

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 24 MARCH 1971

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The Charitable Funds Acts, 1958 to 1964.

The Foreign Governments (Titles to Land) Act of 1948.

Forestry Act 1959–1968.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

GOLD COAST PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) Does the Gold Coast Permanent Building Society receive Commonwealth Government grants and also allocate any Queensland Housing Commission finance? If so, to what extent?

(2) To what extent are the funds of the Society allowed to be allocated to local government loans rather than to the construction of housing?

(3) Is Mr. V. J. Alewood, Chairman of Directors of this Society, also a director of a construction company which undertakes contracts for the Society? If so, what is the name of this company?

(4) Are any home units at present under construction by this company and financed by the Society?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Section 28 of *The Building Societies Acts, 1886 to 1968*" provides, *inter alia*, that a registered society may from time to time, unless its rules otherwise direct, invest any portion of its funds not immediately required for its purposes on deposit in any bank or banking company or with an approved dealer or in the public funds or in or upon any government debentures, stock or securities, payment of the interest on which is guaranteed by authority of Parliament. Section 23D of the Acts provides that certain liquidity must be maintained by societies and the investment sources referred to in section 28 are regarded as acceptable for purposes of liquidity."

(3) "It has been noted that a special resolution of the Gold Coast Permanent Investment and Building Society passed on October 12, 1970, provided that Messrs. Alewood and Ware, directors of the society,

having an interest as defined by section 22M (b) of *The Building Societies Acts, 1886 to 1968*," in that they are directors of a construction company, were authorised to contract with the society."

(4) "There is no provision under *The Building Societies Acts, 1886 to 1968*" requiring particulars of constructions for which a registered society is providing loan funds, to be disclosed."

BELLTHORPE-WOODFORD SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENT

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

Will he make a statement to the House concerning the unfortunate school transport fatalities at Bellthorpe, with particular reference as to whether local residents had asked for traffic restrictions or repairs to the road concerned and, if a decision was made by his Department on such a request, who was responsible for the decision?

Answer:—

"I have been advised that, as an enquiry has been ordered, it would be inadvisable to discuss details relating to the accident at this juncture. At the same time, I should reiterate my statement that I have personally assured myself that my Departmental Officers have not departed from their usual standard of care and responsibility in dealing with the whole matter."

MOTOR-TRUCK OPERATORS GAOLED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF ROAD TAX

Mr. Davis, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

How many truck operators were gaoled for the non-payment of Main Roads maintenance tax in 1969 and 1970 and to date this year?

Answer:—

"The information requested by the Honourable Member can be obtained only by a search of the records of each of the Magistrates Courts Offices throughout Queensland. The time and expenditure involved in doing so is considered not to be warranted."

ADMINISTRATION OF CITY OF BRISBANE TOWN PLANNING ACT; QUARRYING OPERATIONS, ASHGROVE

Mr. Lickiss, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

With reference to his Answer to my Question on March 23 in relation to quarrying operations at Ashgrove, did he indicate to this House that he, as Minister for Local Government and Electricity, has no responsibility in terms of the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act and that the Brisbane City Council is in fact autonomous in relation thereto?

Answer:—

"If the Honourable Member refers to the record of proceedings of the House for March 23, 1971, he will be able to ascertain what I indicated in relation to his Question. I would, however, add that the responsibilities of the Minister in relation to the *City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1969* and of the Brisbane City Council in relation to the City of Brisbane Town Plan are provided for in the said Act."

APPEARANCE BY SOLICITORS BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

May Queensland solicitors appear, by statutory right, in the High Court of Australia and, if so, why cannot they appear, by this right, in the inferior Queensland Supreme Court?

Answer:—

"I refer the Honourable Member to Part VIIIa of the Judiciary Act of the Commonwealth. The position is summarised at page 18 of the *Law and Conduct of the Legal Profession in Queensland* by the late Professor Walter Harrison as follows:—'A person entitled to practise as a barrister or solicitor or both in any State has the like right to practise in any Federal Court; but he must first have his name entered in the Register of Practitioners kept at the Principal Registry of the High Court.' As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, solicitors appear as of right in the inferior Courts and in the District Courts of this State and may appear by leave in the Supreme Court."

CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

(1) Is there a Professor Gates on the Consumer Affairs Council and, if so, what position does he occupy and what salary or allowances does he receive?

(2) What salary or allowances are paid to other members of the Council and who are they?

(3) Are meetings of the Council held in the daytime or at night?

(4) How do the salaries and allowances compare with those paid for similar work in New South Wales and Victoria?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Professor Ron Gates, Head of the Department of Economics at the Queensland University was appointed by the Governor in Council as the Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Council. The composition of the Council was set out in a Press statement issued by me on

December 17, 1970, a copy of which I table for the information of the Honourable Member. Since then Mr. T. Burton has been appointed to act in the place of Mr. J. Egerton who is or is likely to be prevented by absence from performing his duty as a member. No salary is paid to either the chairman or members of this Council. However, they are paid attendance fees and travelling allowances as follows:—(a) a fee of \$6.30 per meeting for attendance at meetings of the Council; (b) daily travelling allowances at the following rates:—Within the State, \$8.40 per day; Inter-State, \$12 per day (\$13 per day in Canberra at the Hotel Canberra or Canberra Rex)."

(3) "The times at which meetings of the Consumer Affairs Council are held are determined entirely at the discretion of the chairman and this could either be during the day time or night time."

(4) "Enquiries made reveal the position in other States which have a similar statutory body is as follows:—New South Wales, Chairman—the Assistant Under Secretary of the Department of Labour and Industry and Commissioner of Prices receives an annual allowance as determined from time to time by the Public Service Board. An attendance fee of \$17.25 per meeting is payable plus any necessary travelling allowance. Victoria, Chairman—an annual allowance of \$4,000. Members receive an annual allowance of \$500. Tasmania, Chairman—\$3,000 per annum. The attendance fee per meeting is \$10.50 and accommodation and travel expenses are paid."

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Herbert laid upon the Table of the House a copy of the Press statement referred to.

EXAMINATION PAPERS, COMMONWEALTH SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) Does the Queensland Education Department collaborate with the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science in setting out and marking the examination papers for entrants for Commonwealth Secondary Scholarships and, if so, did the Queensland Education authorities, for these examinations last year, base their papers on (a) written expression, (b) quantitative thinking, (c) comprehension and interpretation, sciences and (d) comprehension and interpretation, humanities?

(2) If so, as many brilliant scholars failed to secure a scholarship, will he, in the interests of all scholars, ensure that this polysyllabic profundity and dialectic pomposity is reduced to terms that ordinary students, citizens and politicians can readily understand, before the next examination is held?

Answers:—

(1) "The Queensland Education Department in common with all other State Education Departments is given the opportunity to review each of the test papers prior to their final printing. These are made available to the Department by the Australian Council for Educational Research which constructs the tests for the awarding authority which is the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science. The review is aimed at removing inconsistencies or ambiguities in the papers which in 1970 were as listed by the Honourable Member."

(2) "The papers together with school assessments aim to select those students most likely to succeed in tertiary education. Since only some 5 per cent. of students at this level can qualify for these Commonwealth awards it is to be expected that many very bright students will fail to gain them. Consequently of necessity the content of the papers will deal with complex and difficult academic problems. Happily the Honourable Member did not set the papers as his style of English would render the papers even more difficult."

APPLICATIONS TO RURAL RECONSTRUCTION BOARD

Mr. Cory, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) How many applications from primary producers seeking assistance have so far been received by the Rural Reconstruction Board?

(2) Is the processing of the applications sufficiently advanced to give an indication as to the percentage that may be successful and the main reasons why those considered unsuccessful were so considered? If so, what are the main reasons?

Answers:—

(1) "Ninety-eight."

(2) "No. Applications are being processed in readiness for presentation to the Board for its consideration when both Commonwealth and State legislation have been enacted. Two applications have been accepted under the existing Act."

DANGEROUS-DRIVING CHARGE, J. D. WILSON

Mr. Davies for Mr. Bennett, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) With reference to his Answer to my Question on March 12 concerning a dangerous-driving charge, will he further explain his intention when he stated that it is proposed to seek permission from the stipendiary magistrate to take a certain course?

(2) Does this mean that no evidence was offered?

(3) On what basis did he claim that the matter was *sub judice* when it was intended to offer no evidence?

(4) Why was no evidence offered in this case?

(5) In view of his Answer that Wilson was also booked by the police subsequently for driving a motor vehicle without lights and with no number plates and no mudguards, what action is to be taken in connection with these offences?

