressing problem. It is a problem that must be faced by the whole community and not simply by one arm of Government. In fact, I believe it to be the responsibility of Governments at all levels, employers, unions, educationists, community service organisations and even young people themselves.

Everyone has a role to play in overcoming problems. Contributions are necessary from a wide section of society to ensure that new educational and training opportunities are developed to suit today's circumstances. Every member of this House would agree that it is a complicated area—one that causes many problems and poses many questions, some of which are not easy to answer.

In the debate that took place when this legislation was before the House in 1986, I said that, although the Opposition would not oppose the Bill, many areas cause concern, particularly the Government's obvious lack of planning in regard to job creation. The position is the same on this occasion. The Opposition will not be opposing the amendments. However, speakers on the Opposition side will make it very clear that the Opposition feels that not nearly enough is being done in the area of job creation.

In his second-reading speech the Minister said—

“The amendments proposed by this Bill continue the approach of providing legislation that is responsive to the current needs of industry.”

The Minister said also—

“The overall effect of the amendments will be to further enhance the effective administration of training and is in keeping with the general thrust of providing legislation that realistically meets the actual needs of industry. The importance of providing legislation that establishes a practical framework for employers to train for future industry requirements and to improve the quality of job opportunities for young people is clearly recognised by all concerned.”

I agree with what the Minister said. I have no problem with it. That is good.

Although I have stated that the Labor Party will not oppose these amendments, I assure the Minister that the Opposition does not see these changes as being the answer to the many problems that exist in this State. Anyone who has put any thought into the issue of youth employment—which is closely associated with this debate—could only come to the conclusion that in that regard Queensland has a very dismal record. In comparison with the effects of the other States, this Government has failed to accept its responsibilities in the area of job creation. The lack of co-operation between this Government and the Federal Government has been a considerable drawback for too long through these tough economic times.

Mr Lester: I have co-operated with Mr Willis in industry and commerce training.

Mr McLEAN: I was not referring solely to the Minister on this issue. I was talking about the whole Government's attitude to, and its lack of co-operation with the Federal Government in so many areas.

Queensland has witnessed the unnecessarily provocative relationship which the Premier of this State has continued to maintain with the Federal Government and which he inflames at every opportunity, mostly for his own personal and selfish reasons. His obsessive desire to gain more power has cost Queensland dearly. The Premier's push for Canberra was one of the greatest examples of that. I could not care less what the Premier does or how he goes about doing it, but it is important when one is talking about the future of the youth of this nation. There is no room for his sort of narrow-mindedness in this area.

In the last decade important structural changes have taken place to the economy both inside and outside this country. Important structural changes have occurred in society at large, particularly in the labour market where enormous technological changes have been brought about by the introduction of mechanisation, automation and computerisation, which have all had drastic effects on overall work practices and job opportunities. It is difficult to imagine that employment opportunities will return to the levels of the 1960s or early 1970s. That point has a great bearing on this debate.

More pressure is placed on Australian youth today than ever before in this country's history. It is important that no effort is spared in the provision of training and opportunities to ensure a future for young Australians. New areas must be explored, new methods adopted, new work areas created and new approaches made. Present work areas must be maintained and supported and skilled workers must be trained and kept at a level which will allow Australia's industries to be competitive on the world markets.

The performance of the Queensland Government in the area of job creation, participation in Australiawide schemes and its expenditure on training and attendance falls short of the efforts made by other States. One only has to compare the figures, and other speakers from this side of the House will do that. Comments have been made on a regular basis by the Minister that would lead one into thinking that Queensland is the leader in this field. Nothing could be further from the truth when one looks at the figures in comparison to other States. Queensland is once again dragging the chain and is not

keeping up with the overall economic recovery that is taking place in every other State. The unemployment figures across the board back up that argument.

The last time this legislation was debated in Queensland, I raised the point that Queensland had only half the number of training schemes operated in New South Wales. I will not raise that point again because I know that it will be covered later. The situation has not changed, and when the figures are given they will prove that Queensland is not doing enough in this area.

Much has been said about this Government's so-called industrial development policies. Perhaps in his reply the Minister could tell this House why Queensland has continued to lose jobs in the manufacturing sector since as far back as 1957 and why, if the Queensland Government actually cares about jobs and broadening industry in Queensland, it spends the lowest amount per head of all the Australian States on industrial development.

Queensland possibly has the widest range of primary production of all the States and should be well placed to expand into, for example, the food-processing industry. That is precisely the area in which most jobs have been lost. While the Government fails to see the problem, it is a sad fact that industry in this State will continue to decline.

The National Party Government of this State has not only failed to spend money on industrial development but also failed over many years to train enough skilled workers. One of the major factors that will influence a company's decision on where to locate a factory is the availability of skilled labour. A major drawback is that an insufficient number of persons are being trained in this State.

For far too long, Queensland has spent the lowest amount per student on State secondary education and on technical and further education. I am afraid that Queensland is now suffering the repercussions of those actions.

One of the more serious problems that presently confront young people in this overall problem is the fact that many of them are being ripped off. I do not wish to go further into that matter in this debate.

Time after time, honourable members hear about young people being used as cheap labour and their being replaced when they become too old. That practice was particularly rife under some of the assistance schemes that existed some time ago. The schemes that were introduced with the object of helping young people in the long term turned out to be a drawback in their ability to obtain secure long-term employment. At that time, some employers blatantly exploited young people, and that was a backward step. I do not wish to elaborate further on that matter as it has already been referred to today.

The proposal to introduce contract labour and to deregulate the labour market in this State will make the situation even worse. It is a move that will cut wages and conditions, particularly for young people. The move to deregulate the labour market will only cause more instability when exactly the opposite is necessary. The time has long passed when this State or any other State can afford the luxury of playing politics with the lives of our young people. The time has long passed when we can sit down and watch outdated policies take us further down the unemployment track.

The Opposition has no beef with traineeships and readily accepts any training initiatives. In fact, it believes that that is the only way to go. New technologies are essential and must be used if the jobs that are so desperately needed at present are to be created. Every avenue in the area of new technologies and new work practices needs to be explored. What must stop is the mentality, which seems to be rife at present, that if wages are cut some magic cure will emerge and our unemployment problems will be solved. What is emerging from the Far Right supporters of this Government is quite damaging to our future. Those people have unreasonable expectations. They do not speak about the long-term security of young people or the long-term prospects that they must be offered. What is being created is a hopelessness amongst our young people, and that will create even more problems.

The Minister said that the Industry and Commerce Training Commission has undertaken a review of training needs in middle-level occupations in the engineering industry and that the review had identified specific training needs in middle-level occupations. Whilst I feel that any extension to traineeships is a step in the right direction, and I agree fully with any extensions that can be found, I hope that any inquiry held by the commission would have revealed more than just the fact that traineeships are required in middle-level occupations. I would be interested also in the Minister's reply to learn what other findings resulted from inquiry by the commission and whether he has future plans for other areas resulting from the recommendations of that particular inquiry.

I have spoken with a few members of regional advisory committees in this State and have found that there is a general acceptance of the effectiveness of their work. I believe that those regional committees have a greater knowledge of conditions within their areas than outsiders and would be more able to respond to their specific regional needs on most issues. The feedback that I have received indicates that they are quite successful and are working well. I hope that that state of affairs continues, because that area has been neglected for a number of years.

Because it would be quite dangerous to allow similar problems in various regional centres to be tackled in different ways, the Industry and Commerce Training Commission must retain the overall power to enforce major recommendations.

The proposal to allow transfers of apprentices to be covered by the same conditions as those which apply when an employer engages a new apprentice is acceptable, and should be handled by a regional committee. This proposal should reduce the confusion and misunderstandings that can occur in many cases and should be of benefit to the overall thrust of the commission and its operations.

The Opposition has no problem with the amendments and will not be opposing them. But it voices its disapproval in the strongest possible terms at the Government's lack of positive response to a very real problem that exists in this State, namely the lack of opportunities for our young people. Following Opposition speakers also will make it quite clear where the Opposition stands on this issue.

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Leader of the Liberal Party) (7.51 p.m.): The Liberal Party supports the proposed amendments. As was mentioned during the debate on the previous Bill, where changes in practices in the community occur they must be accommodated by the legislation.

One or two matters should be considered. It is unfortunate that the word "apprenticeship" has connotations that appear to be anachronistic. In legislation that has been introduced in this State the word "apprenticeship" has been changed in meaning and definition. It is a very modern term in the context of the legislation that this House examines from time to time.

Because it works extremely well, honourable members should be grateful to those who are responsible for the supervision of apprenticeships in this State. However, a number of problems do arise, one of which relates to clause 13 of the amending Bill. That clause refers to the situation in which an employer is unable to provide an apprentice with the work that he would normally be expected to do. This occurs very frequently, and more frequently than one would like. Many employers are placed in an embarrassing position regarding their apprentices. Very often parents approach the authorities concerned in relation to the continuity of the standard of work of their children, whether they be male or female. Very often a hiatus that requires the special consideration of the Minister occurs.

Under the proposed amendments, technically the apprentice will remain in the employ of the employer. That takes care of the legal aspect. But what concerns parents, apprentices and, to a certain extent, the employers is the continuity of training that an apprentice should be receiving.

From practical experience—and I am sure that the Minister has seen it quite often—the commission goes to some lengths to place an apprentice with a suitable employer as soon as possible.

I am pleased that the legal side has been looked after by virtue of the suggested amendments and that legally the apprentice does not lose the continuity of his apprenticeship. However, I point out that during that period the apprentice may not be receiving any tuition at all from the employer, particularly if the employer has gone bankrupt or is ill or his circumstances change in some other way. I know that every endeavour is made by the officials of the Industry and Commerce Training Commission to cover the situation, but I suggest that this area requires much more attention. However, I am pleased to see the legal situation regarding the apprentice is looked after.

