

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 1972

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. W. H. Lonergan, Flinders) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Co-ordinator-General, for the year 1971-72.

Commissioner for Railways, for the year 1971-72.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The Grammar Schools Acts, 1860 to 1962.

City of Brisbane Act 1924-1972.

Regulations under the Education Act 1964-1970.

By-laws under the Education Act 1964-1970 (Teachers Colleges and Board of Teacher Education).

Statutes under—

Griffith University Act 1971.

The University of Queensland Act of 1965.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

PRESS CRITICISM OF TREATMENT METHOD, CHALLINOR CENTRE

Hon. S. D. TOOTH (Ashgrove—Minister for Health) (11.4 a.m.): I direct the attention of honourable members to a four-column spread in the most recent edition of "Sunday Sun" under banner headlines reading, "Jiggers Used to Punish Patients". The article then proceeds with the statement, "Battery operated jiggers are being used on mentally retarded children in Challinor

Centre Special Hospital at Ipswich to bring them into line", and, in the material that follows, such statements as "the use of this inhuman instrument" and "the prodger is normally used on animals" are obviously designed to give the impression that cruelty and sadistic procedures are currently in use at the Challinor Centre.

I am deeply concerned that, through this further attack, an extremely dedicated and devoted group of medical, paramedical and nursing staff, involved in a most difficult area of medical treatment, should be again the object of cruel and inexcusable misrepresentation on such a massive scale. I am also concerned that the parents of children resident in Challinor Centre should be alarmed and distressed by such statements. I am therefore taking this action to enable the journal concerned to make some amends by publishing in full this formal statement to Parliament.

The instrument referred to, which provides an electric shock of minor intensity, is used in what is known as aversion therapy. Electric-shock treatment for various conditions has been known and accepted for a long time. The "Sunday Sun" article claimed that a prominent Brisbane psychiatrist had no knowledge of this particular type of treatment. This seems extraordinary to me, as there is extensive literature on the matter. I list only a few journal articles relative to the use of electric shock in the elimination of self-injurious and other behaviours—

"Smolev, S. R.—Use of operant techniques for the modification of self-injurious behaviour. *Amer. J. Ment. Def.* 1971, 76, 295-305.

"Tate, B. G. and Baroff, G. S.—Aversive control of self-injurious behaviour in a psychotic boy. *Behaviour Res. Thy.* 1966, 4, 281-287.

"Wolff, M. M., Risely, T. A. and Mees, H. L.—Application of operant conditioning procedures to the behaviour problems of an autistic child. *Behaviour Res. Thy.* 1964, 1, 305-312.

"Ludwig, A. N., Marx, A. J., Hill, P. A. and Browning, R.M.—The control of violent behaviour through paradid shock. *J. Nerv. and Mental Disease* 1969, 149, 624, 637.

"Lovaas, O. I., Schaeffer, B., and Simmons, J. Q.—Building social behaviour in autistic children by use of electric shock. *Journal exp. Res. Personality* 1965, 1, 99-109."

I quote from one of these articles—

"Lovaas and Simmons (1969) reported that self-destructive behaviour may be so intense and frequent as to require the prolonged use of restraints. Restraints can curtail not only psychological growth, but at time physical growth as well. Thus, if the choice is between physical restraint and the use of electric shock, it would seem that the latter is more humane . . .

"Once self-destructive behaviours are controlled, more positively directed programmes of behaviour training may be activated."

With regard to the unfortunate little lad for whom this form of therapy was deemed necessary, let me say that he presented an extremely difficult problem to those charged with his care. He is mentally retarded, and engaged consistently in head-banging on the floor and on other objects within his reach, and the staff had been unable to control this self-mutilative and self-destructive behaviour. After consulting the literature and conferring with the Department of Psychology at the university, it was decided to resort to the electric-shock treatment.

The recording of the frequency of head-banging prior to therapy was begun on 20 March 1972, and it continued till 29 March 1972. Therapy began on 10 April 1972, and readings of frequency were taken for 42 15-minute sessions until 16 May 1972. Thereafter daily checks were made on his behaviour, with frequent sessions with the psychologists, and this is continuing. After 33 sessions, head-banging in the presence of the psychologists was effectively eliminated. Speech therapy and occupational therapy is now being given to this child, and he is progressing very well. Previously, progression was impossible.

I am sure that honourable members generally will have noted with some satisfaction the comments on page 11 of this morning's issue of "The Courier-Mail" in which the Professor of Psychological Medicine at the university (Professor Whitlock) and the President of the Australian Medical Association (Dr. Lee) both indicated that the type of therapy that has been so crudely condemned by the honourable member for Ipswich West and "Sunday Sun" is an accepted psychiatric and medical procedure.

The irresponsibility of "Sunday Sun" in this matter is particularly deplorable in view of the fact that, following upon the raising of the matter in the House on Tuesday, 21 November, by the honourable member for Ipswich West (Mrs. Jordan), the honourable member for Ipswich (Dr. Edwards) spent a considerable time on the following Thursday outlining to the House the true facts regarding this matter. In justice to the medical, paramedical and nursing staff of Challinor Centre, and to allay any anxieties of the parents of other children resident there, it is my intention to ask the editor of "Sunday Sun" to print this statement in full in the next issue of his journal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (11.10 a.m.), by leave: In "The Courier-Mail" of Saturday, 25 November 1972, in response to a speech I had made in this Chamber on the previous day, Mrs. Barbara Gates, wife of Professor Gates, who is chairman of the

Consumer Affairs Council, said that she "could not understand why she had been referred to as being involved with Queensland Syndication Management Pty. Ltd." She further stated—

"The only way I was involved in it was because I invested in it, the same as hundreds of others."

I have here a photostat copy of a notice to quit premises described as Flat 4, 28 Browning Street, West End, Brisbane, issued by Q.S.M. on behalf of Barbara Gates and 12 other persons described as the "landlords of the premises". Honourable members will no doubt realise, therefore, that Mrs. Gates is not just one of hundreds of investors in Q.S.M.; in fact, in this instance, she is one of 13 landlords.

The Press article further states, in answer to my comments about Mrs. Gabby Horan and her association with Farmer Greenfield's products, that she (Mrs. Horan) had endorsed Farmer Greenfield's products before she became a member of the Consumer Affairs Council. Mrs. Horan was appointed to the Consumer Affairs Council over 18 months ago, yet on 7 July 1972 the Toowoomba "Chronicle" published an advertisement for Farmer Greenfield's which included a photograph of Gabby Horan with the reference, "She recommends it—so it must be good." Another advertisement, in the Brisbane "Telegraph" of 9 June 1972, contained a similar photo with the words, "I thoroughly recommend Farmer Greenfield's", says Gabby Horan." Again, in "Sunday Sun" of 15 October 1972, "An open letter from Gabby Horan to the Housewives of Queensland" was paid for by Farmer Greenfield's. It is apparent, therefore, that Mrs. Gabby Horan has in fact endorsed Farmer Greenfield's products since she became a member of the Consumer Affairs Council.

I therefore reiterate that the role and the public image of the Consumer Affairs Council have been marred by persons associated with it, both directly and indirectly, and I believe that action should be taken by the Minister for Justice to resolve the situation.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

ROADSIDE EMERGENCY TELEPHONES, BRUCE HIGHWAY

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

(1) Is he aware that a new type of vandal-proof roadside emergency telephone, designed and manufactured in Australia and similar to those used on the German autobahn system, has been installed on a sparsely-populated section of the Pacific Highway in New South Wales?

(2) As there is a great need for the installation of such telephones on lonely sections of the Bruce Highway and other highways in Queensland where there is an increasing number of accidents and the

distances to private telephones are great, will he investigate them with a view to their installation?

Answers:—

(1) "Main Roads Department engineers have made me fully aware of this type of equipment."

(2) "Whilst the availability of these emergency telephones is fully appreciated, the responsibility for their installation could be the subject of discussions with the Post-Master-General's Department for their provision as a service to motorists in isolated areas."

NAVIGATION LIGHT, PIONEER RIVER, MACKAY

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

As the new type of navigation light which had been placed at the mouth of the Pioneer River at Mackay a few months ago to replace one which had been constantly shot at or stoned by vandals has now been stolen, will he investigate the matter in an endeavour to obtain a vandal-proof light to guide small boats into the river at night?

Answer:—

"The lens of a navigation light must be transparent, and to the best knowledge of my Department of Harbours and Marine, there is no transparent material entirely vandal proof. The Department is now purchasing lights fitted with lenses of polycarbonate, which is the lens material most resistant to percussive blows known to my Department. It is certainly far superior in this regard to the glass or acrylic material used to date. The lights are securely bolted on to the beacons or buoys. They must be accessible for servicing. It would not be practical to encase every light in Queensland, of which there are hundreds, in a burglar proof cage. Ease of servicing and optical efficiency of the lights would be affected. Occasional acts of vandalism have to be tolerated. However, the Marine Act provides for heavy penalties, including imprisonment, for persons found guilty of injuring or removing any navigation light. My Department is entitled to expect the assistance of all responsible citizens in apprehending those responsible for such serious offences. A replacement light has been forwarded to Mackay."

MOLASSES FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED STOCK, MACKAY REGION

Mr. Ahern for Mr. Newbery, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

In view of the drought conditions in the Mackay Region and the declaration of the shires of Broadsound, Sarina, Mirani and Pioneer as drought-stricken

areas, will he ensure that sufficient molasses is made available for stock-feeding in order to minimise further losses?

Answer:—

"Yes."

COMPENSATION TO FRUIT GROWERS FOR DESTRUCTION OF TREES

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

(1) Are canning-fruit growers, who have been advised to pull their fruit trees and are possibly facing economic destruction by losing their crop, in danger of not receiving prompt compensation from the Government?

(2) What assurances of prompt payment are offered to growers and is the means test for each grower's eligibility for subsidy \$10,000 in residual assets after the trees are removed?

(3) How many applications have been received for financial assistance for tree removal, how many applications have been granted and what has been the growers' advice to his Department on this matter?

Answers:—

(1) "This Government has not advised any fruit grower to pull his fruit trees. The Fruitgrowing Reconstruction Scheme to which the Honourable Member refers is purely a voluntary scheme whereby fruit-growers may apply for compensation and there is no obligation to accept any offer made by the Rural Reconstruction Board."

(2) "I understand that in respect of applications for clear fell, \$10,000 in residual assets after removal of trees was mentioned by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry when introducing the Bill. He also mentioned that the test of eligibility in regard to partial pull would be the same as it is in rural reconstruction generally. Payment will be made by the Board as soon as its offer is accepted, documentation is in order and trees have been pulled."

(3) "Six applications have been received and five of these will be considered by the Board this week. As the Board is bound to work within the terms of the agreement, advice from applicants will not be sought on the operations of the scheme."

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

(1) What is the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Queensland in relation to completely arrested or restored alcoholics?

(2) Is the organisation Government-assisted and has it any known financial assets, or is it a completely private and independent organisation?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Alcoholics Anonymous is a completely independent organisation and is not financially assisted by this Department. The head office of the organisation, is located at 80a Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley, and I would suggest that the Honourable Member direct his enquiries to that address."

SALE METHODS AT BEEF AUCTIONS

Mr. Aiken, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) Has any evidence or fear of collusion in meat buying at auction led to Government consideration of the need to introduce compulsory sales of livestock over the scales?

(2) Does the relativity of fluctuating values, particularly in beef-auction sales, to the high prices obtained overseas, compel Government action to protect farmers and, if so, why has not the Government acted?

(3) Has the "direct kill", such as is applied at Homebush, New South Wales, been employed in any abattoir in Queensland where the carcass is valued at retail rates and the offal and skin are valued, as opposed to the traditional weight and grade basis?

Answers:—

- (1) "No."
- (2) "No."
- (3) "No."

MIND DYNAMICS METHODS IN STATE SCHOOLS

Mr. W. D. Hewitt, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

Have enquiries into mind dynamics been completed? If so, what is the result and will he outline his Department's attitude to the course?

Answer:—

"Following an allegation in a daily newspaper that mind dynamics methods were being used in certain State schools, an investigation was carried out by my Department. No evidence was found that the allegation was true. Unless further evidence supporting the allegation becomes available, it is not intended to investigate the matter further."

COTTON GINNERY, CECIL PLAINS

Mr. Bousen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) Is a cotton ginney at Cecil Plains to be dismantled and, if so, what is the reason?

(2) Will the ginney be erected at another site and, if so, where will it be erected and what is the potential for cotton growing in that area?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Yes. One of the two ginneries at Cecil Plains is being moved to St. George to cope with increased cotton growing in that area. This will eliminate the present long-distance haulage to Cecil Plains. Production in the St. George area was 1,046,000 lb. raw cotton in 1970 and the 1973 harvest could reach 5,700,000 lb. Under favourable market conditions this figure could double in the next few years."

LOSSES THROUGH TICK INFESTATION, CATTLE INDUSTRY

Mr. Bousen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) How many cattle were lost to the cattle industry because of the cattle tick for the years ended June 30, 1970, 1971 and 1972?

(2) Is death by cattle tick a major problem in the cattle industry and, if so, what remedies are available to check the loss of stock?

(3) Can this pest be completely eradicated and, if so, by what measures?

Answers:—

(1) "It is not possible to say how many cattle have died from the effects of ticks. Deaths are rarely reported by owners."

(2) "No. Generally deaths only occur amongst cattle introduced from tick-free to tick-infested areas. The most important economic effects are loss of condition and production due to tick worry and sickness and deaths from tick fever which is transmitted by ticks. In either case the remedy consists of applying one or more of the recognised control methods, namely, use of tick-resistant breeds of cattle, dipping in effective insecticides and pasture spelling."

(3) "Eradication is not possible in Queensland at least in the foreseeable future."

ASSAULTS AND ROBBERIES, SOUTH BRISBANE AREA

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement made in court by a Crown prosecutor on November 23 that half of

Brisbane's violent robberies in the past 12 months had occurred in the South Brisbane area?

(2) How many assaults and robberies have been reported in the South Brisbane-Woolloongabba-Musgrave Park area in the last 12 months?

(3) How many of these offences have been cleaned up?

(4) What action has been taken to control the outbreak of violent crime in this area where southside citizens gather to catch trains and attend schools and colleges?

(5) Have the police been successful in apprehending the louts who bashed and robbed a 15-year-old Lindum boy on the night of November 23?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "Number reported, 36; number cleared, 6."

(4) "Close attention is being given to the area by police in an endeavour to make it safe for law abiding citizens to go about their normal pursuits."

(5) "No."

PYRAMID SELLING METHODS, DARE TO BE GREAT OF AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.

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

(1) Has he, through any section of his Department, received complaints about an organisation which is reputedly a U.S. group, headed by Glen W. Turner, operating in Brisbane from a city motel and advertising in local papers under the heading "Like to make money"?

(2) Is he aware that the group endeavours to enrol citizens in a number of so-called courses by a high-pressure campaign involving bus-trips, fancy dinners, functions, etc.?

(3) If one is not under way at present, will he order an investigation into this group's activities as the scheme is apparently a pyramid-selling operation in which clients are offered \$200 for each enrolment they make for the \$500 course and \$800 for each enrolment for the \$3,000 course?

Answers:—

(1) "My attention has been brought to the activities of Dare to be Great of Australia Pty. Ltd. which is reputed to be connected with a Glenn Turner of Florida, United States of America."

(2) "No."

(3) "The information available to me indicates that this company is apparently engaged in a pyramid-selling type of operation. I can only warn the public to

be wary of any scheme which promises easy ways of making money. There are no such schemes and if people would simply refuse to give their money away without fair return none of these hare-brained schemes would get off the ground."

TERMINAL COMPLEX FOR OVERSEAS SHIPPING, BRISBANE

Mr. Burns, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Tourism,—

(1) Has he received complaints in relation to the decrepit condition of wharves, sheds and other facilities which are used by passengers and tourist liners visiting Brisbane?

(2) Has consideration been given to the proposal that a new building incorporating shipping-terminal facilities and a shopping complex involving private and public enterprise finance should be erected in Brisbane?

(3) Has any estimate been made of the cost of providing modern tourist-terminal facilities in the Brisbane port?

(4) How many tourist liners visited Brisbane in 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72?

(5) What regular facilities are provided by his Department at the wharves when these vessels berth?

Answers:—

(1) "Complaints have been received by me regarding facilities used by passengers and tourist liners visiting Brisbane."

(2 to 4) "These are not matters coming within my administrative responsibilities."

(5) "Passenger shipping entering the port of Brisbane is serviced by the various tour operators."

COURSE FOR SURVEYORS, QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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

(1) Is he aware that each year a substantial number of young students, who wish to become surveyors but who have failed to gain the necessary 24 points matriculation to allow them to attend the surveying course at the Queensland University, go interstate where courses are offered at institutes of technology and they are thus often lost to this State?

(2) Whilst it is acknowledged that a technician-level course is now operating at the Queensland Institute of Technology, Brisbane, why could not a professional-level course be established for that section of students who obtain 20 points or more at the Senior examination?

(3) Have submissions been made to the Board of Advanced Education along these lines and, if so, by whom and with what result? If not, could the matter receive early and favourable consideration?

Answers:—

(1) "No. My enquiries have in fact produced no evidence to support the claim that a good number of Queensland students are undertaking courses at colleges of advanced education in other States following failure to qualify for entry to the course at the University of Queensland."

(2 and 3) "The establishment of such a course at the Queensland Institute of Technology has been under consideration for some time. The Board of Advanced Education referred a submission for a new course back to the Institute for reconsideration with regard to the structure of the proposed course. It is understood that a further submission will shortly be made to the Board. The Honourable Member may be assured that the whole question of the education of surveyors in Queensland is being closely examined at present. The Board of Advanced Education brought together authorities in this field including a distinguished professor from New South Wales. The Board expects to have further discussions on this matter with the University of Queensland which at present has a committee enquiring into the future teaching of surveying in the University."

POLICE STRENGTH, IPSWICH DISTRICT

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) Is he aware that the Ipswich Police District staff is five persons fewer than its total strength?

(2) Will he take urgent steps to have this matter rectified to enable the police officers to carry out all the duties required of them?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes."

CLOSURE OF BRISBANE VALLEY RAILWAY LINE

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

Is the Brisbane Valley railway line from Ipswich to be closed down at the end of February next year? If so, will he reconsider the decision in view of the great inconvenience which will be caused to many sections of Brisbane Valley and Ipswich communities and the consequent redundancy of the railway employees concerned?

Answer:—

"All unprofitable sections of railway, including the Brisbane Valley branch, are under constant review, but there has been no decision concerning any section. I am

also in receipt of earlier representations from the Honourable Member for Ipswich in respect of the Brisbane Valley branch railway."

RADIO EQUIPMENT, ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR, AERIAL AMBULANCE AND SCHOOL OF THE AIR SERVICES

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Is he aware of the advice given by the Postmaster-General's Department to the Flying Doctor Service that most of their equipment is outmoded and should be changed and that after June, 1977 the P.M.G. will not license outback radio transmitters and receivers using the present frequencies?

(2) As this change-over will entail great expenditure to outback residents, the Flying Doctor and the Aerial Ambulance services, will he confer with other States with a view to having some relief granted to this most necessary service to our outback areas?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. I am informed that this is the case."

(2) "I am further informed that the Royal Flying Doctor Service at its Cairns base now operates the radio equipment formerly used by the Cairns Aerial Ambulance and that arrangements are in hand by the Royal Flying Doctor Service for this equipment to be converted to the standards required by the Postmaster-General's Department by August, 1973. The Rockhampton Aerial Ambulance communicates only through the Department of Civil Aviation's radio network and consequently no conversion is necessary there. In so far as the School of the Air broadcasts are concerned, my colleague the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities is well aware of the standards required by the Postmaster-General's Department and he has the matter in hand."

CATTLE RAILINGS, FORSAYTH-MUNGANA LINE

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

(1) How many cattle were railed from Forsayth, Einasleigh, Mount Surprise, Almden and Mungana in 1970, 1971, and from January 1 to date?

(2) What was the destination of the cattle railed from the various loading centres during 1972?

(3) Has any decision been reached in connection with the enlarging of the Forsayth trucking yards and, if so, what is planned?

(1)—

Answers:—

“ Year ended June 30	Number of Head of Cattle				
	Forsayth	Einasleigh	Mount Surprise	Almaden	Mungana
1970	15,396	3,732	9,320	373	16,792
1971	15,936	3,752	8,934	981	13,303
1972	9,208	3,943	11,018	546	14,348
From July 1 to October 31, 1972	1,884	1,697	3,144	Nil	7,454 ”

(2) “This information is not specially extracted.”

(3) “As advised the Honourable Member in my reply of September 7, 1972, the matter will be examined.”

OPENING CEREMONY, KOWANYAMA
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

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

(1) Did the Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs and his party visit Kowanyama on November 12 to open Kowanyama Hospital?

(2) How did the party travel, what other centres were visited and what was the total duration of the tour?

(3) Who were the other members of the party and what was the object of their visits?

(4) What were (a) the cost of air fares, (b) the air-charter cost, (c) the cost of accommodation and (d) other costs?

(5) As it is customary to advise the Member for the area when such functions are arranged, why was this procedure not followed in this instance?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) “The director accompanied by departmental inspector (administration), inspector (liaison and training), and (for part of the trip) director of pastoral activities, over the period from November 9 to November 15 visited a number of northern centres, including Cairns, Hope Vale, Cooktown, Bloomfield, Lockhart River, Weipa, Aurukun, Edward River, Kowanyama, Normanton, Doomadgee and Mornington Island. During his visit to Kowanyama, on my behalf, he officially opened the Chellikee Hospital. A Bush Pilot Airways aircraft was used at a total cost of \$887. All officers were engaged in the performance of their responsibilities and duties in the administration of *The Aborigines' and Torres Strait Islanders' Affairs Acts, 1965 to 1967*. Fares were

incurred from Brisbane to Cairns of \$131 return each, and officers were paid the regulation travelling allowances from which they would meet their own expenses. The hospital function followed a somewhat earlier blessing ceremony at which the Bishop of Carpentaria officiated and each was performed at the specific request of the people. No invitations were issued outside the community area and it is regretted that due to an oversight the Honourable Member was not informed.”

OVERTIME LIMIT, CAPRICORNIA
REGIONAL ELECTRICITY BOARD
EMPLOYEES

(a) Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Local Government,—

Further to my Questions regarding overtime limits for employees of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board—

(1) What is the policy adopted by the regional electricity boards to determine which of their employees in receipt of salaries in excess of the overtime limit shall receive payment for overtime worked and what classifications receive such overtime payment?

(2) During the last financial year, how many hours of overtime were worked by C.R.E.B. employees who receive a salary in excess of \$7,306 per annum and how many of the hours worked were determined by the Board to be worthy of payment?

(3) How much overtime was required to be worked by employees to ensure that the electricity supply in the Capricornia Region was maintained during each of the last three financial years?

Answers:—

(1) “Section 51A of the Regional Electric Authorities Act provides that the working of overtime by a person employed at a salary in excess of a specified limit which is determined from time to time by the Governor in Council and remuneration in respect of such overtime shall be in the discretion of the Board concerned. There are six Regional Electricity Boards

in Queensland and each applies the discretionary power in accordance with the views of the authority involved."

(2) "Figures are not available to show these details."

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

(b) **Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Is he aware that the professional engineers employed by the regional electricity boards attempted to have the limit of \$7,306 for the payment of overtime altered in the Industrial Commission to approximately \$10,000 but that Commissioner Clarke in his decision stated that he could not adjudicate on this section of the claim?

(2) Does the Industrial Act of Queensland, under which all State awards operate, state that all persons who work overtime shall be paid? If so, as section 51A of the Regional Electric Authorities Act contravenes this provision by prohibiting payment for certain personnel, which of these two Acts has the overriding power?

Answers:—

(1) "The Association of Professional Engineers, Australia, argued before the State Industrial Commission on September 11, 1972, seeking to have the overtime limit altered. Industrial Commissioner Clarke found as follows:—'I am satisfied that this provision of this particular Act clearly qualifies the provisions of the general Act, *The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts 1961 to 1964*. I find therefore that it is beyond the jurisdiction of the Commission to insert the variations applied for.'"

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

(c) **Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Are some of the engineering staff of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board rostered on "stand-by" and required to work up to hundreds of hours overtime per year for which they receive no payment?

(2) Does the salary paid to such employees make allowance for this? If not, why has the Government condoned regional board policies which prohibit employees from receiving appropriate remuneration for all services rendered?

Answers:—

(1) "Professional engineering staff of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board perform such stand-by duties and work

such overtime as their responsibilities demand. There are no known instances of the working of excessive overtime."

(2) "It is the view of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board that the salaries which apply to the positions involved reflect the total work load encountered including the working of overtime. There is, therefore, no question of the Government condoning any practice of the nature which the Honourable Member suggests."

NEWCASTLE DISEASE, POULTRY INDUSTRY

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

(1) Has the minor strain of Newcastle disease, reportedly discovered in Australian poultry in the last two years, been eradicated?

(2) In what area or areas was the disease discovered?

(3) What are the methods of eradication and how serious are the adverse economic implications of this particular strain to the poultry industry?

(4) Does a Press reference that live birds and frozen meat represent the biggest threat of introduced transmission of more serious strains of Newcastle disease indicate that frozen meat other than poultry meat can transmit the disease?

(5) What quantities of meat capable of introducing the disease into Australia are imported annually and what safeguards are enforced?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "The virus was discovered in Queensland and evidence of its presence has since been found in all mainland States."

(3) "The strains of virus isolated are so mild that they produce no disease and therefore no economic effects."

(4) "No."

(5) "None. The quarantine legislation prohibits the importation of poultry meat and poultry products from all countries with the exception of New Zealand from which canned poultry meat only may be imported."

COMPLETION DATE, WEST STRATHPINE STATE SCHOOL

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

Will the West Strathpine State School be completed in time for the 1973 first-term enrolments? If not, what is the expected date on which the school will be open for enrolment?

Answer:—

“No, but adequate classroom accommodation will be available for occupancy at the commencement of the new school year.”

SALE OF OBSCENE MATERIAL, FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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

(1) Is he aware that members of militant trade unions have been selling filthy pictures in the bars of a hotel at Woolloongabba, depicting the Prime Minister and Mrs. McMahon in intimate poses, and using stand-over tactics to coerce patrons of the hotel to vote Labor?

(2) Have enquiries been carried out by police and what action can be taken to prevent this despicable form of campaigning?

Answers:—

(1) “No.”

(2) “Police inquiries have failed to support the claim made by the Honourable Member and if he can provide me with additional information further inquiries will be made.”

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION, R.A.C.Q.

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on November 24 concerning the articles of association of the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, as the Solicitor-General's report is not likely to be made available to the R.A.C.Q. members by the management and as the R.A.C.Q. is a public organisation with a large membership, will he present the Solicitor-General's report to this House?

Answer:—

“No. The Solicitor-General has written to the club in relation to the proposed Articles of Association and is awaiting a reply. I would regard the documents passing between the Solicitor-General and the R.A.C.Q. as a privileged communication and it is a matter for the R.A.C.Q. if they wish to release its contents.”

SPECIAL DUTIES FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, SOUTHPORT POLICE

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

What work for other Government departments is carried out by the police at Southport?

Answer:—

“Detailed records of work carried out at Southport for other departments are not kept. The principal departments concerned are—Commonwealth: Social Services; Taxation. State: Children's Services; Justice; Licensing Commission; Main Roads; and Transport.”

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PARTY POLICIES, ABORTION ON DEMAND

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Minister for Health: Has he noted that A.L.P. spokesmen have claimed that the Liberal Party has no policy on abortion on demand? What is the attitude of this Government on this sensitive matter?

Mr. TOOTH: I have noted these statements from time to time. The policy of the Government has been clearly stated by the Minister for Justice and myself on a number of occasions, that is, that in our view the present provisions are adequate. They provide for this particular procedure in the case of danger to the life and health of the prospective mother. I may say that I had the opportunity, when visiting the United Kingdom, to see the effect of the policy mentioned by the honourable member. It has had very serious results on that country's health system. Both the acute wards and the gynaecological wards of acute hospitals have become overcrowded. In many cases, important legitimate demands by patients have not been able to be met because of the crowding that has resulted from this particular policy.

I had described to me by a very senior officer in one of the Australian Government offices a situation where his wife was hospitalised for an urgent operation in one of the well-known London hospitals. She was in a four-bed ward and the other three beds were constantly occupied by young women from European countries who were paying 100 guineas each for this operation. In that ward, therefore, three-quarters of the available accommodation was being used for abortion on demand.

Speaking personally, I think that any change in the present policy would have very serious effects upon our hospital and health systems.

INCREMENTAL WAGE PAYMENTS FOR WEIGHBRIDGE ATTENDANTS

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I preface a question to the Minister for Transport by reminding him that on 24 November the honourable member for Albert asked him whether weighbridge attendants were entitled to receive payments for incremental benefits from 1 October and that he replied—

“ . . . the scheme applies to wages staff only. Weighbridgemen are included in that category.”

As there is some controversy over the interpretation of his answer, could he inform the House whether he was referring to weighbridgemen employed by the Railway Department or weighbridge checking attendants stationed at, for instance, Gailles, Burpengary and Coomera and, in any case, whether the latter employees are entitled to these incremental payments?

Mr. K. W. HOOPER: I thank the honourable member for bringing this matter to the notice of the House. I realise now that my answer could be misleading. I was referring to railway employees.

As the other part of the question refers to public servants, it should be directed to the Premier.

FORM OF QUESTION

Mr. BALDWIN (Redlands) having given notice of a question about eligibility for unemployment benefits—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I think the honourable member will find that the subject matter of his question—social-service benefits—is one for the Federal Government. The Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs can please himself whether he answers the question or not.

SUPPLY

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—
FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH ALLOTTED DAYS
(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Lickiss,
Mt. Coot-tha, in the chair)

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1972-73

JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

CHIEF OFFICE

Debate resumed from 24 November (see p. 2063) on Mr. Knox's motion—

"That \$990,166 be granted for 'Department of Justice—Chief Office'."

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (11.59 a.m.): It is with a great deal of pleasure that I enter this debate on these Estimates, particularly because of the straight-forward and business-like approach shown by the Minister in the administration of his new portfolio. Since he has been Minister for Justice, he has shown himself to be receptive to responsible suggestions and submissions, wherever they come from. Because of the nature of this portfolio, I think this is particularly important. Very many of the functions of the Minister's department, and the Acts administered by it, affect people in difficult personal circumstances, and it is important that compassion be shown in dealing with their problems. I congratulate the Minister on his receptiveness to such suggestions and submissions.