(6) As the statement "What are you knocking your head up against a brick wall for? It will be pulled out after the other one has been pulled out" has now been checked, what is the result of the check and did it confirm that this statement was made?

(7) As Wilson drove at speeds of up to and over 70 m.p.h. on the incorrect side of double white lines and in the wrong direction in a one-way street, does this mean that all lesser instances of dangerous driving will not be prosecuted in future?

(8) What consideration was paid to have this charge, which was one of the most blatant and serious examples of dangerous driving in the last ten years, dropped?

Answer:—

(1 to 8) "I am not completely satisfied with the information supplied to me in regard to this matter. The Honourable Member is requested to repeat the Question on Tuesday next."

ASSAULT ON MR. J. E. GRIGG

(a) Mr. Davies for Mr. Bennett, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

In view of the information contained in his letter dated March 15, 1971, to the effect that, when Mr. J. E. Grigg of 31 Rosina Street, Kangaroo Point, was attacked with a yabby pump a police officer was present with the assailant, why has not the police officer been charged with the attack as a party to or an accessory after the fact?

Answer:—

"I am not completely satisfied with the information supplied to me in regard to this matter. The Honourable Member is requested to repeat the Question on Tuesday next."

(b) Mr. Davies for Mr. Bennett, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) With reference to my Question on March 12 regarding an assault on J. E. Grigg of 31 Rosina Street, Kangaroo Point, on January 2, what enquiries have been made about this assault and what are the names and addresses of the offenders?

(2) When the offender struck Grigg with the yabby pump, necessitating 18 stitches in his face, what did the offender's mate, who was with him and who is a member of the Queensland Police Force, do to restrain his wild and ferocious friend?

(3) Will the policeman be prosecuted under the provisions of sections 7 and 8 of the Queensland Criminal Code? If not, what is the reason?

(4) Who is the policeman concerned and what is his rank?

Answer:—

"I am not completely satisfied with the information supplied to me in regard to this matter. The Honourable Member is requested to repeat the Question on Tuesday next."

RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSING, NYANDA

Mr. Lee, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

In view of the obstruction and long delays being caused on Beaudesert Road at the Nyanda railway crossing, will he give early consideration to the construction of an overpass or an underpass to alleviate the long, daily traffic delays?

Answer:—

"An overpass structure at this open level crossing is currently being designed, which is planned for release within the current Five Year Programme."

SPEECH THERAPIST, AYR OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

Mr. Bird, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

Will every effort be made to engage the services of a speech therapist at the Ayr Opportunity School when it opens at the commencement of the 1972 school year?

Answer:—

"There is a shortage of speech therapists in the community and the Guidance and Special Education Branch is unable to staff all areas where such services are required. Priority is given to larger centres where the need is greatest but sometimes the fact that a therapist is living in a given area and wishes to remain there determines which area in fact gets services. In all the circumstances, it is not considered likely that a therapist will be available for appointment in Ayr in 1972."

ABORIGINAL AND ISLAND AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT RECORDS

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) Are all files and records dealing with the Aboriginal and Island Affairs Department, which are in the Archives, available for perusal? If not, to what year are they available?

(2) Are all other departmental records kept under similar arrangements?

Answers:—

(1) "There are no records of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs in the State Archives with the exception of one Darnley Island register. Prior to the formation of that Department matters relating to Aborigines and Islanders were the responsibility of the Colonial Secretary's Department, which later became the Home Secretary's Department and more recently the Department of Health and Home Affairs. Some records which relate to Aborigines and Islanders and which were created by the Colonial Secretary's Department (later the Home Secretary's Department) are in the State Archives. In addition some Lands Department records which relate to Aboriginal reserves are also in the Archives. Access to these is the responsibility of the permanent heads of the Department of Health and Home Affairs and the Lands Department respectively."

(2) "As mentioned above access to departmental records is the responsibility of the permanent heads of the Departments concerned."

FISH-STOCKING OF TINAROO FALLS DAM

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) Has any research been carried out into stocking Tinaroo Falls Dam with fish and, if so, what varieties have been recommended?

(2) If no complete research has been made, will he consider all aspects of stocking the dam with suitable fish, thus providing an extra attraction to this delightful Tableland lake?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Apart from experiments with the introduction of a number of fish species into the Tinaroo Falls Dam in conjunction with the Tableland Anglers' and Acclimatisation Society and the Department of Harbours and Marine no research has been carried out and no recommendation has been made concerning suitable varieties. While experiments with the introduction of fish have been carried out at Borumba and Moogerah Dams, results have been inconclusive. Recently a trial breeding pond has been established at Callide Dam with a view to obtaining larger number of young fish to introduce into the storage. There are no proposals to carry out further trials at Tinaroo Dam at this stage."

RAIL FARE PERMITS FOR ABORIGINAL
PENSIONERS

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) As the Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs failed to secure a refund of the rail fare of Mr. and Mrs. Brumby, both pensioners, who travelled from Chillagoe to Mareeba on October 1, 1970, and as application has now been made for their pensioners' rail fare permits, will he take action to ensure that all Aboriginal pensioners are issued with a pensioners' rail fare permit?

(2) Why could the trip to Mareeba on October 1 by Mr. and Mrs. Brumby not have been regarded as a point-to-point annual free journey allowed to pensioners?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Free annual rail passes for persons in indigent circumstances are handled by my colleague, the Minister for Labour and Tourism, to whom the Honourable Member should direct his enquiry. In the case of pensioners' concession rail fare permits, my colleague, the Minister for Transport, is the appropriate person to whom the Honourable Member should direct his enquiry. It is the right of the individual to apply for or not to apply for any of these concessions. However, I can inform the Honourable Member that all appropriate officers have been circularised to emphasize the desirability of informing departmentally sponsored people of the availability of such services."

TRAFFIC SURVEY, REDCLIFFE AREA

Mr. Houghton, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Mines,—

As the Redcliffe area has had many road accidents in the last twelve months, some of which have been fatal, and with a view to having traffic and pedestrian lights installed at major points, will he give immediate attention to having a comprehensive traffic survey completed in the area?

Answer:—

"The comprehensive transportation survey completed in Redcliffe included a traffic survey. At present there are no intersections or declared roads which meet the warrant in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for traffic or pedestrian lights."

CREEK ROAD-CAPALABA SECTION,
OLD CLEVELAND ROAD

Mr. Newton, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

Further to my Question on March 10 concerning the re-sealing of Old Cleveland Road between Creek Road and Capalaba—

(1) Are the two schemes to be carried out by the day-labour section of the Main Roads Department or by contract?

(2) If the re-sealing is to be done by contract, what is the name of the contractor or what are the names of the contractors?

(3) What is the estimated cost of both schemes in each category?

Answers:—

(1) "It is planned to carry out both schemes by day labour but the application of asphalt surfacing will be completed by Q.O.R."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

(3) "The estimated costs are—Resealing Phillips Creek-Tingalpa Creek, \$16,200; Asphalt surfacing Scrubb Road-Belmont Road, \$5,900."

HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL
ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Newton, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) How many applications for rental accommodation, in all categories, are at present lodged with the Queensland Housing Commission in (a) the metropolitan area and (b) country areas?

(2) What is the priority rating of these applications in all categories?

(3) What was the number of (a) houses and (b) flats allotted for rental accommodation from July 1, 1970 to February 28, 1971?

(4) What was the number of (a) houses and (b) flats allotted under the employer-employee guaranteed-rent scheme from July 1, 1970 to February 28, 1971?

Answers:—

(1 and 2)—

"Points Rating	Metropolitan at February 28, 1971	Country at January 31, 1971
100	199	89
80	52	23
60	134	38
40	1,436	215
Nil	2,440	720
Totals	4,261	1,085 "

(3) "Exclusive of Armed Services and Employer housing—(a) 1,145, (b) 50 (metropolitan to February 28, 1971 and country to January 31, 1971)."

(4) "(a) 151, (b) nil."

MOUNT GRAVATT SOUTH STATE SCHOOL
RESERVE

Mr. Newton, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

What progress has been made by his Department in relation to the negotiations taking place for additional land to be added to the Mount Gravatt South State School reserve?

Answer:—

"The matter of the acquisition of additional land is now in the hands of the Land Administration Commission."

RESEARCH FACILITIES, STATE HOSPITALS

Mr. V. E. Jones for Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health,—

(1) Have heads of departments in State hospitals been instructed that facilities of the hospitals are to be employed purely for clinical purposes, i.e. treating patients, and not for research or reviewing knowledge? If so, who issued such an instruction?