The definition of the word “technician” is also improved. That is important because it is a word that is appearing more frequently. The term “trainees” has been referred to. New terms are being used all the time and they are being incorporated into the legislation.

I turn now to the Financial Administration and Audit Act. It seems unnecessary that each Minister in turn must amend his own Act when it comes up for review in this House in order to comply with a change of directions by the Treasury or the Auditor-General under the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The view that I have expressed in this House on several occasions is that, when there is a change in the rules or the philosophy of the Auditor-General or the instructions from the Treasurer, there should be an omnibus amendment to all legislation so that only one change is required and it is not necessary for each Minister to pick it up at some subsequent review of his legislation. It is quite possible that the legislation of a particular Minister may not appear in this House for some five or six years and suggestions by the Auditor-General are not incorporated in the legislation simply because it has not appeared before the House.

I realise that it is not the responsibility of this Minister. However, when there is a general change and a request for change in regard to reporting by the Auditor-General or the Treasurer, that should be done collectively for all legislation and a catalogue of the legislation to be amended should appear in the amending legislation proposed by the Treasurer, who is responsible for those matters. That overcomes the problem of any department failing to pick up the necessary changes. That practice could be embodied in future legislation.

It is so easy for instructions on changes of policy by the Auditor-General to be overlooked. How many times in this House has the Government introduced retrospective legislation to overcome a problem that has been overlooked as a result of instructions by the Auditor-General or the Solicitor-General?

Mr Yewdale: You had to do that several times.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: Yes, I did. I am speaking from experience.

Mr Yewdale: You're very honest.

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: It is not a question of honesty; it is a question of practicability. It is simply a practical problem. It would be so much easier if an omnibus amendment were proposed in the House and a catalogue of the legislation were listed in the schedule to allow every Minister to have his legislation amended. That protects not only the Minister but also the accountable officers. The accountable officers are required to do things according to Hoyle, and it is embarrassing for them not to have had their legislation attended to, knowing full well that the Auditor-General has made a request that their legislation be amended. That can be done so simply by one amendment, which would save all the Ministers all the trouble and their officers and advisers the responsibility of bringing it to their attention.

Mr HINTON (Broadsound) (8 p.m.): I am very pleased to speak in support of this Bill and to concentrate my remarks primarily on the need for industry participation in training.

The Queensland economy relies heavily on agriculture and mining. This resource reliance is the key factor in determining Queensland's exports which concentrate on agriculture, minerals—for example processed meat, sugar, aluminium, copper, et cetera—and manufacturing based on the processing of natural resources. As the long-term trend in commodity prices is down and likely to stay down, Queensland is facing a substantial problem in basing its economy on these resources and needs to further broaden economic activity in this State.

In order to further expand other industry sectors, there is an urgent need to promote efficiency and productivity and, of course, this depends on the people in the work-force. The private sector, the public sector, and union representatives must work together to achieve significant gains in productivity and employment.

The achievement of this goal will require co-operation from all concerned. Employers and employees must address both work practices and management practices, but, most importantly, they must improve the skills of the work-force. Future growth is built on skills.

There is also an important role for government. The State Government has established the Industry and Commerce Training Commission as its prime adviser on vocational training. The commission is a tripartite body with representatives from employer organisations, employee organisations and the Government. The purpose of the commission is to improve the quality, the quantity and the relevance of vocational training in order to provide a skilled work-force that can and will contribute to the continuing economic development and growth of this State of Queensland. It is involved in the identification of training needs and the review and assessment of vocational education and training programs and policies. This involves—

- ensuring substantial industry input into the development of new training programs;
- encouraging the establishment of appropriate standards for training programs and monitoring of those standards;
- the co-ordination of vocational training providers;
- promotion of awareness of the importance of vocational education and training.

The commission works closely with the Education Department's Division of TAFE, which is the principal provider of formal vocational education and training programs in this State.

Queensland needs to develop export orientated industries, both in the production and services areas, based on human skill. As the Australian Manufacturing Council report, titled *Future Directions For Australian Manufacturing* states—

“Factors necessary for both price and non-price competitiveness of skill intensive activities include management and work-force skills”.

The report states that other necessary factors are—

“... the level of technology involving a wide range of human skills, modern technology and favourable attitudes towards training and retraining, innovation, work practices and above all, capable management of resources of labour and capital combined with entrepreneurial spirit and flair.”

Mr Lee: But you must have your own personal view on this, don't you?

Mr HINTON: I certainly have. If the honourable member listens very carefully, he will hear it.

Apprenticeships, traineeships and pre-vocational courses are important because they develop critical entry level skills. Where Queensland needs to do more work is in the area of further training, upgrading, retraining and broadening training. Technology, markets, products and organisational structures are changing at such a rate that continuous training of the work-force is required. It is in this area that industry needs to concentrate

more resources. The Government acknowledges that training provided by industry is important. The majority of training is provided by industry. This is mainly on-the-job training, although substantial amounts of formal industry-based off-the-job training are also provided.

An environment which encourages industry to invest more in training is needed. I use that word "invest" purposely, to emphasise that training is an investment and not a cost.

Mr Davis: Vince, did you write this brief for him?

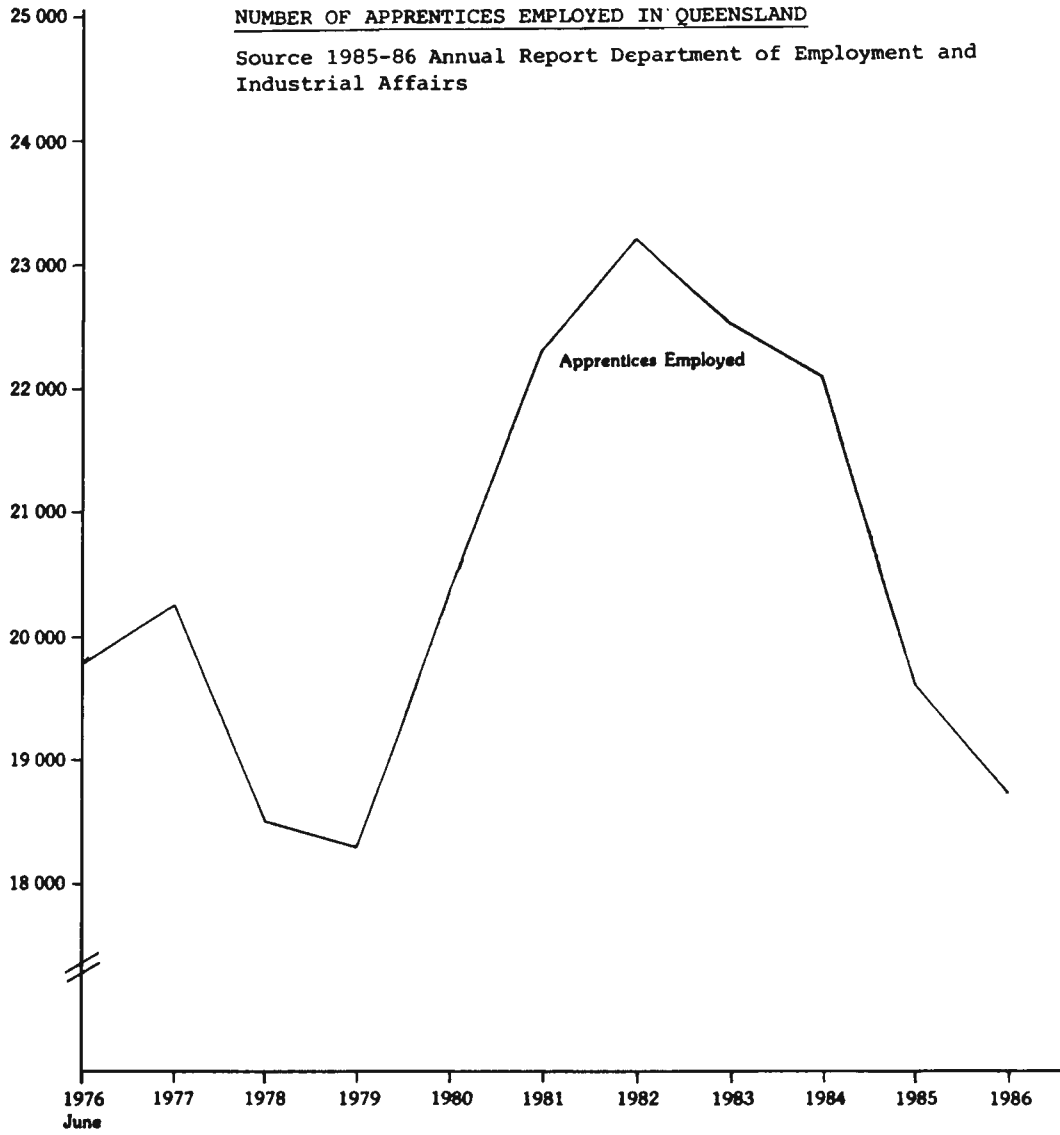
Mr HINTON: The Opposition would not understand that.

I believe the proposed amendments are an important contribution to encouraging a greater training effort in industry.

Mr CAMPBELL (Bundaberg) (8.05 p.m.): I join other members on this side of the House in saying that the proposed amendments to the Industry and Commerce Training Act, especially those relating to increased autonomy and effectiveness of the regional advisory committees, are a step in the right direction. However, I am very concerned about the disastrous situation of apprentice training and intake numbers in Queensland. Immediate action is needed to overcome what will be a serious lack of skilled workforce for Queensland industry in the future. When I use the words "disastrous" and "serious", I do not use them loosely. Action must be taken today for the male and female youth of Queensland.