Since his promotion to the high office of Attorney-General, the Minister has also shown a progressive approach towards legislation. I am a member of his Parliamentary Justice Committee, and I regard it as the best parliamentary committee on which I serve. The Minister allows back-benchers to participate in the preparation of proposed legislation and also to put forward suggestions as to amendments that may be necessary to existing Acts.

Very recently the Minister entered the public arena and sought suggestions from interested parties as well as from members of the public as to amendments that should be made to the Auctioneers and Agents Act. In the near future a Bill will be introduced to amend that measure.

Prior to framing the Bill, the Minister convened a seminar attended by delegations from interested bodies in the community, such as the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society Incorporated, the Association of Mercantile Agents, and urban developers. Those representatives gathered with the committee of management that has been set up under the Act and the members of the Minister's Justice Committee. I regard the seminar as being one of the most useful parliamentary endeavours in which I have engaged since my election to Parliament. I know, too, that those who attended it expressed their sincere gratitude at being offered the opportunity to attend.

The Minister chaired the seminar and, although he adhered to a tight agenda, allowed each delegate the opportunity of putting forward his submissions. The members of both the committee set up under the Act and the Minister's Justice Committee were able to question delegates as to their points of view. Although one or two proposed provisions of the amending legislation could not be reconciled between conflicting groups, general agreement was reached on the remaining items on the agenda. The Minister displayed his usual reasonable approach as well as his concern for the people, which is one of the basic principles and attitudes of the Liberal Party.

To turn more specifically to the Minister's Estimates, I wish to speak about the Office of the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, which is ably headed by Mr. Kehoe. He is well known to most honourable members and, from time to time, gives them great assistance. He is indeed a very capable officer.

Recently, the function of that office has been widened to embrace additional duties under the Companies Act as well as others relative to companies registered under that Act. Owing to the activities of some people who launch companies in Queensland, that Act needs to be read in conjunction with the Criminal Code. Queensland is experiencing a period of boom development, and, therefore, offers the opportunity to a great number of people to make money quite honestly.

However, always there are those who, as bold as brass, come onto the scene and endeavour to fleece the gullible public of their hard-earned savings. Some members of the public are enticed to invest in companies that simply do not measure up.

I would question whether the Office of the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs has been upgraded in terms of staff and facilities to keep up administratively with some of the new companies that require a good deal of supervision. The new and sophisticated methods now employed by those engaging in a criminal career require the closest supervision to ensure that members of the public are not defrauded by these seemingly smart people.

Probably the most profitable avenue of crime these days is company fraud. I am sure that the honourable member for South Coast clearly remembers the activities of the well-known "share sharks" Hammond, Hanlon and a few of their friends who were on the scene some years ago selling land on the Gold Coast during the development boom. These men became infamous as a result of the number of good people they defrauded. In fact, one of them is in hiding in a foreign country because he is wanted here for some of his activities.

The methods adopted by such people are becoming more and more sophisticated. Many syndicates have been established to entice people to invest their hard-earned money in development projects. These enterprises have crept into Queensland only in the last few years, but with them have come some of the smartest and most ruthless wheeler-dealers in Australia. Many of them have interstate contacts and links with experts in many fields of crime. They have experts at their disposal in the field of fraudulent selling, men who have lived by their wits throughout Australia and on the international scene. Unfortunately they have at their command dishonest solicitors and barristers, experts who give advice which makes it difficult to bring them to justice. The public generally do not understand that they bring with them their standover men, their bouncers and gunmen.

Many people believe that con-men are a quite innocent, gentle type. When they steal big sums of money from large corporations, some people subconsciously congratulate them or perhaps express the opinion that they are smart operators. They are certainly anything but gentle people. To police their cohorts and their internal organisations, they use the standover man and the gunman. Many fights take place when they come to "divvie" the spoils or share the money they have taken from people. In recent times fights have occurred in hotels in this city between opposing factions of interstate con-men and criminals over the division of spoil. Gunmen and standover men have fought for their bosses in these circumstances. The Police Fraud Squad and the Police Crime Intelligence Unit are well

acquainted with what is happening. They need only the necessary muscle, sinew or power to do something about it.

Today, as a matter of urgency, I advocate firstly that the staff of the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs be enlarged to include a competent and energetic lawyer. I emphasise the words "competent" and "energetic" because not all lawyers, be they solicitors or barristers, are equipped to engage in investigatory work of this nature. When it comes to catching criminals, those involved must have something of the killer instinct. They must be prepared to go after them in a dedicated way, so the lawyers in this section should be chosen carefully.

Mr. Burns: Would you put them into the Consumer Affairs Bureau too?

Mr. LANE: I am talking about big-time crime, not short weight in, say, potatoes. I suggest that the honourable member for Lytton, who has never had a good word to say for the Police Force or any of its functions, should keep his nose out of this matter.

I advocate that the staff at this office should be increased to include qualified and experienced accountants and auditors with the capacity to become dedicated investigators. Plenty of accountants can add up a column of figures and get the right total, but that is not all that is required of the men who should be appointed to this office. They must have the mental attitude that goes with the role of an investigator.

I advocate that some of the experienced staff of the Police Fraud Squad be assigned, perhaps on a rotation basis, to the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. Although many of those officers are self-taught in law and accountancy, nevertheless they are very experienced tradesmen in the field of investigation. An integral part of that office should be a cohesive and self-contained unit of untouchables to fight big-time crime.

It should be self-sufficient so that it would have no need to go outside its own ranks for legal advice. The personnel of the Crown Law Office are fine officers who do their best, but, owing to their burden of work, it sometimes takes quite a while to obtain a legal opinion from them. Legal opinions are needed urgently if the criminal with the large bank account is to be caught, because he can easily fly interstate.

One of the great problems facing police in investigating companies is that a fugitive as a first step burns the company books. He then seeks advice from his well-qualified and highly paid legal expert, who then stands between him and the law and protects him from investigation. It is necessary for police to interview many complainants and other people before interviewing a suspect and, as soon as a suspect has word of an impending investigation, he destroys the company books, as many organisations did in the 1920's in the United States.

Under the Companies Act, the Governor in Council can appoint an inspector to look into these companies. That is a very desirable provision. I commend the Minister on his recent appointment of Mr. P. D. Connolly, Q.C., to investigate the background of five companies which have, between them, defrauded Queenslanders of many millions of dollars. When the inspector's findings are revealed, many honourable members of this Parliament and many members of the community will be startled to learn the identity of some of the people involved. They include many of the leading con-men of this nation. They are supported by, and in many cases work hand in glove with, some of the toughest standover men and even gunmen. I know that Mr. Connolly is already going about his investigation in a businesslike way, and in due course we will no doubt see revealed all the facts concerning these companies.

It is unfortunate that, because of the new provisions of the Companies Act, the administrative procedures involved in the appointment of inspectors are a little lengthy. The appointment of an eminent barrister such as Mr. Connolly involves the State in great expense, and I suggest that the Minister could well consider the employment of a permanent inspector, or, by means of a retainer of some sort, obtain the services of an inspector who could be called in whenever necessary on urgent matters. There are companies not included in the list of five that are being investigated by Mr. Connolly whose activities need inspection. They are known to the very competent officers of the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, and to the police. I could name them, but I believe that I would be acting more responsibly if I left these matters in the hands of the police and other investigating officers, provided they are given the necessary facilities and powers to do something about them.

The way to fight crime, and to bring criminals to justice, is not to wait for complaints. Very often a better method of putting a stop to crime and bringing criminals to justice is to attack the problem from the other end—to watch criminals, gather information on their activities, and work back from there to crimes that they have committed. That is why there is a need for a unit of specialists who could not only investigate complaints received but who could, in a positive way, go after the known criminals, con-men and shysters who unfortunately have appeared on the scene in Queensland in recent years, and track back from them to the complaints that will in due course be made. By operating in this way it is possible to take possession of books and other documentary evidence before they can be destroyed, and before the criminals can reach the sanctuary of their lawyers' offices. The police are at a disadvantage if they cannot act until complaints are made.

(Time expired.)

Mr. P. WOOD (Toowoomba South) (12.19 p.m.): First of all, I wish to comment on the second annual report of the chairman of the Consumer Affairs Council, and I then propose to make some remarks about the articles of association of the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland.

When the first annual report of the chairman of the Consumer Affairs Council was tabled in the House last year, the Minister moved, and the House agreed, that it be printed. There has been no explanation, satisfactory or unsatisfactory, of why this year it was left to the Opposition, after we had discovered that the second annual report of the chairman of the Consumer Affairs Council had been tabled but not printed, to move for its printing.

I should be interested to hear whether, in future years, the Minister intends to move for the printing of the annual report of the chairman of the Consumer Affairs Council. I believe it should be the responsibility of this Assembly to print the report, and it seems to me to be rather remiss of the Minister to leave it to the Opposition to move for its printing, although honourable members on this side of the Chamber are quite happy to do it if the Minister wishes to pass that responsibility on to us.

The annual report of the chairman contains many matters, on some of which the Minister or the departments under his control sought advice and recommendations from the Consumer Affairs Council, and others on which the Consumer Affairs Council took it upon itself to make recommendations and give advice to the Minister. Of course, honourable members may yet see in Government legislation some of the recommendations made by the Consumer Affairs Council. However, I point out to the Committee that the authority of the council is limited by Act of Parliament to that of making recommendations to the Government—it has no statutory authority other than to make recommendations—but if it makes recommendations and those recommendations are not given close attention by the Government and no action is taken on them, the role of the council is likely to be a very meagre one indeed.

As I said, a wide variety of matters on which the chairman has made quite firm recommendations to the Government have been presented in his second annual report, and I will mention a few of these in passing. Recommendations have been made about pseudo auction sales; polyethylene mosquito netting; the flammability of children's nightclothes; the commercial use of the council's name; food marketing and the date-marking of some items; and a cooling-off period for door-to-door sales of household appliances. None of these recommendations, and none of the other recommendations contained in the report, have yet been acted upon by the Government. I concede that some of them may be the subject of some

Government action; but if that is so, I cannot see any reason why the Minister could not take honourable members into his confidence and tell us which of the matters mentioned by the Consumer Affairs Council are to be acted upon by the Government.

Mr. Wright: He hasn't done anything so far; I don't think he intends doing anything.

Mr. P. WOOD: If honourable members are not told today what the Minister proposes to do, they can only come to the conclusion that neither he nor the Government is going to take any action and, unfortunately, that the chairman and the council have very little power. If some action is being taken on these matters, I cannot understand why the Committee could not be told. At least some credit would accrue to the Government if it could indicate any positive action that it may be taking. These are very important matters; not only Parliament but people throughout the State, too, are interested in them and wish to see some action taken. Members of the Opposition, and, I would hope, some members of the Government as well, are interested in seeing that the recommendations of the Consumer Affairs Council are given effect to, and I await with interest the Minister's reply to ascertain whether any of them are or whether the Committee has to assume that such recommendations cannot reach the ears of the Government.

I wish now to make some comments on the articles of association of the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland. These articles of association have been submitted to the Solicitor-General's Office, which comes under the control of the Minister, for consideration. I have seen the articles of association. The document is by no means confidential, but the R.A.C.Q. has not given any wide publicity to it.

It is my opinion that members of the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland are set to lose all semblance of control over the affairs of the club. Membership control has been limited under existing articles of association. At a meeting tonight it will be proposed that the existing articles be rescinded and new articles adopted.

R.A.C.Q. membership is very large. It is a public body, receiving very large sums of money from its members. If these articles are submitted to the Solicitor-General for report, to my mind there is no reason for that report not to be made available to Parliament. In my opinion, it will not be made available to the members by the management of the R.A.C.Q.

I believe that the articles of association were submitted to the Solicitor-General's Office for report only to see if they would

stand up in law. I ask whether the Solicitor-General's Office would have a look at the articles to see if they provide reasonable opportunity for all club members to participate in the club's affairs and management. It may well be that this was not the scope of the review of the articles of association that was made by the Solicitor-General's Office.

It seems incredible to me that elected authorities can sit back and allow the rulers of the R.A.C.Q. to continue along in their autocratic and patently undemocratic way. I can imagine the outcry that would come from many sections of the community, including the Minister and Government supporters, if articles of association similar to those proposed by the R.A.C.Q. were applied to some other organisation. Let us take, for example, a trade union. What an outcry there would be if undemocratic articles of association such as these became the rules for the organisation of a trade union! What an outcry there would be if an undemocratic constitution like this—I call it a "constitution" because that is basically what it is—became the constitution of a political party! There would be an outraged uproar about how these organisations were conducting their affairs in an autocratic and most undemocratic fashion. And such an uproar would be justified. The truth is that these proposed new articles will virtually disfranchise the club membership—that is, if the members do not wake up and stop them from going through tonight's meeting.

One of the worst features of the proposed new articles is the article that will virtually nullify any future elections held by members. From time to time we hear a lot from Government members about the need for fair, open and democratic elections. What will happen under the proposed articles? The proposal is that if fewer than 5 per cent of eligible members cast a vote, the council can ignore the result and appoint its own nominees on the council. If the council so decides, the election can be held to be completely null and void.

The fact of the matter is that the R.A.C.Q. has a very large membership, but most of its members are concerned only with the road services provided by it, so that there is not, and never has been, a great deal of interest by the membership as a whole in the management of the club. That is not to say, however, that because there is a degree of apathy amongst the club membership towards the management and control of the club, those who are interested in participating in the club's management should be excluded from their right of participation.

The proposed rule is that unless at least 5 per cent of the membership vote, the election can be nullified. But 5 per cent of the membership would be about 10,000 members. The proposers of this move are very acutely aware that rarely, if ever, does that number of members ever vote in a club election. That is a most important point. Other proposals will prevent members of less than six months' standing from voting. They will empower the council of the R.A.C.Q. to classify certain information as confidential, even retrospectively, and they can expel a councillor who divulges such information, even to a club member.

To me, it is surprising to think that any organisation could put into its constitution a proposal that any of its affairs conducted in the past can at some future date be deemed to be confidential even though they may not have been deemed to be so when they were first considered. This assumes some significance because the articles of association also allow for the expulsion of a member who reveals certain confidential information. What is a councillor's position if he has revealed to certain club members information about the affairs of the club and at some future date the council decides that the information was confidential? The councillor, who acted in good faith at the time, is then in breach of the articles of association. This is a completely ludicrous situation.

The proposed articles will empower the council, instead of the members, to expel a councillor by special resolution. They will indemnify councillors of the R.A.C.Q. against damages. They will enable a councillor to vote on an arrangement, between himself and the club, that could bring profit to him. Previously, under the club articles this right was denied to councillors.

There is a strange provision that will enable the council to appoint associate councillors who would, if I may use the comparison, be somewhat akin to apprentices who might in future inherit positions in the council. Again, the articles provide that a smaller group of only five members can run the affairs of the club.

These are some of the things that are proposed in the articles of association, which are in effect the rules of the club. Things that are omitted from the rules are a bit harder to find. It is easy to go through them and discover those things to which objection might be made. Anything that is not in the rules, however, is a bit harder to pick up, but it seems to me, from a perusal of the rules, that the council is relieved of its obligation to bring new or amended by-laws to the attention of members. It seems to me also that country-zone representatives on the council will no longer have the right to appoint proxies when they themselves cannot attend meetings in Brisbane. It seems also that the right of club members to alter or add to the articles of association is no longer explicit in the rules.

In the most recent publication of the club's newspaper, "The Road Ahead", the following notice appeared:—

"Change of Club's Articles"

"Proposed Articles to be placed before members at the Extraordinary General Meeting on November 28 are designed to update the Club's constitution in line with modern practice and present Company Law.

"Main changes proposed are:—

Adjustment of zonal boundaries;
Procedures for election of Councillors —to include postal ballots requiring a minimum of 5 per cent return;

Voting to be confined to members of not less than 6 months standing;

Maximum term of office of President to be 3 years;

Rotation of Councillors.

"Other amendments proposed are of a minor nature to update the Articles."

I make particular reference to the final paragraph, which says—

"Other amendments proposed are of a minor nature to update the Articles."

In view of the other changes that are proposed, that statement, to my mind, is a most misleading statement. Indeed, it is deliberately misleading. First of all, may I comment on the fact that although the R.A.C.Q. has its own newspaper, the proposed new articles, or rules for running the club, are not printed therein. This, one would think, would be a logical course of action.

If the management were concerned about retaining the interest of members as well as informing them of its intentions, surely the logical thing to do would be to present the new articles in the club's journal.

To return to the club's statement that other amendments are of a minor nature, I point out that in the brief resume of the contents of the articles, no mention was made of the confidentiality aspect to which I referred earlier; that is, that matters can be declared confidential retrospectively, and that members can be expelled if they breach that confidentiality. Nor was there any mention of the move by the council to take from the membership and give to itself the right to remove any councillor by special resolution. No mention was made of the move to indemnify councillors against any claim for damages, nor of the fact that councillors engaged in profit-making arrangements with the club will be able to vote on those matters as they come before the council. At present, although such councillors may sit in on the discussion of those matters, they are not allowed to vote on them. The latest issue of "The Road Ahead" makes no reference at all to the proposal to empower the council to appoint associate councillors or to the fact that, whilst it is proposed to increase the strength of the council, at the

same time it is planned to allow it to function with five instead of the present seven members.

As a result of my own interest, as well as that of the electors of Toowoomba, I have asked a number of questions in this Chamber about the club's proposed articles of association. However, I have had little response from the Minister who controls the Solicitor-General's Office.

Some R.A.C.Q. members have objected publicly, and one has even been expelled from membership. The response from the president of the R.A.C.Q. was a claim that radicals are making a move to take over the club. His response was the standard one, to be expected from a conservative group that is entrenched in a position of power and the target of criticism. Perhaps I could come within the president's definition of "radical", but there is no way that I could take over the R.A.C.Q. Some years ago I declined to renew my membership of the club.

The only other club members who have commented publicly on its affairs have been Dr. Kennard, of Brisbane—

Mr. Porter: Dr. Kennard is a very fine gentleman.

Mr. Murray: Dr. Colin Kennard.

Mr. P. WOOD: I am interested to hear the honourable members for Toowong and Clayfield give him the highest commendation.

Mr. Porter: I do, indeed.

Mr. P. WOOD: I do not know him—in fact, I have never seen him. I can only assume that the comments of the president of the R.A.C.Q. relative to radicals taking over the club were directed at him. In this morning's Press, quite rightly, Dr. Kennard took umbrage at those remarks, and added that he is a member of the Liberal Party. I have read Dr. Kennard's objections to the proposed articles of association, and I agree with his comments as well as those of Dr. Springell, of Rockhampton, who, as a result of his criticism, has been expelled from the R.A.C.Q.

(Time expired.)

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (12.38 p.m.): In rising to speak to these Estimates, I congratulate the Minister and his staff on the very efficient and capable manner in which they are carrying out their administration of the Department of Justice. Its many facets cannot be discussed in the 20 minutes allowed for speeches, so I intend to restrict my remarks to only a few.

First, I wish to deal with the Literature Board of Review, which is constituted under the Objectionable Literature Act and consists of a chairman and four members. Its principal function is to examine and review literature with the object of prohibiting any that is objectionable. Literature is objectionable if it emphasises matters of sex, horror,

crime, cruelty or violence, or is blasphemous, indecent, obscene or likely to be injurious to morality, or is likely to encourage depravity, public disorder or any indictable offence, or is otherwise calculated to injure the citizens of Queensland. The board is empowered to prohibit by its order the distribution of any objectionable publication in Queensland.

All people should be concerned when the society in which they live is threatened with destruction. The unchecked permitting of impure literature not only threatens but means certain destruction of society. The State Government's duty is to promote the common welfare of the people of the State. We must, according to our own ability, avert all harm to this State, both internal and external.

The moral code of our society is based on Christianity. The codes of other societies are based on Mohammedism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism and Marxism. Our Australian Commonwealth Constitution begins with the words, "Humbly relying on the blessings of Almighty God". There is abundant authority for saying that Christianity is part and parcel of the law of the land. The spirit of reverence for the unseen pervades all the relations of our civil life. It is felt in the forms of our courts and in the language of our statutes. Lewd publications definitely have an evil influence on the minds of young people. Writings are obscene by reason of what they describe, express, or bring to mind, and the words used to do it.

It is assumed by common law that obscene writings deprave and corrupt morals by causing dirty-mindedness and by creating or pandering to the sense of the obscene. This judgment is the ruling case law on the subject in Australia. It has been proved so often in so many cases that obscene publications deprave that it is now assumed by the law as proved beyond doubt.

We know from recorded history that both Greece and Ancient Rome, at their zenith, protected their youth from pornography. Plato said that impure books should be forbidden in every State, and Sparta forbade the reading or keeping of any books which emphasised obscenity. As well, Julius Caesar sent Ovid into exile for writing a book on the art of loving. J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, claimed that pornography is the major cause of sex crimes. However, the final refuge to opponents of this line of thinking, when all their arguments are beaten, is as follows: even if pornographic literature does cause a nation to decay, personal freedom is so precious that we must stand by it even if it is exercised wrongly. The words "freedom" and "permissive society" have certainly been given a new meaning. What they describe is not true freedom but slavery to desires.

Some time ago, 48 nations signed a Geneva Convention to control the issue and distribution of pornographic literature. One country which withdrew was Denmark. The

fact that 47 other countries signed this convention to control pornography and obscene material is far more important than the resignation of one country from it. Our Federal Government signed this international agreement only after all the six States concurred. The signature, therefore, shows unity of purpose of all Governments, both State and Federal, on this subject. However, a Labor Government would reduce censorship so that, in general, people could read, write or hear what they wished. Senator Murphy, the Labor Leader in the Senate, made that very statement in February this year. And Dr. Moss Cass has stated that "The Little Red Schoolbook" should be made available in all schools.

Under the heading of "Cultural Affairs", the Labor platform states that the party would create a Minister for Cultural Affairs with responsibility for general cultural development of Australia. One of the major responsibilities would be censorship. The Labor spokesman on art and censorship, Senator James McClelland, announced that a Federal Labor Government would abolish all forms of censorship except for cinema advertising. This is the direction of Labor's notion of cultural planning.

As to censorship, the path on which the Labor Party is travelling is very clear for everyone to see, because Senator McClelland on A.B.C. television, on 7 August 1972, said "Why should we censor anything? What are we afraid of?" When asked by the interviewer would he accept that the end of censorship would result in a flood of pornographic material into Australia, he replied—

"I would think that there would probably be an increase in pornographic material in the short run, and seeing that I don't think that will be the end of the world that doesn't disturb me all that much."

That is a shocking indictment of Labor's policy on censorship and cultural affairs. Imagine "The Little Red Schoolbook" being set as reading for grade 10, or "The Godfather" being set for grade 12.

Mr. Knox: That is what they are doing in South Australia.

Mr. FRAWLEY: This is not the impossibility it sounds, and I agree with the Minister for Justice.

Mr. R. E. Moore: This is happening in South Australia.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course it is. As I said, it is not as impossible as it sounds, because a Labor Government, advocating permissiveness, abortion on demand, the use of drugs, sexual licence and homosexuality, could be the destruction of our western society.

The Consumers Affairs Bureau is another very important branch of the Justice Department. Its report contains many interesting

facts including a large number of fraudulent practices being perpetrated on Queensland citizens. The bureau commenced operations in 1971, and in the 18 months of its existence has received 4,924 complaints. This proves that the setting up of the bureau was justified. The public must be protected from racketeers and confidence men who prey upon them. Many shysters with their get-rich-quick schemes have taken in many hundreds of people and they have lost whatever money they invested.

One of the worst ever promoted in this State was the Holiday Magic scheme. Many people in my electorate lost a good deal of money because of the stories told by these rogues about the money to be made under it. Of course, the only people who made any money were the promoters and their henchmen.

Another get-rich-quick scheme which is being peddled around the country is the Dare to be Great of Australia Pty. Limited training course. The address of this business, in case some Opposition members want to take the course, is 43A Florence Street, Hornsby, New South Wales. I contacted the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs on 7 November requesting information on this matter. I was informed that the bureau could not testify to the business ethics of this firm and that a policy has been adopted of avoiding comment on businesses except in the annual report which is tabled in Parliament and is therefore a privileged document.

I appreciate this, but surely people who are suspicious of a firm should be able to obtain some information regarding its business ethics or what it is selling. If the particular firm is run by shysters—I do not know yet whether this is true or not—and we want to obtain information, it appears that we have to wait 12 months until the annual report of the bureau is tabled. Think of the number of people who could be defrauded between now and then. I ask the Minister to investigate the possibility of taking the necessary steps to investigate schemes such as this one.

The application for enrolment for this course refers to "Adventure I" at a cost of \$500, for which the applicant receives a brief case, cassette tape recorder and motivational tape cassettes. It sounds as if the Q.C.E. has something to do with this. For "Adventure II", the cost is a further \$500. Finally, for "Adventure III", the cost is \$2,000. I suspect that this is something like Holiday Magic. I have not got to the bottom of it yet, but I am certain that cosmetic selling is involved somewhere. I ask the Minister to take the necessary steps to have a check made of this firm, because it has all the earmarks of a get-rich-quick scheme under which some people will get rich at the expense of others.

The soliciting of directory entries is another practice that should be discouraged. On two occasions I have received proposal forms so printed that they resemble invoices covering directory entries previously approved. To all intents and purposes they appear to be statements of account, and advice that they are not is printed in very small letters indeed. It would be possible for someone to receive one of these false statements and pay it without realising that he had been duped. The publishers who issue these false statements are nothing but thieves who have discovered a very astute method of attempting to defraud business firms. Members who receive complaints on doubtful practices such as this should expose these robbers on the floor of the House. I intend to do just that in future.

The report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies also contains some alarming information. I refer to the societies which have failed to furnish annual returns within the time prescribed by the Act and those which have shown a remarkable degree of tardiness in answering queries about the returns they have submitted. These societies are handling public money, and, as such, they should be above reproach. Any delay in furnishing annual returns, or any reluctance to answer queries concerning their returns, must lead one to believe that all may not be well, and that perhaps their books do not balance. I hope that the Minister will see that all of these societies are subject to rigorous investigation to ensure that everything is above board, and that people are not in danger of losing financially.

I also wish to comment on the report of the Licensing Commission. It contains some very interesting facts. Perhaps the most interesting relate to Sunday trading, which created a great deal of interest when the trading hours of 124 hotels were varied from 4-6 p.m. to 5-7 p.m. to better suit the needs of the public. I am not against this, because many motorists visited the Redcliffe peninsula on Sundays merely to get a skinful of drink, and they then had to drive back to Brisbane. Now, with Sunday drinking in Brisbane, only the genuine tourist visits the peninsula, and the dangers of driving under the influence of liquor have been reduced—in that area, at any rate.

Restaurant licences continue to meet the needs of people who desire to partake of liquor with meals. This is a very sensible approach to drinking. One often hears the saying, "If you drive, don't drink; if you drink, don't drive." I think that another one should be added—"If you drink and drive, make sure that you eat." The eating of food definitely slows the effect of alcohol on the human body.

I should like to mention briefly another function of the Justice Department, namely, the control of art unions. The raising of funds by means of art unions has increased over the years, and this has become a highly

commercialised industry, with highly paid professional promoters. I should like to speak about a group of people who raised some money at Caboolture. Ten years ago, the Caboolture War Memorial Swimming Pool Building Fund Committee was formed to raise money to build a swimming pool in Caboolture. They raised a little more than \$12,000. At present they have \$14,561, and they are desperately trying to hand that money over to the Caboolture Sports Committee.

This money was raised for the building of a war memorial swimming pool at Caboolture. The Caboolture Shire Council had a pool built by a private builder under a lease agreement that extends over a number of years, and the money raised by the building fund committee was never taken over. In July of this year, the swimming pool building fund committee held a meeting with the object of dissolving itself and handing over the money to the sports committee. An offer was made some years ago to hand the money over to the Caboolture Shire Council to enable it to build a shire hall. The offer was to be taken up in three years, which period expired on 13 March of this year. The Caboolture Shire Council did not take up the offer. The meeting to wind up the affairs of the swimming pool committee was attended by 27 people, and the vote taken was 19 to 8 in favour of handing the money over to the sports committee which, even though it is not a charitable organisation, still does a great deal of work for the youth of Caboolture.

I cannot get to the bottom of this matter. I have written to the Justice Department about it, and I sincerely hope that the Minister takes a personal interest in it. I feel that the money should be handed over to the sports committee. The swimming pool has been built. The money cannot be returned to those who contributed it because the names and addresses of half of them have been lost, and the committee has been defunct for some months. In the interests of justice, I ask the Minister to see if something can be done to enable the swimming pool committee to hand over this money to the Caboolture Sports Committee, which is doing a very fine job indeed.

The Door to Door (Sales) Act is a very important piece of legislation to which I wish to make some reference. Whilst a person in my electorate was away from home, a salesman who was selling floor polishers called on his wife. This salesman told the wife, "You can pay a dollar deposit, and, if your husband doesn't like the polisher when he comes home, you can return it." I shall not name the firm, but I shall say that its premises are in Adelaide Street, Brisbane. When this woman's husband returned, he did not like the polisher.

Mr. Wright: Don't you think you should name the firm to safeguard others? That is the point you made before.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not going to name the firm, because it did return the money, but only after a lot of persuasion.

Mr. Jensen: It might catch somebody else.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It took a lot of persuading to get the firm to hand back the money.

Salesmen go round making promises that if people do not like the articles that they are selling, they will take them back. I know that a cooling-off period of seven days is allowed by the Act, but there are still malpractices in door-to-door sales. I even know of a case in which a salesman put his foot in the door and would not leave. The woman concerned was too frightened to leave the door to go and telephone the police.

In my opinion, the Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act is another Act which needs an overhaul. Anyone who has goods in his care for repair has to keep them for six months before he sells them. In the case of motor vehicles, he has to obtain a certificate from the Commissioner of Police stating that the car concerned is not a stolen car. I do not disagree with that provision, but I do disagree with the provision for keeping a vehicle in a repairer's yard for such a lengthy period. This has happened in a number of cases in the Redcliffe area, and I have been asked by some of the motor vehicle repairers there to bring this matter to the Minister's attention. Many motor vehicles left for repair have not been reclaimed by the owners, either because the vehicle was not insured or because they have not sufficient money to pay for the repairs. Those motor vehicles are lying in yards—I have two of them in my garage at present—and they cannot be disposed of for six months. They are a nuisance, and I think the period stipulated in the Act should be shortened. Instead of having to wait 90 days, it should be permissible to dispose of uncollected goods after 28 days. In the case of motor vehicles, repairers could then get rid of them instead of having them hanging round their yards.