(2) Would not the whole State Health service be adversely affected by such a retrograde step?

(3) If this move is purely one following financial retrenchment, when will finance be again available for research?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "No such instruction has been issued from the State Health Department. I am also informed that no such instruction has been issued by the chairman, manager, or medical superintendents of the metropolitan hospitals. I would be grateful if the Honourable Member would advise me of the basis of his Question so that I may make further enquiries."

OCCUPATIONAL-THERAPY STAFF, BAILLIE
HENDERSON HOSPITAL

Mr. V. E. Jones for Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health,—

(1) What is the establishment for occupational-therapy staff at Baillie-Henderson Hospital?

(2) What is the present number so employed, bearing in mind that Alan Underwood reported that there was a shortage of therapists there and that equipment was lying idle?

(3) Does he consider that the Health Department policy of employing these therapists in the whole State system is generous when many of these highly-trained people leave the State because they say no jobs are available?

Answers:—

(1) "Two."

(2) "One."

(3) "Varying numbers of vacancies, up to as high as seven in number, have been available within establishments of the Division of Psychiatric Services continually over a period of more than four years. No qualified applicant has been refused appointment."

VISITORS' PASSES, WOLSTON PARK
HOSPITAL

Mr. V. E. Jones for Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health,—

With regard to the Wolston Park episode when a colleague of mine found difficulty in being admitted to see his cousin's daughter—

(1) Were the hospital employees correct when they stated that they were merely carrying out regulations of the Health Department?

(2) Why did not one of the people contacted by my colleague, including the Director of Psychiatric Services, Dr. G. S. Urquhart, tell him he would need a pass?

(3) Did Dr. Urquhart ring the hospital after the doctor had rung him and had received permission to visit?

(4) As having contacted Dr. Urquhart, the Medical Superintendent at the hospital and the Matron availed my colleague naught, whom should a prospective future visitor contact to be informed of the necessity and the mechanism for obtaining a pass to Wolston Park?

(5) Has a suitable explanation and/or apology been forwarded to my colleague by Dr. Urquhart or a responsible officer in the department?

Answers:—

"For the information of the Honourable Member, the following arrangements apply at Wolston Park Hospital with relation to the issuing of passes:—Visitors to the hospital should attend at the receptionist's desk in the main Administration Block, the 'front door' of the hospital, so that the whereabouts of the patient to be visited can be confirmed and suitable passes issued. The issuing of a pass for the purpose of visiting a patient or taking a patient from the ward is a necessary and effective precaution, designed primarily for the protection of the patients but also for the protection of and direction to the nursing staff caring for the patients. A pass may be issued for visitors to enter a ward or, if a patient has been deemed suitable by the medical staff, a pass may be issued for that patient to be taken from the ward in the company of the visitor into the grounds or, indeed, taken by car outside the grounds on a drive-out pass. I repeat, such arrangements are necessary for the protection of the patients as well as the proper management of the hospital. With

regard to the particular Questions asked of me by the Honourable Member, I advise—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "On contact with the nursing staff on his first visit to the hospital, the visitor was informed that he required a pass."

(3) "No."

(4) "Visitors should make enquiry at the receptionist's desk in the main Administration Block to ascertain the whereabouts of the patient and to receive a pass."

(5) "Reports on the incidents referred to by the Honourable Member indicate that no grounds exist for either seeking or offering an apology."

WYNNUM MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINIC

Mr. Harris, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is he aware of the inconvenience and discomfort caused to office staff and patients attending the Wynnum Medical and Dental Clinic by the severe afternoon sun shining through the unprotected hopper windows on the western side of the clinic? If so, will he have the windows protected from the sun with external metal or wooden louvres or with internal venetian blinds as fitted in other rooms at the clinic?

(2) As approximately 30 to 40 patients attend the clinic on visiting days, will he have upholstered cushions fitted to the wooden seats in the waiting room, similar to those fitted to seats in the patients' waiting room at the Princess Alexandra Hospital?

(3) As no provision is available, other than a burnt-out and broken oil drum, for the disposal of infectious medical dressings, etc. from both the medical and the dental clinic, will he have an incinerator installed as soon as possible?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The matters raised by the Honourable Member are ones for the consideration of the South Brisbane Hospitals Board, which is responsible for the conduct of the Wynnum Medical and Dental Clinic. I will refer these matters to that Board for consideration and any appropriate action that it may deem necessary."

MARGINAL DAIRY FARMS RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

Mr. Hinze, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) How many approvals have been granted by his Department under the Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme?

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(2) What amount is involved in these approvals?

(3) How much does he anticipate that Queensland will receive from the Commonwealth for the year ending June, 1971, in connection with this scheme?

(4) Has the scheme proved beneficial to those people wishing to vacate the dairying industry in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) "Sixty-seven."

(2) "\$1,620,000."

(3) "Provision has been made for the expenditure of \$2,750,000 in the current financial year: this is a reviewed figure and represents the minimum sum required."

(4) "I personally am very satisfied with progress made to date and it is already clear that finance available under the scheme will prove of significant advantage to those small farmers with energy and enterprise who are desirous of improving their lot. It should also be recorded that progress in the matter so far as Queensland is concerned is much in advance of other States of the Commonwealth, all of whom have accepted the scheme in principle but none of which has made anywhere near the progress achieved by this State. If, as a premium for this type of administration, Queensland secures something more than perhaps what it might have normally expected from the overall allocation, this will be to Queensland's benefit."

COMMONWEALTH FLOOD-RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) In view of the recently-announced terms for the granting of financial aid to the New South Wales Government to help with flood damage and relief in the Hunter Valley, has any approach been made to the Commonwealth Government for similar assistance following Queensland's general flood rains this year?

(2) If so, was the request made on grounds which included personal hardship and with a view of the anticipated expenditures for restoration of the public assets and the repair of damage to roads and railways and, if so, with what result?

Answers:—

(1) "No. As previously intimated, an assessment of the flood damage which occurred as a result of rains of an unusually heavy seasonal nature has not yet been completed. When full details are available consideration will be given to the question of whether any approach should be made to the Commonwealth Government in the matter."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

EXPORT OF TIMBER, WOOD-CHIP INDUSTRY

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

Further to his Answer to my Question on March 11 concerning the protection of North Queensland feature timbers—

(1) What was the total super footage of North Queensland log exported in 1969-70 and 1970 to date or to the latest date for which figures are available?

(2) Is any check made on logs exported from private lots?

(3) Is he aware that Crown logs may be cut through the centre into half-logs or flitches cut and exported with the forestry Crown cut off?

(4) As the Commonwealth has placed an embargo on the export of log for manufacture of wood-chip, will he, as a matter of prime importance to the country, seek a similar protection for North Queensland feature timbers?

Answers:—

(1) "The exact figures for log export from North Queensland are not available from departmental records but they are of the following order:—1969-70, 400,000 super. feet; 1970-71 (to end of January), 200,000 super. feet."

(2) "No control is exercised by the Department of Forestry over the export of logs from private lands, but North Queensland wharves are regularly inspected in relation to Crown logs."

(3) "Crown logs, other than walnut supplied under allotment, can be sawn down the centre or flitched and exported with or without retention of the Crown brand. In the case of allotment walnut it is a condition of sale that more intensive processing precede export. I am unaware of any failure to comply with these conditions."

(4) "No. The purpose of the Commonwealth control in respect to logs intended for pulping purposes is to ensure that an adequate price is received for wood chips and that a reasonable degree of processing will be undertaken in Australia."

PAINTING, BANYO RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

Mr. Melloy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Is he aware that the steel framework of the uncompleted buildings at the Banyo Railway Workshops is being badly affected by rust?

(2) Did a paint gang commence painting the framework last year and after a week was it taken off the job and has not since been replaced?

(3) When the framework was previously painted was a rust-inhibiting paint used and, if so, is it not apparent that it was ineffective?

(4) What action is it proposed to take to preserve this steel framework so that the buildings can be put to some future good use?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "There were two painting gangs on this work and after completing the painting of the bridge shop, the gangs commenced painting of the plant shop, but were withdrawn to carry out urgent painting of the South Pine Bridge. The gangs will complete the painting of the remaining steel framework."

(3) "When the steel work was previously painted, the best available ready-mixed lead-free paint was used and the durability of the paint was normally what could be expected."

(4) "See Answer to (2)."

URANGAN BOAT HARBOUR

Mr. Blake, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

What progress has been made by the Department of Harbours and Marine, in consultation with the Burrum Shire Council, with a comprehensive plan of orderly development of the Urangan boat harbour and when is it expected that the completed plan will be made available to the appropriate authorities?