The number of apprentices in Queensland has been declining at a significant rate from a peak in 1982. I seek leave of the House to have included in *Hansard* a graph showing the number of apprentices employed in Queensland in 1976-1986.

Leave granted.



Mr CAMPBELL: This graph shows that the apprentice numbers were at their lowest in 1979 and increased over four years to reach a high of just over 23 000 in 1982. However, since that time there has been a continual downturn in the employment of apprentices. In 1986 there were fewer than 19 000 apprentices. There are nearly four and a half thousand fewer young Queenslanders being trained through the apprenticeship system than there were four years ago. However, I believe that the situation in 1987 is even worse for apprentice numbers than it was last year. These statistics are a very sad indictment of the lack of concern for our youth to obtain meaningful and purposeful jobs in our community. They are a sad indictment of the Government's lack of planning, because it will be our manufacturing industries which will suffer in the future from a lack of skilled workers. This low number of apprentices is also a sad reflection on the commitment of industry in general to the training of our future workers—our apprentices of today.

Although there are many individual employers who appreciate their role as trainers of our workers by actively supporting the apprenticeship scheme, they are too few.

The position regarding the traditional building and metal trades is very serious with the apprentice intake numbers dropping drastically over the past four years.

I seek leave to have included in *Hansard* a table showing apprenticeship numbers in certain trades from 1982-83 to 1985-86.

Leave granted.

TOTAL APPRENTICES EMPLOYED IN SELECTED TRADES 1982/83 TO 1985/86
SOURCE: INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TRAINING COMMISSION STATISTICS

TRADE	YEAR 1982/83	YEAR 1983/84	YEAR 1984/85	YEAR 1985/86
Bricklaying	374	352	258	209
Carpentry	1,571	1,480	1,159	993
Carpentry & Joinery	689	760	706	658
Plumbing & Draining	994	938	781	736
BUILDING TOTAL	4,742	4,638	3,871	3,550
ELECTRICAL TOTAL	3,424	3,342	2,883	2,784
METAL TOTAL	8,888	8,406	6,947	6,357

Mr CAMPBELL: These figures show an alarming trend for the building, electrical and metal trades over that four-year period. In the building industry the number of apprentices has fallen from 4 742 to 3 550. This means that there are now 1 192 fewer apprentices learning their trade in the building industry in Queensland than there were four years ago. In the electrical industry the number of apprentices has fallen from 3 424 to 2 784, while the number in the metal trades has shown a disastrous fall from 8 888 to 6 357. That is 2 531 fewer apprentices trained in the metal trades in 1986 than in 1982, and I am sorry to say that I believe the figures are even worse for 1987.

For some individual trades the figures are even worse. In the brick-laying trade apprentice numbers have fallen by 44 per cent in the four-year period ending 1986. The number of apprentices undertaking carpentry has fallen from 1 571 to 993, a fall of 37 per cent over the same period.

This grim situation is reflected in the number of apprentices receiving instruction at our TAFE colleges. In 1983, 15 228 apprentices were receiving instruction at our TAFE colleges, with a further 643 undergoing studies through the Technical Correspondence School. In 1984, those numbers had reduced to 11 700 and 627 respectively, and by 1985 the number of apprentices at TAFE colleges had fallen to 10 911, with 681 doing correspondence. The reduction from 15 228 to 10 911 in just three years is a fall of approximately 30 per cent.

This grim situation—it is a crisis situation—is reflected in the training programs provided at the Bundaberg College of TAFE. In 1983 in the building, electrical and

metal trades, Bundaberg TAFE conducted a total of 30 courses for block release apprentices. There were four in carpentry and joinery, seven in boiler-making, six in fitting and machining, five in motor mechanics, three in plumbing and five in electrical. In 1983, 382 apprentices underwent training in those courses at the Bundaberg TAFE.

The disgraceful situation is that for the eight months of the year to August 1987, only four courses have been provided for only 35 apprentices. These courses covered block release apprentices in only boiler-making and motor mechanics. To date this year there has been no training—no apprentices for block release at the Bundaberg TAFE college in carpentry and joinery, fitting and turning, plumbing and the electrical trades. The Government must act now to reverse this disastrous situation.

The apprenticeship scheme in Queensland is falling apart, and only a complete review of the system, not a piecemeal party political bandaid review, is needed to lead Queensland out of this present mess. It is our industries and youth which will pay for the Queensland Government's incompetence in trade and industry training. Although the Queensland Government has reluctantly acknowledged that the trade training system in Queensland is failing and although the Minister has voiced concern about this situation, no effective action has been taken to reverse this trend of falling numbers of apprentices. I must stress the words "effective action".

In 1984 Mr Lester acknowledged that action should be taken. I quote from an article by Sandra McLean in the *Sunday Sun* of 12 August 1984—

"State Employment Minister, Mr Vince Lester, said it was time Queensland spent more money on programs to help young people get jobs. He said the money should be spent on long term projects that taught young people a skill."

The article also highlighted the priorities of various State Governments. It stated—

"Since last year the State Government has allocated \$100,000 to youth employment schemes, compared to \$16m in Victoria and \$30m in New South Wales."

In 1985 the Minister, in introducing a Bill to amend the Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979-1983 in certain particulars, said—

"The Queensland Government is committed to promoting the employment and training opportunities for Queensland youth. This Bill will enable the smooth introduction of the new flexible schemes of training including traineeship in Queensland, thereby increasing the employment and training opportunities for young Queenslanders."

However, there are no facts to show that this National Party Government has provided the incentive, the policies or the funds to overcome this malaise. In fact in the *Courier-Mail* of 18 March 1987, three years after the Minister said we should be spending more money, he revealed the true situation. A report to Cabinet showed that the Queensland Government was spending \$2.40 a head on employment and training incentives, which was less than half the amount spent by the second lowest spending State. A table in that article showed that Queensland spent \$2.40 per person; Western Australia, \$5.30; Victoria, \$5.80; South Australia, \$7.10; New South Wales, \$8.50 and Tasmania, \$13.90.

On training alone Queensland again spent the lowest amount of any State. Queensland spent 90c per head; New South Wales, \$1.50 and Victoria, \$4.50. What a shocking indictment of shallow rhetoric that, while acknowledging the problem, the Queensland Government does the least of any State for employment and training incentives. The record of this State is abysmal—less than half the level of spending of the second lowest spending Australian State and in training incentives it recorded only one-sixth the level of spending in Victoria.

The following appeared in the *Courier-Mail* of 18 March 1987—

“The Ministers urged the Government to spend more to cut unemployment, which is higher in Queensland than in any other State.

They urged that more than \$18 million be spent immediately on employment, training and industry incentives—areas where Queensland lags other States.”

A committee of inquiry was set up and was to report back in one month. I ask the Minister: has that committee reported to Cabinet? If so, what are the findings of that report? Will that \$18m be forthcoming in the Budget so that employment and training incentives can be improved?

To study the Queensland apprentice system in some depth I compare the plumbing and drainage apprentice systems in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales.

In Victoria the numbers of apprentices undergoing training are—

Stage I	850	
II	740	
III	680	Total 2 270

In New South Wales the figures were—

Stage I	534	
II	526	
III	453	Total 1 513

The Queensland figures for 1987 were unavailable, but the 1986 figures are as follows—

1st Year	186	
2nd Year	190	
3rd Year	157	
4th Year	203	Total 736

However, in his report to their State conference in July 1987, the Queensland Master Plumbers apprentice scheme convenor, Vic Harris, states—

“Intake figures up to the end of June 1986 were very good and the best for some years, but this financial year they have nosedived.”

If 186 is the best intake figure for some years and the figures have nosedived, what is the position today? In addition, what action is being taken to overcome this disastrous system of training for the plumbers and drainers of Queensland?

In Bundaberg the situation is so depressed that plumbing apprentices must travel to Townsville for training, while our own TAFE college remains void of apprentices.

Victoria, on the other hand, has an increasing number of plumbing apprentices. Seven years ago the Victorian Government undertook a full review of apprentice training and introduced self-paced learning. It introduced one-week block training, which is more acceptable to employers, and simulated on-site work and specialist studies for mechanical services, office blocks, roofing and gas-fitting after the base 850 hours of training.

New South Wales has introduced a modular system and self-contained training program units. It has introduced a day release for city-based apprentices and a three-day block release for country-based apprentices.

An immediate review of the block release system is needed to introduce day or shorter block release periods, as these are seen as being more appropriate for employers. Like the dinosaur, the apprentice training system in this State sinks in the swamp of inactivity and dormancy, and it is our industrial firms and work-force which will sink because of the inactivity of the Queensland Government.

Queensland Institute of Technology education experts Dr Col Chesmond and Mr Frank Millar have described Queensland's apprenticeship system as an outdated disaster

and, further, have said that the difference between current systems and computer-managed learning is like a horse and cart against a car. While the Queensland Government mouths its shallow rhetoric, other States have taken positive action.

Queensland's youth unemployment in July was 23 per cent, up from 22.8 per cent the previous year. In comparison, the Victorian Youth unemployment rate is 15.7 per cent compared to 19.2 per cent the previous year. In one year Victoria reduced its youth unemployment by 3.5 per cent, while in Queensland youth unemployment increased. Victoria has undertaken a positive and significant policy to combat youth unemployment. That could be done in Queensland, if only the National Party Government would take action.

In March 1985, the Victorian Government introduced a package of youth guarantee initiatives designed to meet its commitment to provide all Victorians from 15 to 18 years of age with opportunities either in full-time employment, full-time education and training, or some structured combination of education, training and work. The youth guarantee gives maximum encouragement to all young Victorians to participate to the fullest extent possible in formal education and in both work-based and off-the-job vocational training, and provides for a significant expansion of opportunities for them to do so.