Mr. R. E. Moore interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I meant 90 days, not six months. It should be reduced to 28 days.

The Electoral Office is another important facet of the Justice portfolio. Since a computer has been used for the compilation of the rolls, the system has failed badly. I have already written several letters of complaint, and I sincerely hope that I do not have to write any more. Many people, especially in the electorate of Murrumba, have received forms from the Electoral Office claiming that they did not vote at the recent State election, whereas in fact they did vote. In one instance, I personally obtained an application form for an electoral visitor's vote for a gentleman who was confined to his bed. He signed it and I delivered it to the clerk

of the court. It was later claimed that he did not vote. In fact, he did not vote, but it was through no fault of his own.

Mr. Bromley: You are not supposed to collect the application.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I did not collect the application. I took it down to him.

Mr. Bromley: I thought you went to his house and took the vote from him.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I took the application form down to him because he was bed-ridden. I would not handle the vote. The honourable member probably has taken hundreds of votes himself. He would know what I am talking about.

In conclusion, I should like to say that I support the recent statement by the honourable member for Rockhampton that Mrs. Horan should not be a member of the Consumer Affairs Council. Even if it was only before she became a member of the council that she endorsed Farmer Greenfield's foods, she should resign because that advertisement is still being displayed on television. The ordinary person would not know whether she had sponsored the advertisement before or after she became a member of the council. He or she would think that Mrs. Horan, being president of the Housewives' Association and also a member of the Consumer Affairs Council, was recommending Farmer Greenfield's foods as being the best buy in Queensland, whereas I and many others know that they are not. I am not advocating that people should buy any specific brands of food. I say only that a person in Mrs. Horan's position should not be doing that.

As to Mrs. Horan's saying that the honourable member for Rockhampton is a nobody who is criticising somebody, she should wake up to herself and stop criticising any member of Parliament who is doing his job, irrespective of the party to which he belongs.

Mr. Hughes: She has a right to criticise.

Mr. FRAWLEY: She can criticise as much as she likes, but she also has to "take it" herself. I state here and now that she should not be a member of the Consumer Affairs Council.

[*Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.*]

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (2.15 p.m.): I desire to refer to the number of Acts administered by the Justice Department that are coming forward for amendment. I know that over a dozen of them have to be either amended or repealed. It would appear that at last the Law Reform Commission has come to life.

One Act that I particularly wish to bring before the notice of the Minister is the Wages Attachment Act. Because of its provisions, the court can leave a single man with only \$4 a week to exist on. This is

unrealistic. Indeed, it is ridiculous. No magistrate or judge would act in such a manner today. Such an amount is completely out of proportion to today's cost of living. A single man who is left with only \$4 a week to live on would not have enough money to buy any cigarettes or an occasional drink. The single age pensioner or invalid pensioner is given \$20 a week to live on, and it is well known that that merely provides for a person's existence. Nothing is left for his pleasure.

Mr. Burns: It means poverty.

Mr. JENSEN: Of course it does.

The Wages Attachment Act is one piece of legislation that should be amended.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair has been very lenient in the matter of the foreshadowing of legislation. At the beginning of the Estimates debate, the Committee was informed in these terms—

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

Mr. JENSEN: It is a very good thing that you allowed me to go so far, Mr. Lickiss, because I have finished with that subject.

I appeal to the Minister to set up a Prices Commission which could inform the public about justifiable price rises and others that are forced on the people merely for the sake of extra profits or, in other words, greed. As the Minister knows, a Prices Commission that was set up in America gets tough with profiteers. An article in “Labour News” stated that more than 370 firms, including some of the nation's industrial and business giants, such as Dupont, and Monsanto, have had price rises rescinded on investigation.

Last week the breweries increased beer prices. The increases applied to 8oz. and 10oz. glasses, the sizes mainly purchased by the workers. These prices were increased, despite the exorbitant profits the breweries have been making. “It's time”, all right! It is time to control inflation. Some people might say that this Government cannot control inflation in certain respects. But this Government can make the public aware of what is going on. Recently, Castlemaine Brewery made a bonus share issue of one for two. Prior to that announcement, the price of the shares was about \$7.20. They went up to about \$9 and, after the bonus issue, dropped back to \$7.20. That is what always happens.

No satisfactory explanation has been given for this price rise. I heard it suggested that it was related to excise duty. I do not think the newspapers reported anything about excise duty; probably they reported that the increase was due to a wage rise. The breweries can

make their enormous profits and put up the price of beer without any move being made by the Government to hold an investigation.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Do you suggest there should be a Plimsoll line on beer glasses?

Mr. JENSEN: It could be a good idea. The honest publican will always fill a glass to the correct level. Of course, the customer will always tell him if he does not, so it is up to him.

I know that the latest price rise was not brought about by the hotelier. He got his increase a short time ago, when the price of 5oz. glasses was increased. In Press advertisements featuring auction sales of hotels, profits of 44 and 50 per cent are shown. This is proof positive that hoteliers today would not need a rise in the price of the commodities they sell. Although these advertisements constantly show gross profits of 44 to 50 per cent, the breweries can raise their prices at will. Last August, even the price of bottled beer was increased. The practice seems to be to increase these prices in bits and pieces so that people will not make too much of a song about it.

Today's Press discloses that British Tobacco Co. (Australia) Ltd. made a profit of \$6,900,000, so I suppose we can expect an increase in the price of cigarettes and tobacco to ensure that a 14 per cent dividend will continue to be paid on the increased capital. This seems to be normal procedure with any company that is not under investigation.

Mr. Burns: If advertising was banned, the price should drop.

Mr. JENSEN: If advertising was stopped, the price would drop considerably. It might also help to curtail smoking to some extent, although I doubt it. When such advertising was stopped in America, it made no difference to cigarette sales. Of course, it made a difference to the companies' profits, as they saved on the cost of advertising.

The Minister knows as well as I do that every time this Parliament goes into recess the price of bread increases. The increase is always at least 1c, because we have no coin of a lower value than 1c. We can expect another increase this Christmas, after Parliament has gone into recess, because wheat for export is in short supply and its price is rising. This is the normal procedure, and we can expect it every year while this Government remains in office. The price of bread will not be contained until the Government takes some positive action to control it.

I have here a copy of “IPA Review” for July-September 1972, in which the subject of inflation is dealt with. It says—

“The ‘Economist’ of July 29th stated, ‘. . . the present rate of inflation is already on course to making the value of the pound less than the value of the penny during the average adult lifetime.’

"The Deputy Secretary (Economic) of the Commonwealth Treasury (Mr. John Stone), in an address delivered in the United States in 1969 when an Executive Director of the I.M.F. and World Bank, pointed out that a rate of price increase of 3 per cent a year would in an average lifetime raise prices to roughly eight times their original level."

It continues—

"These are frightening statements. They give us cause to wonder whether any sensible and stable way of life can be sustained in western societies unless inflation is stopped."

I know that this mainly concerns the whole of the Commonwealth, but it is also of some concern to this State.

Later in the same article, this appears—

"Inflation penalises the weak and favours the strong. Inflation rewards the man in possession as against those with little property. Inflation weights the scales in favour of the greedy speculator, businessman, or trade unionist in a privileged position against the mass of responsible, hard-working people with limited means. Inflation strikes fear in the hearts of older citizens. Indeed, an indispensable ingredient of a true Welfare State is a stable currency unit."

Mr. Keynes, the greatest economist of the modern era, said—

"There is no subtler, no surer means of overturning the existing basis of society than to debase the currency."

It might be said that most of this concerns Federal matters, but it concerns the State as well when certain items manufactured and marketed in this State are allowed to rise in price without any concern whatever being shown by the Government. I wanted to take my remarks on inflation a little further, but I will not have time in this debate.

I also want to ask the Minister to incorporate within the Consumer Affairs Bureau a section to investigate companies when they apply for registration. I do not know whether this is altogether in the Minister's hands, but it seems to me that any group of persons can form a company, obtain registration and then proceed to rob the people of this State.

In the past I have referred to certain companies that offer 20-year guarantees on house painting, as well as to building syndicates that offer loans for home construction. They advertise freely in the Press, and, until somebody loses money, no action is taken to stop them from doing so. The method of operation of such firms and, in addition, some door-to-door salesmen, should be highlighted in the Press to make the public aware of these "sharks". The honourable member for Murrumba referred to them earlier today.

In November 1971, in this Chamber, I called for an investigation into building syndicates. However my pleas were ignored. At the present time, now that people have

lost millions of dollars, the Government has appointed a Q.C. to inquire into the activities of certain building syndicates.

On 26 November, "Sunday Sun" published an advertisement by United Aluminium, which urged the public to have their homes coated with aluminium cladding. The advertisement shows two photographs, one of which is headed "Before", and the other "After". Whereas in the first photograph the house depicted has a galvanised-iron roof and wooden stumps, the home shown in the second photograph has a tiled roof and what appears to be a brick base. What sort of advertising is that?

The advertisement also offers a watch as a free bonus. It says—

"Nothing to buy . . . Choosing a watch places you under no obligation whatsoever! There's nothing to buy . . . simply get a free Permalum quotation . . . and the watch is yours to keep. Should you decide on Permalum for your home, you can then take your choice of more free bonus gifts up to \$600. Choose Aluminium windows, or indoor-outdoor furniture, or screen doors and awning."

By filling in the appropriate coupon, a reader can arrange for a free quotation.

Mr. Wharton: You don't believe what you read in "Sunday Sun", do you?

Mr. JENSEN: I do not believe it any more than the honourable member does. I am reading from it to reveal the type of advertising that is ignored by this Government until some members of the community are caught by it.

I should like to see the Consumer Affairs Council set up a section to investigate certain company advertising. In the advertisement to which I have referred, United Aluminium urges people to "throw away your brushes and paint pots", because "Permalum will keep your upkeep down!" At the same time, the company offers a home-owner who has his house cladded with aluminium the sum of \$100 to cover the cost of painting the trims.

I have with me a copy of a contract issued by this company. As soon as it is completed, of course, the company puts the home-owner in the hands of a hire-purchase company. In the great majority of instances, any complaint by the home-owner is ignored, or, alternatively, the firm that engages in this type of advertising goes into voluntary liquidation.

Mr. Burns: How long is the guarantee for?

Mr. JENSEN: The company that carries out the aluminium cladding offers a lifetime guarantee. Some painting firms give a 20-year guarantee.

Mr. R. E. Moore: How long is a lifetime?

Mr. JENSEN: The honourable member's lifetime in this Chamber will not be very long. The Liberal Party has told me that

he was lucky to get back this time, and that there is no chance of his being elected next time.

This company even offers to take over the debts of home-owners. In the contract that I have here it offered to take over a debt of \$900, and said that, because the house would become a display home, the total cost involved would be \$1,950. After the seven or 14 days had elapsed the bank, through its hire-purchase company, asked the owners to sign a hire-purchase agreement, not for \$1,950, but for \$3,440. When the owners said they would have nothing to do with the agreement, the hire-purchase company took action through its solicitors to try to bluff them into compliance. These practices should be stopped before they get under way. Unfortunately, anyone can form a company and get away with these activities by employing unprincipled people to pester others and talk them into signing contracts.

I know that we have legislation designed to prevent these malpractices. I also know that we cannot protect people in every way. But it is terrible when companies can mortgage people's futures for the next 20 years and impose an interest rate, not of 7½ per cent but of 17.2 per cent.

When these people complained about the exorbitant interest rate, they were told it was the normal rate. Of course, it is the normal interest rate for a hire-purchase company. The poor worker is induced to enter into an agreement without realising its full implications, yet this Government allows these practices to continue, just as the Federal Government allows inflation to get out of control. Anti-Labor Governments do not worry greatly about inflation, although Great Britain has at least imposed a 90-day freeze on prices and wages.

An article in the "Telegraph" of 27 October reads—

"In spite of the continuing rise in prices, it appears the Federal Government has shelved the prices-and-incomes policy as a means of slowing inflation."

This is a Federal matter, and the Federal Government even produced a paper on it. However, it was afraid to take any decisive action. Mr. McMahon instructed the Treasury to prepare a White Paper relating to the case history of price-fixation schemes and where they had failed, as well as their pros and cons. He had this paper prepared, apparently intending to act on it, but he failed to do anything about it. The Press article states that only Australia, Germany, Japan and Switzerland have not made use of some form of price control or restraint. That is why I ask this Government to investigate, through the Consumer Affairs Council, some form of restraint over prices paid by ordinary members of the public for their small pleasures, such as beer and cigarettes.

If we examine advertisements inserted in the Press by the major companies, we see that they are forcing the price of the ordinary

goods up every few months. Price rises are recommended so that the normal shop-keeper will make a profit of 33½ to 50 per cent. We cannot do anything about that, and the Government of the day intends to do nothing about it. It allows inflation to continue because it aids the big businessman.

As I have said, inflation helps the wealthy, the rich and the greedy but it sets back the poor and the pensioners behind taws. Those who suffer are the people on low wages and pensioners. No-one seems to care, because supposedly we are living in an affluent society. The Government does not care about them; it will let them get along somehow. That is our way of life today. The Government forgets about these people and says, "Look at this great nation of ours. See how it is going ahead and prospering." It fails to do anything about inflation, because that is how Governments and big businesses make money. But it puts the poor and the pensioners on their backsides.

Mr. CHINCHEN (Mt. Gravatt) (2.34 p.m.): It has not been my habit—and I am sure it will not become my habit—to start a speech by congratulating a Minister. I do not think I have done so before, but on this occasion I must say how much I appreciate the great volume of work done by the Minister for Justice since he took over his present portfolio. The Business Paper lists some 26 or 27 Bills, 16 of which have been, or will be, introduced by the Minister for Justice. He moved into this field and decided that there was much to be done, and he is proceeding to do it. His senior officers and staff, in turn, have obviously done a great deal of work in preparing this legislative programme, and they are all to be congratulated.

I should like to spend some time referring to various statements by Opposition members, but I have some particular points to make. The honourable member for Rockhampton, in leading the Opposition debate on these Estimates, said that an Act had been introduced to stop profiteering. How wrong he is. The Government does not believe that "profit" is a dirty word. We believe that better wages and conditions flow from profit. Opposition members, in speaking about price control, really mean profit control. There is nothing wrong with profit if it is made in a true, open and competitive system. Any organisation that can do this is to be congratulated. It is these organisations which have the greatest efficiency and therefore can sell at the cheapest prices. They are demonstrating, by their ability to make a profit, that they are viable concerns.

Inflation is a big worry, but Opposition members know as well as I do that inflation has resulted from enormous wage increases demanded by unions over the past 18 months or two years. They must be reflected in price increases and, unless production is proportionate to the amount expended on wages, inflation results. Unions apply for

increased wages, but the workers do not raise production, and then they wonder why there is inflation. In their hearts they know the cause. That Queensland's economy has managed as well as it has, with a wage increase of approximately 10 per cent a year against a price increase of 5.7 per cent, demonstrates that industry has played its part well.

The Consumer Affairs Council and the Consumer Affairs Bureau are doing an excellent job. Their very creation has had a salutary effect on traders who may consider indulging in practices that would not be commended by us. The work of those bodies is extremely important to the average person.

I never fail to be amazed at the gullibility of people. This is the heart of the whole problem. Perhaps it can be overcome by education rather than legislation. When this legislation was introduced, I strongly advocated consumer education at all levels of learning. The various practices which perhaps cannot be prevented by legislation—otherwise we would also stop the legitimate trader—could be appreciated by the people if they had sufficient education in this field. The only place this can be given is in our schools. Parents can help considerably in this direction, but quite often they are not sufficiently educated in modern practices to identify the problem.

The Minister for Justice and the Minister for Education should get together to implement a programme along these lines. I appreciate that an education officer is being appointed. This will help. I imagine that this education will be in the form of pamphlets, Press articles, possibly adult education, and lectures to groups. These are important, but I feel that children should have a knowledge of the modern methods of trading and of our advertising system so that they appreciate the free system in which we live and at the same time recognise its pitfalls. In a system where people make their own decisions, they must carry their own responsibility. Therefore they must have the ability to identify good from bad. This is a question of education.

The honourable member for Rockhampton cast a handful of gravel, but there was one small piece of gold. He did not dwell on it, but I wish to do so for a few minutes. I refer to a small claims court. We all appreciate that today the Consumer Affairs Bureau has certain abilities and disabilities. One of its abilities is that it can contact traders who are involved in misunderstandings, and in 95 per cent of cases it is able to make arrangements that dispose of the problem. The bureau does an excellent job in this way, and no doubt all members have constituents who have told them of good work done by the bureau.

The bureau also publishes annual reports which are tabled in this Chamber, and from them the public is made aware of organisations that are not playing the game. It is interesting to note that of the eight firms named in last year's report, none is now doing business in Queensland. Although that indicates the effectiveness of the naming of firms, I do not think the bureau should have to wait 12 months to make that information public. Quarterly reports on such matters would strengthen the bureau's hand considerably. Most traders are honest, and wish to gain, and maintain, goodwill. If problems are brought to their notice by a high authority such as the Consumer Affairs Bureau, adjustments are made and normally matters can be settled. But there is always the odd case of the company that is not worried about goodwill and decides to do nothing about a complaint. It may be in the wrong, but its attitude is, "Why should we worry?" What happens in such cases?

Various countries have tackled this problem by the introduction of small claims courts. I have considered this matter thoroughly, and have looked into the position in areas in which I know that such courts are operating. Some are successful, and some are not so successful. From all the material that is now available on this matter, I feel that we in this State would have a sound basis on which to establish a court that would work effectively in the interests of persons who have small debt problems. What is needed, of course, is a type of court that could provide quick justice at a cheap cost, and it must be a court that is bereft of legalistic peculiarities and the difficulties encountered in some courts. It appears that there is a way of providing such a court. There is no point in starting at the grass roots in this State when there is evidence available from the rest of the world of what works and what does not work, and what would suit us and what would not suit us. I should like to mention what is happening in other parts of the world. I have not much time left in which to speak, so I shall have to hurry.

I mention first the Manchester Arbitration Scheme for Small Claims. This is a scheme that I should like to bring to the attention of the Committee, and, once I have done that, I should like the Committee to forget it. I do not think it would suit our purpose. I have in my hand a pamphlet, which obviously is distributed far and wide in the Manchester area, in which information is given about this small claims arbitration. It states—

"The Manchester Arbitration Scheme offers a cheap, speedy, informal method of settling disputes if the sum claimed is not more than £150. The Scheme also caters for disputes where the person claiming is a private person, not a business firm. The Scheme is impartial and independent. It is sponsored by the organisations listed on the back of this leaflet."

It then says—

"Who are the arbitrators? The Arbitrator for each case is appointed by the President of the Manchester Law Society. He will usually be a lawyer.

"Is the arbitrator's decision binding? Yes, the Courts will enforce it.

"How can I use the Manchester Arbitration Scheme?"

So it goes on. It asks—

"How much does it cost?"

"Each side pays in advance—£2.50.

"Or if the claim is between £76 and £150—£5.

"If expert help is necessary a further fee may be payable—up to £6.50."

Under the heading, "How does the scheme work?", it states how to go about placing a claim under the scheme.

Arbitration is not compulsory, so what would in fact happen? A trader who did not wish to help a person with whom he did business would not make use of the arbitration scheme. He would say, "Go to court." We know full well that for the amounts of which I am speaking—something under \$400—it does not pay to go to court. Furthermore, very few solicitors are interested in handling business of that type. So, although this scheme is better than nothing, I do not think it is suitable for the needs of this State.

Take the next one, which relates to New York City, titled "How to sue in Small Claims Court in New York City and how to collect a judgment." Again there is a small pamphlet setting out in clear language what the scheme is all about. It contains information such as "What is small claims court? Who may use a small claims court? Whom may you sue? Where to sue." It sets out in very clear language what it is all about. Under the New York scheme, the maximum amount is \$500, and it costs \$2 plus a servicing fee of \$1.80—\$3.80—and is available to people 21 years of age and over. In the case of New York, a judge may sit on the court, or it may be an arbitrator—usually it is an arbitrator. These are people—quite often they are lawyers—who give of their time in the service of the community.

Now let me turn to the Rhode Island system. A similar brochure tells us about that system. The maximum there is \$300, and it costs \$1.50 to sue.

There is a story about all these schemes that I would like to give the Committee. There is good and bad to be said for the various courts used. Another document that I have before me deals with California. Again it says, "What is a small claims court? Who may sue in a small claims court? Where do you file your suit?", and so on. All these courts are working.

The most interesting reference that I have found is in a publication issued by the Consumer Council in Great Britain, entitled "Justice Out of Reach—A Case for Small

Claims Courts". The council looked at what was happening in Great Britain. There were a few of the arbitrator systems—one at Manchester, another at Bristol, and so on—all with operating limits, means, costs, and so on. Having looked thoroughly at what was happening in Great Britain, those carrying out the investigation then took the trouble to study what was happening in the United States of America. They have made recommendations which indicate, I think, that their problem is very similar to ours. They not only looked at the various courts and how they operate, but also spoke to people who had to approach the courts and to other consumer affairs bureaus, and they made a very close study of lawyers and their approach to consumer problems.

It is to be noted that most lawyers in Great Britain are not interested in business of this type. They will not go before the normal courts. They do not say whether or not a person has a good case; they say, "It is just not worth while." Although solicitors may be against a small claims court such as I am suggesting, I do not think they would have any grouch if it was introduced, because the evidence available in Great Britain shows—I am sure that the position in Australia would be similar—that they are just not interested in work of this type. If there is a reaction in that direction, I think it can be answered quite clearly by quoting the results of the survey carried out in Great Britain, where a random sample of 604 solicitors was taken. It is very interesting to note what those solicitors had to say about the suggestion. The report said—

"Our solicitors almost to a man told us that they invariably advised clients against taking a disputed case to court. The main reason, of course, was economic: they said that the costs awarded to the successful party in a county court action were not sufficient to meet legal fees . . ."

Later it said—

"As one solicitor put it, 'All too often it's not "have you got a good case?" but "is it worth pressing?"'."

Of course, it is not worth pressing through a normal court in Queensland, either. But what could be developed here is a small claims court based on the recommendations made by those who studied the situation in Great Britain and the United States of America. If the claim was limited to, say, \$400 or, perhaps, \$500, I do not think that lawyers should be allowed to appear. In some instances lawyers are allowed to appear in small claims courts overseas; in others they are not. The investigations carried out by the Consumer Council in Great Britain indicated that it is in the interests of this type of court, in general, not to have lawyers appearing. That allows the ordinary little man with his problem to state his case, give his evidence and its documentation, with the people on the other side doing the same, and then have a decision made.

It is interesting to note that in some of these courts, in America in particular, the sittings are held at night. That means that nobody has to leave work and lose money in order to attend. In Quebec, for instance, where there is a small claims court, hearings are held in the evening and, in addition, the court can go to a person's premises to identify a particular problem. That is the sort of thing we need here. We need a type of informal court where both parties can state their case before a decision is arrived at.

From studying what takes place in other areas, I find that normally it is not necessary for the arbitrator or the judge to come down with a decision, because usually an equitable arrangement is arrived at by both parties. That is what normally happens when people get together. We have had experience of that here in various tribunals that operate very well. The parties come to some sort of settlement. That is what normally happens, but, if necessary, a decision is given.

An appeal is not allowable from many of the courts I have been referring to. From others there is a right of appeal, but it is very seldom availed of because the sum involved does not warrant the taking of appeal proceedings. When an appeal is allowable, the organisation or the trader with big money at his command can influence the situation. If he loses his case, he can afford to take the other party on appeal to a higher court. This is too expensive for the ordinary consumer. Therefore I suggest that appeals should not be allowed and that the judgment must be accepted by both parties.

This is a matter of extreme importance. It appears to me from what was said by the honourable member for Rockhampton that the Opposition is in total agreement with the establishment of such a court in this State. I am sure that all Government members would welcome it. It would fill a gap. The Consumer Affairs Bureau cannot take action and it cannot always get agreement, with the result that the consumer is left wanting. The establishment of such a court would fill the present gap. The Consumer Affairs Bureau, which is doing such an excellent job, would then have the whole area covered.

It is no good the bureau saying, "What we need is teeth". The bureau is not a court; it endeavours to come to a compromise or an arrangement between two bodies. There are other areas where action needs to be taken through the courts. I think that the system is working very well but what is necessary is the closing of the gap so that the trader who is not playing his part can be brought before some body—the small claims court would be the ideal body—without expense to the small person, without lawyers being present, and at a time that would suit him.

Many lawyers would not agree with that proposal, of course. All we want is to get at the truth. That is how it was in our courts until the barristers and solicitors so

tied up the courts with legalistic jargon that the average person now finds that he cannot cope without the assistance of a lawyer. We do not want to get to that stage in the type of court I am suggesting. We want a court where both parties can state their case and then come to an agreement or, if that is impossible, have a decision given.

I ask the Minister to give some thought to this matter, and hope that he will introduce legislation to provide for such a court. The evidence available to us of what is happening in other countries clearly shows how we should go about it. There has been sufficient action in those courts to show that they can work. Indeed, they are doing a very effective job in other areas.

Mr. HANSON (Port Curtis) (2.55 p.m.): The portfolio of Minister for Justice and Attorney-General is a very important one in the administration of this State. It dates back right to the commencement of responsible government in this State. We have always had the office of Attorney-General.

The previous speaker the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt, paid a compliment to the present incumbent of this office and congratulated him for working, in the short time he has been in the office, with considerable diligence. I want to say quite frankly that, for the sake of the future of this State, I hope he proves to be a little bit better than the last incumbent of the office, who now operates in the St. James Court, in the City of London.

In the history of this portfolio, I do not suppose anyone has proved more hopeless than the last incumbent of the office. In support of that comment I could refer to many facets of the Justice Department portfolio, but I need only refer to the industry in which I was engaged for a number of years, the liquor industry, which he certainly left in an unholy mess. Leaders of the industry will agree that the legislation brought down by the previous Minister over the years was in a mess comparable to a public bar before the cleaners arrive in the morning.

Mr. Hinze: You ought to be ashamed to make comments like that of a former colleague in this Chamber, especially in his absence.

Mr. HANSON: In mentioning this matter, I do not wish to go behind anyone's back and cast aspersions on him as the honourable member for South Coast does when he gets around the corridors of Parliament House in a very secretive fashion, trying to "tip the tin" on some very good people. I sincerely hope that Dr. Delamothe reads my remarks, and that it will prick his conscience to hear that he has left the Justice Department, with the various Acts and regulations he has brought in, extremely short of staff. In some ways the department is in a chaotic state.

I should also like to advise the present incumbent of this office not to treat the Justice portfolio as he treated the Ministry

of Transport and try to mete out the type of justice he did to landholders on the Gladstone-Moura railway line and to the railway workers in this State, when he vented his spleen on the Railway Appeal Board and, by a ruse in co-operation with the Treasurer, removed an upright and honest chairman who had always acted with integrity in trying to grant justice to the railway workers of this State and replaced him with a stooge who was "in the bag" for the Government. In addition, the Minister obviously dispensed with the roster system, with the result that this man was left on the board for a considerable time, rejecting appeal after appeal by railwaymen. I therefore advise the present incumbent of this office to mend his ways a little and see that some form of justice is meted out, and that he administers this portfolio in a fashion that is acceptable to the public of this State.

A few moments ago I touched on the fact that the last incumbent of this office had left certain sections of the Justice Department in a chaotic condition. I make no apology for saying that. It was said on the floor of this Chamber before he left here. For confirmation, one need only refer to the office of the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, who is at present in the lobby. He is a very fine and able public servant, and merits the admiration of every member of this Chamber—or at least he should. However, what do we find? Anyone who goes to that office to sight a document might have to wait for hours.

The gentleman to whom I refer has not enough staff. He must be driven insane by overwork. It is ridiculous to think that this man, who is charged with the responsibility of registering companies with capital totalling many millions of dollars, has only a skeleton staff in his office. The same thing happens at the Supreme Court Registry. Anyone who goes there, as many barristers and solicitors have to, may have to wait hours to get a Supreme Court or a Full Court order.

Since this Government came to office, and more particularly in recent years many glaring instances have occurred in which representatives of legal firms have had to take out supplementary orders, thereby involving their clients in extra costs of between \$100 and \$150. Of course, Government members are not concerned about this. The honourable member for South Coast, with his corpulence and opulence, does not have to worry about this. He is an affluent man who, in a recent land deal, sacrificed the cows to gain a big cash-in. He would say, "To hell with the working people; to hell with the litigants!" They are his last concern; he does not care two hoots about them. Only a few weeks ago, during a presentation of the new State Governor, the honourable member, quite unknown to the dairymen, prostituted his office as a councillor of the Queensland Dairymen's Organisation by handing the Governor some "bodgie" document welcoming him to the State.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member will please come back to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. HANSON: The supplementary orders that I have just referred to have involved litigants in considerable additional expense, and I hope there is some mending of the ways of the Supreme Court Registry.

I turn now to jury fees. It is absolutely ridiculous to pay a jurymen only \$8 a day. The jury system is one that should be closely guarded and highly respected by all. In many instances, tradesmen who are paid well in excess of \$8 a day are called up for jury service, and, if empanelled, lose a day's pay and, as well, suffer great inconvenience. They are quite likely to find themselves out of pocket as a result of jury service. I urge the Government to adopt a realistic approach to the payment of jury fees, and to ensure that jurors are not financially embarrassed by the utterly inadequate emolument they now receive.

Another matter of grave concern is the inability of many first offenders to obtain week-end bail. Either an inspector of police or, in country areas, a panel of justices of the peace should be empowered, in certain circumstances, to grant week-end bail to first offenders. Under section 16 of the State Transport Act, any person who is charged with being under the influence of liquor whilst in charge of a vehicle can be granted bail, so it is iniquitous that a youth who may have committed his first offence is unable to obtain bail and is thereby confined to a watch-house or a prison over the week-end.

A few years ago our so-called compassionate Commissioner of Police endeavoured to grind a young lad whom I know into the ground, just as he wants to grind into the ground first offenders who steal lollies from shops. One of these days I will have the pleasure of taking the young fellow concerned before the Commissioner of Police to show him what a fine young man this lad turned out to be. Certainly no thanks are due to the present Commissioner of Police for this.