Answer:—

"A plan of development of the harbour facilities in the Urangan Boat Harbour has been prepared by my Department of Harbours and Marine and made available to the Burrum Shire Council. The planning of foreshore reclamation within the boat harbour for use by private operators and for recreation and other public purposes is in hand by Department officers in consultation with the Burrum Shire Council. I am unable to say when this section of the planning will be completed and subsequently approved by the Burrum Shire Council, but it is being given proper attention."

LAND TENURES AND OWNERSHIP

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) What is the present area of leasehold land in Queensland?

(2) What area of leasehold land has been converted to freehold in the last ten years?

(3) What area of land (a) leasehold and (b) freehold is now held by (i) Australian companies involved in rural industry, (ii) British-controlled companies, (iii) American-controlled companies and (iv) other overseas groups?

(4) What is the total estimated value of all holdings owned or leased by overseas interests?

Answers:—

(1) "Approximately 364,000,000 acres."

(2) "In the last 10 years, Deeds of Grant have been issued over an aggregate area of about 2,000,000 acres; additionally freeholding tenures currently standing good in the books of the Department represent a total area of approximately 27,000,000 acres."

(3) "The answering of the Honourable Member's Question specifically and accurately would involve a tremendous deal of research into the disposition of shareholdings. Generally speaking, there is no indication that land holdings by companies, particularly foreign companies, is in any way inordinate or at a level which would cause concern in this regard. It is pointed out that company ownership of rural land is substantially limited to Pastoral Leases. The freeholding tenures in rural areas are restricted to selections and the land laws expressly prohibit the holding of selections by Corporations. However, where a company embarks upon an outstanding development programme the Government is prepared to grant permanent tenure as was the case with King Ranch and Lakeland Downs; this aspect is, of course, something which is closely controlled."

(4) "See Answer to (3)."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT

Mr. NEWTON: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing:

(1) Has a case been presented by the Minister to the Commonwealth Government for extra finance for housing in this State?

(2) Was the position of co-operative building societies included in such representations?

(3) Will representations be continued to the new Minister for Housing in the Federal Government?

Mr. HODGES: It was intended that the Ministers for Housing from all States and the Commonwealth would meet in Hobart this week, but, because of the changes that have taken place in Federal portfolios, that conference has been postponed. The hon. member can rest assured that Queensland's case will be a substantial one for increased finance, with lower-interest rates, from the Commonwealth Government.

BOOKSTALL, ROMA STREET RAILWAY STATION

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister for Transport: Will the Minister give the reason why the bookstall at Roma Street railway station, on the platform used by north-bound trains, is still unoccupied, although passengers travelling north require reading matter before setting out on their journey?

Mr. KNOX: I do not know if I am supposed to know the answer to the question "off the cuff", but I do happen to know it. If the hon. member wants full details, the only ones I can give him are that tenders were called for the operation of the bookstall and there was no successful tenderer. That is why the bookstall is unoccupied.

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Minister a supplementary question. As this bookstall has been unoccupied for so long, will the Minister give some details of why this is so? For instance, is the rent too high, or are the conditions of the lease too difficult to meet?

Mr. KNOX: Usually tenders are called for the operation of such bookstalls, and the conditions under which they are occupied have to be mutually satisfactory to the department and the occupiers. I heard one hon. member suggest that the hon. member for Bundaberg himself may care to tender.

Mr. JENSEN: I do not want to tender, but surely somebody would be prepared to take over the bookstall if the conditions were made a little easier.

REPORTED RESIGNATION OF MEMBER FOR MERTHYR

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Treasurer: Will he confirm or deny the report in today's "Courier-Mail" that the hon. member for Merthyr is about to resign from Parliament and from the Liberal Party? Will he also confirm or deny the rumours that he plans to seek endorsement for that electorate himself in a probable by-election?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question is out of order.

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONERS

Mr. BOUSEN: I ask the Premier: Will he give an assurance that the electoral commissioners appointed to undertake the electoral redistribution will not have any connection with either of the Government parties?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The hon. member knows that the commissioners have not been chosen, and also that they are not chosen on the basis suggested.

ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Mr. BOUSEN: I ask the Treasurer: How can he reconcile yesterday's compromise agreement on electoral redistribution with the principles laid down by State Liberal conventions?

Mr. CHALK: I have no reason to do so. I am not bound by an executive decision.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I ask the Premier: Is it correct, as reported today, that in the coming redistribution the Liberal Party and the Country Party have deserted the people of the Far North,—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. F. P. MOORE: —where the Australian Labour Party holds five seats?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I represent part of that area, in which the Labour Party controls a majority of the seats.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. F. P. MOORE: The Government is deserting the Far North, anyway.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. F. P. MOORE: Is the Premier going to answer the question, or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I shall leave it to the Premier. If he wishes to answer it, he may do so.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The policy of the Government, and of both Government parties, is one of complete representation of all the people throughout the State. We have proved that to be so, as against the policy of the A.L.P., which centralised power in this city. An additional proof of our faith in that regard is the purchase of an aeroplane to enable me and other Ministers to travel round the State, including North Queensland, more easily from time to time.

THREE-CORNERED ELECTORAL CONTESTS

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I ask the Treasurer: Is it correct, as indicated in today's Press, that the Liberal Party has agreed to abandon three-cornered contests against sitting Country Party members? If so, does that mean that the hon. member for South Coast will not be opposed by a Liberal candidate in the future?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. F. P. MOORE: Is not the decision—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I intend to put a stop to politically sniping questions such as this. They are completely out of order. They are put on a purely personal basis, and they are based upon something over which the Treasurer, in his capacity as a Minister of the Crown, has no control.

BREAD AND MILK PRICES

Mr. DAVIS: I ask the Premier: Will he order the Consumer Affairs Council to undertake an immediate investigation into the price rise for milk and the proposed price rise for bread?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The matter referred to does not come within the jurisdiction of the Consumer Affairs Council. The decision on milk prices has been made by the Brisbane Milk Board.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am not particularly worried about how many hon. members rise to give notice of questions or ask questions without notice. I will not call any hon. member until the House comes to order.

PUBLICATIONS FOR PRISON INMATES

Mr. BALDWIN: I ask the Minister for Justice: Further to my question that was answered yesterday, when a list of publications was tabled by the Minister, is he aware that at least two of the publications listed by him, namely, "Sporting Life" and "Sporting Novel" have been out of publication for some years? Will he arrange to have the State's most outstanding political journal, "Trend", added to the list?

Dr. DELAMOTHE: The hon. member mentioned that a couple of the publications listed were obsolete. He also mentioned another one, of which I have never even heard.

FEEDER SHIPPING SERVICE, QUEENSLAND MEAT PORTS

Mr. WRIGHT: I ask the Premier: Is he aware of the resolution passed by the Central Coastal Graziers' Association concerning the implementation of a feeder shipping service to serve Queensland meat ports? As this resolution is supported by the Rockhampton Harbour Board and the Queensland Harbour Boards Association, will he consult with the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs on this matter with a view to making an immediate request to the Federal Government for the implementation of this service?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I have not seen the report to which the hon. member refers. Therefore, I have not been able to give it any consideration.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR SHELTERED WORKSHOP, ROCKHAMPTON

Mr. WRIGHT: I direct a further question to the Premier. In view of the many problems, both financial and administrative, that face the Rockhampton Independent Sheltered Workshop in its embryo stage as it endeavours to meet the needs of handicapped persons in Rockhampton since the

Spastic Centre and the St. Vincent de Paul Workshop was destroyed by fire, will he investigate all avenues by which Government contracts in the Central Queensland area that could be handled by a sheltered workshop may be given to this newly established centre?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: This is a matter that my colleague the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs raised with me in Cabinet the day after the fire. It is being looked into. He raised it again, I think, at the most recent Cabinet meeting and the Minister for Works and Housing is ascertaining whether any accommodation is available for this workshop.

MILK PRICES

Mr. WRIGHT: I direct a final question to the Premier. Is he aware that, following yesterday's decision to increase the price of milk, a pensioner who normally buys one pint of milk a day will lose almost 33 per cent. of the recent 50c a week pension increase? As this price increase is regarded as unwarranted, will he request the Minister for Labour and Tourism to publish full details of the basis for it?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: This matter is administered by a board comprising people from various walks of life. It has considered the matter very carefully and has made a certain recommendation. The figures and facts to which the hon. member refers have not been considered by me. It is not my responsibility, but the board's.