Victoria created 1 250 workstudy positions in 1985-86 and a further 1 000 traineeship positions in 1986-87. In addition the Victorian Government has a State Additional Apprenticeship Scheme (SAAS), which has employed an additional 220-230 apprenticeship places each year since 1983. Nearly 1 000 young Victorians have been trained under SAAS. In addition, the Victorian Government has an apprentice intake of approximately 1 600 this year and would have approximately 5 000 apprentices employed in training at this present time.

The Queensland Government, on the other hand, has a shameful record. This uncaring, short-sighted Government has only 257 apprentices in its employment and nil traineeship positions in the public service. I repeat: Queensland has only 257 public sector apprentices and no trainees under the Australian Traineeship System. Victoria has 5 000 apprentices in public service employment, 1 250 under workstudy completing training and 1 000 public sector traineeships. In addition, Victoria has established a group apprenticeship scheme to cover all of Victoria with 20 groups and had 1 700 apprentices in training. Queensland has 18 schemes and approximately 800 apprentices and 50 trainees. To date the apprenticeship scheme has been successful and I congratulate the people concerned on the way in which it has been implemented in Queensland.

Canberra-bashing will not hide the neglect of this Government towards our youth's training. Queensland has 257 youths in public sector training and Victoria has 7 500. Queensland—its Government, its employers and its citizens—should be ashamed of the neglect that it has shown towards our youth.

The Victorian Government is also committed to an expansion of higher-education opportunities for young people. A major step taken by the Victorian Government in 1985-86 was the provision of State funds for additional places in higher education to maintain at least a 50 per cent transition rate of secondary school graduates into higher education. This enabled some 1 500 young Victorians, who would otherwise have missed out, to gain higher-education places. Victoria is the only State in Australia financing places in universities. That Government is providing funding for a further 1 140 places in 1987. The total cost of providing these places in 1987, including the carry-over of the 1 500 additional places offered in 1986, will be \$15m. Overall, nearly 44 000 apprentices are receiving training in Victorian TAFE colleges, compared to approximately 10 000 in Queensland. Victoria has provided 2 640 additional places in higher education; Queensland nil.

Two great initiatives in trade training by the Victorian Government has been the development of skills training centres and front end intensive training centres. I would like the Queensland Government to consider those areas. These centres are established within the major manufacturers' facilities to expand their in-house amenities for intensive

training and linked to approximately 10 centres with computer networking. Companies such as Ford and Repco have been given grants of \$1m to provide these industry-based training facilities. The philosophy of these schemes is to make industry more accountable for training.

This concept of industry being directly involved in training provides for industry training networks and for employers and employees to be partners in industry training. Employer incentives are important to help in the employment of apprentices. There are the federally funded technical education rebate and subsidies for group apprenticeship schemes, while the Victorian Government provides rebates for pay-roll tax and work care premiums—the equivalent of workers' compensation premiums in Queensland—for all apprentices in all years. Further training incentives need to be implemented by this State Government. However, research of industry management attitudes shows that the most important factor involved in the employment of apprentices by business is confidence in the economy. I repeat: confidence in the economy.

Business has confidence in the Victorian economy, while clearly Queensland business proprietors do not have confidence in the Queensland economy. This is an indictment of the Queensland Government's incompetence in handling the management of the State's economy. Provide business confidence and subsequently apprentice intake will increase. I believe direct employer incentives are needed in Queensland, but, more importantly, there has to be business confidence in our State's economy.

If the objectives of export-led growth and enhanced competitiveness against imports are to be achieved, greater emphasis will need to be placed on the production of more technologically advanced, and therefore more skilled intensive, goods and services. This will require substantial improvements both in the supply of skilled labour and in the technological relevance of workers' skills.

Current industry training arrangements were developed to meet the skill requirements of an earlier era and thus lack either the coverage or the flexibility to meet this major challenge. A number of shortcomings with present industry training provisions can be identified. Firstly, they are primarily oriented towards occupations in the manufacturing and construction industries, with limited formal provision for training in service sector occupations, in advanced manufacturing and in other areas based on newer technologies. Secondly, the emphasis of existing training provisions remains oriented towards rather narrowly defined trade and technical skills. However, there is now increasing recognition of the need for more broadly based industry training, allowing maximum flexibility in response to structural and technological change by providing a foundation of transferable skills on which subsequent skills upgrading can build. A third general deficiency is the absence of provision for intermediate-level skills training in a number of industries. Not only does this act as a constraint to the achievement of quality and productivity improvements needed to enhance competitiveness, it restricts severely the flexibility and mobility of the semi-skilled and unskilled work-force by constraining access to more advanced-level skills training and by limiting individual career paths. Because of those deficiencies, over the next few years high priority should be given to a process of comprehensive review and redevelopment of skills training on an industry-by-industry basis. Further measures should also be taken to facilitate industry-based training.

The development of more comprehensive industry training arrangements, and the achievement of more flexible and responsive industry training provisions to meet changing occupational skill definitions and requirements, will also be needed if our work-force is to be equipped to meet the challenge of structural and technological change. One of the major shortcomings with present industry training arrangements is that formal training is restricted to a limited range of occupations and skill levels—mainly the traditional skilled trades. There is a notable absence of intermediate level skills training, and a dearth of provision for either intermediate or higher level technical skills training in new and emerging industries based on more recent technological developments. I ask: where is the training for robotics in Queensland and when will it be implemented? Meanwhile, limited opportunities for retraining and skills upgrading hamper the capacity

of firms in more traditional areas of employment to accommodate structural change or to keep abreast of technological change. More fundamentally, existing industry training provisions remain relatively narrow and are geared towards trade specific skills, despite growing evidence of the need for broader based industry training on which specialist skills and subsequent skills upgrading can be built to achieve a more flexible and versatile work-force. An immediate review should be undertaken with the objectives—

- (a) to develop an industrywide system of broad-based skills training at all levels upon which skills upgrading can be based;
- (b) to develop flexible industry training arrangements capable of responding to emerging skill needs accommodating changing technologies; and
- (c) to promote new horizontal and vertical career structures through the development of related training arrangements across the industry, and through extension of the coverage of training to embrace intermediate skills levels.

We must act now. In this crisis situation, urgent measures are needed. The proposed amendments to the Industry and Commerce Training Act will provide more flexibility for regional advisory committees to be more effective and more efficient in the operation of group apprenticeship schemes.

In this Parliament members of the Government have often attacked our youth as being lazy and not looking for work. I reject those sentiments. We must show more compassion and care for our youth. The immediate implementation of a youth employment scheme must have priority and be given priority in the Government's Budget.

Youth are the victims, not the villains, of unemployment. Our unemployed youth should be treated as victims, not as villains. On their behalf, I ask the Minister to implement policies to provide work and training for them.

Mr HAMILL (Ipswich) (8.29 p.m.): I endorse whole-heartedly the comments made by my colleague the member for Bundaberg, who I believe has analysed with a great degree of insight and clarity the situation facing young people in this State. The remedies that he advocated the Government should take to deal with the problem of youth unemployment in this State are, of course, remedies with which I have great sympathy.

It is incumbent upon all honourable members during a debate such as this to reinforce community awareness of the gravity of the employment situation that faces young job-seekers in Queensland. In that context, the capacity of our society and this Government to put in place a range of training and apprenticeship options for young people is very important.

Unfortunately, an examination of the available data on unemployment reveals a testimony of incompetence in the economic management of this State. As at July of this year, 114 000 Queenslanders were seeking full-time employment in this State. Of that figure, approximately 22 200 were 15 to 19-year-olds. A comparison of unemployment rates in Australia indicates that during July of this year the Queensland unemployment rate of 9.3 per cent was certainly in excess of the Australian unemployment rate, which was 7.9 per cent. The situation facing young people in this State is far more serious than the overall unemployment position in this State. The unemployment rate for 15 to 19-year-olds in Queensland is running at 23 per cent, whereas the Australian average is 20.5 per cent. That represents a marked difference between the general rate of unemployment and the rate among 15 to 19-year-olds.

During the last three years Queensland's labour market has deteriorated markedly when compared with that of other States.

A comparison between the figures for the six States and Australia as a whole for the period from 1983 to 1987 reveals the following: in 1983 through to mid-1984 Queensland had a lower rate of youth unemployment than the rate for Australia as a whole. Oh to be back in the halcyon days of 1983-84! In 1985 Queensland's youth unemployment rate was consistently higher than the national average. The period from

mid-1984 through to early 1985 saw a significant deterioration in Queensland's labour market.

In 1986 that situation became even more critical with Queensland's youth unemployment rate reaching the second highest rate of all States on no fewer than four occasions.

Although only seven sets of monthly statistics are available, they indicate that this year to date, on no fewer than three occasions, Queensland's youth unemployment rate was the highest of all States, and that on two other occasions, it was the second highest. So this year to date, on five occasions out of the seven for which statistics have been compiled, Queensland has had either the highest or second highest rate of youth unemployment in Australia.

That is the sort of social tragedy that is being presided over by this Government. Yet, despite the yearly deterioration of youth unemployment statistics, the Minister for Employment sits Nero-like and fiddles while the future of young Queenslanders goes up in smoke.

Another sad and tragic fact that is important for all honourable members to note is that, whilst there has been a massive increase in the rate of youth unemployment, apprenticeship and trade training opportunities in this State have declined. In fact, during 1986 the number of young people in apprenticeship training or pre-employment courses in this State was less than the number in any year since 1980. Statistics disclose that in 1986 there were fewer than 22 000 apprentices and people in pre-employment training courses in this State. That represents the fourth successive decline in the number of young people who had the opportunity to receive trade training. I ask honourable members to think about that. At the same time, the aggregate statistics of youth unemployment have been increasing.

