



Speech by

Mr LEN STEPHAN

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Hansard 21 October 1998

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Committee (Cognate Debate)

Estimates Committee C

Report

Mr STEPHAN (Gympie—NPA) (5.30 p.m.): Along with the Minister and the former Minister who have spoken to this report, I too would like to comment on the introduction of tilt trains. I would like to congratulate the Government for the program that it will be developing. A lot of people are waiting very anxiously to use this faster way of travel. The tilt trains will provide a great service, particularly to the people of my electorate—Gympie—as they will cut another half hour off the train trip to Brisbane. With those sorts of savings in time, I hope that in future there will not be just one service a day; that it will be twice a day. I congratulate the Minister and his predecessor on their work.

I also want to make mention of Walkers in Maryborough and the expertise that its people possess. However, I do not like to see proper tendering processes bypassed. Of course, those processes should be worked through, but in this instance that was not the case. In this case, though, I believe Walkers has got the runs on the board and should be congratulated on that.

I also want to comment on the integrated ticketing project. I was a member of one of the parliamentary committees that was badgering the Ministers to go down that track. Commonsense deems that people should be able to purchase a ticket that will take them from one destination to another without having to look for different ticket sellers and without having to check that people have the correct tickets.

I also want to comment on the utilisation of public transport. There is a difference in the utilisation of public transport between the city and the country. The number of vehicles that travel along the roads of Brisbane with just one person leaves a lot to be desired, especially when one considers the costs involved. For example, a single trip by car of seven kilometres costs about \$12. Car pooling over the same distance costs \$4.70 and bus travel costs \$2.20. A 10 kilometre single trip by car costs \$13.60, \$4.40 for car pooling and \$2.80 by bus. A 15 kilometre single trip by car costs \$15.90, \$5.30 for car pooling and \$3.20 by bus, and so on. I think we have to look at this thoroughly and encourage the use of cars by more than one person. I know that we are trying to encourage that at present. Certainly the world will not condone the continuation of single-person car trips.

I also take this opportunity to comment on public housing accommodation. The Department of Housing has been doing a fantastic job over the length of time that I have been the member for Gympie—about 19 years now. Most people can look after the accommodation, but some people cannot. It only takes one or two people to take advantage of their neighbours or not be reasonable when they are out and about to make it difficult for everybody concerned. I also congratulate the number of Ministers who have been looking after Q-Build apprentices, who are trained as a result the programs that have been put in place. As I said before, the Department of Housing provides housing assistance to people in need, and it does it well.

Time expired.