Mr. CASEY: I ask the Premier: In view of the milk consumers' strong support for the dairying industry, as a taxpayer he is satisfied that this week's high increase in the price of milk will be shared 25 per cent. by the retailer, 31 per cent. by the producer and 44 per cent. by the wholesaler, or does he feel that the primary producer in the dairying industry is not receiving his just share of the increase?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question seeks an expression of opinion. However, I shall leave it to the Premier.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: As I have already indicated, the whole matter of milk prices is entrusted to a particular board. Its members are responsible men, and they take into account every aspect of the industry before making any decisions.

ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Mr. AIKEN: I ask the Premier: Is it a fact that, as reported in today's "Courier-Mail", the Country Party has agreed to the Liberal Party's plan to reduce western representation in the expected electoral redistribution? Is it not correct that the Australian Labour Party is the only political party that fights to protect full western representation in this Parliament?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! This is another politically sniping question. However, I shall leave it to the Premier.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Obviously the hon. member has been completely carried away and, as well, does not have a true appreciation of the policy of his own party relative to the West. If the hon. member is patient, he will receive an answer to his question at the appropriate time.

GOLDEN CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

Mr. BROMLEY: I ask the Minister for Justice: Has he received a copy of a letter from a direct distributor of Golden Chemical Products which was forwarded to that firm outlining "other factors are also disturbing", and naming them? If so, what action is it proposed to take to protect direct distributors and the public in the subject matter of the complaints?

Dr. DELAMOTHE: I have had an opportunity of perusing a copy of the letter sent to the firm mentioned. I am having the matter fully investigated, as it is rather disturbing.

GREENVALE AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Greenvale Agreement Act 1970 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

BILLS OF SALE AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS ACT AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Dr. Delamothe, read a third time.

PRINTERS AND NEWSPAPERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Dr. Delamothe, read a third time.

MARKETABLE SECURITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Dr. Delamothe, read a third time.

AUDIT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, read a third time.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, read a third time.

STAMP ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Chalk, read a third time.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

ROAD TRANSPORT FEES, IPSWICH FACTORIES

Mr. MARGINSON (Ipswich East) (12.1 p.m.): I want to refer today to an anomaly in the payment of permit fees for vehicles using roads in the south-eastern part of the State. It is also a reflection on the Government's stated policy of decentralisation and prevents the Government from carrying out its alleged desires in this connection.

Recently, it was brought to my notice that serious consideration was being given to the establishment of a manufacturing project in Ipswich. Investigations by the prospective manufacturer disclosed, to his satisfaction, that labour was available in the City of Ipswich, that the land required was available, that raw materials were at hand, that the cost factor was to his liking and that there were markets for his commodity in the south-eastern part of Queensland. He had more or less decided that the manufacturing project he had in mind would be established in the City of Ipswich.

However, when he examined the requirements under the State Transport Acts, 1960 to 1965, it became evident to him that the establishment of his project in any area in south-eastern Queensland other than the metropolitan area would be detrimental to him. Because of the anomaly in the payment of transport fees, he saw that he would be at a disadvantage in his business compared with competitors who were established in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Davis: He would also have the delay of vehicles calling into the weighbridge at Gailes.

Mr. MARGINSON: That is correct.

By Orders in Council, exemption from the payment of permit fees was granted between Brisbane and Redcliffe, Brisbane and Ipswich, and Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It will be agreed, I am sure, that a large proportion of the people of this State reside in the south-eastern corner, which embraces the places I have just mentioned and intervening areas, and that there is great consumer demand for goods in this area. The manufacturer to whom I have referred was discouraged from selecting Ipswich as the site for his industry. I point out that if an industry is established in Ipswich, its manufactured goods can be

brought to Brisbane without the payment of permit fees. This manufacturer had it pointed out to him that if he established his industry in the metropolitan area of Brisbane, he would be able to send his manufactured goods not only to Ipswich and Redcliffe but also to the Gold Coast without the payment of permit fees. If he were to establish in Ipswich, he could not take manufactured goods to Redcliffe or the Gold Coast without the payment of permit fees.

I believe that this position is detrimental to industry in Ipswich, and gives the metropolitan area a distinct advantage over adjoining areas. The Government tells us that it believes in decentralisation, whereas in fact its laws force industry to establish in the metropolitan area.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but there is too much chatter in the gallery. The children must be quiet.

Mr. MARGINSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am glad to see the Minister for Industrial Development and the Minister for Transport in the House this morning, because their departments are the ones concerned in this matter. The Ipswich District Development Board has been in touch with the departments of both Ministers on this question.

I appeal to the Government not to put Ipswich, the Gold Coast and Redcliffe at such a disadvantage that people who would otherwise establish industries in those areas are forced to establish them in Brisbane in order to obtain concessions in the transport of their manufactured goods. I appeal particularly to the Minister for Transport. He informed the Ipswich District Development Board by letter that the situation would not be changed at this time, but that it would receive consideration in a review of permit charges at a later date. I must admit that some concessional rates are granted to brick manufacturers in Ipswich, and also to the manufacturers of Burnie Board, for the transportation of their manufactured goods to the areas that I have mentioned. They have to pay a fee of \$3 a load to take goods to the Gold Coast or Redcliffe.

The hon. members for South Coast, Albert and Redcliffe should be vitally interested in this matter, because it affects their electorates just as much as it affects Ipswich East and Ipswich West. I ask them, as members of the Government parties, to press, as I will, for the removal of this anomaly, and thus give to manufacturers in our areas advantages similar to those enjoyed by manufacturers in Brisbane. It is unfair that a manufacturer in Brisbane can send his goods to the areas that I have mentioned without the payment of permit fees, whereas a manufacturer in Ipswich, in order to have

goods delivered to the Gold Coast, has to pay what I think is correctly termed a co-ordinated tax.

Mr. Knox: Not in this State.

Mr. MARGINSON: Well, permit fees, or whatever the term is.

I make this appeal for consideration of this problem in the hope that manufacturers will be able to establish their industries in Ipswich and suffer no disadvantage compared with industries established in the metropolitan area.

ALLEGED SERIOUS OFFENCE, GOLD COAST

Mr. MURRAY (Clayfield) (12.10 p.m.): The House will recall that quite early in the session—I think in the first week of this sitting—I asked a question of the Minister in charge of police in an endeavour to obtain some information about an incident that is said to have occurred on the Gold Coast some time in January—late in January, I think.

The Press made several references to the incident, in which it was claimed that a very prominent politician—a “prominent pollie”, I think were the words used—was involved. There are, of course, several politicians living on the Gold Coast, and certainly many State and Federal members of Parliament visit and stay there for various periods of time. I visit the Gold Coast myself, with my family, and I think that most other hon. members also visit it at times. However, this was not a casual reference to some incident. The Press persisted and made several references to it, and obviously it was something outside the ordinary.

I decided to ask a question of the Minister in charge of police in order to clear up a mass of rumours that were generating and running riot round the ridges on this matter. The first question I asked of the Minister brought forth some information from him. He asked me to put the question on notice, which I did. His answers were not entirely satisfactory, so I decided the following week to ask a second question. Again the Minister's reply was, to say the least, guarded. In fact, it was the sort of classical evasive reply that one often receives from a Minister who is playing a very guarded role in a matter. It answered the question without really telling all there was to tell. Perhaps my questions were badly phrased and I could not expect any better from the Minister, but the answers to them cast doubt in people's minds and demanded that further questions should be asked. I intend to ask them this morning.

A number of people were named by the Minister as being involved in an incident, and Alderman Clem Jones was one of those named. So that eliminated from the field, it seemed, State members, Federal members, senators, or whoever it might be. It appeared that the politician involved in the incident was Alderman Clem Jones.

I said that I would give the Minister the benefit of the doubt in his answering of questions, but many people outside the House are saying that his answers were nothing more than a cover-up and, what is worse, that they were covering up some eminent person. At least the information I obtained cleared the hon. members for Albert and South Coast, who no doubt had been under suspicion in the area and had been suffering at least some embarrassment.

All hon. members are aware that what is said in this Chamber during a parliamentary session is privileged—as, of course, it must be. In the past, some hon. members have been accused of abusing that privilege, but I think very few of us abuse the privilege and use the House as a sort of coward's castle to slander and defame, although we are often accused of doing so.

The matter that I raise—I wish to make the point as strongly as I can—did not start in this House; it started when somebody did something that became the subject of a police inquiry, and very properly so. So the privilege of this Chamber is being used only—again I stress this point—to bring the whole sordid affair out from behind the bushes, where is seemed that it would remain almost completely hidden while, around this building and outside the House, questions were being asked, “Is somebody receiving special or V.I.P. treatment? Would a charge have been laid if the suspected person was not politically important?” I think all hon. members will agree that these are not good questions to have asked.