Some years ago, in speaking to the Estimates of the Justice Department I stressed the need to improve certain aspects of the administration of the Titles Office. At this stage I wish to acknowledge the wonderful ability and courtesy of Mr. Arthur Byrne, who is the Deputy Registrar of Titles in Rockhampton and whom I have frequently consulted on behalf of my constituents. He is a very considerate man who gets information for me very expeditiously. I acknowledge the wonderful service I have received from him.

As I said in referring to these Estimates on a previous occasion, the computer was removed from the Rockhampton office some years ago. At one time the Deputy Leader of the Opposition held a responsible position

in that office, and many title deeds throughout the central district bear the name "P. J. R. Tucker". He was an able officer. The removal of the computer from that office was a retrograde step. There has been a great deal of subdivision in the central district, and the computer enabled the office to give a very efficient service. No steps have yet been taken to replace it, and I leave that thought with the Minister.

I shall now deal with matters related to the securities industry, which should interest Government members, particularly those who are relatively affluent. In recent years, noticeable advances have been made by way of legislation to ensure public protection in the securities industry. I believe we should proceed with reasonable expedition to ensure that all reasonable protection is given. Section 184 of the uniform companies legislation embodies certain safeguards against take-overs. However, in spite of attempts to provide these safeguards, regrettably, there have been some undesirable take-overs.

The national interest must be preserved at all times. It is of paramount importance to ensure that all shareholders are given equal opportunities and advice. It may be necessary, for the good of the company concerned and its shareholders—probably it would also be commercially healthy—to insist that normal take-over procedures be carried out relative to the whole of a company's capital. No-one would argue with that as long as it was reasonable and just. Unfortunately, doubts have arisen in the public mind, widespread discontent has been expressed in the news media, personal losses have been endured by many people, and in recent times a very bad image has been created abroad, particularly during the mineral boom of 1969-70. We must insist that our legislation contains more provisions to protect investors by ensuring that they are supplied with all necessary information concerning securities offered to the public. We must broaden the legislation to prevent misrepresentation.

The United States situation is often referred to by Government members. It is therefore reasonable to examine, by way of comparison, what happens in the registration of companies that issue securities. There is quite a difference between American and Australian requirements. Much more detailed financial information is required in registration documents in the United States than is required in the usual Australian company prospectus. Particularly intricate details of capitalisation and company earnings, sales and subsidiary sales, with a commentary upon accounting methods, are required in the United States. This does not happen in Australia.

Another United States requirement is a summary of the actual business operations of the company, giving sector sales in multi-industry corporations and providing information of properties owned by the company and its subsidiaries. Incidentally, registration documents in the United States require very detailed information about senior

executives, including their background, schemes, shareholdings and options. This would exclude a number of our good friends here. They certainly would not be eligible for appointment to a board of directors.

The United States documents must include auditors' reports that are far more explicit about matters such as intending litigation and associate company results than are required here. Furthermore, insiders are prohibited from making short sales of their company's equity securities. This has created a very bad odour within such operations here and within the company legislation as we see it in this country. It has resulted in much controversy in the Press and has caused a considerable amount of concern for those people who would like to see our securities industry operate on a really just and fair basis. Another provision of the United States law on securities places certain strict requirements on all solicitations of proxies, whether they be proxies for votes for the board of directors or for the approval of corporate action.

The Americans are very strict about proxies. They are not like the people involved in Liberal Party and Country Party plebiscites, in which every single cow and gum tree votes for the person who is the "pea" in the party headquarters, as has frequently happened with Government members. It is absolutely shocking. Half of them would not be here had they not got themselves on the inside and in the hip pocket of Colonel Hatton and some of the people at Country Party headquarters. It is a rotten state of affairs. At the recent election the Country Party won only 19 per cent of the votes, yet it controls the Government of this State. The position stinks to high heaven!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): And it has nothing to do with the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. HANSON: With due respect, Mr. Hewitt, to a person who is usually very placid, the people on my left are particularly "teasy" on this occasion. It must be time!

In the United States any solicitations of proxies, whether by management or minority group, must disclose all material facts concerning matters on which the proxy-holders are asked to vote. They must be clearly and concisely given the opportunity of knowing whether they are to vote "Yes" or "No" on each matter. It is not like some dummy receipt that comes from a person who is supposed to have Country Party membership. In the Callide electorate, people were brought up from the grave to support the one who was the "pea". As a matter of fact, he had to come out of the ground to win the plebiscite.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. HANSON: Never fear, Marty's here.

Reverting to the United States, where a contest for control of a corporation is involved, the rules require that the names of all participants must be in the proxy contest. This is very necessary. I hope that the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, who is in the lobby, takes notice of this and advises the Minister along these lines. It will be very necessary if we are to preserve our wonderful image and ensure that Queensland has more soundly based uniform company legislation.

(Time expired.)

Mr. HINZE (South Coast) (3.15 p.m.): The honourable member for Port Curtis says, "Never fear, Marty's here!" In fact, "Marty fears," because he did not think that he would be here himself. Poor old Casey copped it, and a few—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to return to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. HINZE: Unlike the last speaker, I would not wait till a person was 13,000 miles away before criticising him. I refer, of course, to the previous Minister for Justice, Dr. Peter Delamothe, now the Agent-General in London, who did such magnificent work as a Minister. I was surprised that a responsible A.L.P. member should stoop so low as to wait till Dr. Delamothe was 13,000 miles away before criticising him. On many occasions he did his best to assist the honourable member for Port Curtis, and that is the gratitude that he receives for it.

I congratulate the Minister for Justice on his appointment to this most important portfolio. In the few months in which he has been in office he has shown that he will do an excellent job. He had many years of training as a member in this Parliament, and he now has a most important office.

Unlike honourable members opposite, I like to give commendation to the Minister's officers. I know that Queensland is fortunate to have such excellent officers in the various departments. I mention specifically the Under Secretary (Mr. Skinner), and commend him on the work that he has done for so many years in the Justice Department. I mention also the Solicitor-General (Mr. Parslow), who is also doing an excellent job following Mr. Ryan, who was respected by all in Queensland. I also refer to the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs (Mr. Bernie Kehoe), who is a very good personal friend of mine. From time to time I make representations on behalf of constituents to these gentlemen, and they invariably do their best to assist.

I was rather astounded to find in this morning's Press the Federal Opposition Leader being so contemptuous of the people as to name his Cabinet. Never before have we seen a person who thinks he will be Prime Minister naming his Cabinet well before the election. If that is not contempt of the

people, I do not know what it is. To use a racecourse term, Mr. Whitlam obviously thinks that he is "home and hosed". What a big surprise he will get on Sunday morning!

Mr. Wright interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Also to put it in racecourse terms, I bet that the honourable member for Rockhampton will not be here very much longer if he continues to interject.

Mr. Wright: That was the first time.

Mr. HINZE: It must certainly be the greatest effrontery ever when the Leader of the Opposition names his Cabinet before going to the people. He is more or less saying to the electors—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the honourable member please return to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. HINZE: I am speaking about electoral matters, which come under the control of the Minister. This champion of the TV screen, giving toothy smiles when he gets the cue, presents himself to the public and gives the policy of the A.L.P. Again he treats them with contempt.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to come back to the Estimates under consideration.

Mr. HINZE: I shall refer now to preferential voting, which also comes under the control of the Minister for Justice, and ask the honourable gentleman a question relative to it. I do not know the answer. I should like the Minister to tell me in his reply which was the first Government in Australia—State or Federal—to introduce preferential voting.

Mr. Wright: The National Party.

Mr. HINZE: I do not know. I have the impression that it could be the Labor Party. I have heard a cock-and-bull story that after 1975 first-past-the-post voting may be used again. I say here and now that no Government in office is going to kick itself out of office. If by some strange circumstances—some miracle, as the honourable member for Callide said—Whitlam finds himself in power, I would not be a bit surprised if he watches the position very closely and decides to retain preferential voting if he thinks he will derive some benefit from the support of the Australia Party. Frankly, I have not much time for it. He is suggesting at this stage, of course, that he will abolish preferential voting, because he is trying to get rid of the D.L.P.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Would the abolition of preferential voting remove the Liberal threat to you on the Gold Coast?

Mr. HINZE: I have no threat to me on the Gold Coast. After you have been here a bit longer, young fellow—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. HINZE: Mr. Lickiss, this young fellow comes into the Chamber—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member knows how to refer to another honourable member.

Mr. HINZE: I cannot think of the name of his electorate.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Archerfield.

Mr. HINZE: The honourable member for Archerfield.

Mr. Jensen: A marginal seat!

Mr. HINZE: Yes, a marginal seat.

I wish to refer also to some other electoral reforms that I think are needed. I suggest to the Minister that he consider seriously bringing down legislation to provide for four-yearly elections for the Parliament of Queensland. In my opinion, the people of Australia are sick and tired of elections, and I think that they want electoral procedure simplified. They do not wish to go through all the paraphernalia of complying with varying procedures in order to record their vote. They do not wish to have to vote every year—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I had occasion to draw the attention of another honourable member to this, and I shall read it again for the benefit of the honourable member for South Coast—"For the information of honourable members, I would point out that the administrative Acts of a department are open to debate, but the necessity for legislation and matters involving legislation cannot be discussed in Committee of Supply." I think that the honourable member was referring to a proposed amendment to an Act.

Mr. HINZE: I will bow to your ruling, Mr. Lickiss, but these are the Estimates presented by the Minister for Justice and the Electoral Office comes within his portfolio and under his jurisdiction. I suggest that honourable members should be able to discuss electoral reforms. I am not suggesting the introduction of electoral legislation. I am speaking as an elected representative in this Chamber about matters coming under the jurisdiction of the Minister that I think will be for the benefit of the people of Queensland.

Mr. Tucker: You are making a speech on the introduction of a Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HINZE: I am suggesting that elections should be held every four years, instead of every three years. There are five-yearly elections in the United Kingdom, four-yearly elections in the United States of America, and three-yearly elections in Australia and in Queensland, irrespective of whether they are State, Federal, or local government elections. The people are fed up to the back teeth with elections, and I think that the Government of Queensland should take the lead and show

the people that it is trying to give them what they are entitled to. Local authority elections should be held every four years, as should elections for this Assembly. I am sure that the Federal Government would soon follow Queensland's lead.

In my opinion, there should also be only one electoral roll. In my electorate of South Coast, where there is a transient population, thousands of people do not vote. With a roll of 16,000 or 17,000, which is one of the largest, about 13,000 or 14,000 vote. This means that about 3,000 people should not be on the roll because they have left the electorate, or for some other reason. I suggest that the implementation of one roll would simplify the procedure. People want to know whether they are on the roll. Very often they find they are on the Federal roll but not on the State roll. In the electorate of the honourable member for Surfers Paradise 400 persons claimed a vote under section 35A because they believed they were on the roll. Of that number of such votes cast, I think about 70 were allowed. They were on the Federal roll, but not on the State roll.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

Mr. HINZE: The figures of the honourable member for Townsville West emphasise the point I am making. People believe they are on the roll because they have done all the things required of them. When they claim their vote, they find that they are on the Commonwealth roll but not the State roll.

Mr. Burns: Are you proposing one enrolment card?

Mr. HINZE: Has the honourable member just come into the Chamber? Of course I am proposing one enrolment card for the State, the Federal and the local authority.

For the life of me I cannot see why Mike Ahern, because his name starts with "A"—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! "The honourable member for Landsborough", please.

Mr. HINZE: For the life of me I cannot see why the honourable member for Landsborough, my old friend Mike Ahern, should have his name at the top of the ballot paper just because his name starts with "A", in preference to a person whose name starts with "H", as mine does. Positions on the ballot paper should be ballotted for. There is no reason in the world why anybody should get advantage over another candidate. I do not know why we do not introduce that system.

Mr. Tucker: Do you find yourself in agreement with Gough Whitlam on that?

Mr. HINZE: It is not a case of my being in agreement with Gough Whitlam; it is one of Whitlam being in agreement with me, because I have been suggesting that for many years. Positions on the ballot paper should be ballotted for.

Being a Country Party man, I should like to see "C.P." against my name. I want everybody to know the party on whose behalf I am standing.

An Opposition Member: It might be the Communist Party.

Mr. HINZE: I never mention the words "Communist Party" or "Red Party" or any of those other parties. I am a member of the Country Party and I should like to see "C.P." against my name. I am sure that other candidates would like to see "A.L.P.", "Lib." or something else against their names. One of my reasons for mentioning this is the number of overseas migrants who are now compelled to vote. They do not know the parties of the various candidates, and the last thing they want to do is vote for a communist. The way ballot papers are printed now, there could be a communist candidate on the ballot paper and no-one would know. One migrant said to me, "Russell, I don't want to find myself voting for a 'Commo'. Why don't you put the initials of the party against the candidate?"

Local authorities charge varying fees for permits to erect election signs and set different sizes for those signs. The Act should govern the size of signs and the fees. In my electorate I have to pay a permit fee of \$100 to one local authority and \$50 to another. I can erect a 6 x 4 sign in the Gold Coast area but only a 2 x 1 sign in the Albert shire. I do not care what size the signs are. Indeed, I would rather not put up signs. I do not want to deface the countryside with pictures of my ugly face, but when the opposition puts up signs I have to do the same thing.

Mr. Jensen: Are you proposing new legislation on this?

Mr. HINZE: I am proposing a number of amendments to the Elections Act.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt: Do away with signs altogether.

Mr. HINZE: There is a very sensible statement from the Minister.

The honourable member for Stafford has worked with a local authority all his life and everybody knows that he is a capable administrator. There is no need for him to affix a photograph of his face to trees. He would be elected in any case because people know that for years he has worked hard for the area in which he lives.

The Police Department is responsible for the checking of electoral rolls. Have not officers plenty to do without that task? They have not time between elections to scratch themselves before being told again to get around and check the rolls. I suggest to the Minister that there are women in responsible age groups who are quite capable of undertaking this work of checking the

rolls. It would give them employment and take this extra work from the shoulders of our already overworked Police Force.

Mr. Tucker: That was done before the last election.

Mr. HINZE: I know it was, but not on a large enough scale, and too many police officers still have to do this work. In the last State election, because of preferential voting and the delay in getting returns from all over the State, it took two to three weeks to get a final result in the Surfers Paradise area. When an election is held on a Saturday, surely we should be able to get a result within three or four days instead of having to sweat it out for weeks before knowing whether we have been elected. That happened to my colleague the honourable member for Surfers Paradise and it previously happened to my late colleague Cec Carey. Surely in the year 1972 we should be able to think of some way of obtaining a result within three or four days of election day. The procedure of waiting for ballot boxes to come from Thursday Island and other remote areas of the State, and for the return of absent and section 35A votes and so on, is surely outmoded. In fact, it must have whiskers. Surely a telegram could be sent from these areas saying that certain numbers of votes had been polled for the various candidates, with the figures being confirmed at a later date. I think it is about time we gave consideration to the few short amendments of the Electoral Act to which I have referred.

I now want to put in my spoke for a District Court on the Gold Coast. There are 100,000 people on the Gold Coast—70,000 permanents and 30,000 transients—and we have no District Court. People facing charges have to wait up to 18 months before being called to Brisbane to appear before the District Court. This is not good enough. District Courts have been established in Townsville, Toowoomba and Rockhampton, and as somebody informed me this morning, Roma. I do not know whether or not this is true but, if it is, surely we on the Gold Coast are entitled to one. Admittedly, accommodation is short, but surely some of the many departments now located in the court-house could be transferred to other offices in the area. The Housing Commission, the Department of Primary Industries and other departments are now occupying sections of the court-house at Southport. I appeal to the Minister, through you, Mr. Lickiss, to give us a District Court on the Gold Coast. We believe we are entitled to it and, if we cannot have a judge permanently stationed there, as we would like, station a judge there for one week out of four.

Mr. Bromley: Have you a personal interest in this?

Mr. HINZE: Why would the honourable member for South Brisbane say that I have a personal interest in the District Court? He would have to be stupid to say that.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HINZE: It is a silly interjection, and he should not repeat it.

Throughout the last week I have been asking the Minister questions about the Gold Coast Youth Club. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise and I have been closely associated with its committee. I do not know whether the honourable member for Albert has yet been invited to participate. However, the committee is doing a magnificent job on behalf of the youth in the area. The sergeant of police at Surfers Paradise, Sergeant Monaghan, asked me one day, "How are we going to get these kids off the streets?" After a period of some two or three years, we got the Police Department to accept the fact that a police officer—I think his name is White—should be placed in charge of this police welfare group. Eight hundred young people are now in his charge and they are doing a magnificent job. The club ran a lottery to raise funds, but the current situation is that it is required to find \$990 to meet the permit fee of the Justice Department for the art union.

(Time expired.)

Mr. HARVEY (Stafford) (3.35 p.m.): In speaking to this debate, I refer to page 43 of the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means and Expenditure, at which I notice that a change has been made in the presentation of the Estimates of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. This year, in the allocation of funds, the Chief Office and Solicitor-General's Office have been separated.

I also note from the Estimates that the increase in both staff and revenue is in keeping with the current trend, and is in line with the general annual upward movement of costs and population, as well as the greater demands made on the Government and its officers. I also note the increase in the number of judges and Magistrates Courts staff.

At this stage I tender an apology to the Minister for my intended absence this evening when he will be replying to those honourable members who have participated in this debate. I wish to ask him certain questions and I look forward to reading his answers thereto. I also congratulate him on his appointment to his present portfolio. Although his politics and mine differed when he was Minister for Transport and I was his counterpart in the Brisbane City Council, he and I shared the same views on many aspects of public transport.

The first question that I put to the Minister, through you, Mr. Lickiss, concerns the Court Reporting Bureau. In previous Estimates it was provided for under the Premier's Department as the State Reporting Bureau. Whereas in 1961-62 the bureau had a staff of 47, in 1971-72 its staff numbered 65. In that year a total of \$678,664 was expended on the bureau. It appears from the Estimates that the staff who

have been transferred to the Justice Department number 59 and that the sum required for 1972-73 is \$630,382. It is possible either that the number on the staff has been reduced by six or that six employees are being employed in another avenue. I ask the Minister: where have these six staff members gone? I also point out that the reduction of \$48,282 in the sum required does not sufficiently account for the decrease of six in the number of employees if the normal cost factor is taken into consideration. I pose that question to the Minister.

I also draw attention to the fact that, whereas in 1961-62 there were 13 Supreme Court judges, the number had increased by one in 1971-72 and recently a further judge was appointed to bring the total to 15. We all know that the backlog of cases causes embarrassment, inconvenience and injustice among the community at large.

I also note that 10 years ago there were six District Court judges and provision is made this year for 13. Whereas in 1968-69 there were 40 stipendiary magistrates, this year provision is made for 41. I have no doubt that the Minister and his officers consider that there is a need to appoint even more magistrates. I know that we must cut our coat according to the cloth; that sometimes we would like additional staff but unfortunately cannot get them. Nevertheless, under these Estimates we are dealing with the implementation of our laws, and justice is closely associated with these different sections of the Justice Department. We must therefore ensure that machinery is provided to meet requirements at all times without undue delay.

In 1968-69 there were 83 stipendiary magistrates and coroners, and clerks of the court. On the figures for this year, it seems that there will be no movement in that number. In 1968-69, whereas 543 people were employed in Magistrates Courts offices, that number has now increased to 591. For the Sheriff's Office and Supreme Court and District Courts, in 1968-69 the staff totalled 115, and this year staff has increased to 134. That is probably a reasonable increase, but it may appear much better than it really is. Parliament passes legislation to ensure justice, law and order in the community, and we must have power to back it up. It is useless to have a Police Force to bring people before our courts if we do not have the necessary machinery to cope with the cases promptly and effectively.

I note that this year the total staff in the Electoral Office is 31, compared with 29 in 1968-69. I believe that this office has now moved into the computer-enrolment field. This must save a great deal of labour and cost but, like the previous speaker, I believe that the use of one enrolment card for the three levels of government would effect a great saving. I sometimes wonder whether we continue the present system of enrolment duplication because it provides a better assessment of population movement in the

community. If the State and Federal Electoral Offices co-operate, the movement of people from one electorate to another can quite often be found when notification has not been given to one or other office. That could certainly be of some advantage.

I direct the Minister's attention to the selection of electoral personnel, particularly returning officers, poll clerks and so on. For obvious reasons, I am not complaining about something that happened at the Kitchener Road booth in the new electorate of Stafford, which I contested, when a poll clerk ticked every ballot-paper that he issued. Because this mark appeared on the 370 ballot-papers he issued, the returning officer declared them informal. No doubt if the voting had been close I would have challenged his decision. As things turned out, that was not necessary, but there could have been a very embarrassing situation. I do not think that, in ticking each of the 370 ballot-papers, the poll clerk broke the secrecy required under the provisions of the Act, because every ballot-paper issued by him was so marked and therefore should have been counted. However, I believe that this matter should be considered.

It is rather interesting to note, according to the reply to the comment of the honourable member for South Brisbane the other day in regard to Licensing Commission receipts, that in 1971-72, revenue from permits, raffles, etc., amounted to \$199,895. Acknowledging that a certain amount of work is involved in issuing these permits and supervising the raffles, a considerable amount of money is being paid by worthy organisations such as sporting bodies and charitable organisations which should be encouraged and assisted at all costs. Therefore, such charges should be kept down to the barest minimum so as to encourage these avenues of community activity and interest. These bodies comprise parents and citizens' associations and various sporting bodies that help to keep our youth off the streets and in a healthy environment, and we should not impose unnecessary charges on them. I have no doubt that the Minister will claim that the Brisbane City Council charges fees for making parkland available to sporting bodies, but I remind him that at one time the Government gave a 20 per cent subsidy to park development in Queensland and that this subsidy was subsequently withdrawn.

On this occasion the Estimates provide for a Ministry of Sport. Although I have been able to ascertain what it will cost to operate this department, I have not been able to find any amount allocated for capital expenditure.

Crime and juvenile-delinquency problems in our society have been mentioned. The report tabled in Parliament discloses that 2,895 children were brought before the courts last year. I sometimes wonder whether our legislation tackles this problem in the correct manner. Every child should be regarded as immature and thus not wholly responsible

for his actions. He is entitled to protection, rehabilitation and retraining. The Juvenile Aid Bureau must act as a wise parent who would plan for the total welfare of the child, rather than punish him for certain acts. We should do everything possible to keep children out of the courts and to avoid their having a black mark on their character for life. Probably most honourable members have, at some time or another, committed some small breach, such as stealing fruit from someone else's tree. Provided it remains at that level, it is all right.

To combat rising crime rates and to build more justice into the system of criminal justice, there is need for a far-reaching improvement in our courts. Corrections, police and prosecutions should be carefully tied together so that those component elements of criminal justice are in one coherent system. I am sure the Minister will give considerable thought to steering people along the right path in life. If parents are not capable of doing this, we, as legislators, should do it. We must try to keep everybody on the proper path and out of the courts.

It is significant that the Federal Attorney-General claimed that, in 1969, the cost of crime in the Australian community was \$350,000,000. No doubt he took into account the losses suffered by the people affected, as well as the cost of keeping offenders in prison and of law enforcement necessary to keep crime to a minimum. A sum of \$350,000,000 has to be spent in this way, when there are so many areas of social demand in which it could have been much better spent. It is vital that a full-scale approach be made to these problems, particularly crime prevention and the evils of vice that create such an atmosphere in society.

There are many commercial enterprises which, by their advertising and other approaches, are encouraging crime.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the honourable member is straying a little from the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. HARVEY: These people are virtually encouraging crime for their own monetary gain.

I note from page 50 that the Law Reform Commission has a staff of six, and that its appropriation last year was \$51,768. I should like the Minister to tell the Committee who were the three members of the Law Reform Commission during this time, and what their respective payments were. I note that the staff consists of a secretary and two clerk typists.

Again I bring to the notice of the Committee the spiralling incidence of crimes such as bashings and robberies. A total of over 630 persons were murdered, bashed or raped, and of those crimes only 63 per cent were solved. Offences of violence against persons increased by 38 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the honourable member is discussing a matter that more appropriately comes under the administration of the Minister in charge of police.

Mr. HARVEY: I consider that the police should be given greater discretionary powers and more "teeth" to enforce the law. In my day, a policeman would take a troublesome youth behind a fence, give him a kick in the pants and send him home, and the lad was all the better for it. The attitude of the community today is such that if a police officer did that, the news media would condemn him out of hand.

I believe that there is a need for an urgent review of many of the "horse-and-buggy" laws that are now in force in a space age. Many laws have not kept abreast of the times. Some were framed when the basic wage was £2.8s. a week, and in days when people would not even have thought of committing the crimes that are committed today. Many of the paltry fines imposed today certainly do not act as a deterrent. They are in fact a mere mockery in the enforcement of law and order. Many worthy citizens, who want to live peaceful and respectable lives and bring up their children in such an environment, are being subjected to the crime and vice that is prevalent in society today. These are the things that are so wrong and so improper in present-day society.

(Time expired.)

Mr. HARTWIG (Callide) (3.56 p.m.): I offer my sincere appreciation to the Minister and his officers responsible for the administration of the Department of Justice, which was once known as the Attorney-General's Department, and the many branches of the Justice portfolio.

It was alarming to me, as a new member of this Assembly, to hear the honourable member for Port Curtis ridiculing the former Minister for Justice, who had dedicated many years of his life to the welfare and care of the people of Queensland. Personally, I have the greatest admiration for Dr. Delamothe. Although I did not always agree with his methods, I have always considered it a privilege to be able to claim him as a personal friend.

The Minister for Justice is responsible for upholding law and order, which are essential to the welfare of the community and the State. This is the age of the permissive society. The 20th century has produced more scientists than has any other in the history of mankind. We have spent millions of dollars in improving techniques for the schooling and training of young children.

If I may digress for a short while, Mr. Lickiss, I wish to bring to the notice of the Committee a paper that was handed to me recently by a university student. It is called "Red Letter", and is compiled by university Communists. I sometimes wonder

where we are heading. I will read an extract from this paper, which says, under the heading "What the CPA stands for"—

"The Communist Party believes that capitalism is entering a long-term economic, social and psychological crisis for which it can have no basic solution, since the very structure, ideology and values of capitalist society make such a solution impossible without a revolution which takes away the power of the capitalist establishment and puts it in the hands of the people."

And so it goes on. Then it says that anyone wishing more information about the pamphlet should send to 4 Dixen Street, Sydney.

That is only one paper. Also circulated at the university is "Direct Action", a socialistic paper. It says, "Stop the Concorde. Stop the bomb. Stop the expressway." It is rather interesting to read, "Trotskyism in the A.L.P." That shows the sort of thing we are faced with in the universities today, and I shall have more to say later about that.

I wish to deal briefly now with alcoholism. Taken in excess, I believe that alcohol is a threat to our society. Activities relative to alcoholism carried out by the Department of Education in Queensland have received wide recognition. At State high school and university levels, a carefully planned course of lectures and discussion sessions has been introduced, commencing with basic information about alcohol.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I hope that the honourable gentleman will relate his remarks to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. HARTWIG: Yes, Mr. Lickiss. I should say that they are very relevant. Alcohol comes under the Liquor Act, which is administered by the Minister for Justice, and I think that I am quite free to discuss the matter.

The course progresses through to a discussion of current attitudes towards alcohol and alcoholism, their effect on community life, and their effect on the individual and on personal and human relationships. Through this knowledge we expect our young citizens to have a rational approach to the use of alcohol when they reach a mature age. In addition, extensive information and film services on the subject are available State-wide through the Department of Education. At the other extreme, the Government has founded alcoholism clinics. Queensland was the first State in Australia to set up a clinic. That clinic, which was established in 1958, is at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. This is yet another sphere in which Queensland can take credit for being the first to act.

Alcoholics are sick people who need treatment, rather than criminals who deserve punishment. Despite everything that is being done to warn against the dangers of alcohol,

liquor consumption is increasing. We rate very high in world statistics on the per-capita consumption of alcohol. Our position is rather paradoxical. We spend money on educating youngsters in the dangers of over-indulgence, and manufacturers of liquor spend millions of dollars annually on extensive advertising on television, radio and in the Press to induce people—many of them young people—to consume more liquor. Consistently, we have to introduce new legislation to combat what is known as the drunken driver. Our road toll is higher than ever. Some of our social problems arise from cabarets held in hotels patronised by young people many of whom are under-age drinkers. There are those children who at home are frightened by a drunken father and, in some instances, I am sad to relate, frightened by drunken parents. At the same time we witness a subsequent lowering of morals and an increasing divorce rate.

There is a feeling in the community that a non-drinker is not smart or is a wowsler. Society often assesses a person by saying, "He is a good mixer; he likes his beer." Such is the yardstick of a so-called good citizen. Like many thousands of other people I like a beer. The Commonwealth Government receives many millions of dollars in taxes from the sale of liquor. It is admitted and acknowledged that drink is responsible for the majority of road accidents. I am adamant that the ills and dangers of alcohol must be highlighted to a greater extent by way of education in the schools and advertisements on the menace it is to society generally.

In this day and age when we have a national Literature Board of Review and, in this State, the Objectionable Literature Act of 1954, books and magazines offered for sale in bookshops throughout the State, and circulating in schools, contain blasphemous, indecent and obscene literature. Despite this Government's genuine attempt to censor that sort of filth, and despite our expenditure on academics to further improve the standard of education and achieve a more educated and enlightened citizen, that sort of literature is still available. Somewhere along the line our system seems to have failed.

I am afraid that our morals and Christian teachings have gone by the board. One has only to see the pornographic filth openly displayed in some bookshops in Brisbane to realise this. A book, at least, has to be purchased, opened and read, but some of the pornography displayed in Brisbane leaves nothing to the imagination, and it is a reflection on our society that young people in Brisbane can see this filth. Sometimes I wonder where this muck comes from. Do the young people themselves print it? I say, "No." Sex scenes in films are classic examples of deterioration in morals. Certainly our young people cannot be blamed for everything that is produced in the film world.

Mr. Sherrington: Yet the scabby-looking Country Party in its advertisements is claiming that we would legalise it.

Mr. HARTWIG: You are legalising abortion, so keep quiet.

Our young people seem to be blamed for anything connected with the manufacture and peddling of drugs, but I want to say that I have the greatest admiration for them. By way of reply to the interjection from the honourable member for Salisbury, I ask what happened when a sporting team from another country visited Australia? We saw then what unruliness and lack of law, order and discipline can mean to society. Somewhere along the line, the older generation has let our young people down in not having the courage and purpose to be more creative, to give correct guidance and to instil Christian ethics in their minds. Whether it is lack of proper parental control or guidance or whether it is the result of both parents working are questions we have to answer. Are we responsible to a great degree for the actions of some of our young people?