In other words, more and more young Queenslanders are missing out on an opportunity to have a future in the skilled trades of this State. It has very serious implications for the State's economy in the medium to longer term. In four, five or maybe six years' time, when the apprentices who ought to have been receiving training now are needed in the work-force to maintain the level of skills required in Queensland's labour market, they simply will not be there. The State will be all the less for that.

The State Government is squandering the future of Queensland's youth and Queensland's future as well. There is little wonder, therefore, that young people are deserting this State in droves.

Mr FitzGerald: That is wrong.

Mr HAMILL: No, it is not wrong. It is quite correct. The facts are amply established by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in its most recent figures that deal with interstate migration.

Mr FitzGerald: Over a 12-month period?

Mr HAMILL: Yes. It is for the year ended 31 May 1986. They are the most recent figures available. Those figures indicate that in the critical age group of young Queenslanders, the 15 to 24 years age group, there was a net outflow interstate in search of employment. In fact, the net outflow was no fewer than 3 000, which represented a net outflow of 60 young Queenslanders a week.

As I say, Queensland's economy is haemorrhaging. The young people—the future of Queensland's economy—are leaving for interstate.

Mr Gately: How about the \$175m that your Government in Canberra ripped us off in this year alone?

Mr HAMILL: The member for Currumbin is well known for his capacity to spend his time muttering about irrelevancies. What he has, of course, closed his eyes to is that he is a part of a Government that is allowing young Queenslanders to leave this State

because they do not have a future in employment or trade training in Queensland. He is equally culpable for being part of a Government that will close its eyes to the plight of young Queenslanders. It is little wonder that they do their voting with their feet.

With the bleak unemployment prospects that are being presided over by this Government—I have amply illustrated the deterioration of the labour market in this State—and with few training opportunities, as adequately set out in the Minister's own departmental report of last year, it is little wonder that honourable members now find that the coup de grace has been delivered to young people in this State. In addition, the open season has been declared upon young employees in Queensland with the potential adoption of a contract labour system. Already it is well established that young people in the labour market are most exploited by unscrupulous employers who are not prepared to ensure that those young people are afforded the protection of industrial awards.

If the contract labour legislation, the so-called voluntary—that is an amusing term in that context—employment agreement is adopted, young people who do not have the bargaining power and are desperately seeking employment will bear the brunt of the exploitation such as the examples that my colleague the honourable member for Bulimba was amply able to illustrate in the House earlier today. While all this is happening, one can well ask what the Queensland Government is doing to try to address this serious situation.

Honourable members saw what the Minister for Employment, Mr Lester, and his colleague the Minister for Industry, Mr McKechnie, were reported to have said in the *Courier-Mail* on 18 March this year. I will draw attention to the relevant passages from that instructive article.

Mr Gately interjected.

Mr HAMILL: Under the headline “State trails others on training and job incentives”—and I wish that the honourable member for Currumbin would take notice of this instead of continuing those sorts of inane interjections that he made so recently—the article reads—

“The Queensland Government spends \$2.40 a head on employment and training incentives—less than half the second lowest-spending State.

Tasmania spends \$13.90 a head, New South Wales \$8, Victoria \$5.80, South Australia \$7.10 and Western Australia \$5.30.

The figures are contained in a report to State Cabinet this week by the Employment Minister, Mr Lester, and Industry Minister, Mr McKechnie.

The Ministers urged the Government to spend more to cut unemployment, which is higher in Queensland than in any other State.

They urged that more than \$18 million be spent immediately”—
that was in March—

“on employment, training and industry incentives—areas where Queensland lags other States.”

The Opposition was saying that 18 months ago. In fact, that was the \$18m employment package that the Opposition advocated as part of its youth employment scheme which was announced in this Chamber some 18 months ago.

It is very pleasing to note that the Opposition's figures have been vindicated by the Minister for Employment in his report to Cabinet. I do not mind the Minister pinching the Opposition's figures, because they were very good indeed. What I would like to see, however, is the sending of the report—mentioned by my colleague the honourable member for Bundaberg—back to Cabinet on these recommendations.

The Queensland Government has a duty to the young people of Queensland to lift its game and ensure that the young people of Queensland have a decent future in this State.

Mr McLean: How much has the Government spent since then?

Mr HAMILL: Precious little. The forthcoming Budget will be the acid test in showing us how effective the Minister and his colleague are. The types of things advocated in the report are as follows—

“• Increased employer awareness and commitment to initial training, further training and retraining.”

That is something that the Opposition has been advocating for a very long time. Other things recommended by the report are as follows—

- “• Provided State assistance for specific industrial relocation or retraining.
- Provided possible sources of new venture capital.”

In essence, the report suggests that the State Government should adopt a regional development strategy to ensure that all of the State will benefit from a constructive approach in generating employment and training opportunities. Instead, members of the Opposition are still waiting for the report.

It would be very instructive for all honourable members if the Minister cared to table the report and send it back to Cabinet so that members of the Opposition will know the criteria upon which this Government is making its budgetary decisions in the vital area of youth-training and employment. Although the Queensland Government has talked about the issue—and I say “talked about the issue” because it has not done much else—at least the Opposition has been considering the issue, which it regards as one of the vital issues facing all of us, as legislators, in this State.

May I make certain suggestions to the Government in the context of the formulation of the State Budget, which will soon be presented in this House? The Opposition does want to see the \$18.5m that the Ministers themselves have called for to upgrade the very poor employment policies for youth that are mentioned. In addition to that, a number of measures ought to be given serious consideration by this Government so that an environment in the community can be created in which employers will be responsive to the need to engage more young people in apprenticeships and traineeships. For example, why not extend the pay-roll tax exemptions to cover all apprentices? For some years now, employers of first-year apprentices have enjoyed relaxation of pay-roll tax. All honourable members have heard Government members say on many occasions that pay-roll tax is a tax on employment, but it is also one of the great big bankrollers that the Queensland Government relies on—together with stamp duty—to ensure that its coffers are adequately filled each year.

Let us do something constructive about youth employment. Let us take the burden from those who might be encouraged to employ young people and provide an incentive by relaxing pay-roll tax, which is currently an impost upon those who employ apprentices in their second, third and fourth years. Moreover, why not emulate the example of other States that have put in place incentive schemes designed to encourage employers to engage young people who have been ranked as long-term unemployed? The Government should bring those people back into the labour-force and into the labour market and provide them with an opportunity to learn new skills and to become an active and productive part of the labour-force. For a long time the New South Wales Government has had in place an incentive scheme which offers cash incentives to employers, rebates and relaxation of pay-roll tax for those employers who are prepared to undertake such a project. Why can that not happen in Queensland?

What really disturbs me is that in this portfolio of Employment and Industrial Affairs, the Minister places emphasis on Industrial Affairs—more particularly, industrial confrontation.

Precious little is heard about employment initiatives in this State. Unfortunately, the Employment side of the portfolio is being grossly neglected at a time when the Queensland labour market is crying out for policies which will rejuvenate it and create

a climate of confidence for young people who are currently seeking employment in that area.

Mr Gately: Was that something like Priority One that Mr Hawke introduced?

Mr HAMILL: The man from Currumbin awakens again from his slumbers. I am sure that if Priority One was discussed here this evening, the member for Currumbin would similarly be found wanting in that particular area. Constructive labour market policies that will provide incentives for employers to engage young people are needed. If the member for Currumbin is not interested in this topic, maybe he will consign himself to the nether regions of this Chamber and stop annoying us with his inane contributions to what is a very serious debate.

This Government has done precious little to engender the sort of environment, employment and education in this State that young people are crying out for. As I said before, that is why young people are leaving this State in droves. Indeed, that is why Government Ministers have acknowledged the fact that the Queensland Government, when compared with Governments in other States, has not been pulling its weight in the vital area of providing employment and training opportunities. The Government will be tested in this place in a few days' time when the State Budget for 1987-88 is brought down. Then we will see whether it is pure rhetoric from this Government and whether it pays lip-service to the needs of youth in this State and just goes ahead in its laissez-faire way and forgets about young people—in other words, let them go interstate because there is no hope of a future for young people in this State, while the State Government proceeds with the sort of laissez-faire, non-interventionist policies in the labour market.

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Peak Downs—Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs) (8.47 p.m.), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions to this debate. The member for Bulimba spoke about skilled labour in Queensland. Of course, Queensland has been in the forefront of new initiatives. I refer to pre-vocational training, group schemes and traineeships. Only recently the Federal Minister, Mr Willis, with whom I have co-operated very well, praised the Queensland Government on its efforts in traineeships and its general effort towards Workskill Australia. He is quite convinced that Queensland perhaps more than any other State has made an enormous contribution to Workskill. Indeed, at the recent Australian championships of the Workskill Australia Foundation held in Adelaide, apart from the South Australian Minister, who would have been there at some point or another, I was the only Minister who turned up. Members of my parliamentary committee also attended, and that proved to be very useful indeed. The foundation gave credit for the efforts that Queensland made in that particular field.

The honourable member raised the issue of apprentices who are lost continually in employment. Of course, he is saying that apprentices, after becoming tradesmen, change to some other field. I do not see anything wrong with that. After all, there are certain very eminent people in this House who at one stage were apprentices and tradespeople. I see no real harm in that. Perhaps the honourable member was referring to continuity of employment. Obviously the Government has to take some account of things and see what can be done to make sure that our apprentices are indeed better trained and are able to remain in the one job. That is one reason why the group scheme has been introduced. It is a very useful scheme. I am quite sure that the honourable member opposite agrees totally with that. In Queensland 16 group schemes are now operating very, very effectively. A door-knock operation has also been conducted, and about 400 new apprenticeships have resulted from that. That has also been pretty useful.