The Minister's reply opened a floodgate of information relative to the affair when it was brought into the open to a certain extent—as far as the Minister could, or felt disposed to, bring it to public notice. It opened the gate to a flood of further rumours, stories and information piling in.

Briefly, it seems that a summary of the stories adds up to this: that two young women were occupying a flat, or rooms, in premises owned by Alderman Jones, and one of them woke one night to find a man in the room; she screamed, awakening her friend, and the man quickly disappeared from the room. As I understand it the young women immediately awakened two men friends occupying another flat in the same premises, who advised them to take better security measures—to lock the door, etc.

The next night a man appeared at the window of the girls' room. Again they were dreadfully upset and screamed. Their men friends were quickly on the scene. One of them rushed out into the grounds and grabbed a man who was standing under a tree a short distance away. The girls concerned had no hesitation in saying, “That's the man. You are the man who was in our room last night, and you are Clem Jones.”

The police were called and the prowler was interviewed. From the moment that interview took place, in the minds of many

people it seems that some sort of conspiracy commenced. It is said that the local inspector of police put two good men on the inquiry, and was himself satisfied that a charge should be laid. It is also said that on seeking advice from superior officers—after all, it occurred in his area, and the decision was his—he was warned that seeing who was involved in the matter he should proceed carefully. It seems that charges were not laid.

There are one or two disturbing features about this case. It is said that the local inspector of police saw the young men and women concerned and asked them if they wanted to proceed any further. Apparently they did not, but they did make statements concerning the matter. So it is fair to assume that there are four statements—or at least more than one statement—identifying Alderman Jones, as against one in his defence made by his wife.

It is said that these young men and women have been subjected to threats that if they proceeded any further in the matter or gave any further evidence their reputations would be blackened. I understand that they are extremely upset and worried over the whole matter, that in fact they have sought legal advice and that their lawyer has made a statement. Hon. members will recall this.

The nagging questions in this matter are: Has justice been done? Is there in fact one law for the influential and one for the ordinary person; one law for the rich and one for the poor? Let us assume that the person who was apprehended and suspected had been wearing long hair, a T-shirt and jeans, and had been barefooted. I ask you to hazard a guess, Mr. Speaker, where he would be. Behind bars, of course!

Will these young men and women ever again feel inclined to report, let alone apprehend, a prowler or peeping Tom? The error they made was simply that in all innocence they happened to be occupants of a particular landlord's premises, and by performing a proper service to the community they have suffered endless worry and concern.

If there is truth in what I assert—and I believe there is—then authority could well appear to be corrupt and have interfered with the proper course of justice. If it is true that there were two incidents on separate nights alleged against Alderman Jones and that he was identified in sworn statements by four witnesses, as against one statement in his defence by his wife, and that both incidents are now considered closed, there will be many disillusioned people who feel that justice not only should be done but must also appear to be done.

I ask the Minister to ascertain whether it is also true that these young people have been seriously threatened by Alderman Jones. Were the young ladies threatened that if they gave further evidence they would be branded as sluts and prostitutes, and were the young men told that they would be branded as agents for the young girls? This is a serious matter that needs cleaning up.

In the light of all the circumstances and the damage done to the reputations of decent, innocent people, I believe that nothing less than a full judicial inquiry will satisfy the public mind that normal justice is being done in this matter.

As Parliament is now deeply involved, I ask the Minister if he would table the relative files on this matter.

ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION

Mr. O'DONNELL (Barcoo) (12.20 p.m.): Today I wish to raise a matter of public importance which relates not to the whole of the State but to 60 per cent. of it. I feel angered when, from time to time, my name is mentioned by members of the Government, particularly members of the Country Party, on the question of redistribution. I am also gravely distressed at the attitude of the Liberal Party to the inland areas of this State in their plans for redistribution.

In order to put the record straight, I did make a Press release which I will briefly repeat. I shall not give the preamble but will simply take the main points. My Press release read—

"Labor believes that there should be 78 seats and two zones—a Western Zone of nine seats"—that includes Cook—"with an electoral quota of approximately 8,500 voters and an Eastern Zone with a quota of approximately 12,600."

Of course, allowance was made for a variation up or down of approximately 20 per cent. That statement was quite simple and it was published through the western area, but there is still persistent propaganda in this House, even as recently as yesterday, that Labour wants only three western seats. This is a gross distortion of Labour's policy and it puts Labour members, and me in particular, in the invidious position of being extolled by the Premier as being great exponents of Country Party philosophy when he chooses to do so, and then, when I tell the truth and publicise what I believe and what I support in this respect, not having it conceded by the Premier or any other member of the Country Party.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Are you speaking to Item No. 22 on the Business Paper?

Mr. O'DONNELL: I am speaking on a matter of public interest, and I want to make it very clear that in the matter of redistribution the proposal outlined in my Press statement is what I am supporting and, incidentally, what the A.L.P. is supporting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is not in order in discussing redistribution when it is forecast on the Business Paper that a debate on that subject is to be held in this Chamber. The hon. member is out of order in discussing anything dealing with redistribution.

Mr. O'DONNELL: Am I not in order in discussing a Press statement in contradiction of the one I gave? It brings my probity into question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member is answering a question in a newspaper I will allow it, but he cannot enlarge on it.

Mr. O'DONNELL: This is what I am answering. It was mentioned in the Press that the inland areas of this State were to be divided into five electorates according to Liberal Party policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Was an accusation made against you?

Mr. O'DONNELL: No personal accusation, but I had made statements which contradicted that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I cannot allow any debate on it.

Mr. O'DONNELL: I want to disagree with you, Mr. Speaker. Do I not have a personal rating? And have I not a right to express myself on the matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member can only discuss the matter sufficiently to clear his own case, not the case of any particular party or anything else.

Mr. O'DONNELL: All I want to do in this House is to name the nine areas to which I was referring. Am I permitted to do this?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. O'DONNELL: Cook, of course, is hardly an inland seat. It is one of the nine but is also included in the Liberal statement. The others are Barcoo, Roma, Tablelands, Flinders, Warrego, Burke, Balonne and Gregory.

The point I tried to make clear throughout the length and breadth of the State was that these electorates should remain and that this should be our approach to the whole question in the inland area. I feel that this is most important, and I did what I did in all sincerity. I did not even put out the statement as an A.L.P. propaganda item; I sent it to the editor in the form of a letter. I now find that it is not being accepted, and that I am being subjected to persistent propaganda that I am saying one thing outside and am here to implement something else. The accusation of Government members, Country Party members in particular, that the suggestion from this side of the House, allegedly supported by me, is that there should be only three seats in the West is completely untrue. The Liberal Party's idea to cut back from nine seats to five is totally abhorrent to me and also to all western people, irrespective of their political affiliations.

Mr. Houston: Wouldn't it be true to say that the Liberal Party and the Country Party have got together and now will give the West only five seats?

Mr. O'DONNELL: In the midst of it all, I know there is great dissension among Government members.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You are talking about one vote, one value?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. R. E. Moore: You are talking about one vote, one value.

Mr. O'DONNELL: The hon. member heard me say there would be an eastern zone of 69 electorates based on one vote, one value; yet he rants and raves on to create a diversion.

Mr. Tucker: The same sort of propaganda is being put out in Townsville.

Mr. O'DONNELL: That is so. As I have said, I wrote the letter only as an individual, so the criticism that has been levelled at me is completely unjustified. Even in the midst of the dissension among the Government parties, they have directed an attack upon me in order to discredit me and what I have said both in the past and in the present. I will stand and fight for what I have said, and, incidentally, every member of the Australian Labour Party supports it.

BREAD PRICES

Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (12.27 p.m.): Last Wednesday, during the debate on matters of public interest, the hon. member for Brisbane referred to so-called bread rackets that are going on in Brisbane. However, he did not adduce any evidence to substantiate his claim. Anyone can make allegations, but they are not worth a cup of cold water unless they can be substantiated by facts.

The hon. member for Brisbane refused to substantiate his claims, even when challenged to do so. He said there was lack of control of an alleged price-fixing cartel that was operating in the bread industry in this State.

Mr. Davis: I said there was a cartel.

Mr. MILLER: Then he alleged that the bread manufacturers' organisations sought to control and increase bread prices whenever they saw fit. I suggest that there is no price-fixing cartel operating in the bread industry in this State.