Mr. Bromley: The Tories are.

Mr. HARTWIG: I would say, without a doubt, that young people today are more sophisticated and mature for their age than they were in my day. In this day and age we are all broadminded enough not to be shocked by a girl wearing a bikini. Ten or 15 years ago such attire would have been banned. I can well remember a policeman sending a girl home because she had on a brief pair of shorts. However, I am very pleased to say that the old adage, "Clothes maketh the man" has not entirely disappeared. Just recently a request that members be permitted to enter this Chamber without coats was refused. That standard of dress—a shirt, tie and suit—is still required before one can enter men's clubs, dining rooms, and so on. I do not mind that at all.

Mr. Bromley: Not on the Gold Coast.

Mr. HARTWIG: It might not apply on the Gold Coast, but when one goes into a dining room there and sits next to a young lady who is very scantily dressed, it simply proves that, while men have kept up standards, the ladies have not been supporting the drapers at all.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. HARTWIG: I refer the honourable member to the standard of dress required by our cricketers. No cricket team takes the field in shorts. They are all dressed in long flannels, as applied in the days of Sir Donald Bradman or Hobbs. Who would not agree that on the field our cricketers look particularly well dressed?

Last Thursday I visited my local meat-works to witness some of my cattle being slaughtered, and there I saw some of the male workers wearing hair-nets. The operator of the abattoirs has insisted upon that practice in the interests of hygiene. However, to those young fellows who wear shoulder-length hair I offer this advice: "Get your hair cut; it is dangerous to wear long

hair if you are engaged in industry." Certain employers stipulate when calling for labour that men with long hair need not apply. Surely this is an indication that a greater number of young fellows could be gainfully employed if they had their hair cut.

I will conclude by requesting the Government to give consideration to the reintroduction of capital punishment for certain crimes, such as hijacking, premeditated murder and mass rape. The Government must meet this problem head on. Unless it matches fire with fire, it will not halt the huge increase in our crime rate. Nothing short of capital punishment acts as a deterrent to many criminals.

As a result of the crisis in our primary industries, cattle-stealing in many areas has become prevalent. In the hearing of cattle-stealing charges it is necessary to incur great expense by assigning police officers to watch over cattle that have been stolen and later recovered. When a delay occurs in the hearing of such a charge, the cost grows out of all proportion, so I urge the Minister to expedite the hearing of cattle-stealing charges.

The Minister has a very responsible duty to perform. In this, my first term of office in the Queensland Parliament, I look to him for further guidance and a continuation of his responsible administration of the Justice portfolio.

Mr. YEWDAL (Rockhampton North) (4.14 p.m.): I should like to comment briefly on the contribution of the honourable member who has just resumed his seat. Jumping from subject to subject, he talked about the Communist publication at the university, he "tipped the can" on the A.L.P., and he spoke about liquor and health matters as well as the Works and Housing portfolio. In fact, he spoke about nearly everything except justice. He concluded by saying that the Minister for Justice holds a very responsible office. In agreeing with that remark, I should like to touch on a few matters closer to home than those dealt with by the previous speaker.

First, I stress the need for the simplification of our law. Ignorance of the law is no defence, but I believe there is an obligation—a definite responsibility—on all legislators to see that laws that are enacted are not only known to the people at large but are also understood by them.

Today, many people have very little access to justice. A working man cannot afford even a small action in the Magistrates Courts, as this could cost up to \$500. Many other cases that come before the courts cost thousands of dollars. As there are numerous people in the community who cannot afford such costs, they do not get justice in today's society. As a result, justice virtually belongs to the rich man in our society. He can afford justice because he has the money.

Free legal aid is too restrictive. A person who earns more than \$2,000 a year cannot get free legal aid or advice relative to any legal action in which he may be involved. In this way, low-wage and middle-wage earners are denied redress. The free legal aid scheme should be completely overhauled. Cases should be looked at on their merits rather than on the capacity to pay, or the financial category in which an intending litigant is placed.

I believe that middle-income earners and others in a similar position could be catered for by a small claims court which would eliminate the need to seek costly legal advice and representation. Such cases could be heard with the plaintiff and the defendant putting their cases to a magistrate, who could make his decision on the information placed before him. In that way the need for the costly legal advice of professional people would be obviated. Small claims courts could quite easily be established and used to administer justice fairly to both parties. Many matters could come before them, such as termination of tenancies, child maintenance, small commercial disputes involving warrants, sales and services, contracts and so on. I earnestly suggest that the Minister seriously consider the provision of courts of this nature.

Recently a constituent of mine found it necessary to try to remove a tenant from a home he was letting. The tenant was more than \$300 in arrears in his rent. He had given false information when renting the home initially, and had caused considerable damage to the home. The owner wanted to lodge a complaint and subsequently seek an eviction order, but he received advice from a member of the legal fraternity that the court action could cost \$50 or more. After making inquiries and receiving advice it was found that, through certain channels, he could file the appropriate forms and take the necessary proceedings at a cost of \$2.50. In this case he saved \$50 or more because advice was given to him on how to take action to remove the tenant.

All honourable members, particularly my colleague and I, hear of many cases in which a working man is advised that, even if he wins his case in court, his costs will be such that he will gain no advantage. Such a man ends up deciding, "I will have to foot the bill because I cannot pursue my claim." Consequently, he does not receive justice, and he will not until something is done in this particular area.

As I pointed out in my Address-in-Reply speech, one of the most important matters affecting the community is protection of the consumer. In Queensland, the Consumer Affairs Council and the Consumer Affairs Bureau have been functioning for some time. Their reports have been tabled. They outline the cases that could and could not be dealt with. I believe that the jurisdiction of both bodies leaves a lot to be desired.

I feel that the bureau does not give enough publicity to the matters that come before it. It does not advise the public generally of the problems confronting it. It has this information at its fingertips because it is presented to the public daily and because it receives specific complaints, and it should make this information public in the interests of the consumer rather than sit back and wait until people become involved and then endeavour to overcome the problem.

The bureau's report also leaves a good deal to be desired in that it does not name many of the people involved. The firms and persons concerned should be named. This is the best way to expose racketeers and warn the public to be wary of such firms.

There are many matters that should be handled by the bureau. With the encouragement of the Minister, it could—but I doubt that it will—look into various matters associated with the introduction of the metric system. It is obvious that the metric system will be introduced nationally, but it is within the province of the State to study the problem and possibly introduce legislation to cover this new and important system.

I now intend to deal with some unscrupulous business houses and agents. Mock auctions have recently been discussed in this Chamber. While the Minister has answered certain questions and made certain comments on this matter, I do not know that he has taken, or intends to take, any positive action. I feel that he should. This is a very serious matter, and to allow it to continue is to perpetrate an injustice on the people of Queensland.

Door-to-door salesmen have been mentioned. This particular aspect of selling, which has been extensively ventilated, should be looked into closely. Some action should be taken to protect the public against people who sell from door to door but are not necessarily classified as door-to-door salesmen. There are many collectors and salesmen, from day to day, who call on selected people and sell them goods. I feel that their activities should be included in door-to-door selling and covered by the Act.

Mr. R. E. Moore: What about the fellow who sells articles such as boots and clothing around the West?

Mr. YEWDAL: He should carry out his occupation in a just and honest manner. If he does not, he should be dealt with by the Consumer Affairs Bureau if the bureau feels that it can handle the matter.

The bureau uses its discretion in deciding whether a complaint is within or beyond its ambit. Although that may sound all right, it leaves much to be desired. What criterion is used in deciding whether a complaint is within or beyond the bureau's field? Leaving the matter to the discretion of the bureau raises the suspicion that some large firms may be considered to be beyond the province of the bureau, and its operations are

directed against smaller business. I leave that suggestion for the consideration of the Committee.

Whilst the bureau spends most of its time handling the many and varied complaints received by it, it is nevertheless dealing with effects rather than causes. If it continues to operate as it is now, it will continue to deal with effects, and the number of causes will continue to increase. No progress will be made in eliminating both the causes and the complaints. We should endeavour to deal with the matters of consumer protection by looking at causes rather than effects.

People who have very serious consumer complaints involving finance, or the recovery of money, are not allowed legal assistance. This is another matter to which the Minister could well give consideration. I have already referred to legal assistance and the high cost of litigation. A person who has a complaint involving \$40 or \$50 could find himself in a position where, in order to obtain redress, his only recourse is to law. Although the amount involved may be only \$50, it could cost him \$100 to \$200 to win the case and obtain the \$50. It is obvious that a person would not take court action in such circumstances. He would have to put up with the goods that he had received, even though he was completely dissatisfied with them.

There is a distinct moral responsibility on people engaged in business. They may suggest that they are legally within their rights in taking certain action or carrying out certain business transactions. In many cases, however, they are completely in the wrong morally. The question is often asked, "Does the consumer really need protection? Does he need the aid that we now have to give him?" In my mind, and in the minds of many others, the answer is, "Yes; the consumer does need protecting. He must be protected from unscrupulous firms and salesmen." People no longer buy the simple items that they bought in earlier years. Today they buy complicated mechanical and electrical goods such as motor vehicles, refrigerators, washing machines, television sets, and other household appliances and the ability to assess their relative values is often beyond them. Frequently, because of the inability of the ordinary consumer to assess the value of the goods he is buying, he is subsequently dissatisfied with them.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: And at other times one would think he has suicidal tendencies.

Mr. YEWDAL: Yes; nevertheless, these people must be protected.

Secondly, a person buys many of these commodities on extended credit rather than for cash. This means that he is required to enter into what may be, for him, complicated legal agreements having far-reaching effects on him and his family. The consumer is therefore faced with two problems that were

not faced in earlier years—complicated goods, and complicated transactions—neither of which he is likely to understand fully.

He also faces a third problem. This is the age of sophisticated advertising and sales methods and he is subjected to continuous advertising and sales pressures, all encouraging him to buy now. It stands to reason that the man who makes his living selling complicated goods and handling sales on credit will come to know more about these matters than the person who buys only occasionally. Today's conditions combine to create an unequal relationship between business on the one hand and the consumer on the other. Because of this, it is clear that there is a growing need for consumer aid in this day and age.

I have been involved very closely with my colleague the honourable member for Rockhampton in matters of consumer interest and consumer protection in Rockhampton. It is fair to say that we have handled about 500, 600 or 700 cases over a period, many of which we have passed on to the department in Rockhampton and which have then been passed on to the Consumer Affairs Bureau in Brisbane. A number of them have been resolved satisfactorily; a number of them have not. We continue to receive complaints, and they are predominantly complaints relating to motor vehicles.

In my opinion, the motor-car industry at present leaves much to be desired. I do not think that the legislation introduced recently relative to roadworthiness certificates for motor vehicles and the approving of certain service stations to carry out the inspections will solve the problem, because, as has been pointed out already, many new vehicles are on the road only a short time before they require replacements and repairs. The honourable member for Rockhampton and I know from our own personal experience that many of the firms in Rockhampton make a genuine attempt to solve the problems of the motorist, particularly when a new motor vehicle is involved. But they, in turn, are forced to pass the complaints back to the manufacturers. Lengthy correspondence and a number of personal approaches often have to be made, and in some instances it takes months to solve the problems.

As I said earlier, I believe that one of the major problems in the community today is the number of complaints relating to motor vehicles, particularly new motor vehicles. Governments, both Federal and State, must take specific action that will give consumers adequate protection against motor vehicle manufacturers. They should really lay something on the line.

I repeat that the Minister should have a close look at the question of establishing small claims courts for the ordinary person. He might also have a further look at the question of legal aid and consider cases on their merits rather than on a limit of an

income of \$2,000. That is not a very large income for a man with four or five children who has a legal problem.

(Time expired.)

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice) (4.34 p.m.): I think that I should enter the debate at this stage to deal with some of the matters that have been raised. I will, of course, sum up generally this evening. It is my wish that as many members as possible speak on the Estimates, and I trust that I will not be keeping anybody out of the debate.

Even though it is important that I make some comments on matters that have been raised, I do not intend to deal seriatim with those of each individual member; rather do I intend to deal with certain of them and refer to the contributions of members on those matters.

First, I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate and for the compliments they paid officers of the departments who come under my jurisdiction, and also for the kind remarks they have made about me.

Last Friday the honourable members for Lytton, Kurilpa, Baroona, and Toowong made contributions. As always in the debate on the Justice Estimates, considerable concern was expressed about the social problems of our time. Indeed, in the 157 Acts for which the portfolio is responsible it is possible to find almost every facet of human endeavour covered in one way or another. Perhaps the casual listener to the debate on these Estimates would find it difficult to understand why so many matters are raised, each one not directly related to another but all concerning the humanities and the relations of people in the community generally.

The area of responsibility is divided into two. One section, of course, is under the control of the Under Secretary, Department of Justice. I am very pleased to be able to work with Mr. Skinner and his officers whose contributions and advice to me are of a very high standard. The quality of their work as public servants is very high. Mr. Skinner will be retiring before the Estimates are again debated, so I take this opportunity to thank him, particularly on behalf of the people of the State, for the very valuable service he has rendered to Queensland in various capacities over many years. He is a very fine gentleman and a man of considerable standing in the community and the Public Service. He has probably seen more variety in his term of public service than most public servants.

Perhaps this is one of the traits of the Queensland Public Service. Because of the huge size of the State, people joining the Public Service realise that it will be their duty to move over the area, see it, understand it and have responsibilities in many parts of it. In the case of Mr. Skinner,

he has had responsibility on Thursday Island, which is one of the most remote parts of the State, as well as being a draftsman for this Parliament. Over the years he has been a familiar figure in the lobby to many of us who have served in this Parliament for some time.

Mr. Skinner retires as the Under Secretary of the department with which he has been closely associated for most of his professional life. He is a qualified solicitor as well as being a man of considerable experience in the Public Service. He probably represents the quality of the old-style public servant, being extremely conscientious and a thorough gentleman at all times, and having a great deal of patience and understanding of the enormous changes that are taking place. He has shown that he has a capacity to handle change, and has done this extremely well. I put on record my thanks for the services he has rendered to Queensland.

The other section of the portfolio—the Attorney-Generalship—is under the leadership of the Solicitor-General, Mr. Parslow. He is another experienced public servant who has earned the praise of many in this Chamber and the community generally. The officers of his department, the Solicitor-General's Office, the Crown Law Office, and so on, have all worked assiduously in their professional capacity as well as in their role as servants of the Crown. I thank them for their public service and the regard they have earned for their office. It is encouraging to hear professional people in the general community refer in glowing terms to the quality of officers in the Solicitor-General's Office and the Crown Law Office, and acknowledge their ability to handle affairs on behalf of the State and the Crown generally with a considerable degree of skill. It is also encouraging to know that the advice they tender to me, as Attorney-General, and the Government is regarded highly by people who are not associated directly with the Public Service. I think this is an appropriate occasion to refer to the quality of these officers and, of course, the various heads of the subdepartments which come under this portfolio.

It is usual when discussing Estimates to examine the administration fairly critically. Apparently there is not very much wrong with the administrative processes of the Justice Department, because most of the questions raised have been concerned with social issues of the day and the possibility of amendments to Acts. While this is not regarded as a general debate on legislation, it is interesting that most honourable members are concerned with the process of change and have, indeed, alluded to possible changes which may be considered by this Legislature in the course of time.

The honourable member for Merthyr spoke of some changes to the Companies Act relative to control of corporate affairs in this State. He spoke of the possibility, in the administration and control of companies in

changing times with a high degree of mobility and excellent communications, of perhaps some specialists being attached to this office to assist the commissioner. This is a matter that could be considered. Relationships between the commissioner and the police are extremely good, and the Fraud Squad works assiduously within the limit of the qualifications of its members. They work very diligently and thoroughly indeed and have to go over the whole nation to find some of the information they seek, and it takes an enormous amount of time to collect it.

The current inquiry under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Connolly, Q.C. has taken many months to collect information on the particular operations being investigated. This is necessary in order to justify a suitable inquiry and to provide the inquirer with the necessary background information to enable him to proceed. It is a very laborious process and anything that could speed up these inquiries and provide the information at an earlier date would mean that fewer people were prejudiced and fewer people would lose their funds and find themselves in difficult circumstances. It would be of value to the community generally.

In relation to consumer affairs, which apparently is a very fashionable subject these days because quite a number of members spoke about it, I should like to say that the honourable member for Toowoomba South is under a misapprehension regarding the Consumer Affairs Council and the recommendations which he said were not being acted upon. Of course, the recommendations related to matters which were referred to the council by either myself or my predecessor, the Honourable John Herbert. It is a function of the council, under the terms of the Act, to give advice on matters referred to it. Indeed, there is nothing amiss in the recommendations it makes because the work generally is created for it by the Minister and the advice it tenders is taken into consideration.

Obviously, the honourable member has not read either of the reports in detail because those reports, particularly that of the Consumer Affairs Bureau, indicate just what happens and what flows from the recommendations made. Obviously, the honourable member has not heard some of the statements that both I and my predecessor have made on some of these matters, indicating what action would be taken.

Let me refer to some of the matters referred to in the recommendations and what has happened to them. In regard to pseudo auction sales, there is a recommendation from the Consumer Affairs Council that legislation should be considered. As I have announced in this Chamber on more than one occasion, this, in fact, is under consideration at the moment and I have no doubt that we in Queensland will introduce legislation similar to that recently introduced in Victoria and currently being considered in New South Wales.

Mr. Sherrington: Why mess around?

Mr. KNOX: It takes time to provide this sort of legislation. Exhaustive inquiries have to be made to ensure that there is the minimum chance of error and also that what is intended to be done will be achieved by legislation introduced. I am quite sure that early next year legislation along this line will be introduced into this Chamber.

As announced previously in this Chamber, the matter of polyethylene mosquito-netting has been referred to the Federal Minister for Customs and Excise. It is imported in rolls, and the Federal Minister has advised that, unless all the States approve of controls or restrictions on the locally manufactured article, the imposition of restrictions on the imported article serves no useful purpose. This has been referred to other authorities, which hope that action will be taken to prohibit the importation of this dangerous material.

Inertia selling has been considered on a number of occasions by the council. Already legislation exists in Queensland to help lessen many of the unfortunate side effects of such a practice. The council has proposed that the Government could take further action in this matter, and it is presently being considered by the legal section of my department.

Mr. Wright: Why don't you change the Door to Door (Sales) Act relative to the exemption of household appliances? It does not require all this investigation.

Mr. KNOX: I am talking about inertia selling at the moment. As a result of meetings between the State Attorneys-General, inquiries have been centred on New South Wales, with the blessing of all States, in an endeavour to make a very thorough study of some of the undesirable activities of companies. Inertia selling, or, as it is sometimes called, pyramid selling, has been included amongst those aspects. We presume that from that inquiry we will learn a great deal more than we presently know. I might say that the consumer bodies in all States have brought to the attention of the public some of the undesirable features of inertia selling with the result that many of those who previously engaged in it have since gone out of business. In an answer given on my behalf this morning I said that, if the public simply closed their doors to these salesmen and refused to give their money away, many of these companies would fold up overnight. It is desirable to educate the people to beware of the operations of these companies.

As to the Door to Door (Sales) Act, several recommendations have been made not only by the Consumer Affairs Council but also by certain honourable members. These are under consideration at the moment, and I can assure the Committee that amendments to the Act will be brought down early next year. Even the "hot cup of tea and a Bex" advertisement has been attended to, and, as a result of this matter being raised by none

other than the honourable member for Wavell, action was taken and this matter has been cleared up.

The commercial use of the council's name has also been brought to the attention of the public and the Media Council of Australia. Misuse of the council's name is not peculiar to Queensland; similar bodies in other States face the same problem.

Mr. Wright: What about the Door to Door (Sales) Act? Why has it taken so long?

Mr. KNOX: I have told the Committee what has happened relative to that Act.

Mr. Wright: Why has it taken so long? It has been almost 18 months.

Mr. KNOX: Before introducing legislation the Government considers matters. In recent answer to a question I said that we did not intend to rush legislation through the House simply because one item had been raised. Dozens of provisions require amendment, and when legislation comes up for review they are considered and the necessary amendments are presented properly to the House.

I now wish to deal with the speeches made by other honourable members. The honourable member for Toowoomba South discussed the R.A.C.Q.'s articles of association. I do not know why he saw fit to debate that matter when dealing with the Justice Estimates. The R.A.C.Q. articles are not in any way a matter for administration by my department. It is not compulsory, of course, for the R.A.C.Q. to bring these matters to the attention of the Solicitor-General. Should any change in the articles be approved in the proper manner by a general meeting of the R.A.C.Q., it becomes a matter for the Solicitor-General to examine in the course of time. He has communicated to the R.A.C.Q. certain objectives which any articles should contain if the organisation wishes to operate under the licence given to it by legislation.

The honourable members for Murrumba and Callide referred to pornography and the operations of the Literature Board of Review. It is becoming difficult for the board to examine the enormous quantity of literature that seems to find its way onto the shelves of booksellers and newsagents, much of which is utter rubbish and is hardly worthy of examination. However, it must be examined, because if it is unsuitable for any person in the community, let alone young people, the board has a duty to issue proclamations banning it.

Mr. Davis: Askin is the main trouble in New South Wales.

Mr. KNOX: That is nonsense. The honourable member does not seem to understand how the system operates.

Unfortunately some undesirable literature has come from university sources. From time to time honourable members have brought

it to the attention of the public. It is regrettable that some people in the community seem to think that pornography will benefit the community. I have not yet discovered any good reason for pornography although a few people seem to want to force it on the community at any price.

Mr. Hanson: There has been more of it since you people became the Government.

Mr. KNOX: There is more of it throughout the world. It seems to be fashionable to force it on the community.

As the honourable member for Port Curtis raised that point, I emphasise that Queensland banned "The Little Red Schoolbook". It had been banned in Tasmania, but the very first action taken by the Tasmanian Labor Government—on the Monday after it was returned to office—was the issuing of a proclamation lifting the ban on that book in Tasmania. That is the way in which the A.L.P. views this sort of literature. Such matters come to the attention of the public from time to time, and the concern in the community about them is very great.

The Literature Board of Review is doing an outstanding job. I thank Mr. Kelly and his committee for what they have done for the people of Queensland.

Mr. Hanson: What about the film "Bed-room Mazurka"?

Mr. KNOX: Obviously the honourable member has seen it, but I have not. No doubt he went to see it because of the way in which it was promoted. That reveals the sort of person he is; he went to see it and was shocked afterwards. He did not have to see it; he was not compelled to see it; nobody asked him to go to see it.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! When the Minister is making his speech, questions are appropriate, but the Committee should not become a rabble. I ask honourable members to address questions to the Minister through the Chair.

Mr. KNOX: I am sure that Mr. Chipp has no chance of being defeated next Saturday, because the A.L.P. candidate is a fugitive from justice, a man who is prepared to disobey the laws of this country. He will not even show his face; he is in hiding. The only people who know where he is are the Federal Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Whitlam) and Mr. Hawke. That is the type of candidate the A.L.P. is sponsoring against Mr. Chipp; what chance has Mr. Chipp of being defeated? No chance at all! He will get in with a greatly increased majority. The people of this country are fed up with the way in which the A.L.P. flouts the law of the land. For the first time in our history we have a candidate against whom an order has been made that he be imprisoned for disobeying the law.

Mr. Bromley: Mr. Chipp has had his "chips".

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane will have had his "chips" in a moment.

Mr. KNOX: Frequent reference has been made to the Consumer Affairs Bureau. I praise the work of that bureau. Led by its Commissioner, Mr. Pluckrose, it has done an enormous task. It has dealt with thousands of inquiries from members of the community for assistance to overcome various problems. The bureau's report, which was given favourable mention in the Queensland news media, indicates the big task it has in looking after some of the proliferous problems that arise because some people try to exploit other people who do not take adequate care or do not know enough about their rights.

Specific reference has been made to Dare to be Great of Australia Pty. Ltd., to the publishers of business directories who have sent out forms that give the impression of being accounts, and to house-cladding firms.

Mr. Hanson: This is good old free enterprise.

Mr. KNOX: There is no reason why free enterprise should not be supported. If ever there was a free-enterprise man, it is the honourable member. He would be the most prosperous in this State. He pays one of the highest licensing fees in the State. That gives some indication of the enormous wealth that goes across the bars of his hotels.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! There is far too much cross-firing in the Chamber. I call the Committee to order.

Mr. KNOX: Just as there are publicans who do not obey the rules, so, too, there are people in other callings who do not, and they should be disciplined. This does not mean that free enterprise itself is bad. It was a free-enterprise Government that introduced consumer protection in this State. For many years of A.L.P. government it did not exist.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister has the floor and I ask honourable members to listen to what he has to say. They have an opportunity to record their interjections, but I will not permit the Committee to become a rabble.

Mr. KNOX: Protection can be given under the free-enterprise system. Thousands of companies and firms are registered in this State and the leaders of various free-enterprise associations support the action of the Consumer Affairs Bureau and the excellent work it is doing. They do not subscribe to the principles or ethics of some of the people who come to the notice of the bureau. This

is terribly important not only to the free-enterprise system but also to the consumers themselves. Thousands of people are pleased to have the assistance of the bureau.

The bureau has already embarked upon a system of consumer education. Lectures have been given in the Adult Education Branch. Pamphlets are being prepared, as my predecessor announced, and they will be widely circulated in the community. I have in my hand the mock-up of one pamphlet emphasising the need to read the small print in all agreements and documents. I am sure that when it sees the light of day it will be widely acclaimed, and will also be very useful for all householders. There will also be many others available in due course.

I now want to deal with small claims courts. I am seriously considering the establishing of such courts. This matter was brought to attention by the Commissioner (Mr. Pluckrose), and I think there is a future for small claims courts in this country. Whilst such a system has been successful in North America and some parts of Europe, it has generally been felt that in this country Magistrates Courts satisfy this need. I do not feel that this is so; I think there is a need for courts known as small claims courts. How the system will be structured, and under what jurisdiction it will operate, has not yet been settled. The system is being seriously examined, and I think there is a future for it in Queensland. As has been the case in many other matters of law reform, it could well be that Queensland will again be the first State to introduce such a scheme.

Mr. Wright: Only after being prodded by the Opposition.

Mr. KNOX: Nothing of the sort. The honourable member knows about small claims courts only because they have been mentioned in this Chamber by Government members.

Mr. Wright: Cut it out!

Mr. KNOX: I made a statement in the Press on this matter some months ago, and I am grateful to the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt for outlining today how small claims courts work and the variety of their operations. In the course of time, the Government will be able to demonstrate by legislation that small claims courts can operate successfully in Queensland. Queensland has already led the field by the use of magistrates in a number of industrial matters.

The honourable member for Port Curtis raised the matter of delays in the Companies Office. To that, I might add delays in the Titles Office and the Supreme Court Registry.

Mr. Wright: And the Public Curator Office.

Mr. KNOX: Yes, in some parts of the State. It is true that there are delays in these offices. The fact is that they reflect the enormous growth of the State and the

tremendous amount of work that has accumulated. In the Titles Office in recent months, between 1,100 and 1,200 documents have been lodged daily. I think I quoted some figures recently which indicated that, in the last three years, there had been an increase of 50 per cent in the work of the Titles Office. This growth is also reflected in other offices dealing with legal transactions.

It is not possible to train the staff required in a comparatively short time. Training programmes are under way, and there are vacancies advertised which unfortunately cannot be filled. This problem is not unique to Queensland. It is being experienced in other parts of Australia as well. Whilst the delays in the Titles Office have been reduced considerably, there is still an inordinate delay. After a recent Public Service inspection, as a result of which an additional 50 staff have been appointed or are in the process of being appointed, I hope to see the delays further reduced to what I regard as a tolerable level. It is true that there are delays and staff shortages in these areas. The Government is conscious of them, and everything possible is being done to overcome them.

The honourable member for Port Curtis also raised the question of the protection of people under the Securities Industry Act. This is comparatively recent legislation, and it will, of course, come up for review from time to time. The matters that he raised will be taken into consideration.

I think it was the honourable member for South Coast who asked when preferential voting was first introduced. As far as I have been able to discover, it was first introduced in Queensland in the time of the McIlwraith Government in 1892. It was optional. It was introduced in Victoria in 1911, and it was made compulsory in that State in 1926. I do not know why the honourable member wants that information, but there it is.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: For the record, is it true that no Australian Labor Party Government has ever introduced preferential voting?

Mr. KNOX: It is to the A.L.P.'s shame if that is true, because it is quite obvious that it is not interested in minority opinion in this country.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order!

Mr. KNOX: Minority opinion in this country would not have a voice in the Legislatures if preferential voting were abolished. Preferential voting enhances the prospects of the Democratic Labor Party, the Australia Party and various other parties, which would not be represented in the Parliaments of this nation but for preferential voting.

The abolition of preferential voting would only suppress minority opinion in Australia, a country which is proud of the fact that

it tolerates minority opinion and is one of the very few democracies in the world—there are only three—that have compulsory voting. Honourable members opposite want to remove these influences from the national Parliament. Let us get the record straight. The abolition of preferential voting is only an anti-democratic move.

Among the electoral matters raised in the debate was the question of four-year Parliaments. The only area in Australia which has longer than three years between elections is Tasmania. Indeed, it may well be that because of the dynamic nature of the growth of Australia, three years between elections may be far too short a period.

Mr. Houston: You would like to be there for ever, if you could.

Mr. KNOX: We will be here for a considerable time. What is more important, honourable members opposite will be on the Opposition benches for ever. I know that the honourable gentleman will not be there for ever, because he will be unseated as Leader of the Opposition about June or July next year.

It has been suggested that there should be one roll and one enrolment card at all levels of government, that there should be balloting for positions on the ballot-paper, and so on. The Elections Act comes up for review in this Chamber from time to time, and no doubt honourable members will be able to express their opinions on these matters when it is next being considered.

The honourable member for Stafford asked why there had been a sudden decrease in staff numbers in the State Reporting Bureau. The honourable member said he would not be here later to hear my summing up, but he will be able to read in "Hansard" what I say now. The reduction is in fact due to the splitting of the Court Reporting Bureau from the Hansard Reporting Staff. They were formerly under the one heading under the Premier's Department. The bureau, which has a staff of 59, has been transferred to me, and the Hansard Reporting Staff is still under the aegis of the Premier's Department.

Mr. Sherrington: You are three minutes over the agreed time.