I thank the honourable member for Nundah, Sir William Knox, who has given the matter considerable deliberation and an amount of careful thought to his contribution. As the previous Minister, he has much knowledge on this subject and was able to air it to the House this evening.

Mr Lee: I will tell him what you said.

Mr LESTER: I thank the honourable member for that. I mean it when I say that that is very good.

I thank the honourable member for Broadsound, who made a very perceptive contribution to the debate. He obviously worked hard on his preparation. He has a lot to offer the Parliament in the training of young people and so on. Obviously he has a deep interest in it.

In his lengthy contribution to the debate this evening, the member for Bundaberg had a large amount of statistics, graphs and goodness knows what. I think that is worthy of a little pat on the back. After all, he did a lot of research and made his contribution.

In Queensland 5 000 new apprentices are employed annually. That is a pretty fair effort. Queensland has 3 000 students in pre-vocational courses, more than 1 200 in traineeships and about 800 apprentices in 16 group schemes. If those numbers are added together, on a population basis Queensland has the best figures in Australia, which is something to be very proud of. When discussing expenditure on employment training, what needs to be taken into account is that Queensland's employment taxes are the lowest in Australia. Queensland has the lowest pay-roll tax, which is a very, very big help to employers. Queensland has the lowest workers' compensation premiums. Again that is a very helpful contribution to employers. The Committee of Employment and Training Initiatives has reported its recommendations. They will be considered in conjunction with the Budget.

I also thank the member for Ipswich, who was certainly a little more flamboyant than the honourable member for Bundaberg. However, his intentions were good. He endeavoured to make a meaningful contribution to the debate. Obviously he has done quite a bit of research on this matter.

Mr Hamill: What are you doing about employment initiatives that flowed from that report?

Mr LESTER: What the honourable member for Ipswich should remember is that I have been very, very good to the city of Ipswich. Only the other day I visited Ipswich and contributed \$25,000, I think it was, to the Catholic centre there. The Government has made other contributions in Ipswich. Not too long ago I visited the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce. It was very, very pleased that I made the effort to go to Ipswich.

I simply thank the honourable member for Ipswich for his contribution to the debate and thank all other members who contributed. After all, what we are about is gaining further employment opportunities for the State's young people. It is good to see everybody in a very convivial spirit here tonight and putting our young people first. That is good.

Motion agreed to.

Committee

Hon. V. P. Lester (Peak Downs—Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—

Mr CAMPBELL (8.55 p.m.): I have a question about the subcommittees that will be set up. Could the Minister give honourable members some idea of what areas these subcommittees would handle and how the Minister sees these committees as being an advantage in assisting his regional advisory committee? I just cannot see how the subcommittees will actually work and in what areas.

Mr LESTER: The Bill attempts to deal with the more specialised areas. If committees need the advice of specialists to assist them in deliberations with young people, I think this is a good way to go. The Government does not want it to be inflexible or rigid. The Government wants to open it up so that advice can be obtained from various sources and a greater contribution can be made all round. If the member for Bundaberg

has any problems in his electorate and he wants to talk to me about them, I am only too willing to assist him.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Lester, by leave, read a third time.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL BILL

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn—Minister for Primary Industries) (8.57 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to make provision for the biological control of pests in Queensland, and for related purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn—Minister for Primary Industries) (8.58 p.m.): I move—

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

Control of pests in agriculture by biological rather than by chemical means has obvious appeal and is environmentally responsible, provided the necessary safeguards are met. In the Australian context there has been an ongoing program of biological control pursued by State and Commonwealth authorities for many years. Probably the most outstanding example in Queensland was the introduction of the cactoblastis insect to control prickly pear in the 1920s.

The importation and release of a biological control organism is made only after painstaking assessment by both State and Commonwealth scientists. It is considered that responsibility for this action should not rest solely on the shoulders of scientists but rather on the responsible Governments. Release of biological organisms should be sanctioned only after the most thorough scientific and public inquiry. For these reasons, in 1984, the Australian Agricultural Council agreed to guide-lines for the development of complementary Commonwealth/State legislation concerning the biological control of plant and animal pests in Australia. Since then extensive consultation has taken place between the Commonwealth and the States and within Queensland, on the form that this legislative agreement should take.

I believe this Bill will provide for the proper investigation, control and management of biological control programs and at the same time protect these programs from vexatious opposition. The process required under the proposed biological control legislation involves both Government and public scrutiny. In the first place, any move to implement a biological control program would first require the unanimous endorsement of the Australian Agricultural Council, which comprises all State and Federal Ministers responsible for primary industries or agriculture. Reference to the Ministerial Council would, of course, not be made before a searching scientific inquiry of the proposal had been undertaken by specialist officers employed by the respective Governments.

If it is agreed that a national program is appropriate, the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry and Energy, as the Commonwealth biological control authority, would be authorised to manage that program. It is anticipated that this would normally be the case as biological organisms do not tend to recognise State or Federal territory

boundaries. However, if a measure has a particular State importance, the relevant State Minister, under this Bill, would have the power to act as the responsible biological control authority, subject again to the prior unanimous concurrence of the Australian Agricultural Council. However, in most instances I would see the role of the biological control authority being undertaken by the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry and Energy.

The process incorporated in this Bill provides for extensive public involvement. On receipt of an application to release a biological control organism and following unanimous endorsement by the Australian Agricultural Council, it is the responsibility of the biological control authority to publish details widely in the press and to receive public submissions. If public disquiet is voiced, it is the responsibility of the authority to ensure that adequate investigation and inquiry is held into the desirability of the release of the specified organism. It is intended that any such inquiry would be in public and conducted by the Commonwealth Industries Assistance Commission or other relevant Commonwealth or State authority. On receipt of the report of the investigation, it is then the responsibility of the biological control authority to declare the relevant agent organism and target organism, thus enabling the release of the agent organism by the appropriate scientific body.

The Bill provides some protection to the releasing authority from action for damages resulting from any release of an approved agent organism provided the provisions of the legislation are observed. However, in no way is an aggrieved person prohibited from seeking damages as a result of negligence or lack of professional care being employed in the required clearance procedures.

As a further form of community protection, the Bill provides for a full process of appeal in Queensland against specified action or inaction by the authority within the State, that is, the State Minister. Within the Commonwealth jurisdiction and where the Commonwealth Minister acts as the authority, appeal lies with the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Mr Speaker, this Bill has now been enacted in all other States and in the Northern Territory Assembly. The Commonwealth also has enacted legislation but has yet to put in place certain amendments to conform with more recent levels of agreement by the Australian Agricultural Council. This Bill is an example of reasoned co-operation between the States and the Commonwealth in this important area of responsibility.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr De Lacy, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. W. POWELL (Isis—Leader of the House) (9.05 p.m.): I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

Second-hand Dealers and Collectors Act

Mr CAMPBELL (Bundaberg) (9.06 p.m.): Bureaucratic red tape and the unreasonable heavy-handedness of the dealers squad of the Police Department has upset many good small-business people in country towns. In terms of fairness and workability, the administration of the Second-hand Dealers and Collectors Act leaves a lot to be desired.

In April this year, the dealers squad visited Maryborough, Bundaberg and other country towns. With precision and super efficiency, the police officers strictly enforced the regulations of the Second-hand Dealers and Collectors Act. Anthony Pitt of Maryborough, who runs a small second-hand dealer's business, had failed to renew his dealer's licence. When visited by officers of the dealer's squad, he offered to pay for the licence there and then, on 28 April. However, the officers would not accept a payment. Later on in the day he paid for his dealer's licence. However, the authorities in Brisbane proceeded with a summons, and Mr Pitt appeared in court in August.

The disturbing feature of this minor misdemeanour is that no account is sent for the renewal of the dealer's licence. In effect, a summons was sent and a court case conducted because a person forgot to pay a renewal licence fee for which no account was ever sent. How many members here would forget to renew their vehicle registration or pay their electricity account if they did not receive an account in the first place?

Mr Pitt accepts his share of responsibility for his oversight in forgetting to renew his dealer's licence, but surely there is a better administrative procedure to ensure that licences are renewed on time. Presently, overdue licence renewals involve a visit by the police dealers squad, a summons, a court appearance, a fine, legal expenses for the defendant and the process of a further inspection of the premises by the local authorities to obtain a licence, once again, at a cost of \$60.

In a letter to publicise what he considers unnecessary harassment and embarrassment, Mr Pitt voiced other concerns about the Second-hand Dealers and Collectors Act and the dealers squad actions as follows—

“The most galling aspect of the dealers' squad performance is their glaring neglect of duty. As the victim, I am still waiting for four cases of false pretences to be heard which have been outstanding for various lengths of time since last year. In all four cases the goods have been identified as stolen and returned to their rightful owners, the culprits have been identified and are known, but for some unknown reason it was necessary to rush my misdemeanour to the courts ahead of these.”

It would seem that the priorities of the authorities are seriously misplaced when minor misdemeanours are vigorously pursued through the court, yet apparently alleged thieves are still in the slow wheels of court procedures and not prosecuted after many months.

As Mr Pitt pointed out, the Act contains further anomalies. He stated—

“There are all sorts of petty mind boggling ways the Second-hand Dealers and Collectors Act can be twisted and turned to make your life a misery and administrative nightmare. If you think you will avoid prosecution because you do not steal or handle stolen goods, you had better think again.”

For a minor offence of not recording the date, time, name, address, description and customer identification, etc. on goods, a second-hand dealer can be fined \$60.

In Bundaberg, second-hand dealers who did not complete forms properly were fined \$60. Those second-hand dealers are respected citizens who have a good relationship with the local police and handle the problems associated with stolen goods.