Mr. Davis: Oh, please!

Mr. MILLER: Unlike the hon. member for Brisbane, who did not substantiate his claim, I will substantiate mine by comparing the prices of bread in Queensland with those in South Australia, where prices have been under the control of a Commissioner for Prices.

Mr. Bromley: Did the Minister give you that information?

Mr. MILLER: I shall quote Brisbane and South Australian bread prices.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn hon. members on my left, and also on my right, that cross-firing while a member is on his feet addressing the Chamber is completely out of order. Every hon. member has a right to be heard, and I intend to insist that the hon. member for Ithaca be heard. I am warning the hon. member for Brisbane, for one.

Mr. Bromley: What is the authority for these figures?

Mr. MILLER: The office of the Commissioner for Prices. As at 14 December, 1970, the prices were as follows:—

Type of Loaf	Prices	
	Brisbane	Adelaide
	cents	cents
Unwrapped standard 2 lb. (ex bakehouse)	19	20
Unwrapped standard 2 lb. (retail, delivered)	20	20
Sliced and wrapped (ex bakehouse)	24	24
Sliced and wrapped (delivered)	25	24
Milk bread, 12 lb. (ex bakehouse)	19	20
Milk bread (delivered)	20	20

It is interesting to note that apparently in South Australia it is thought that bread can be delivered by a vendor at the same price as it can be sold for in the local shop.

That is the picture, but a member of this House is trying to pull the wool over the eyes not only of members of this Assembly but of the Brisbane public as well.

I am showing that we in Queensland, without price control, are competitive. In most cases our bread prices are lower than those in South Australia under price control. As the Australian Labour Party believes in price control, members of the Opposition cannot have it both ways. Surely if Opposition members believe in price control they must agree that the prices in South Australia are correct. It must be accepted that either the price is correct or the Government of South Australia is corrupt.

Mr. Wright: That is a ridiculous statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the hon. member for Rockhampton South under Standing Order No. 123A.

Mr. MILLER: It is agreed that discussions do take place between the Bread Manufacturers of Queensland and the Brisbane Bread Manufacturers Association—there is no dispute about that. At these

meetings, all cost increases are laid on the table, and only after due consideration are any price increases recommended.

Mr. Davis: What rubbish!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I give the hon. member for Brisbane a last warning. When a member is speaking, any interjections at all are out of order. If they are acknowledged by the member who is speaking, that is a different matter. This continual barrage of interjections across the Chamber is completely out of order.

Mr. MILLER: The Brisbane Bread Manufacturers Association has an industry cost index prepared on a quarterly basis by Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. Figures are submitted to this firm by each bakehouse in Queensland, and the index is used as a basis upon which prices are recommended to members of the association. That is the very principle that operated under price control.

Mr. DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. Mr. Speaker, may I ask you a question? Is it in order for the hon. member to direct questions to me?

Mr. MILLER: I have not directed any questions to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must address the Chair, not another member in the Chamber.

Mr. MILLER: Very well.

I repeat that the same principle operated under price control, when submissions were prepared for the Commissioner of Prices in this State.

In the existing parallel structure of manufacture and distribution of bread in Brisbane, it is logical that all manufacturers' costs are similar and that competition must therefore be confined mainly to quality and service. Despite that, different prices are set in some areas by the two associations. Where the prices do not vary, it is the decision of the shopkeeper, over which there is no control. A survey undertaken some months ago on Sunday bread prices showed a wide disparity within the small area of Milton, Highgate Hill and West End. It showed that some shopkeepers were selling at higher prices than those recommended. At present, the reverse situation exists in certain stores in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast, where bread is sold at lower than the price recommended.

There is no monopoly in Queensland in the manufacture of bread, nor has the milling industry a monopoly control over this State's bread industry. Certain mills have invested money in the purchase of bakeries, which they run quite separately from their milling interests. I know of no industry in Queensland in which greater competition exists between manufacturers.

I am informed that in no other State in Australia is a greater variety of breads provided than is available to the housewife in Queensland at a price that is comparable with, or less than, the charge here.

Many independent bakeries are operating throughout Queensland, including the Brisbane area. They are not beholden to any flour mill, and I am sure they would resent very strongly the implication conveyed by the hon. member for Brisbane. Queensland flour mills have only one source of wheat—namely the Wheat Board—and all mills buy their wheat from that source at a controlled price. It is also widely known that the Queensland wheat crop for the current year is very poor and that wheat has had to be imported from southern States—I might add at considerably higher freight costs—to supplement local supplies.

In addition, in the past six months every Queensland mill has had to meet wage increases right across the board, amounting, I am informed, to 16 per cent., in addition to substantial cartage, freight and clerical increases. Mills are vying for trade among bakers, just as bakers are vying for trade among the general public. Should a monopoly exist, this would not be the case.

Resellers of bread are not dictated to as regards price. Prices are recommended to them, but never has any pressure been applied to storekeepers to sell bread at a fixed price, as was claimed by the hon. member for Brisbane. I have already indicated that there are shops both in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast whose prices prove this assertion.

The hon. member for Brisbane said that eight years ago Woolworths and the B.C.C. decided that all varieties of sliced and wrapped breads would be sold in their supermarkets at reduced rates. They were sold at lower prices for exactly two days! Yet the hon. member alleges that both of the bread manufacturers' associations stated that unless one price was charged, bread would not be supplied to those two firms. I have made inquiries into this allegation, and I am again reliably informed that it is true that the types of bread referred to were sold at reduced prices by Woolworths and the B.C.C., for two days—eight years ago.

(Time expired.)

DISTRICT PARITIES FOR APPRENTICES; POLICE SHIRT ISSUE; EDUCATION MINISTER'S NEWSLETTER

MR. BROMLEY (Norman) (12.38 p.m.): I should dearly love to reply to the hon. member for Ithaca and correct the obvious illusion he is labouring under. However, I have other matters of public interest which concern three or four Ministers.

The first relates to the parity paid to apprentices compared with that paid to tradesmen in the western, southern, south-western, central-western, northern, and north-western divisions of the State of Queensland.

Considering the cost of living in those areas, the \$1.05 parity paid to tradesmen and other workers is completely inadequate, although it is admitted that it is of some assistance to them and their families. However, apprentices who live in those areas and have to pay as much as tradesmen for their clothes and food receive only 50c. I point out that as growing youngsters they probably eat far more than adults.

I have been told by many parents that the parity paid to apprentices is not nearly enough to meet the higher cost of living in those areas. The gap between 50c for the apprentice and \$1.05 for the tradesman is far too great. The payment of equal parity would help to keep apprentices in country areas. This matter should be looked at very closely with a view to paying the full rate of parity to apprentices. I was on the Apprentices Committee for many years and I know that this would be appreciated by apprentices and their families. The Minister is absent, but I ask that he give favourable consideration to this request. I feel that this is a most important matter, and I make my appeal having in mind that recently the Minister saw fit, on representations from the union, to give equality to apprentices in site allowances payable on building jobs.

The second matter to which I wish to refer is, in my opinion, equally important. It concerns the Minister in charge of the Police Force, and it deals with the issue of shirts to policemen throughout the State. I bring to the Minister's attention various complaints that I have received from police officers, young ones in particular, and their mothers, wives and girl-friends, and even observers and others associated with the force. I refer to the miserable—that is the only adjective I can use—issue of shirts to policemen as part of the new police uniform—two, with short sleeves, for summer, and two for winter.

I think that the scale, particularly two shirts for summer, is completely ridiculous. After all, police want to look well groomed and tidy, and so set an example to the public.

I ask the Minister how he would like to make do with only two shirts in the hot summer weather experienced in Queensland. How would he feel about having to wash a shirt, or perhaps two, each day, so that one would always be clean and ready to wear? A policeman may, for instance, have to attend an accident, where his clothing, including his shirt, could become dirty and perhaps blood-stained. He may finish one shift and immediately go on to special duty, which many policemen do. They do not like to complete a shift and then go on special duty wearing the same shirt. It is therefore possible for a policeman to have to wear two shirts in the one day.

Many policemen, and many mothers of policemen, have told me that, seeing that they are obviously not going to be given

any more shirts, they would not mind buying additional shirts of the type issued. Police officers would then be able to go on special duty at places such as dance halls and drive-in theatres looking neat and respectable. Their shirt collars get very dirty, particularly when they are on traffic duty or even working in an office. Although I do not think that police officers should have to buy extra shirts, in some cases they would be quite willing to do so.