Mr. KNOX: I am sorry, but certain important matters have been raised. I said that I would endeavour to keep to time, and I will do the best I can.

As to the Supreme Court, the fact is that there is no backlog of work there. The Government is not concerned about the position; it is well under control.

Mr. Hughes: It is the District Court.

Mr. KNOX: The problems lie in the District Court. Two more judges have been appointed and, as honourable members know,

a Bill is now before this Assembly that will allow further expansion of the District Court bench.

In regard to the man who ticked the ballot-papers, I am surprised that that was allowed to go unnoticed at the polling booth. It does concern me that well over 300 ballot-papers should have been marked by a poll clerk without that fact having been noticed, and I am also surprised that they were declared void, or at least not counted, because I believe that the Act does provide for sins of omission or commission by poll clerks.

Mr. Sherrington: It happens at every election.

Mr. KNOX: Not by poll clerks. According to the honourable member for Stafford, the marks were put on the ballot-papers by a poll clerk. As the ballot-papers had been marked, apparently they were put aside. Of course, this is a matter that could be subject to challenge in another place, but I feel that the Act provides for errors of commission or omission by poll clerks.

Mr. Bromley: It was a stupid idea to put a mark on the papers.

Mr. KNOX: They should not have been marked. I am a little puzzled to understand how nearly 400 were marked by a poll clerk without it having been noticed during the course of the day by the supervising officer or somebody else who would have brought it to attention.

Mr. Marginson: Where was this? Nundah?

Mr. KNOX: No. The honourable member for Stafford raised the matter. If the honourable member for Wolston had been listening to the debate, he would know that one of his own members raised it.

As to the Law Reform Commission—

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. KNOX: Does the honourable member want me to answer the questions raised by one of his colleagues? If he does not want to hear me, I am sure the honourable member who raised the matters will be interested in listening to me.

As to the Law Reform Commission, the personnel have been announced and are set out, as the honourable member has subsequently discovered. The three members are paid, as well as the secretary and the typist.

I now wish to deal with a matter that has given us considerable concern. It was raised by the honourable member for Rockhampton, who led the debate for the Opposition.

Mr. Davis: Very competently, too.

Mr. KNOX: The honourable member may think that.

I must confess that I have never previously heard a debate on departmental Estimates opened on the Opposition side with the introduction of so much acrimonious material

when discussing administrative matters associated with a department. The honourable member took advantage of this debate to raise certain matters which, in my opinion, were not even relevant to the administration of the department but were allowed by the Chairman of Committees in his tolerance. The honourable member dealt with two ladies in the community—ladies of some standing, who are beyond reproach in their personal habits, their dignity and the manner in which they conduct themselves in public. The attack he made on them as part of his attack on the Consumer Affairs Council was unwarranted and unjustified. I regard his action as contemptible, as do many other honourable members in this Chamber. The people concerned were innocent of the charges he made against them. In one particular case, the action taken was on the side of what one might call the "goodies". It was in an attempt to correct something that was going wrong that the lady took action to protect herself and other people. The honourable member, without even understanding the nature of the matter, just heard that the lady's name was associated with a certain firm, and he promptly attempted to indicate that she condoned its actions and was in fact one of the proprietors of the firm concerned.

Let me deal with these two matters. Firstly, as to Mrs. Horan, I have repeatedly said that any person in the community, irrespective of his or her position, who associates himself or herself with a product does so at his or her peril because he or she has no control over the policy governing the firm that markets the product. It is true that some people, particularly those associated with radio and television programmes, have their names associated with certain products and sponsor them. No doubt they are rewarded for their sponsorship.

As I spoke on this matter in regard to Mrs. Horan on a previous occasion, so I do it in regard to the ladies associated with C.A.R.P., whom I have mentioned before, when they have their names associated with products. Nevertheless, that is their business. If they want to run the risks involved in being associated with products or firms whose actions come under critical examination, particularly by the Consumer Affairs Bureau, and are mentioned in this Chamber because of their unethical practices, that is their responsibility and their business. In relation to the Consumer Affairs Council, people serving on that council have many interests. As long as the name of the Consumer Affairs Council is not used as a body sponsoring a product, it is the business of individuals serving on it what they should do.

Mr. Wright: She used her position publicly to profit by it.

Mr. KNOX: If that is so, I presume that the honourable member will criticise Mr.

Egerton, who is also a member of the Consumer Affairs Council, for the sponsorship of the things he is associated with.

Mr. WRIGHT: I rise to a point of order. The Minister's statement is completely untrue. While Mr. Egerton was a member of the council he did not sponsor any product.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member has no valid point of order.

Mr. KNOX: Every person serving on the council does so as a matter of public duty and because he or she is just as concerned as is the community generally is with the welfare of consumers. The fact that individual members of the Consumer Affairs Council have business interests, political interests or interests in some firm or some product does not deter or discourage them from making impartial decisions on the council. All the people on the council are paid by their employers for the job they do.

Mr. Wright: And Mrs. Horan is paid by Farmer Greenfield's as well.

Mr. KNOX: I have no doubt that she is. But that is her private business.

Mr. Wright: The honourable member for Murrumba doesn't agree with you.

Mr. KNOX: Some people may disagree with me.

Now let me deal with the position of Mrs. Gates. The only connection she had with Queensland Syndications Management Pty. Ltd. was as a member of the syndicate. When a meeting of the syndicate members was called on 20 April this year to consider the possibility of exchanging their interests in the syndicate for commercial notes in a company named Collateral Securities Corporation, Mrs. Gates became concerned regarding the operation of the syndicate and the interests of its members. She contacted the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, which advised her to seek legal advice as to her position. Certain inquiries were made on her behalf, and a list of the members of the syndicate in which she was interested was obtained for her.

It was then that Mrs. Gates's intention to contact other members of the syndicate and to call a meeting for the purpose of discussing future intentions was made known. On 28 June this year, Mrs. Gates called on me and discussed her fears about the future of the syndicate. The Commissioner for Corporate Affairs was present at the meeting. However, at that stage there were no grounds for intervening in the company's affairs other than to ensure strict compliance by the company with the requirements of the Companies Act. As honourable members know, a subsequent investigation into this matter has been commenced by the Government.

In this matter, Mrs. Gates was representing, if honourable members wish to say she represented anybody, the consumers. She had

nothing to do with the policy of the company; she was not an owner or proprietor. She was a private citizen.

Mr. Wright interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Rockhampton cannot force through an interjection when the Minister does not wish to acknowledge it.

Mr. KNOX: She acted within her rights as a private citizen to protect herself and other syndicate members. She acted in good faith and with the best of intentions, as far as I know—and all the information has been placed before me. Simply because her name has been mentioned in the Press as being associated with this company, the honourable member for Rockhampton has not had the capacity to distinguish between those who run the company and those who are victims of it.

Mr. WRIGHT: I rise to a point of order. The Minister's statement is not correct. I raised Mrs. Gates's name because of the documents given to me which I referred to in this Chamber this morning.

Mr. KNOX: I heard the honourable member's comments this morning, when he repeated the allegations that he made last Friday about this lady, who acted with the best of intentions in assisting a number of people who were victims of this company. As a result of her complaints, and many others, the inquiry that I mentioned has been launched.

The honourable member for Rockhampton claimed that he raised this matter on the basis of some document given to him. He was also given information about Mrs. Gates, but, just as he was not able to distinguish between the reports of the Consumer Affairs Bureau and of the Consumer Affairs Council, he did not have the sense to be able to distinguish between the "goodies" and the "baddies" in this matter. He is not even able to understand from the Votes and Proceedings what is happening in this Parliament.

The honourable member is well known in his own party as one who cannot be trusted with confidential information. Frequently he reveals the source of his information in his speeches in this Chamber. One member of the Consumer Affairs Council is extremely embarrassed as a result of the actions of the honourable member on information given to him by that member of the council a week or so ago. The honourable member has a reputation of not being able to keep confidences, and we know his nickname in his own party room.

Mr. WRIGHT: I rise to a point of order. I take exception to the Minister's remarks. I have not raised any matter relative to a member of the Consumer Affairs Council for some time. The Minister's remarks are offensive to me, and I ask that they be withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the Minister please withdraw the remarks.

Mr. KNOX: I will withdraw them, Mr. Lickiss. As I was about to say, in his own party room the honourable member is known as "Cassius". We all know the source from which this nickname comes. He claims to be an authority on these matters, yet he has found considerable difficulty in trying to distinguish between those who try to assist the consumers and those who are endeavouring to exploit them. It is a tragedy that the honourable member is so incompetent.

I shall defer further comment until later.

Mr. BROMLEY (South Brisbane) (5.23 p.m.): Having listened to the Minister's drivel, I can come to no other conclusion than that Queensland is labouring under a minority Tory Government. I take strong exception to personal attacks by the Minister or anybody else on any of my colleagues.

Mr. Knox: Do you think the honourable member for Rockhampton will apologise to Mrs. Gates?

Mr. BROMLEY: I am not at all concerned about what the honourable member for Rockhampton might do in that respect. Obviously the Minister is very thin-skinned, and I strongly object to his using this Parliament as a forum for a personal attack on one of my colleagues.

Having said that, I wish to pay a tribute to the departments and officials under the Minister's control. I have found the majority of his officers to be really good blokes. Later in my speech I will probably say some things that are not complimentary to some of his departments, but at the outset I make it clear that I have received co-operation from them, and I am pleased to see some of my friends sitting in the lobby.

I wish to draw the Committee's attention to some of the "rorts" and rackets perpetrated by a number of Queensland firms at this time of the year.

Mr. Wright: And condoned by this Government.

Mr. BROMLEY: They are condoned by the Government. I have received many complaints about the sale of what are loosely described as "Christmas hampers." Purchasers pay them off by instalments so that at Christmas-time they will have a hamper to share among their families and friends. They have to take delivery of the hampers as soon as they order them. I have received many complaints about what is happening. Some Christmas hampers cost \$35, but a check of the price of the contents has revealed that they are only worth \$25. People are being "touched" for \$10 when buying a \$35 hamper. One woman who rang me told me she had bought a \$33 hamper. After taking delivery of it she priced all the articles individually at her local store—I emphasise

that it was at the local store—and found the actual value to be \$23. She was “touched” for \$10.

I ask the Minister to issue a statement about this practice and the Press to print what I am saying, so that people will be warned not to buy Christmas hampers without checking their value.

A Government Member: Where did they come from?

Mr. BROMLEY: I shall not name the firms at this stage, but they are well known around the town.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Why won't you name them?

Mr. BROMLEY: Why should I name them? I am asking honourable members to listen to what I am saying and I ask the Press to print what I am saying so that people will be protected. People do not like to complain officially to the Consumer Affairs Bureau, but they have approached me. The whole matter should be investigated.

The Minister and other Government members have referred to the cost of living and increases in prices. It appears to me that they were upset because we castigated the Government as a result of the tremendous increases in the cost of living in Queensland over the past 12 months. Without fear of contradiction, I say that unless the Australian Labor Party's policy of price justification is implemented, we will witness a continuing increase in the cost of living.

Mr. Lane: What happened to your policy of price control? Have you “changed the firm”, or is this a new concept?

Mr. BROMLEY: I speak of price justification because, on 2 December, when the people go to the polls, without doubt they will endorse the price-justification policy of the A.L.P. in the Federal sphere, and if you want to cast a—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will please address the Chair.

Mr. BROMLEY: If you want to put a ticket on it also, Mr. Lickiss, I am prepared to bet you.

Mr. Hughes: Will you also peg wages to restrain inflation?

Mr. BROMLEY: I am quite happy to agree with a scheme of freezing prices, wages and costs. That system has proved successful in America and England, and for a while it was successful in New Zealand. I might also point out that last Saturday there was a landslide to the Labor Party in New Zealand.

I do not wish to be side-tracked from the subject of prices at this stage, because I wish to compare various prices as shown in the latest bulletin issued by the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics and emphasise the shocking difference in them. I have

no time to mention all the items but I point out that sugar, rice and jam prices are relatively high in Queensland. In September, the price in Sydney of a 2 lb. pack of rolled oats was 40.7c and in Brisbane it was 45.8c. It seems that we will have to live in the South to ensure that we get these goods at a cheap price. Cheese is approximately 3c dearer in Queensland.

Mr. R. E. Moore: How can it be “approximately”?

Mr. BROMLEY: Surely the honourable member does not want me to deal in fractions. A good deal of processed cheese is consumed in Queensland. An 8-oz. packet costs 30c in Brisbane, 27.9c in Melbourne and 26.6c in Sydney.

It seems that we have a good deal of trouble with meat prices in Queensland. In nearly all instances listed, meat is costlier in Queensland than in other States. I shall give some instances: silverside costs 67.4c a lb. in Brisbane compared with 63.3c in Sydney; a leg of mutton is 39.9c a lb. here compared with 35.2c in Sydney. Further down the list, and getting into the luxury meats, pork is 70.5c a lb. in Brisbane and 64.8c in Sydney; pork loin is 72c a lb. here and 62.9c in Sydney; and pork chops cost 72c a lb. here and 62.5c, or almost 10c less, in Sydney.

Mr. Hughes: Instead of picking out one or two, what about the Consumer Price Index? Isn't it lower in Queensland than anywhere else?

Mr. BROMLEY: No. The latest figures show that, on the average, Queensland has the highest cost of living and the lowest wage rates, and I am referring to both the average male earnings and the minimum wage.

A good deal has been said about consumer affairs. For many years I have been referring to pseudo auction sales. Mr. Pluckrose—I was going to call him “Lucky” Pluckrose, and I think he will get the message—mentions on page 5 of his report that a number of complaints have been received about these activities. Then, on page 6, he points out that these pseudo auction sales had received the consideration of the Commissioner and other authorities. I want to know what action has been taken. New South Wales and Victoria have introduced legislation to ban mock auctions, and it is about time that was done in Queensland.

I am still firmly of the opinion that the legislation should have been titled, “The Consumer Protection Act.” During the passage of the Bill I moved 14 amendments, including an amendment to the title, but the Government would not accept any of them. At a later stage of the passage of the Bill, it did accept some amendments. If the Government had accepted one of my amendments the legislation would have had some teeth and would have afforded better protection to the public.

I shall now deal with firms that constantly send letters to members of Parliament and other people. Recently I received a letter from a firm calling itself Jason Enterprises. It claims to have branches all over the world, and mentioned London, Munich, New York, Tokyo, Johannesburg, Toronto and Auckland, which is spelt A-u-c-h-l-a-n-d. In part, the letter reads—

“This may seem to you an odd method of finding people, but I have found it very effective to obtain the people I require.”

Further on there are other spelling mistakes. “Warehouse” is spelt “w-h-a-r-e-h-o-u-s-e” and “personnel” is spelt “p-e-r-s-o-n-a-l”. The letter goes on to say—

“Remuneration of up to \$12,000 per annum plus company benefits to successful applicants.”

So old is the typewriter that was used that “S” with a stroke through it is used to indicate dollars. The writers expect people to believe what they say and “come into” their proposition. The letter is signed “A. B. Clarke, Manager,” and the address given is Brisbane, P.O. Box 116, Stones Corner, 4120. People do “come into” these propositions, and they are not protected.

I now wish to speak quickly and briefly on the last State election and other matters associated with the current Federal election, such as postal voting and voting matters in general. I refer particularly to some of the propaganda being put out by the Liberal member for Griffith.

When my wife and I went to vote at the last State election, my wife found that she had been struck off the roll completely. She claimed a vote under section 35A, and this was subsequently disallowed. She received a pro-forma letter signed by H. E. Radford, Principal Electoral Officer, saying that at the election she claimed a vote “as being enrolled as an elector residing at the above address”. Mr. Radford went on to say—

“My records indicate that you are not enrolled for that address and you are requested to complete the enclosed claim form and return it to this office without delay.”

I replied to Mr. Radford, the Principal Electoral Officer, and I told him that my wife was first enrolled at the address shown on 16 March 1949. I also said that I had checked the 1971 roll for Greenslopes, and I found that her number was 1198. I also said that a check of previous rolls indicated that her name had never been erased. Although her name was on all the other rolls back to 1949, her vote was disallowed, even though she claimed it under section 35A.

When I asked the State Electoral Office to enroll her as from the date of her original enrolment, I found that that apparently cannot be done, because all the records have been destroyed. It is claimed that a letter was sent to her. She has never received it.

You can imagine, Mr. Lickiss, the fuss that I would have kicked up had she received a letter saying that she was not entitled to be enrolled according to her address. But I did not get a letter, nor did she.

I was told that I was also taken off the roll. I had a look, and my name was marked as being taken off the roll. I was told, “You cannot have a vote.” I said, “In that case, I will vote under section 35A.” The presiding officer was there. He knew me, and he said, “Yes, you are on the roll, Mr. Bromley.” I said, “They tell me I am struck off now.” He said, “If you look in the supplementary roll, you will find that you are back on it.” I was taken off the Norman roll and put on the Greenslopes roll. My name was then erased from the Greenslopes roll and placed on the supplementary roll. When I asked why this was done, I was told, “Your name was spelt wrongly.” It still showed my occupation as M.L.A., and I was enrolled on 30 March 1961. Of course, I was not enrolled on that date at all for the Greenslopes electorate. I was placed on that roll, as many others were, by reason of the redistribution, because people had to be placed on the rolls according to where they lived. That applied to many honourable members in this Chamber.

I asked the State Electoral Office to put my wife’s name back on the roll as from the date of her original enrolment. All members of Parliament realise the importance of knowing how long electors have been on the roll. With this information, a member can say to a constituent, “You have lived here for such-and-such a period.” Some people think that is marvellous. They think, “He must know me. I am a well-known identity.” But let us face it—often we get that information from the electoral roll. The honourable member for Chatsworth is nodding his head in agreement. We all know the benefit to be gained from this information. I could not get my wife’s name restored to the roll as from 16 March 1949, which was the date of her original enrolment, because all the records have been lost. It is a simple thing that I am asking for, but am not getting. I do not know whether it is because of computerisation or bad management.

Mr. Lane: Do you think you will be able to find your way home tonight?

Mr. BROMLEY: I would not go home if I thought the honourable member was going my way. He would “roll” me for sure, as he has done to so many others.

I am not sure whether the honourable member for Murrumba said this earlier, but I am saying it now: The rolls themselves are too small—I am not blaming the presiding officers for that—and the names are too close together. When Labor Governments were in office there was double spacing between the names, and it is about time that system was reintroduced. If it was, there would be fewer mistakes, because it is quite easy now for a poll clerk to unintentionally mark off a person’s name.

Mr. Lane: Do you like the colour of the print, or would you like a blue cover on the roll?

Mr. BROMLEY: It does not matter to me what colour it is, as long as the rolls are made bigger and better.

I was going to refer to a letter from the State Electoral Office in reply to mine asking that the name of my wife, Mrs. Beryl Lillian Bromley, be put back on the correct date of enrolment. I also pointed out in my letter that her vote was not counted under section 35A. However, I do not have time to deal with those matters now, because I wish to say that the sooner people under 21 years of age—20, 19 and 18—are given a vote, the better it will be.

I wish to refer briefly to an article in "The Observer" of 25 October 1972, headed "Postal voting exploited—MP", which says—

"Even Al Capone would have respected the way the postal voting system was exploited in Queensland, Federal Parliament was told recently.

"Member for Griffith, Mr. Don Cameron, speaking in Federal Parliament on October 11, said the system was 'on the nose' and needed a complete overhaul."

I do not know what Mr. Cameron is whingeing about, because the results of the last Federal election show that he was many votes in front under the postal voting system.

In the present Federal election campaign, I visited many people who were heartbroken because of the lack of personal feeling in the postal-voting system. These people had received postal-vote applications that had in fact been sent to dead people, and relatives were being upset right, left and centre by the very impersonal way in which the matter was handled. I went to some places and saw people who were crying. They said, "Look, I have received a postal-vote application"——

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable gentleman has exhausted the time——

Mr. BROMLEY: "But my mother and father have been dead"——

The CHAIRMAN: Order! When I rise to my feet, the honourable member will be silent and resume his seat.

Mr. BROMLEY: "Mr. Cameron sends how-to-vote cards to dead people by post also"——

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will deal with the honourable member if he does not remain silent. He has exhausted the time allowed him.

Mr. R. E. MOORE (Windsor) (5.43 p.m.): Before I begin dealing with the Estimates for the Department of Justice, I wish to refute

a couple of remarks made by the honourable member for South Brisbane relative to the cost of living in Queensland and to Queensland's being a low-wage State in which costs are high. I shall quote from the "Monthly Review of Business Statistics", published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in Canberra, the wages in 1960 and the wages in 1972.

Mr. Bromley: What months are you quoting?

Mr. R. E. MOORE: These are the weekly wage rates and hours of work for adult males in the various States. For 1960 they are as follows:—

	\$
New South Wales	35.65
Victoria	34.95
Queensland	34.47
South Australia	34.18
Western Australia	35.03
Tasmania	34.97

For 1972 the figures are—

	\$
New South Wales	64.31
Victoria	64.38
Queensland	64.75
South Australia	61.78
Western Australia	63.35
Tasmania	63.22

Before the honourable member for South Brisbane begins quoting figures off the top of his head, he should ascertain the facts and be a little more careful how he handles the truth.

Mr. Hughes: Does that mean that people are better off under Liberal Governments?

Mr. R. E. MOORE: There is no doubt that in Queensland wages are higher and the cost of living is lower. There is no doubt that on Saturday next——

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will come back to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: In answer to the honourable member, no-one in his right mind would vote away his heritage by voting Labor next Saturday.

In a debate on the Estimates we should be discussing the way finance is allocated and a breakdown of that allocation. It would be very difficult to provide the complicated document that would be necessary to give a complete breakdown of all the expenditure.

I notice that the total staff under the heading of "Justice and Attorney-General" has increased by 204. For the benefit of

the readers of "Hansard", I will list the number of staff provided under the various headings for 1972-73. The figures are—

Chief Office	180
Solicitor-General's Office	141
Magistrates Courts Offices	591
Electoral Registration	31
Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs	78
Licensing Commission	31
Probation and Parole System	44
Registrar-General	42
Sheriff and Supreme Court and District Courts	134
Court Reporting Bureau	59
Titles Office	232
Public Defender	22
Law Reform Commission	6
Commissioner of Prices	1
Friendly Societies	6
Consumer Affairs Council and Consumer Affairs Bureau	19

The appropriation granted for 1971-72 totalled \$8,176,700. Expenditure for that year was under-estimated, the actual expenditure being \$8,515,496. For this year there is an increase of more than \$2,000,000 in the amount estimated to be required, the estimated requirement for 1972-73 being \$10,531,519. The staff has increased by 204 and the expenditure is estimated to be a little more than an extra \$2,000,000. The Justice Department is a labour-intensive department and, in effect, it is not greatly revenue producing. That means that the extra \$2,000,000 will go to meet inflationary costs that the Government has to bear in order to carry out last year's functions with one or two minor improvements. Inflation is a problem that affects everybody. The Justice Department is no exception.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: In answer to the honourable member, inflation is not brought about by Billy McMahon. If we had some control over the arbitration system so that the commissioners and judges were required to consider the economics of handing out wage rises, we would not have half the problems we have today.

Mr. Sherrington: It will be the deflation of Billy McMahon on Saturday.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: The honourable member should not hold his breath until that happens!

I now wish to refer to the last State election and the roll check preceding it. In the Windsor electorate, 2,521 names were taken off the roll. That occurred because of the very inefficient checking staff that was employed. They would call at a house, and if the person was not there they marked him off the roll. That was taken as an affront by the majority of people so affected, and I received many complaints about it. Most

of the complaints were about the objection form, and I suggest to the Minister for Justice that he change its wording. It says—

"From the information received by me, I have reason to believe that your name should not be retained on the roll for the electoral district of Windsor and I object to your name remaining on the roll on the following grounds—"

and people take objection to this part—

"that you do not live in the district and have not lived in the district for the past five months."

Of course, people rang me and said, "We have lived here for 20 or 30 years." They took great exception to what was done and said, "We aren't going to fill the form in. We have complied with the Electoral Act. We have enrolled. If we were not home when the person checking the rolls called, that is not our fault. He should either have come back or used some common sense and inquired of the person next door."

Mr. Lane: The police used to do that quite effectively.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: The police used to do that, and they did a good job. However, there is one difference: the police have a certain amount of authority. They go to the next-door neighbour and ask who lives next door, and they get a reasonable response. But when some of the civilians doing this job asked that question they were told, "Go to hell and find out." That made their job a bit more difficult. Admittedly it did not happen very often, but I know it did happen in some cases.

I wrote to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on this matter and suggested that Cabinet should consider changing the wording of the form or sending with it a covering letter along these lines—

"As a direct result of an official roll check which gave no evidence to prove that you did or did not reside at the address marked on the roll, would you kindly complete the form supplied and place in a business-reply envelope and post it, or call at the Electoral Office, Old Treasury Building, George Street, and verify your situation."

I think something along those lines could be done.

Dr. Edwards: A polite note.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: Yes, a polite note. I received a reply to my request but it was not a final reply. It simply said that the present form was sufficient to cover the legal requirements.

The next subject I wish to discuss is the Literature Board of Review and the amount of pornography coming into this State. The Minister and the Literature Board of Review are to be commended for trying to curtail the flow of this pornography. Various sex books can be purchased featuring sex deviates and that sort of thing. These books sell at various bookshops for about \$3 each. The perverts and so forth who buy them

read and reread them day after day. Many of these books are short and can be read in about three minutes.

We do not want this type of literature in Queensland. The type of pornography that is circulating today may not be of the low type available in Denmark, but I think we should get back to a bit more of the puritanism of days gone by. A little more mid-Victorianism would suit me down to the ground. Every parent should strive to leave the world in a better state for his children than when he came into it.

Our attitude to crime and punishment must be changed, and punishment made to fit the crime. For example, someone who chops down an ornamental tree at the side of the road should be made to replace it and care for the new tree. If that one, too, is destroyed by a vandal who escapes undetected, the original offender should be made to replace it with a third tree. Similarly, if a person writes obscenities on a fence, he should be compelled to repaint the whole fence.

In some instances there is nothing wrong with the use of a policeman's boot on larrikins and louts. This certainly happened in my younger days. I do not favour capital punishment, but I certainly favour corporal punishment for, as an example, sex offenders. The birch would work wonders on such persons, because they do not like having their hides hurt. However, we must ensure that the birch is in the hands not of a sadist who would derive pleasure from using it but of someone who would find its use abhorrent.

A bully will not attack anyone who he believes will give him a hiding. Rather will he pick on a victim who he thinks is an easy mark. If a bully thinks he is likely to be given a punch in the solar plexus or somewhere else, he will become quite docile.

Mr. Wright interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I remind the honourable member for Rockhampton that persistent interjections will not be tolerated.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: I have received some complaints about the conduct of local option polls. Although, quite often, they are held prior to the granting of licences to conduct hotels, which are required to close at 10 p.m., they are not held to determine whether clubs, which are permitted to remain open seven days a week, should be established. Certain clubs in the suburbs constitute a great nuisance to nearby residents, and care should be taken in choosing a site. It should be away from a residential area.

I do not know that local option polls are the answer to the problem, because the fact that a town like Charters Towers, for example, may have a hotel on nearly every corner does not necessarily mean that it will have more drunks than another town with fewer hotels. The normal drinker has only a limited sum available to him for the purchase of liquor, so I suggest that once a hotel has established a regular clientele of a

certain level, a second hotel could be established to cater for additional customers. Such a scheme would bring a hotelier into closer association with his customers than at present, and would lead to the creation of a gathering place similar to the English inns, in which customers enjoy a convivial drink as well as a game of darts or quoits. The hotelier or licensee is close to the public in every way. I would not care how many hotels we had. The smaller they are the less offensive they are to the people at large, because fewer cars and people congregate around and in them.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr. R. E. MOORE: I shall now deal briefly with consumer affairs. Many people describe this bureau as the "Consumer Protection Bureau" but, in effect, it is not a consumer protection body. When we introduced the legislation to set it up we decided on the name "Consumer Affairs Bureau", realising that we could not protect people against themselves.

Mr. Sherrington: You have to protect them against the "sharks".

Mr. R. E. MOORE: I believe we should protect people against the "sharks", but we cannot protect them against themselves. If I have an article that another person wishes to buy and I set a purchase price for it that he is willing to pay—it could be a lead pencil or a work of art that has not cost very much to produce although it has a certain intrinsic value—that is fair enough. How can a person be protected in such circumstances? When he takes the article home he may say, "I have been caught."

Mr. Sherrington: Merchandising is not as simple as selling a pencil.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: I am not suggesting it is. If the honourable member had a propelling pencil to which someone took a fancy and was prepared to pay a good price for it, there would be nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Wright: The quality of goods and other things have to be considered.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: I agree.

I agree with many Opposition members that this legislation must be given more teeth. However, it is true that we cannot protect people against themselves. In the main, a trustworthy person is trusting. Confidence men would not be confidence men if they were unable to make people believe they were getting a fair deal when paying a high price for something of little value.

Mr. Tucker: Isn't the cooling-off period designed to give protection to people in such circumstances?

Mr. R. E. MOORE: The honourable member is talking about the door-to-door sales legislation. It does not cover as wide a range of goods as it will in the future.

Mr. Tucker: You said you cannot protect people against themselves.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: We cannot. If I wanted to sell the honourable member an article that he wanted badly enough and for which he was prepared to pay a very high price, how could I protect him against himself?

(Timed expired.)

Mr. BOUSEN (Toowoomba North) (7.19 p.m.): I was somewhat surprised to hear the final remarks of the honourable member for Windsor about the Consumer Affairs Bureau. He said that it could not be called the "Consumer Protection Bureau". I believe it was established to give protection to consumers. When I spoke in the introductory debate on the establishment of the Consumer Affairs Bureau in 1970, I said that the legislation did not go far enough and that the bureau should be given more teeth. Furthermore, I said it should be called the "Consumer Protection Bureau", the name given to similar bodies in the southern States.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. BOUSEN: In the southern States the legislation was called the Consumer Protection Bill, and I referred to that fact in 1970.

Mr. Tucker: Perhaps Mr. Moore has a conscience and knows that it does not protect the consumer.

Mr. BOUSEN: I should say that he does not want them to be protected. Our Deputy Leader hit the nail on the head when he said that we must protect people against themselves. That is why a cooling-off period is provided for in certain provisions of the Door to Door (Sales) Act. A purchaser is thereby given an opportunity to revoke a decision he has made. Under the present system, this does not apply to several items, particularly electrical appliances, and I shall produce evidence of this later to show that it has happened to people in my electorate.