In addition, in 1986 a second-hand dealer paid a licence fee of \$128. The cost of the registration of a business name was \$34. If he employed someone to renovate his furniture, he had to pay a fee of \$30 for registration of a factory. If he forgot to record all entries of property purchased, he had to pay another \$60 in fines and court costs.

It is an offence for someone to store second-hand goods in a private residence, because that residence is regarded as an unlicensed premises. It is also an offence for someone to take home items to clean. If someone provides a service on a Sunday to collect furniture, etc., for a family that is moving interstate or something like that, again it is bad luck, because he is operating out of hours.

I know now why the Savage committee was appointed—because there was too much bureaucratic red tape. But will this Government do anything about it?

Dingo Barrier Fence

Mr HOBBS (Warrego) (9.11 p.m.): Tonight I wish to draw to the attention of this House a major problem that is facing the rural industry. It is a problem that must be addressed in the very near future. I refer to the incidence of dingoes inside the barrier fence.

Mr Davis: What are you going to do about it?

Mr HOBBS: If the honourable member listens, he might learn something.

All honourable members are aware of the debate that took place about the decision to reconstruct the dingo barrier fence. That decision was taken and the barrier fence is now almost completed.

A recent inspection of the northern and western sections of the fence by representatives of the United Graziers Association and the chairman of the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board, Mr David Cory, was carried out, and the consensus was that the reconstruction has been very successful and that, with continued maintenance, it will provide a barrier for the grazing lands of central and southern Queensland.

The problem is that the dingoes have now been segregated; some are inside the fence and some are outside it. I consider the elimination of dingoes inside the fence to be phase 2 of the reconstruction program. That program must continue, and it needs the co-operation of land-owners, shire councils, independent dingo trusts and the State Government. No effort should be spared and no time should be lost in the formulation of a program with those organisations so that those grazing lands can be used to their full potential.

At present some local authorities are assisting with the employment of professional doggers, and others are assisting dingo trusts. Although that is very commendable, it does not go far enough. There needs to be only one land-holder who does not participate fully in the program and a successful breeding ground is created in an area in which efforts are being made to eliminate the dingo.

Local authorities and the State Government, which have power under the Act, must face their responsibilities and ensure that those breeding grounds are detected and eliminated.

Local dog trusts also face problems when land-owners refuse to participate in concerted campaigns. For many years those trusts have played an important role in combating the infestation of dingoes. They have operated as private-enterprise operations and can be activated as and when the need arises. Because those trusts are set up and run by adjoining land-owners and may cover three, four or perhaps ten properties, they have full local knowledge of the movement of dingoes within their areas. Because they can see their livelihood threatened before their eyes if something is not done about dingoes, the dedication of the people who operate those trusts is total.

As I mentioned, for many years local authorities have assisted with the problem. However, they too are now facing huge problems with barrier fence precepts and, in many cases, a lack of enthusiasm on the part of land-owners who are well inside the barrier fence and are removed from the dog problem.

The Government's role has also been important through the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board with the construction and maintenance of the barrier fence and the work that is carried out in relation to baiting. Little wars are raging on several fronts, and we do not seem to be gaining much ground.

All of these forces have to be brought together and co-ordinated into a program. An urgent meeting should be called for the next annual local government conference, which is to be held next month, to co-ordinate a program incorporating the following concepts: defining all local areas of dingo infestation; defining specific breeding grounds inside the barrier fence; and organising large-scale baiting and trapping campaigns that are designed to blanket cover the entire dog trust boundaries or shire divisions or drawing up boundaries for that specific purpose. It is simply not efficient to implement a program in which some property-owners do not participate, otherwise everyone is wasting his time and effort and the dingo will become the scourge of the wool and grazing industries for generations to come.

It is up to the local authorities and State Government to enforce the Act and assist in funding to make a positive attempt to reduce the dingo population in the grazing lands of Queensland.

Land Tenure in Mount Isa

Mr BEARD (Mount Isa) (9.16 p.m.): On 4 August I delivered to the Premier's office a petition signed by 6 253 citizens of Mount Isa, which is about 27 per cent of the population of that city. Unfortunately, I could not present it in the Parliament because the intense feeling engendered by the people who signed the petition was such that they did not check out the prescribed wording. Essentially, they said—

“We the undersigned wish to petition against the increase in land rent and the cost to convert to freehold in Mount Isa.

Increases have been made by the recent revaluation of land by the Valuer-General.

Crown rental for State Housing Perpetual Town Leases has increased by approximately \$200.

Miners' Homestead Perpetual Leases will most likely be increased by a similar amount.

We call upon the Queensland Government to hold land rents and the cost of conversion to freehold to the amount prior to revaluation.”

What has happened is that in Mount Isa, as in many mining towns, most residential land is leasehold, not freehold. That is essentially because mining is a diminishing asset. In the early days, miners' homestead leases were granted for an annual rental of one-thirtieth of what was bid at auction for the land. That amount was paid for 30 years, and then no more rent was paid. At that stage, a miner's homestead lease differed from freehold in only one respect. If a mine was established on it, compensation would be paid only for any construction on the land and not for the land itself, which was given freehold.

In the 1940s, the miners' homestead perpetual leases (MHPLs) were introduced. Under those leases, an unimproved capital value was determined by the local mining warden. That is always less than the Valuer-General's valuation, because it recognises that mining is a diminishing asset. Eventually, in most mining towns, the land will revert to nothing. When the people leave, many mining towns are left as ghost towns, or at least with very much smaller populations.

An option exists whereby the land can be freeholded. Two methods can be adopted. It can be either paid out directly, in which case a deduction allows the person to pay 51.24 per cent of the unimproved capital value as determined by the mining warden, plus surveying and administration fees, or it can be paid off over 30 years at one-thirtieth of the value each year, which seems to be a good option. There are only about 24 000 miners' homestead perpetual leases in Queensland, with about 7 000 of them being on the Mount Isa and Cloncurry fields. 65 000 leases are held under the Land Act, but about 900 000 are freehold tenements administered by the Lands Department. So obviously the 24 000 people with MHPLs do not have much vote in the State.

In Mount Isa, the land tenure situation is extremely complex. Land is held under six or seven types of leasehold. They all have different ways of freeholding and different ways of having rentals determined.

The valuations issued last year increased land values in Mount Isa by an average of about 290 per cent. However, they overlooked completely the fact that in the last three years of that period, 1984-85-86, the work-force of Mount Isa Mines, the major employer, decreased by about 20 per cent and it became very difficult to sell a house or to retain any value on it at all. It was the opinion of most people that valuations should have decreased rather than increase.

The Mount Isa City Council, of course, had the ability to levy differential rates and to keep the general rate levied by the council at not much more than it was previously. But land rentals on leases administered by the Lands Department trebled to over \$300. A 3 per cent formula was fixed by the State Housing Act, and that has existed since 1910.

On 22 June, people were faced with receiving bills for over \$300 for land rental on top of two lots of rates for about \$500 each a year. Those people are paying about \$26 a week, excluding power, water and other services, just for living on their own land.

Fortunately for people on miners' homestead leases, their annual land rental is still levied at 3 per cent, but it is levied on the unimproved capital value set by the mining warden as at December 1980. So those people are sitting there waiting and wondering when their rentals will increase.

It is apparent that not only will local mining wardens vanish, but also all land leases and titles will come under the control of one Minister in Queensland. I suppose that land-holders can expect uniform formulas for all valuations and land rentals. That will be the high one.

The people of Mount Isa request, or even demand, that the complexity be reduced, that all sorts of land tenure be put under one type and that the people be given a cheap option of freeholding it and having the matter simplified once and for all. My predecessor, Mr Bill Price, urged that in this House approximately two or three years ago. As an alderman of the Mount Isa City Council, he is still urging it.

All political parties in Mount Isa are united on this issue. Twenty-seven per cent of the population have signed a petition to demand it. Let us simplify this matter. Let us bring back land rentals to a nominal amount. General rates are high enough. When people have to pay such taxes it becomes too expensive to live in Mount Isa. When people pay general rates to the council, at least they can see the garbage truck come and the parks being created; but land rental is just a tax for which they see nothing.

Queensland Government Education Policies

Mr SHERRIN (Mansfield) (9.21 p.m.): I will spend a few minutes commenting on the Education Act and Another Act Amendment Bill, which was withdrawn by the Minister for Education today. Now that the legislation has been withdrawn, I am at liberty to comment on some of its principles. I express to the Minister my appreciation for the decision made to establish a working party to review the legislation.

I firmly believe that education is one of those things that is different from many of the other matters that are discussed in this House. All honourable members have had experience with education. Honourable members have either been through the system themselves or they have children who are going to school. Consequently, we feel that we are experts in this particular field. Few of us would feel qualified to enter into detailed discussion on many of the other topics that are debated and discussed in this House and that state of affairs is certainly reflected in the wider community. As I said, education is one of the few areas in which all honourable members would have a certain degree of expertise. Therefore, all honourable members feel that they should have an opportunity to provide input into any legislation that affects the education of their children or the education system as a whole.

The working party is representative of all the different groups that have an interest in education in Queensland, ranging from unions that operate in the private and public sectors, to parents' associations, to associations of teachers in non-Government schools and teachers in Government schools, and so on. Those participants can bring a wide range of expertise to bear on the deliberation of the committee.

In the time that remains, I wish to express my support for a number of broad principles that were contained in the legislation. There is a need for honourable members, when passing legislation in this House, to reaffirm the States' constitutional rights in education that are so clearly laid down in the Australian Constitution.

In recent years, the Commonwealth Government has encroached on a great many areas, but none more so than education. The encroachment has taken the form of decisions—by referendums and by selected judicial interpretation over the years—and probably to the greatest extent by financial domination of the Commonwealth Government over States' rights.