People take notice of the appearance of policemen, and they are subject to both favourable and unfavourable comment on their standard of dress. Recently I attended a policeman's wedding, and during the speech I made at that function I said that the bridegroom's parents were not so much losing a son as the Commissioner of Police was gaining, in the bride, a full-time automatic washing machine. I think that was a pretty true observation.

The third matter I raise is the Parents and Citizens Newsletter distributed by the Minister for Education. In my opinion, the February issue is nothing but political propaganda. I take strong exception to the Minister's using this means to distribute one of his speeches in Parliament.

Mr. Armstrong: I don't think it will worry him.

Mr. BROMLEY: It may not worry him, but it certainly worries me. If ordinary members want to send out copies of their speeches, they have to pay for them. The Minister used public money to send out a newsletter containing Government propaganda and attacking the Queensland Teachers' Union. The issue that I have before me deals with the setting up of an Education Commission, and in it the Minister says—

"In view of the volume of correspondence received which quite incorrectly assumes that the Teachers' Union call for an Education Commission has been rejected by my Department and by the Government without due consideration, I have directed that this edition of 'Newsletter' contain the full text of my address to the House, made during the 1970 Estimates Debate."

The following three pages of the newsletter contain a report of the whole of the Minister's speech.

In my opinion, it is quite unjustifiable for the Minister to use public money to disseminate copies of his speech over the length and breadth of Queensland and, at the same time, attack the Queensland Teachers' Union, when one takes into consideration that the union, which incidentally, has a good case, has to use its own money to reply to the Minister and support its case. I believe that too much public money is being wasted in that way. If one reads through the newsletter, one sees that the Minister does attack—

(Time expired.)

COMPULSORY WEARING OF MOTOR-VEHICLE SEAT BELTS

Mr. AHERN (Landsborough) (12.47 p.m.): During the three years that I have been a member of this Assembly I have heard much discussion by hon. members on both sides of the Chamber of measures that the Government ought to introduce to minimise the road toll. I have seen breathalyser legislation and legislation to implement the "P" licence system in Queensland brought before the House, and I know that the Ministers responsible for that legislation have taken all possible steps in an endeavour to reduce the road toll. For a time, the measures that were introduced did have a recognisable statistical effect; but I believe that the statistics available for this year reveal that the time has come for stiffer Government action to fight the ever-increasing road toll.

Several surveys have been carried out throughout the world on the advisability or otherwise of wearing seat belts in motor vehicles. A very comprehensive survey was carried out in Sweden by Mr. N. I. Bohlin in 1965-1966. He analysed about 28,000 road accidents in that country—it is not an insignificant number—and his analysis revealed that, in those 28,000 accidents, not one person wearing a seat belt in a vehicle travelling at less than 60 miles an hour was killed. The general conclusion of that research was that the wearing of lap-sash seat belts reduces the effect of injury by between 40 per cent. and 90 per cent.

Another survey in Sweden, even more comprehensive than the one to which I have referred, was carried out by Lindgren and Warg. They analysed 2,109 accidents that occurred between 1958 and 1961. In 382 of those accidents the people involved were wearing seat belts, which was not a very high percentage. The analysis revealed that 53 per cent. of the people wearing seat belts had complete and positive protection from injury in an accident, that 15 per cent. had their injuries reduced, that in 2 per cent. of cases the effect was doubtful, and that in only 3 per cent. of the cases was there no protection.

An extensive survey carried out by Mr. Bartley in Switzerland revealed that the wearing of seat belts reduced the risk of injury by 60 per cent. Comprehensive surveys over the length and breadth of the United States of America have revealed much the same figures. Our own Australian Medical Association estimates that if all occupants of motor vehicles wore seat belts, deaths on the road would be reduced by 66 per cent. and a very high percentage of injuries would be minimised.

In the face of those very significant and important statistics, I believe that a strong move must be made now to implement to a greater degree the wearing of seat belts in Queensland. Man must be made, by legislation, to protect himself and his family.

There are many mental blocks about the compulsory wearing of seat belts that I believe can be basically understood. If all citizens could be at the scene of every road accident and see the bodies of the 538 people who died on the State's roads last year and the suffering thousands as they lay in their agony on the road, and they were then asked whether they would be prepared to forgo some small civil liberty to prevent death and injury on that scale, I am sure they would say "Yes."

One does not have a great deal of time to canvass all the points in a 10-minute speech. However, I believe that the following recommendations in a recent report of a Joint Select Committee on Road Safety in Victoria, which I support, should be implemented in Queensland—

"1. All passenger-type motor vehicles of less than 10,000 pounds should be compulsorily fitted immediately with seat belts equivalent in number to the stated passenger capacity of each vehicle.

"2. An intensive educational campaign should be undertaken for a minimum period of twelve months and a maximum period of two years aimed at educating the public in the value of seat belts.

"3. Learner and probationary drivers and occupants in motor vehicles under the control of Government Departments and Instrumentalities should be immediately required to wear seat belts while in motor vehicles.

"4. All occupants of motor vehicles should be required to wear seat belts within a maximum period of two years."

I believe that the Government should act within the next two years to legislate for the compulsory wearing of seat belts in all motor vehicles in Queensland.

Most of the objections to the recommendation for the compulsory wearing of seat belts relate to the problem of policing the relevant regulations. But if the spirit of the law were spelt out, I think it would result in much more widespread wearing of seat belts. If according to the letter and spirit of the law the wearing of seat belts was compulsory, I believe that most responsible members of the community would respond to and respect such a law. We certainly do not say, "We won't have speed limits" just because it is hard to police speed limits on the road. This is an exactly parallel situation.

A very powerful incentive for the wearing of seat belts is the consideration of contributory negligence in damage cases. The Joint Select Committee on Road Safety in Victoria, in one of its recommendations, said that under any future legislation requiring the compulsory wearing of seat belts, courts of law hearing claims for damages resulting from vehicle accidents would no doubt in assessing damages regard the failure of an occupant to wear a seat belt as contributory negligence. I believe this would be a very

powerful incentive indeed for people to wear seat belts in their motor vehicles and would contribute greatly towards decreasing our road toll.

I believe the evidence is such that now is the time to act. At the latest, legislation to enforce the compulsory wearing of seat belts in motor vehicles should be introduced into this Parliament within the next two years.

RESETTLEMENT OF ABORIGINES AT MAPOON

Mr. B. WOOD (Cook) (12.56 p.m.): I rise on a matter of public importance which concerns the people of Queensland because of the manner in which an unhappy group of people in the Far North of this State have been treated. I refer to a group who want to return to their home which they never at any stage wished to leave. They are the people of Mapoon—Aborigines who grew up in pleasant surroundings but who were subsequently sent to Bamaga. In all, those living at Bamaga would number some 200.

Briefly, the background of this matter is that in 1891 the Presbyterian Church established a mission station on the Gulf of Carpentaria, at the mouth of the Batavia River. For most of the time until 1963, the people who were gathered there supported themselves happily and well. This was their home and this was where they wanted to live. They were happy there.

However, in 1959, or slightly earlier than that, some of these people were moved from Mapoon to Bamaga, and from 1959 to 1963 considerable pressure was applied to have the remainder of them moved. At one stage the Mapoon people voted very strongly in favour of remaining where they were. However, this was of no avail, and in November, 1963, they were taken from Mapoon—at night, reluctantly, unhappily and under police supervision. They were crowded onto a vessel and transported to Bamaga. After this, most of the buildings at Mapoon were destroyed. Mapoon was to be abandoned.

Let it be clear that, in the first place, these people did not want to go. They had never wanted to, and today they still have no desire to stay on at what is called "New Mapoon". They all want to get out.

When I first met these people some three years ago the first message I received was, "We want to get out of here. We want to go back to 'old' Mapoon." Basically, the reason is that they want to go back to their old home. Other factors are involved, but that is the real reason behind it. Despite some of the modern amenities that have finally been provided at Bamaga, the area has no attraction for them at all.

Last year the Minister said that a survey of the Mapoon area had been undertaken and that a programme to develop the area for cattle-raising was being considered. The

Minister is therefore reconsidering the department's attitude to the former Mapoon site. I have raised this matter with him and he seems to be giving earnest consideration to it as I have not yet had a reply. But let it be clearly understood that the people want to go back.

In a recent letter, Mrs. Jean Jimmy, the chairwoman of Mapoon, says—

"From 1963 to 1971 many of our people died with Mapoon on their lips. A lot of them said, 'When will we go back to the old place because we don't like this place?'"

These people have made their wishes known, and as their representative in this Chamber I request the Government to give them some consideration. They want to go back to their home, and they have the right to go back.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.