I again raise the need for consumer protection in Queensland, and I make specific reference to the sale of deep-freeze units and food plans by Farmer Greenfield and Permanent Pantry. Before going any further, I pay a tribute to Mr. Skinner, Mr. Parslow and particularly my good family friend, Mr. Bernie Kehoe, for the assistance they have given me during the years I have been a member of Parliament. As I said, an anomalous situation exists. The Consumer Affairs Bureau has warned people against entering into contracts with Farmer Greenfield or Permanent Pantry, yet Mrs. Horan is still publicly recommending these products.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Are you attacking women now?

Mr. BOUSEN: I will attack anybody who is doing the wrong thing. The honourable member had better be careful or I will attack him.

Some weeks ago I raised this matter during the Matters of Public Interest debate, because I believed people were being fleeced by Farmer Greenfield. People purchased freezers only to find that a food plan was also involved in the contract or, conversely, contracted to purchase foodstuffs only to find that they had also purchased a freezer. In the end result they paid \$1,200 to \$1,400 rather than the \$700 they thought they were contracting to pay. There are many instances of people wanting to cancel a contract, but not being able to do so. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said, no cooling-off period of seven days is allowed in this instance.

I wrote to the Minister and enclosed a number of cases that called for investigation because of the shady manner in which the deals were presented to the people concerned. But what has happened? People are still being sold these freezers and food plans, some of which are recommended by Mrs. Horan. To say the least, it is rather ridiculous for a member of the Consumer Affairs Council to recommend this scheme to members of the public who are gullible enough to sign a contract for the purchase of a food plan not realising that a freezer is also involved.

Mrs. Horan advertises herself as a home economist. Surely, as president of the Queensland Housewives' Association and a member of the Consumer Affairs Council, she has some obligation to ensure that neither of those organisations is associated with any personal recommendation she might make. I suppose one would not mind so much if she really believed in the deal that she was asking others to take, but everyone knows that she is only in it for what she can get out of it. Everybody knows that she receives remuneration for her support of the products listed in the Farmer Greenfield scheme. It would be very interesting to know how much she receives for her part in the deal.

Mr. Davis: I reckon she receives a packet.

Mr. BOUSEN: Mrs. Horan persists in publicly recommending these products. Strangely enough, what she is doing is condoned by the Minister. One might well ask if she should lose certain private rights when she accepts public office and responsibility as a member of the Consumer Affairs Council.

Mr. R. E. Moore: This was prior to her becoming a member of the Consumer Affairs Council.

Mr. BOUSEN: I knew very well that the honourable member for Windsor would come into this discussion. I shall tear strips off his argument in just a moment.

On this morning the honourable member for Rockhampton, the Opposition shadow Minister for Justice, produced evidence that Mrs. Horan said that she expressed support for this scheme only before she became a

member of the Consumer Affairs Council. On 25 November, only a couple of days ago, this appeared in "The Courier-Mail"—

"Mrs. Horan said she had endorsed Farmer Greenfield's products before she became a member of the Consumer Affairs Council."

This appears in the "Telegraph" of Friday, 9 June 1972—

"I thoroughly recommend Farmer Greenfield's," says Gabby Horan, Queensland's leading home economist."

She had then been a member of the Consumer Affairs Council for some time.

Mr. R. E. Moore interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Windsor has had the opportunity of making a contribution in this debate.

Mr. BOUSEN: He made a hash of it, too. He should now let me make my contribution.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair does not need any support from the honourable member for Toowoomba North.

Mr. BOUSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lickiss. I respect your ruling.

On Friday, 7 July 1972, a half-page advertisement appeared in the Toowoomba "Chronicle" for Farmer Greenfield's Family Foods. It includes this passage—

"Gabby Horan recommends it, so it must be good. Gabby Horan is the most respected home economist in Queensland. She's always on the radio, advising people."

Mr. Porter: Do you know when those ads were drawn up?

Mr. BOUSEN: All I am concerned about is that she is asking the people to fall for the fraudulent scheme perpetrated by Farmer Greenfield's Family Foods.

Mr. Porter: There could be a big difference in your accusations if you knew when those ads were drawn up.

Mr. BOUSEN: This appeared in "Sunday Sun" of 15 October 1972—

"I'll make a check," says Gabby."

"The president of the Housewives' Association, Mrs. Gabby Horan, said on her return today from an overseas trip that she would investigate alleged complaints against a food plan that she had endorsed."

Mr. Wright: She only did that this year.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Rockhampton knows full well that he cannot interject from other than his correct place in the Chamber.

Mr. BOUSEN: I am referring to "Sunday Sun" of 15 October 1972. The same advertisement goes on to state—

"On behalf of the Housewives of Queensland, Gabby Horan asked these questions of Mr. Brian Hunt, General Manager of

Farmer Greenfield's Family Foods. These questions have been in many people's minds lately. Below are the answers given and verified later by Gabby Horan."

In the final paragraph she said—

"Farmer Greenfield's gives you tremendous service in a straightforward deal that's designed from the first to reduce food costs. You do save money."

So much for the assertion by honourable members opposite that Gabby Horan had not made any of these recommendations since she became a member of the Consumer Affairs Council. I say in all sincerity that that is not so. Here is evidence that she is still recommending these products, despite the fact that she is a member of the Consumer Affairs Council whose responsibility it is to protect the people of this State against fraudulent dealing.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: If she had any decency, she would resign.

Mr. Marginson: She gets the truth muddled up a bit, doesn't she?

Mr. BOUSEN: That is true.

Mr. Davis: If the Minister had any decency, he would sack her.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That borders on an unparliamentary statement and a reflection on the Minister. I hope that the honourable member for Brisbane will be careful with his interjections in future.

Mr. Davis: What did I say?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member is so irresponsible that he does not know what he is saying, I am afraid that I cannot help him. He referred to the Minister as being irresponsible and lacking decency.

Mr. DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. What I said was that if the Minister had any decency he would sack her, which is a lot different from saying the Minister is irresponsible. I think it is about time you got your ears fixed.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will withdraw that remark. It is a reflection on the Chair.

Mr. Wright interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I have already spoken to the honourable member for Rockhampton, and I now warn him under Standing Order No. 123A. The honourable member for Brisbane will now withdraw his remarks and apologise to the Chair or I will deal with him.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw the remarks and apologise.

Mr. BOUSEN: I point out that Farmer Greenfield's Family Foods is not an isolated case. Numerous other practices have been investigated by the Consumer Affairs Bureau

and the Consumer Affairs Council—pseudo auctions, mock auction sales, and a number of others. In reading the report of Mr. Pluckrose, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, I took note of quite a number of activities that were mentioned in it, and the action that will be taken if similar practices occur in the future. However, nowhere in his report did he mention the activities of Farmer Greenfield's Family Foods or Permanent Pantry in Rockhampton. I want to know what is going to happen to them, and what action will be taken to curb their shady activities. I am sure that the Minister also must be concerned about this matter.

I am aware that the Minister, in his summing-up earlier in the debate today, said that an amendment would be brought down next year to the Door to Door (Sales) Act—if I remember correctly, that was the Act he mentioned—to deal with some activities of this type, particularly pseudo auctions and mock auctions. However, neither in his comments nor in the comments of Mr. Pluckrose, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, was any mention made of what would be done about the activities of Farmer Greenfield's Family Foods. I believe that the Government has a responsibility to protect the consumer, to outlaw unethical practices, to enact protective laws, and to punish wrongdoers. Honourable members have yet to see any evidence that that has been done or will be done in the future.

Assuming that an apprentice in any trade picks up a couple of feet of copper wire, for which there is a ready sale, and he is found out and convicted, he immediately loses his apprenticeship. If a lad who has not sufficient money to buy sweets walks into a sweet shop and puts a couple in his pocket, he is brought before the court and fined for stealing if that is found out. Yet here is an allegedly reputable firm—no action has been taken against it—which is able to rob people with its shady deals and the high interest rates it charges on its commodities. Manufacturers and retailers continually fleece the public of thousands of dollars and get away with it.

When the legislation was being introduced in 1970, I said that there were no teeth in the Bill. There is need for amendment of the Act so that the Consumer Affairs Bureau can take some positive action when cases are detected, apart from reporting the matters to Parliament. There is no real protection in the present legislation, particularly the Door to Door (Sales) Act, and the legislation covering consumer affairs is not worth the paper it is written on.

I wish to cite some instances in Toowoomba. All these matters were raised some time ago by me, but I have yet to see any action taken against the offending parties. I want to know what investigation has been made into these cases and what action is contemplated by the Consumer Affairs Bureau or the Minister. On 27 April 1972 a Mrs. Horton said that she was threatened

by a Mr. John Hunt, who said that if she refused to go on with her plan she would be put on a credit blacklist throughout Queensland. That woman was threatened with a blacklist if she did not make the purchase after she had signed an agreement. On 29 February 1972 a Mrs. Denny said that she was very hostile about being "roped" into this plan. The salesman did not say that a finance company was involved, and she thought that she paid all the money to Farmer Greenfield's Food Plan. The salesman told her that he could not come back. "Farmer Greenfield doesn't call twice," he said. She had been referred by friends. At this point of time every person who recommends a customer gets \$20 from Farmer Greenfield. That is the type of thing that is going on.

A Mrs. Hess said that she signed up for a freezer only, but found out later that she had to take a quantity of food. She said, "Our weekly food bill was worked out that we would benefit by Farmer Greenfield's Food Plan. Butter, for instance, was quoted at 52c a lb." She said that that was one of the things that helped her to decide to accept the food plan. She said, "Gabby Horan sold us." She said that she thought it would be O.K. if Gabby Horan recommended it. She further said, "We were even told we would be making monthly payments to Farmer Greenfield's, and we had no idea it was through Custom Credit, and therefore we did not have seven days grace to change our minds as with other reputable firms." That is the sort of nonsense that is being peddled by salesmen.

(Time expired.)

Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (7.38 p.m.): Listening to the remarks of honourable members opposite, one can only form the opinion that this is anti-Gabby Horan week as so many of them have gone out of their way to attack this lady. I am not aware of the "ins and outs" of Farmer Greenfield, but I do know Mrs. Gabby Horan. She is dedicated to helping working people. (Opposition laughter.)

I am very serious in what I say. I have known this lady for a long time. In her defence I say it is possible that she signed a contract covering a long period, and even though Farmer Greenfield has come before the notice of the Consumer Affairs Bureau, because of the long period covered by the contract Mrs. Horan has to carry on with the advertising.

I do not hear very much talk from the Opposition about the wonderful things that Mrs. Horan has done. If there has been a misunderstanding on her part about the activities of Farmer Greenfield, I am sure that nobody would be more sorry than Gabby Horan about what is taking place. I wish to place on record the wonderful work being done by this woman. She has frequently been outspoken against various Brisbane

firms which have not acted in the best interests of the people of Brisbane, or Queensland.

Mr. Wright: If that is so, why doesn't she say what she now thinks of Farmer Greenfield?

Mr. MILLER: It could well be that under her contract she can do nothing about it.

Mr. Wright: In other words, she sold her right to speak.

Mr. MILLER: As I say, I do not know the "ins and outs" of this matter. I am telling you of the wonderful work she does.

THE CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will please address the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: I was answering a question from the honourable member for Rockhampton.

THE CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can answer it through the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: The Estimates of the Justice Department are very important because they give us an opportunity to speak on matters dealing with the law. This department is responsible for the protection of the public in all areas of the law, so I welcome the opportunity of entering this debate.

First of all, I want to refer to valueless cheques. Some time ago—I think it was in 1970—Dr. Delamothe said he intended introducing legislation that would overcome the problem of valueless cheques. I hope that in the very near future the present Minister for Justice will see fit to introduce into this Chamber legislation similar to that in New South Wales which makes it a criminal offence for someone to issue a cheque when he has no money to honour it. I believe that the loophole in our legislation should be closed. I do not think this offence is as hard to prove as it is made out to be. If New South Wales can make it a crime to issue a valueless cheque, I cannot see any reason why Queensland cannot fall into line with that State. I therefore repeat my hope that in the very near future we will see brought down in this Chamber legislation designed to protect people against valueless cheques.

"The Sunday Mail" of 26 March, under the heading "Everyone must pay for the dishonest", published in an article dealing with burglary insurance, the purpose of which, naturally, is to protect people against loss by burglary. The article said that a 50 per cent increase in the maximum rates for burglary insurance premiums was imminent in Queensland. I suggest that until we as legislators introduce laws into this State which will protect people against valueless cheques, everyone will be also paying for the dishonesty of the few in this area. We need new laws to help the police combat

crime, and this is one area in which we can play a very vital role in helping the Police Force.

Another area requiring urgent legislative attention is that involving the illegal use of motor-cars. The sooner we bring down legislation that makes the illegal use of motor-cars a stealing offence rather than one simply of illegally using, the better it will be for the people of this State and for the Police Force. The police surely cannot afford the time spent in chasing illegal users of motor vehicles only to have them charged with that offence. I believe it is imperative to protect the public from these young hoodlums by making the charge stealing rather than illegal use of a motor vehicle.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Are all illegal users of motor vehicles young people?

Mr. MILLER: I think the larger percentage of illegal users of motor vehicles are young people. I agree that perhaps the greater percentage of the population as a whole also consists of young people; but the problem we are considering at the moment highlights the number of people involved in this serious crime.

It is very easy to prove that a person is in possession of stolen goods so that he can be charged with that offence. Yet a person who is arrested when driving a motor-car that he does not own is charged only with illegally using a motor vehicle. I fail to see why he cannot be charged with being in possession of stolen goods. I hope this is another area that the Minister will look at closely in the near future. It is possible for us to close this loop-hole, too.

I turn now to the heavy financial penalties that are imposed upon those motorists who are convicted of drunken driving. I would suggest that the majority of these people are workers in receipt of what could be regarded as average earnings. The imposition of a heavy penalty on such a man, particularly if he has a wife and two or three children, could result in great hardship to him and his family. Surely it is possible to impose a different sort of penalty that, although punishing the offender, would at the same time not impose undue hardship on his wife and children. In some cases, drunken drivers are fined as much as \$200 to \$300.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I remind the honourable member that the matter he is now raising does not come within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Justice.

Mr. MILLER: I am hopeful that the Minister, through his department, will introduce legislation to overcome this problem.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I remind the honourable member that he cannot discuss the introduction of legislation in the Estimates debate.

Mr. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Lickiss. In that case I will deal with divorce law reform, which I think comes within the Minister's

jurisdiction. Although I have referred to this matter on previous occasions, tonight I wish to reiterate one or two points. I do not intend to go into it in detail, but I urge the Minister to look at reforms that possibly would be made to our divorce law and not simply brush them aside. I am aware, of course, that this is a Federal matter; nevertheless, surely the Attorneys-General of all the States could press the Federal Government—

Mr. Sherrington: The Minister has already written down, "It is a Federal matter."

Mr. MILLER: I have already commented that it is a Federal matter; nevertheless, as I say, the Attorneys-General could press for reforms to the Federal divorce laws.

Within the past six months my attention was drawn to a case involving a married couple who separated after 18 months' marriage. The wife left the husband and subsequently sued him for maintenance. She succeeded in being granted maintenance at the rate of \$25 a week. The whole point of the matter is that from flats that the husband owned at Milton he received an average weekly income of only \$32. How on earth any magistrate could order him to pay \$25 from that income is beyond me. I point out that this man's financial position has been investigated by the Taxation Department and that \$32 is his genuine average weekly income. This woman is entitled to \$25 a week virtually for the rest of her life. Such a case highlights the necessity for a change in our divorce laws.

On earlier occasions I have urged the setting up of family courts to determine divorce cases. I do so again tonight. I suggest that the only time that a Magistrates Court should be resorted to is in a dispute over the division of property owned by a married couple. Certainly, divorce proceedings should not be heard in a Magistrates Court; rather should they be dealt with by a family court.

I turn now to local option polls. Like the honourable member for Baroona I, and I suppose most other honourable members in the Chamber, received numerous complaints during the conduct of the recent local option polls in Brisbane. I should like the Minister to consider changing the three-mile-radius provision to a one-mile-radius provision. However, I do not believe it should be a fixed one-mile radius. If a river or a mountain range acts as a natural boundary, it is unnecessary to fix even a one-mile radius from a given point. Surely people on one side of a river or mountain range should not be compelled to vote in a local option poll on the other side. After all, it is really no concern of theirs. I know that the Minister will say that the voting figures in the outer areas are no different from those in the inner areas or those close to the proposed hotel site, but that is not the point.

Many people will be asked why they did not vote in the recent local option polls. Many of them did not want to vote and did not want to be put to the inconvenience of having to vote merely because we, as a Government, say that people within a three-mile radius from a proposed hotel site must vote. I hope that the Minister, after careful consideration, will see fit to reduce the radius to one mile, with provision for that distance to be varied in special circumstances. I do not want people on one side of the Brisbane River voting in a local option poll for a hotel site on the other side of the river in which they have no great interest.

I further suggest that voting in local option polls should not be compulsory. If people are interested they will vote, but we should not force them to vote. Again, interested bodies should not be required to collect a certain number of signatures in order to demand that a local option poll be held. When a new hotel is envisaged, I should like a local option poll to be held automatically, but within a confined area. And voting should not be compulsory. If people are opposed to a hotel in an area they will vote against it, and if they strongly favour it they will vote for it. I see no reason at all for making voting compulsory.

Mr. Marginson: How many hotels have you in Ithaca?

Mr. MILLER: There is only one in Ithaca, and that is enough.

I fail to see why the Government has to bear the cost of conducting local option polls. At present it has to print new rolls, but under my scheme electoral rolls could be used and returning officers could simply mark off people who want to exercise their franchise.

Mr. Hinze: Local option polls are a farce.

Mr. MILLER: I do not think they are. People should have a right to say whether or not a hotel should be sited in a certain area.

The cost of preparing and printing rolls is unnecessary. The Government should not be forced to undertake this heavy expenditure. Hotel and brewery-owners and the Temperance League are obliged to invest a lot of money, and the recent polls cost the Government \$450,000.

Many rumours are circulating in this city about the possible introduction of poker machines. I hope that in his reply the Minister will give the Committee an unqualified assurance that poker machines will not be introduced in this State. Rumours are rife that they are to be introduced in January.

Mr. Marginson: What do you think about bingo?

Mr. MILLER: I am not opposed to bingo.

I hope the Minister will clearly indicate that these rumours about poker machines are without foundation, and that he will

dispel public fears about the possible introduction of these monstrosities. The Retailers' Association of New South Wales has made it quite clear that in its opinion poker machines are against the best interests of the people. I certainly hope that they will not be introduced into Queensland.

The honourable member for South Brisbane quoted figures from the Bureau of Census and Statistics concerning certain food prices. I agree that the figures he quoted are correct, but he went to a lot of trouble to refer to certain articles. Had he started at the top of the table and worked down, he would have disclosed an entirely different situation. I am at a loss to know why an Opposition member, who should be in favour of price control, compared New South Wales rather than South Australia with Queensland, because South Australia is a price-control State. Of course, he did not use South Australia because prices there are higher than in Queensland.

A Government Member: He has gone wrong all round.

Mr. MILLER: That is so. I shall quote from the three top lines on the sheet used by the honourable member. Beef in Brisbane is 62.1c a lb.; in Sydney it is 63.7c, and in Adelaide it is 66.2c. Rump steak is 101.8c a lb. in Brisbane; in Sydney it is 102.7c, and in Adelaide it is 115.4c. I shall go no further, because those figures indicate quite clearly that the honourable member chose figures to suit his argument. Had he used the figures I have quoted, the story would have been completely different. I am surprised that someone who believes in price control was unable to quote South Australia as the State with the lowest food prices.

The honourable member also referred to the Consumer Price Index rises for Australia, and claimed that Queensland had the greatest increase. The figures for the September quarter indicate that Brisbane's increase was the lowest, with .8 per cent, while Adelaide's was the highest, with 1.6 per cent. The other capitals ranged between those percentages. It is significant that, while Opposition members urge price control, the State with price control also had the highest C.P.I. rise while Queensland had the lowest.

(Time expired.)

Mr. B. WOOD (Barron River) (7.58 p.m.): I have been impressed by the contributions in this and earlier debates of the honourable member for Rockhampton. Some of the strength of his arguments has been indicated clearly from a strange direction this evening when we saw the Minister for Justice involving that honourable member in some name-calling and personal criticism.

Mr. Knox: Is he going to apologise to Mrs. Gates?

Mr. B. WOOD: I do not know, but I can tell the Minister that, in any contest between "Cassius" and "Knoxius", I will back "Cassius".

I shall now make some comments regarding the Literature Board of Review. I have read the statements in its annual report. They are not very lengthy but are quite to the point. The board, according to the report, is charged with the responsibility—

"To examine and review literature with the object of preventing the distribution in Queensland of literature which or any part of which is objectionable."

I agree with the statement in the report that—

"The censorship debate is no longer usefully concerned with the right to read but should be concerned with the right of so few to misuse great powers for gain, for gratification and for pollution."

This is an accurate and valid statement. There is no difficulty these days in seeing a great deal of questionable material. It has been mentioned today that a person could walk into a department store and see row after row of books, with very provocative and suggestive covers, whose contents may in no way measure up to the promise, such as it is, of the covers. In fact, as one who likes to read, I find it difficult these days to find a book that contains light-hearted humorous reading free from any undesirable content. Nobody today seems to write the type of book that I like to read.

There is also today the great proliferation of R-certificate films. I am no wower, and last year, when the legislation allowing their exhibition was brought down, I supported it, with perhaps some reservations. Since then, a vast number of R-certificate films has been shown throughout the State, and probably some of the slack is now being taken up. I hope that it will not be long before a greater choice of films is provided. Although I do not speak with authority on the matter, I understand that there is a considerable range of much more serious and salacious material, such as the publications banned by the Literature Board of Review last year, that the average citizen would find it much more difficult to obtain.

I am not going to deal at great length with this matter. On a future occasion, I should like to examine the motives for the publication of this type of material. I shall make brief reference to one. The report of the Literature Board of Review this year states that the motive is generally gain, gratification or pollution. There are some who say that the motive is the destruction of public morality. I have listened to this argument, but I can see no justification for it. Last year, the Women's Liberation Movement, or a movement of similar name, distributed outside schools pamphlets that many considered were undesirable. There was, too, the case of *The Little Red Schoolbook*. Offhand, I do not know of any other publication that might be described as tending to weaken public morality. I can therefore see no real strength in the argument that the purpose of this material is to weaken the moral fibre of the nation.

Predominantly, and almost exclusively, this material is made available to people in Australia for one reason only, that being financial gain for those who distribute it. Some very large and reputable private-enterprise firms, along with some that are small and disreputable, publish this sort of material, and their sole purpose is to make money. During the current Federal election campaign some people have, in some weird and unimaginable way, attempted to blame the spread of this material on the Labor Party. Certainly the trend towards the proliferation of such material has in no way been initiated by the Labor Party, its members both in and outside Parliament, or anybody who is in any other way associated with the Labor Party.

Perhaps more important, and more significant, than the motive in selling this material is the motive in buying or watching it. I think that this gives cause for great concern. Why is there such a demand for literature and films of this type? What is lacking in people or society that creates such a market? It is difficult to determine the reasons for the change in public standards. I believe that it requires a course of study, by people perhaps not in this Chamber but beyond it, to ascertain what is lacking today that creates this demand.

There are some in our society who cannot understand these changes, and I suppose there are very few of us who can understand them in full. There are others who are bewildered by a rapidly changing society. There are some who are unable to cope, who have no answers to the situations that arise. These are the people who look for someone to blame, and that someone is sometimes the Australian Labor Party. There are some people who kick out blindly, wilfully, dishonestly and maliciously, seeking to blame anybody and anything but themselves. I have heard that view expressed before in this Chamber in other debates.

In the current Federal election campaign we have seen it again. One sees in prominent newspapers that the D.L.P., that disreputable party, now advertises in a manner of despair, asking the question, "Are your kids ready for pornography?" and then goes on to say—I am quoting from one such advertisement that appeared in "Woman's Day"—

"The A.L.P. will let all kinds of garbage flood into the country—pornographic books, films—you name it."

That is a stupid statement.

Mr. Frawley: Your Federal A.L.P. would flood the country with pornographic literature.

Mr. B. WOOD: The honourable member for Murrumbidgee makes the same sort of stupid statement. He shows absolutely no intelligence and no depth of vision. I will include him amongst the foolish, malicious people to whom I referred earlier.

Mr. Knox: Senator McClelland said it.

Mr. B. WOOD: The Minister had his chance. I will let him explain this in his reply, if he chooses to get round to it. The statement has no basis in fact. I invite the Minister to quote to me, if he can, statements by the Australian Labor Party, either in its platform or in its Federal election policy, relative to this matter.

Mr. Knox interjected.

Mr. B. WOOD: The Minister can rush out and get them and quote them to me. I ask him to quote also definitive statements by leading front-benchers that would substantiate these remarks.

Mr. Knox: Your shadow Minister for Media said it yesterday.

Mr. B. WOOD: I ask the Minister to quote precisely what the shadow Minister said, not what he says the shadow Minister said, and to make sure that, for a change, he speaks with some accuracy. It will be a pleasant relief for the Committee.

Mr. P. Wood: He also quoted what Mr. Chipp said.

Mr. B. WOOD: Let us get a balanced report. I am not criticising Mr. Chipp in this Chamber. I do not agree with all his views, but I am realistic and knowledgeable enough to know that there are many factors involved in the so-called permissive society. I want anybody who wishes to use these stupid quotations critical of the Labor Party to approach them with some degree of honesty.

There is one important factor in setting standards by which people tend to live, although I do not think it is anywhere near the most important factor. In some measure, the standards set by Governments and by people in Governments have an effect on public morality—probably a more important effect than the legislation that a Government passes. If people see Governments and the people therein setting two standards, perhaps proclaiming one thing and doing another, or perhaps criticising conditions but not doing anything about them, their reaction will be one of cynicism and they certainly will not act in all the ways that might be considered desirable.

Finally on this subject, I say that to attempt to blame Labor, as some stupid, malicious people have done, is nothing more than foolishness and deceit. The Labor Party, in and out of Parliament, contains men of honesty, integrity and high morality who are well regarded in the community, who walk in public with heads held high, and who will in the next week in the Federal sphere form an excellent Government for Australia.

Mr. R. E. Moore interjected.

Mr. B. WOOD: Again there is a stupid statement. If the honourable member remains in Parliament for a few years, I hope he will learn, though I despair of that.

Mr. Porter: What you say is correct, but it is a sad fact, isn't it, that in nearly every other area in which—

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. B. WOOD: I like to answer the honourable member, because I have not much regard for his opinions. You were drowned out by other interjections. As I said, I do not have much respect for your opinions—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): The honourable member will address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. B. WOOD: He is the man whose greatest achievement has been to place a hammer and sickle over the House of Parliament in an election advertisement. That says very little for the honourable member. It gives me another reason for saying that he could not make a living as a script writer and had to try elsewhere.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will come back to the Estimates.

Mr. B. WOOD: I am coming now to matters under the control of the Electoral Office. I wish to make some critical comments about the last redistribution of electoral boundaries. That is a little behind the times now, but I would not wish it to be forgotten. It was a very bad and prejudiced redistribution. I do not mind saying that I am disappointed in the integrity of the people who were responsible for it. Unfortunately they bowed to Government pressure.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I would remind the honourable member that redistribution comes under the Premier's Estimates, not under Justice Estimates.

Mr. B. WOOD: That is true. I suggest that the electoral boundaries and electoral matters which are under the control of the Minister for Justice have not in all senses been fairly dealt with. We have the position now where the boundaries—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I have ruled that electoral boundaries cannot be discussed under these Estimates.

Mr. B. WOOD: That is a great disappointment to me because I was wanting to be quite critical in what I said, but I respect your ruling, Mr. Hewitt.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: If it is any help to the honourable member, the Electoral Office comes under this Minister's jurisdiction.

Mr. B. WOOD: I realise that. I will confine my comments, in view of your ruling, to one aspect of this. I thought it was rather foolish for the Electoral Office to send out so many notices to people alleging that they had not voted when in fact they

had voted. Before the election, the rolls, particularly in my area, were unquestionably in a very bad state.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: It was done deliberately.

Mr. B. WOOD: It may have been. I know that in my area and in the Cairns electorate a very thorough canvass was carried out before the election. The people who did it were thorough and competent, and the information returned to Brisbane was as good as it was possible to expect. When the rolls came out, because of the haste with which they were prepared and, I suppose, to some extent the time spent on the gerrymander, they were in very poor shape.

Mr. Frawley: What gerrymander are you talking about?

Mr. B. WOOD: I cannot talk about it.

From what has been said by other honourable members, it is obvious that they had problems similar to mine in their electorates. Streets were taken out of what is now the Barron River electorate and placed in the Cairns electorate. People who lived in the same houses were included on different rolls. Some 400 applications were made for section 35A votes by voters who believed they had been wrongly removed from the roll. That figure could have been much greater, but many people preferred not to wait in a queue and went over to the Cairns booth next door thinking they might have been mistakenly included on the Cairns roll, as many of them were.

With this known background, it was very foolish of the Electoral Office to send out so many notices alleging that people had not voted. I had 20 to 25 people coming to me—that is not a bad sample—complaining that although they had voted they had received notices that they would be fined for not voting if they could not give sufficient reason for not doing so. I have had letters back from the Electoral Office pointing out that there had been errors, say, because a man's name had been included twice at two different addresses. The electoral rolls, both before and after the election, were in such a great mess that it was a little dangerous for the Electoral Office to send out notices to all the people who appeared not to have voted.

Mr. Tucker: All this chaos came about because of the alteration of the boundaries with undue haste.

Mr. B. WOOD: It was done so quickly.

The Minister has referred to the great increase in the work being done by the Titles Office. I must agree with that. I spend quite a few dollars on the telephone ringing up the Titles Office in Townsville asking when such-and-such a plan is to be registered and the information sent back to Cairns. I am not critical of the people working in that office, because I know they do a very good job. The fact is that they have been understaffed and

overworked recently. The work has been getting heavier and heavier and they simply have not been able to cope. I believe that the answer to a question asked by either the honourable member for Townsville or the honourable member for Cairns revealed that the staff is now to work overtime, but this is only a part solution because this great influx of work is going to continue and accelerate.