It is interesting to note that Australia has the greatest extent of vertical fiscal imbalance evident in any western democracy because the central Government raises the greatest portion of the funds, whereas the State Governments—the peripheral Governments—have the greatest responsibility for delivering services to the people. It is through that mechanism that the Commonwealth Government has been able to dominate many of the original State functions laid down by the Constitution.

This domination has been reflected in the Australian Education Council, which is the oldest ministerial council operating in Australia. In the early days, the Commonwealth Minister was not even a member because the Commonwealth Government had no constitutional rights. Over the years, the Commonwealth Government exerted its influence. Whereas once a Commonwealth Minister would have been invited to selectively discuss one or two areas of interest, nowadays the ludicrous position has been reached where the Commonwealth Minister is seen as a key participant in the whole affair, which certainly goes against the wishes of Australia's founding fathers.

I also wish to support the move to establish an advisory council on non-State education, which will give non-Government schools direct access to the Minister, enable them to state their concern about any matter in Queensland and suggest ways to rectify and improve the already excellent system of non-Government school education in our State. Through my experience of working in the Minister's office for three years, I had extensive contact with the non-Government school sector. I commend the Minister for establishing his ministerial committee on non-Government schools, which has worked ad hoc for the last few years. I also support his initiative to cement the establishment of this committee through legislation.

The advisory council on education for economic development is sorely needed to further improve the liaison between industry and commerce in education. How many honourable members have witnessed a situation in which the best teachers—especially in high schools—are not the teachers who have come through the education system and have gone straight into the class room but are those teachers who have spent some time in the work-force, in commerce or industry and so on, and have had the opportunity to see what life is like in the outside community. Such people tend to make the best teachers. Establishment of the advisory committee on education for economic development would enhance that position.

There is certainly a need for greatly improved cross-linkages between the different sectors of education—between high schools and TAFE; between colleges of advanced education and universities. Because of the initiatives of the Minister, there are certainly some exciting prospects available for students to undertake studies at a college of TAFE and then to continue them at a later stage at colleges of advanced education and universities.

Finally, I wish to support the need for course-accrediting authorities to be more responsive in curriculum design and content. Areas such as technology are moving very, very fast. Some tremendous work has been done.

Question-time

Mr WELLS (Murrumba) (9.26 p.m.): Question-time has traditionally been the hallmark of the Westminster system, the daily guarantee that the Executive is answerable to the elected representatives of the people. In this Parliament it is a farce. The Standing Orders of this House allow two kinds of questions—questions without notice and questions upon notice. Often there is not much point in asking a question without notice, because the Minister who is asked probably will not know the answer.

On the other hand, if the question is asked on notice, an answer is received, but it is the next day. Ministers stand in this House and read into *Hansard* long-winded answers composed by better-informed men than themselves; men who know the answers to the questions; men who know how to couch the answers in terms that will protect their Minister. This procedure frequently takes up a considerable proportion of the time allotted to question-time. Sometimes it takes all of it.

Ministers are able to walk away from this Chamber without being exposed to anything like the searching inquiry faced by their counterparts in other parts of this country. The result is that the business of this Government continues to be conducted beyond the reach of public scrutiny.

Mr Sherrin interjected.

Mr WELLS: I notice that the honourable member for Mansfield, having failed to make any significant points in his own speech, is now trying to make some in mine. I suggest that he wait until his next attempt.

The most absurd thing about the present system is a certain ridiculous charade which regularly mystifies visitors to the public gallery and makes them wonder whether their representatives have lost the power of speech.

When a member places a question on notice, the procedure is for the Minister who is due to answer it the next day to have his memory prompted by the member concerned standing up and calling the number. One is reminded of the old joke about the bloke who goes into a pub where everyone knows everyone else's jokes so well that they do not bother actually telling their jokes at all. They just call out the numbers and everyone laughs on cue. The punch line is that the new bloke shouts out a number and nobody laughs. When he asks why, he is informed that he "told it wrong". Honourable members on this side of the House often feel a bit like the bloke in the story. When we get a meaningless answer to one of our numbers, perhaps we might wonder whether we asked the number wrongly. I ask honourable members to consider the absurdity of the procedure that we engage in every parliamentary day. A member writes out a question and announces to this august assembly that he has done so. The piece of paper is then collected with due ceremony by an attendant, who takes it from this House and gives it to a public servant who writes out an answer which is typed and given to the Minister. The next day an honourable member shouts out a number and then the Minister reads the words—or at least as many of the words that he can pronounce—into *Hansard*.

Perhaps the dignity of the House counts for little with this Government. Perhaps a rational system of accountability counts for little with this Government. If those things did count, the Government would introduce a system of written questions upon notice.

Instead of engaging in a pantomime such as the one that I have described, a member could simply write out a question and receive the answer in writing. This would save the time of the House and allow question-time to be devoted to questions without notice. It would encourage Ministers to ensure——

Mr FitzGerald: How long does it take to get your answer?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member for Lockyer to come to order.

Mr WELLS: I will accept the interjection. It does not matter how long it takes. The member gets the answer and the information. That would allow question-time to be devoted to questions without notice. That system would encourage Ministers to ensure that they were briefed daily on possible parliamentary questions. It would encourage them to keep their fingers on the pulse of their portfolios and it would ensure that they had answers to the reasonable questions of the representatives of the people. It would enable members of Parliament to use questions on notice as a vehicle for obtaining information to an extent impossible under the present system. It would be a massive stride towards open Government. For all these reasons it is an incredibly unlikely development.

Mr Speaker, since you assumed your present high office, you have made a number of rulings which, by their conspicuous fairness, have surprised Opposition members. I stop short of saying that your rulings have been infallible. However, you have taken a number of small steps to restoring a semblance of propriety to the proceedings of this place. You now have the opportunity to take a big step in the same direction. It is within your power to recommend to the Government from whose ranks you came that

Standing Orders be amended to bring question-time into line with the practice of other Parliaments in this country. You would be striking a blow for democracy and accountability and you would earn the respect of a consequently better informed public.

Mr Speaker, when you went into the Speaker's chair instead of into the Ministry, you lost the opportunity to see that justice was done in this State. You gained instead the chance to ensure that justice should appear to be done in this Parliament. I urge you to take that chance.

Beef Cattle Industry; Pesticide Residue Testing

Mr BOOTH (Warwick) (9.31 p.m.): I wish to speak tonight on a matter that has been spoken about on several occasions today, that is, the present confusion with testing for pesticide residues in beef. I do not wish to attack anything that has been said by any other member today; I want to speak on a slightly different aspect of it.

The claims made today are quite correct. It is not my intention to try to rubbish them in any way. However, I do not believe that the present scheme is suitable or that it will achieve a satisfactory result. It does not appear to me to be coming to grips with the problem. Any testing for pesticide residues has to be a Government responsibility. In all sincerity, I say that it should be a Federal Government responsibility. If it is not a Federal Government responsibility or if the Federal Government fails to come to grips with it, the State Government should endeavour to do so.

In that regard the operation of the present levy and the confusion surrounding it should be considered. A period of something like 10 weeks has elapsed since the problem first arose. Up till now nobody has taken any corrective steps to grapple with the problem and try to get on top of it. One of the reasons is that the voluntary scheme put up by the Cattlemen's Council appears to be unjust, as it is loaded against the small producer. Up till now the object has been to levy \$3 a head up to six head and, for more than that, \$20 a lot. For 100 head that is only 20 cents per head. So the man with six head or fewer pays \$3 a head and the man with 100 head pays only 20 cents per head. That is not realistic. The industry should be trying to impose a levy of \$1 or \$1.50 a head right across the board. If that proves to be more than is needed, it can be reduced.

Mr Lee: What about the \$9.66 now for the slaughter levy? Surely that should cover it.

Mr BOOTH: That is another aspect.

Mr Lee: It was recently increased.

Mr BOOTH: To some extent I agree with the honourable member for Yeronga. The present levy is a big one.

What worries me is that this problem is so serious that, if the Federal Government will not fund it from that other levy, perhaps, rather than argue, the industry should impose another levy. The honourable member knows the old story about fiddling while Rome burned. In this case Rome—that is, the meat industry—might be burning while we argue.

Mr FitzGerald: You want to be a hero, not a Nero.

Mr BOOTH: Perhaps that is the case.

Certainly the industry is not achieving what it set out to do. The first thing that has to be done is to convince the small producer that he will get a fair go. It is all very well for some people to say that it does not matter much if the small producer or the small agent goes by the board. People who say that should take a closer look at the industry. About 50 per cent of the cattle in this country come from small producers. When it comes to prime cattle, the cattle that most people in Australia eat, the figure might be as high as 70 per cent. When the Government is fooling around with the small producer, it is fooling around with a very big industry. I suppose that the big man feels

that what the small producer contributes means nothing. However, I believe that the small producer contributes a great deal to Australian industry, particularly the beef industry.

Mr Kerin should be coming to grips with the problem. I am afraid that my opinion of Mr Kerin is slipping significantly. He is a talker, not a doer. There is only one way in which the Government can come to grips with this problem. If the Federal Government fails to act, the State authorities should act. I am not sure that the State has the legal ability to act. However, if there is any possibility that it could act, I think it should do so because——

Mr Randell: It is an Australiawide problem.

Mr BOOTH: It is an Australiawide problem. However, every State seems to have a different idea about how the levy should be applied. That is what is worrying me. It is all right to say that it is an Australiawide problem. However, if every State has a different idea, the States must be doing something about it, examining it in some way. I do not believe that it is in anybody's best interests to allow the debate to continue in this vein.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.36 p.m.