To my way of thinking there is only one answer and that is to provide a Titles Office in Cairns. I think this is a perfectly logical move. Although Cairns is not as large as Townsville it is, nevertheless, the centre of an area of greater population than that surrounding Townsville. I believe that the proper answer is to open a completely new office in Cairns to service that area. It would be of advantage to the Titles Office, the Justice Department and the people who require this facility. It certainly is warranted in the terms of the work coming into the office. Most of the major departments already have offices in Cairns. I spend a great deal of my time speaking to the people in them, seeking information for my constituents, and I think it is about time we had a Titles Office there. Perhaps the Minister, in his reply, may be able to give some information as to when this step will be taken.

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (8.18 p.m.): I wish to direct my remarks to matters which I consider to be of extreme importance. First of all, I should like to briefly refer to the 1971 amendment of the Elections Act. Under former State electoral laws, postal voting was provided for electors who were precluded from attending a polling place because of illness, infirmity and so on, and also for electors who, throughout the hours of polling on polling day, would not be within five miles of a polling place. Unfortunately, irregularities did occur and most of these seemed to be associated with the aged and the infirm.

It was therefore pleasing to see the Act amended to provide for electoral-visitor voting in lieu of postal voting for incapacitated persons. During the last election, this form of voting proved very successful. The electoral visitor in an electoral district was chosen by the returning officer and in all cases these were men of very high repute. In not one instance did I have reason to complain about the actions of any of them. In all instances the electors expressed their satisfaction with this form of voting. I was amazed at the number of very sick and aged people who applied to vote and also at the number who took an interest in the election.

The Invasion of Privacy Act 1971 is another measure of great importance. No doubt it is the desire of most individuals that their privacy be respected. The Act guards against intrusion into their privacy by making provision for the licensing and control of credit reporting agents, the licensing and

control of private inquiry agents and regulation of the use of listening devices about which we hear so much.

It is an undeniable fact that the extension of credit to a customer is, in fact, a special privilege, so he must be prepared, in such circumstances, to submit his affairs to the closest scrutiny. It is also reasonable to expect a true and proper rating of these affairs by reputable credit reporting agents.

These reports, furnished by credit reporting agents, are restricted to the credit worthiness or credit standing of those who seek credit for their own personal, family or household purposes. It is pleasing to see that the Act restricts the supply of information to any person other than a person who intends to use it in connection with a credit transaction.

The Consumer Affairs Bureau has proved its worth in spite of the fact that it has not been in operation for a great length of time. The majority of cases that have been reported to the bureau have been resolved when the offending firms have been approached by the bureau. It has done an excellent job in warning the public against undesirable sales practices. It is, however, unfortunately true that many people are taken in at auction sales. Often people bid for articles just for the sake of bidding, and, in many instances, get carried away and pay far in excess of the value of the article that they purchase. Some pay excessive prices for unopened parcels, as well as for articles of very low quality.

In my own electorate, prior to the establishment of the bureau one firm engaged in the sale of an electrical gadget that, when placed on various parts of the body, gave a small electric shock. The firm's salesmen seemed to be able to learn where the elderly people in the electorate lived, and they approached those who were stricken with osteoarthritis. By some swift talking, they were able to convince these elderly people that the gadgets would cure their ailments within one month. The result was that thousands of dollars worth of these useless gadgets were sold in the district. I would suggest that hundreds of them still exist, although, as I have said, they are absolutely useless. Of course, by the time the purchasers realised that they had been taken down, the salesmen had moved hundreds of miles away, and were probably fleeing people in other areas.

Another racket involves the sale of books. It is quite common for a mother to be rung by a woman and asked if she could call that night to discuss her bright child's education with her. In most instances the householder cannot see anything wrong with the request and invites the lady to call after dinner. But to her surprise she finds that the woman is accompanied by a man, with an American accent, who immediately starts some smooth talking and eventually goes outside to his car and returns with a set of encyclopaedias. The only way the householder can get rid of these people is by

offending them, but even then it is difficult to turn them away. Those householders who purchase the encyclopaedias find that they are published in America and are of little use to their children. Of course, the purchase price is about twice the value of the books.

Thanks to the Consumer Affairs Bureau very few practices of this type are engaged in these days. The bureau acts as a deterrent to those people who might otherwise indulge in questionable practices and services.

I wish to refer now to the Licensing Commission and the effect of the amendments made to the Liquor Act in 1970. Under section 49A, licences can be transferred from country towns to the metropolitan area. Although objections are taken from the city areas, at no time are local opinion polls held in the country districts from which the hotel licences are transferred.

There is a hotel in the small town of Coominya, in my electorate, and on two occasions applications were made to the Licensing Commission for a transfer of the licence and the applications were refused. The hotel, known as the Bellevue, is the only one in that small town and plays an important role in the life of the surrounding district. The lady who conducts the hotel has proved to be an excellent publican, and I feel sorry for her in that she has been offered a large sum for the licence but is not able to have it transferred. Honourable members can imagine, however, that without the hotel the town of Coominya would die. I am concerned at the fact that in each application the local people were forced to engage counsel to fight on their behalf to retain the hotel licence. I hope that the Act will be amended to rectify anomalies of this type.

Section 121 (7A) of the Liquor Act provides for the granting of a permit to sell liquor at a special function conducted outside normal trading hours. I have attended many such functions and found them to be well conducted and the behaviour of those in attendance to be good. I have an open mind on this matter, and would not worry whether or not liquor was sold at such functions. However, I believe that if it is consumed in a relaxed atmosphere it does not have the undesirable side effects that result from quick drinking in hotel bars.

The Literature Board of Review has a very difficult task. There seems to be a tendency to bring in very low grade literature. Some publications that have found their way to the bookshops can be described only as sheer filth. I hope that the board will ban such publications and prosecute all offenders.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: That includes "Pix" and "Australasian Post".

Mr. GUNN: Some I have seen are a lot worse than those magazines.

The Public Curator's office has expanded greatly since its inception in 1916. In that year 1,811 wills were prepared, as against almost 20,000 last year. Such is the expansion in the office that the Public Curator Amendment Act of 1971 was considered necessary to provide for the appointment of more than one Deputy Public Curator. The office was established primarily to administer estates of deceased persons and certain living persons such as the mentally-ill, disabled people in institutions, and those serving prison terms. In addition to handling all of these matters, the Public Curator Office now gives legal aid, prepares wills and holds them in custody, and prepares conveyancing documents, including documents for the purchase, transfer or mortgage of land, houses and other property for Government instrumentalities and the general public. The Public Curator also acts as liquidator in company proceedings and as a trustee for children and minors. I have cited a few of the extra services rendered by the Public Curator. The general public is making increased use of them, resulting in rapid and continuing growth of the office. It is reasonable to assume that we will see the services further expanded.

The Legal Assistance Act has been operating for over six years, but the number of applications for assistance has doubled in that time, and last year there was an increase of 700 applications over the figure for the previous year. Assistance is rendered to people of limited means who are unable to afford legal assistance.

Although the Minister has held his present portfolio for only a short period, we must all agree that he has corrected several anomalies. In the light of changing circumstances, we can expect more of them to show up. It is pleasing to note that the Minister is at all times willing to take corrective action. I extend my congratulations to him and my thanks to his staff for the many favours extended to me. I look forward to receiving further assistance from the Minister. If we consider some of the departments under his control, we realise the magnitude of the task ahead of him, but I am sure from my short experience in this Chamber that he is quite capable of looking after all his departments.

I sincerely hope that many of the anomalies that arise will be rectified, particularly those connected with the Liquor Act and country hotels. Some country towns, particularly those where there is only one hotel, have been greatly worried by proposals to transfer hotel licences. I believe that some small country towns have too many hotels. They have four or five hotels as well as licensed clubs such as a bowling club, a golf club and an R.S.L. club. A town with a population of 2,000 would be better served by two high-class hotels than by four hotels of which three gave little or no service.

Once again I extend my sincere congratulations to the Minister and his staff.

Mr. DAVIS (Brisbane) (8.30 p.m.): In the short time at my disposal, I shall cover some of the responsibilities of the Minister for Justice. In our present society, on certain matters the Liberal Party and the Country Party adopt double standards. The best instance of that was a meeting that was proposed to be held tonight by the next Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Gough Whitlam, at the Homestead Hotel. Because of police action, that meeting will not take place. However, it is interesting to remember that last week Mr. Eric Robinson, president of the Liberal Party, held a meeting in the Pacific Hotel at Southport, and that a fortnight before that the Federal Leader of the Country Party, Mr. Doug Anthony, conducted a meeting in the Royal Hotel, Beenleigh. That indicates the double standards of this Government. Obviously tonight's proposed meeting was forestalled through the action of this Government.

Mr. Sherrington: They probably pulled the signs down.

Mr. DAVIS: That would be typical of some of the actions of this Government in its mad clutching over the past couple of days.

I shall now comment on the remarks of the honourable member for South Coast. He referred to Mr. Whitlam's announcement that preferential voting would be abolished by 1975. The honourable member outlined how far he would support preferential voting. But the same honourable member did not support it in 1971, because the "Telegraph" of 13 April 1971 reported—

"A determined move for the abolition of preferential voting in Queensland State elections will be made at the Country Party's State conference at Rockhampton this month."

The honourable member for South Coast was to move that motion.

He is reported as follows:—

". . . a return to the first-past-the-post system would mean that Democratic Labor Party votes would not be counted, and that some Liberals would lose their seats."

In 1971 he was in favour of the abolition of preferential voting—as our party is.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Who was that?

Mr. DAVIS: The honourable member for South Coast.

I shall now touch on some aspects of the Consumer Affairs Bureau. During the passage of the legislation setting it up, several Opposition members complained that it lacked sufficient teeth. Since then, the present Minister for Justice has not made one statement in this Chamber naming any company. His predecessor, for whom I did not have the greatest regard, at least named a couple of companies.

In replying to some of the speeches made in this debate, the Minister glossed smoothly over the section of the annual report of the Consumer Affairs Council dealing with the bread industry. This must be an embarrassment to the Minister. The report was asked for in March 1971, and the Minister said that the council had advised him generally about the bread industry in Queensland, which is in the hands of two associations. Everyone knows that people in country areas have had a shocking deal from the bread combines in the Brisbane area, and that Tip Top and Cobbity Farm are the largest bread manufacturers in Brisbane, with Pfeffers in second place. These companies have deluged country areas with returnable bread, to the detriment of local bakers. The report was asked for in March 1971. It is now November 1972, and still there is no sign of it. Obviously there are some strong Liberal supporters among the bread manufacturers who do not want the report brought to light. They know that when it is presented there will have to be changes in the distribution of bread. This will mean changes in distribution in country areas, where at present local bakers are at a disadvantage.

I should like to take this opportunity to discuss the workings of some Queensland and interstate companies. If a citizen has any problem involving a company in Brisbane he is able to make a check of the shareholders of the company, but he cannot do this if it is a foreign or interstate company. A classic example of a company operating in Queensland is Bruce Small Enterprises. Honourable members will recall that in a newspaper report last month it was stated that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise had no pecuniary interest in a company known as Bruce Small Enterprises Pty. Ltd., a company registered in Victoria. Naturally a Queensland resident has difficulty in checking the shareholding of a Victorian company. However, I am fortunate in that I have relatives in Victoria.

An investigation shows that up till 31 December 1971, and for years prior to that, Andrew Bruce Small, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, of "Wanamara", Isle of Capri, held one share in this company in his own name, Jata Holdings held 4,199 shares, and Gowanbrae Holdings held 11,600 shares. It is extraordinary how people can say that they have no pecuniary interest in certain companies. I shall now relate to the Committee how one share builds up into many other shares in various associated companies.

Let us see who controls Gowanbrae Holdings. A further search revealed that Andrew Bruce Small and his wife hold 250 of the 380 shares held by individuals, and Wanamara Investments Pty. Ltd., a foreign company registered in Victoria, holds 200,936 shares. This shows clearly that this company is dominated by Andrew Bruce Small. What

of Wanamara Investments Pty. Ltd.? A search of this company shows that it has 220 shares, 140 of which are owned by Andrew Bruce Small and his wife.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The statements being made by the honourable member for Brisbane are untrue, and I ask for their withdrawal.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Surfers Paradise claims that the statements made by the honourable member for Brisbane are untrue, and he asks that they be withdrawn.

Mr. DAVIS: May I have your ruling on this, Mr. Lickiss? I would withdraw the statement purely and simply so that I may be enabled to continue my speech. But if I make a withdrawal, people can say later that I have been telling an untruth. I am quite willing, after completing my speech, to table a return giving particulars from the registers of directors and managers, as well as the shareholdings in this company. If I withdraw the statement, the honourable member can say later that I was telling an untruth. I could not withdraw it, knowing that it is a true statement.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair does not intend to enter into an argument with the honourable member. The Standing Orders provide, as the honourable member should know, that when an honourable member claims that a statement attributed to him is untrue, the honourable member making it can be asked to withdraw it. I now ask the honourable member for Brisbane to withdraw the statement.

Mr. DAVIS: Fair enough! I will withdraw it.

A search of the register revealed that 5,060 of the 10,000 shares in Jata Holdings are owned by Andrew Bruce Small.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The statement of the honourable member is distinctly untrue, and I ask for its retraction.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Surfers Paradise asks that the statement be withdrawn because it is untrue. I ask the honourable member for Brisbane to withdraw it.

Mr. DAVIS: Again, I withdraw it. In other words, Bruce Small Enterprises is completely dominated by Andrew Bruce Small, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise—

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is reading from a prepared document.

Mr. DAVIS: I will table it.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: Under Standing Order 317, he is prosecuting a quarrel as proxy for one Robert Neumann.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair will decide that point.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I am merely making the point for your decision, Mr. Lickiss. Standing Order 317 distinctly says that if an honourable member is prosecuting a quarrel—and I say that he is, because it has been well known round the lobbies for a week past, since a conference with one Robert Neumann, and he is reading a brief and is prosecuting a quarrel—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair will decide that.

Mr. DAVIS: Mr. Lickiss, I am waiting for a ruling.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. I have asked for a retraction.

Mr. DAVIS: I am not making a retraction. How can I, when I know that what I am saying is true? I am willing to table the papers that I am quoting from.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! It is a rule of practice that if an honourable member says that something attributed to him is untrue, is a reflection on him, or is offensive to him, the honourable member who has made the statement can be asked to withdraw it. I now ask the honourable member for Brisbane to withdraw it.

Mr. DAVIS: Very well, Mr. Lickiss; I withdraw it.

Mr. Knox: And don't repeat it again.

Mr. DAVIS: Who is running the Committee?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair is running the Committee.

Mr. DAVIS: I should like to refer now to another company. I was told in this Chamber on a previous occasion that a statement I made relative to this company was untrue, but a search of the Companies Office proved that what I said was true. That company was Ted Brown Quarries, in which I was told that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise had no interest whatever. A search in the Companies Office has shown that the correct name of the company is Ted Brown Quarries Pty. Ltd. It was previously John Mollard Pty. Ltd., and the name was changed on 22 July 1970. The registered office is at Capri Commercial Centre, Isle of Capri. Its directors are Edward John Brown and Janet McLaren Brown, both of River Drive, Cypress Gardens, William Robert Bruce Small, 12 Marine Parade, St. Kilda, and Andrew Bruce Small, "Wanamara," Isle of Capri.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is persisting in making these completely untruthful statements, the truth of which has previously been denied. His words are offensive to me, he is prosecuting a quarrel, and I ask for a

complete retraction. I appeal to you, Mr. Lickiss, and suggest that it is about time the honourable member ceased reading the brief from which he is quoting.

The CHAIRMAN: I uphold the point of order and ask the honourable member for Brisbane to withdraw the remarks that are stated to be untrue. I also ask him not to persist with these allegations, otherwise the Chair will decide, under Rule of Practice 11, that as these matters have already been aired, he is prosecuting a quarrel.

Mr. DAVIS: I obviously have to obey your ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: That is obvious.

Mr. DAVIS: Yes, it is typical.

Mr. Knox: Why do you accept briefs?

Mr. DAVIS: Why don't you shut your mouth!

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That statement by the honourable member is not only offensive but is also unparliamentary. I had occasion to warn him previously this evening when he reflected on the Chair. I now ask him to withdraw his remark, and warn him that if there is any repetition I will deal with him.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw it.

Mr. TUCKER: I rise to a point of order. I think it could be said that on this occasion there was extreme provocation from the Minister. If that is to continue, I intend to ask that something be done about the Minister.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I remind the honourable member for Townsville West that the Chair is in control of the Chamber. I will dispense equal justice on both sides. I hope the honourable member is not reflecting on the Chair or implying that I will not do that. There is no valid point of order.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdrew my statement. Can I now get a withdrawal from the Minister? It will appear in "Hansard" that the Minister for Justice said I should not accept briefs.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no valid point of order.

Mr. DAVIS: I find the remark offensive.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member finds the remark offensive, I ask the Minister to withdraw it.

Mr. KNOX: I withdraw the question I asked. I shall probably get the answer from some other source.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! With all this, the bell has sounded again. The honourable member will terminate his speech at 8.50 p.m.

Mr. DAVIS: Obviously, now that I am being gagged—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That remark is also a reflection on the Chair. The honourable member should know the Standing Orders. He should confine his remarks to the requirements of Standing Orders. I take his remark as a reflection on the Chair. If he prosecutes it much further, I will deal with him.

Mr. DAVIS: As that is your ruling, Mr. Lickiss, may I table these documents?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is nothing to stop the honourable member from tabling any document.

Mr. DAVIS: I should like to table them. What the honourable member for Surfers Paradise said was a reflection on me. He asserted that what I said was untrue. I now table the documents. They prove, once and for all, that if any person is telling an untruth, it is the honourable member himself.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is persisting in his personal reflections on me and his offensive words. What he is saying altogether is objectionable. I claim your protection, Mr. Lickiss.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Brisbane will withdraw his remarks, and then continue to deal with the Estimates under review.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw the remarks, and resume my seat.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the documents referred to on the table.

Dr. CRAWFORD (Wavell) (8.49 p.m.): I am amazed at the variety of subjects that have been discussed under these Estimates, and I am sure we will all be interested to read in "Hansard" the rather peculiar speech we have just heard.

There are various aspects of legal practice in our community which I think we should seriously consider and question. We need answers on many matters, particularly the change in tenor of the community's attitude to observance of the law. Most honourable members were brought up in an age when the law was accepted unreservedly. The more recent generation, however, is not only questioning the validity of individual pieces of legislation but is also making drastic efforts, in certain circumstances, to bring about elective disobedience of the law. I am a great believer in the rule of law, but if we do not have explicit laws that are capable of being adhered to in great detail, we are only heading for general anarchy. Furthermore, I believe the law should be invoked whenever the circumstances call for it.

With other members of this Assembly, I was distressed over the week-end when certain references were made in a Sunday newspaper to an aspect of treatment of a child

at Challinor Centre, references which, in my view, can only be detrimental to the over-all treatment of such children. I believe that the law should be brought into this situation, and I think we should attempt to so restrict legal usage that the news media and all other sections engaged in communications will have no difficulty in understanding the letter of the law and will know that it has to be adhered to.

The Queensland Law Reform Commission has been operating for several years. It has been said in this Chamber that the only result of its deliberations over three years was the deletion during the last session of the word "wilful" from the crime described as "wilful murder". A very strenuous effort is now being made by the Minister for Justice to implement many of the recommendations of that commission. As part of these reforms, it is necessary that a progressive analysis of laws be carried out both by the commission and the Minister for Justice. And every individual member of this Committee should undertake his own analysis of laws which he regards as anachronistic.

The common law under which we function has been a progressing and evolving statute since the days of Magna Carta. It is true that, once common law started to evolve during the centuries after Magna Carta, the men to whom the laws applied were increasingly protected by them. However, common law is now becoming blurred in many respects, and, although the initial ideals of that law were to protect citizens from victimisation and to some degree from their own foolishness, we need to rethink very many aspects of it so that they will be applicable in a modern context and actually work in practice.

It is no good having laws attuned to an age far removed from our own and not geared specifically and especially to the removal of anomalies encountered in our present society. The activities of a great number of citizens in our community at the moment are directed solely at extracting money from fellow citizens whom they can fool. It might be paternalistic to call for protection of those who are unable to protect themselves in commerce, but it is certainly necessary to legally protect those people who are unable to attend to their own financial affairs. I do not believe it is paternalistic to initiate laws having that function.

The Consumer Affairs Bureau to which some reference has been made in this Chamber today is one Government-appointed agency to which citizens can go to have their various complaints investigated in depth. The only criticism one could possibly make of that department is that its over-all brief is still too limited to enable most people to receive the satisfaction which I believe is their right. It will be necessary either to vastly expand the brief under which the Consumer Affairs Bureau functions or to re-organise the structure of the law under which it works so that all complaints that

are pertinent to its brief can be investigated thoroughly. It is not possible, for example, for the bureau to examine company records, and it is therefore extraordinarily difficult for some aspects of complaints to be investigated completely.

Of course, one might well ask how is this power to be expanded and, at the same time, administered with justice. If free entrance to company records were allowed by the Government, it could quite justifiably be accused of prosecuting quarrels against companies. I believe that the ultimate recommendation that should be made in this context is for the appointment of an ombudsman to the community with the necessary powers, on which I and others have elaborated on other occasions. Legislation providing for the appointment of an ombudsman will be brought forward during the current session.

It is also quite vital that Government departments be geared to the general thought of abolishing secrecy when it comes to inquiring into their activities. Only in the most stringent control of defence and matters involving national welfare should there be need for Government department secrecy. It should be possible for citizens to obtain information from Government departments easily and without any degree of intimidation. To this extent I fully agree with many of the recommendations made in this context by Ralph Nader in America. If we intend to really implement these thoughts to their fullest extent, we will need to engage in rethinking our values and adjudicating on what is important to individual citizens.

At the present time we hear a great deal of talk about censorship. It is a topic that is discussed on current affair TV programmes and on talk-back radio sessions, as well as in the Parliaments throughout the land. The controversy that is raging over censorship will continue, and that in itself is a good thing. At some stage a dividing line must be drawn between those publications, films and activities that are questionable and others that are acceptable in our community.

Richard Attenborough, the actor and director, has recently stated that he is completely opposed to all censorship. In support of his contention, he refers to Scandinavian and other countries that have abolished it. He believes that pornography would be totally abolished from our community if censorship were removed. It could well be that in the ideal society this is so, but it is a fact that on this whole matter the Scandinavian countries are no longer as sanguine or as confident as they were as to the various end results of the complete abolition of censorship. In Copenhagen there are still pornographic articles on display, and I believe that insufficient attempt is made to protect the youth of the nation from the deleterious effects of those displays.

I do, however, become very annoyed by the type of pseudo-sophisticated attitude adopted by some persons in our society who peddle pornographic material and preach the

complete removal of censorship, at the same time saying, "We are not interested in that type of thing any more. We just become bored by it." They exhibit a pseudo-sophistication of the most blatant and irresponsible type, one that is an indictment of our so-called modern and superior society. I might ask in this context whether education over the last decade or two in western society is responsible for this attitude, but I can only deplore it in the strongest possible terms.

In Queensland, the Literature Board of Review does a rational, effective job. However, to supplement the work of that board we probably need legislation agreed on between the States and the Commonwealth to prevent locally produced pornography from being circulated throughout the country. I was interested to note recently the remark of the Minister for Customs that he had no control over the type of pornographic material produced in our community, which is freely circulated by post and other means. On the other hand, a "free for all" policy—whether that is the Federal Labor policy or not—cannot be accepted in our community.

We cannot afford to take such a risk, in spite of the so-called sophisticated efforts in Scandanavian countries, particularly Denmark and Holland. I might add in this context that the authorities in Copenhagen are not nearly as dogmatically assertive as formerly in their cry of there being no harm in pornography. I could perhaps ask what good it does, and whether it ennobles mankind. I regard that question as more pertinent than the one we often hear, "What harm does it do?"

In the over-all context, surely the quality of life at which we are aiming should be the overriding criterion in our society. The manner in which we live and have our being on our earth spaceship is, I believe, of vital importance. In this context, the value of the individual is of the utmost importance.

In discussing these matters, punishment for crime becomes relevant. Actually our society is using a very peculiar double-edged sword. Society condemns capital punishment, the persecution of minority groups (which are not necessarily always based on race or colour) and war in general. On the other hand, society shows progressively less concern for the old, the infirm, and those with mental and other physical defects and, of course, the unborn members of society about whom I have spoken on several occasions.

It is odd that the law which allows or condones destruction of only those who cannot complain, such as the unborn or the handicapped, will immediately jump to the protection of those who commit violent crime. I believe also that far too many political issues enter into our consideration. It is a fact that in overseas countries as well as in Australia many matters involving a clearcut issue of right or wrong have become political issues. Abortion on demand is probably the

best example. As I have said on former occasions if the quality of life is to be maintained and protected by our laws, respect for the law must be maintained. How much respect for law are we engendering by encouraging our citizens to flout the so-called bad laws? Democracy can never survive under such circumstances; only a travesty or a shell of the democratic system will remain.

As far as punishment in general is concerned, how much thought have we ever given to the victim of crime? How much will we do in the future about compensation and other financial arrangements for the families of victims, and the victims themselves if they are still alive? We have legal assistance for those who cannot afford legal processes, we bend over backwards to be fair to criminals in our application of the laws of our modern society, and we give very great thought to how we can rehabilitate them and bring them back into society.

One might also ask what type of punishment should be meted out to those who commit premeditated murder against children, the police or the aged, and what sort of punishment is acceptable in our modern society. It is nearly a century now since W. S. Gilbert wrote his lyric about the punishment fitting the crime. The original lyrics indicate a shrewd insight into assessing how crime should be punished.

Those who commit minor misdemeanours and have the potential to become criminals in our society should be punished by being forced to carry out useful work and to correct, if possible, any damage that they have done. A century or two ago minor criminals were put in the stocks on public display as being those deserving of punishment. If a person who commits a minor misdemeanour is put in a public place to repair a fence or replant a garden, it is conceivable that that person is not only sitting in the stocks of public opinion but also, because he is doing something useful, could well be the instrument by which those who could be tempted to behave similarly are dissuaded from doing so.

As to crime in general, it is important that our laws should be geared to three general concepts: first, deterring crime; second, punishing those who infringe the laws of the land; and third, rehabilitating those whom we can hope to bring back to useful citizenship.

In days gone by, the whole weight of the law has leant very heavily on pure punishment. In the modern context, nobody wishes to refurbish the penology system purely as a punishing institution or reintroduce the type of punishment that was used in the past. I believe it is important for us, in 1972, to make sure that our laws are geared to deterring crime, if possible. Throughout the whole of western society, we attempt with great enthusiasm to rehabilitate people. I doubt if we will ever actually deter crime to the extent we would hope for.

One might ask in this context if capital punishment should exist for any type of crime in our society. As soon as capital punishment is mentioned, there is the most outraged outcry that can be imagined from our society. On various occasions, I have debated this aspect of deterring crime with so-called experts on television and in other avenues of the news media. I ask Paul Wilson, a self-expressed expert on all matters pertaining to crime and criminals, although I understand he has no degree in law, and people like him, this question: If one is persuaded to accept the statistics which show that capital punishment and other forms of severe punishment do not deter crime, what does? We are infused in this day and age with a whole series of academics and other experts who are so busy telling us what we should not do that they have no time to give thought to what we should do.

(Time expired.)

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) (9.10 p.m.): I have been greatly interested in many of the statements made on both sides of the Chamber during this debate. Some of them dealt with the protection of the public, and much has been said about the activities of the Consumer Affairs Bureau. What I intend to say tonight in no way reflects on any of the officers associated with this bureau, because I have a very high regard for the public servants of Queensland. In the main, my remarks about the Consumer Affairs Bureau deal with the attitude of the Government to this very important and vital aspect of community living.

I think it would be folly to regard the protection afforded to consumers in this State as anything but an effeminate effort by the Government to placate the public as a result of many things that have happened in the community.

Mr. Hughes: You know that to be wrong. Read the report of the bureau.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Of course, on their own admission, they are "the greatest", and, according to the Minister, he, too, is "the greatest". Frankly, that does not impress me. I again make it clear that I am in no way reflecting on the personnel of this organisation; I am referring only to Government thinking and policy.

Let us look at the whole tenor of the Government's thinking on consumer protection. Even though protection is not stressed in the title "Consumer Affairs Bureau", I would hope that it was set up to provide protection to the consumer. The whole approach to this matter by the Government resembles shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted. This is the great weakness of the organisation set up in Queensland to prevent many of the things that now happen to consumers in everyday life.

Mr. Hughes: There is protection for the consumer in his everyday business dealings.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I should like the honourable member to prove that to me. Where is the consumer protected before the commission of any offence? I am reminded of the Beach Protection Act. I said during the passage of that legislation that it should have been named the Beach "Resuscitation" Act and the consumer protection legislation should similarly have been styled the Consumer "Resuscitation" Act, because no action is taken under it till after an offence is committed. I know how the purchase of a piece of bacon in Brisbane by my wife was handled, and I inform the Committee that if the matter had not been so serious, what happened would have been simply ludicrous. However, I do not want to go into that at the moment.

Let us consider what consumer protection should involve. As long ago as 1903, the British Parliament had in operation a standards bureau to which a manufacturer, retailer or other person selling articles to the public could submit them for examination. The articles would be thoroughly investigated and, if the bureau was satisfied that they were indeed worthy products for sale to the public, it allowed the manufacturers to make use of a trade mark that became universally famous as the "Kite" brand. If the consumer walked into a shop to make a purchase and saw the "Kite" brand on an article, he knew it had been thoroughly examined and was recommended by the standards bureau. It was an article that the enlightened could purchase without any fear of poor quality, and so on. That was the hallmark of that association.

In my opinion, that is one of the essentials of consumer protection. It should not be necessary to wait until somebody has been taken down. He has to make a complaint to the bureau, and the bureau then tells the person concerned not to do it again. In effect it says, "Don't be naughty boys, or we might take some action against you." Surely, as in the case of crime prevention, prevention of offences such as these is far more important to the consumer than trying to—

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Would you agree that some people are so gullible that we could never protect them?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: That remark is not worthy of the honourable member.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Yes, it is.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: It is not worthy of him. To me, it is passing strange that in cases in which people have been "taken for a ride", the general rule of caveat emptor is still expressed. I should like to know how far back in the history of justice the rule of caveat emptor emerged. It is just not good enough in 1972 to be saying, "Let the buyer beware." Let us go back in history, Mr. Lickiss—

Mr. R. E. Moore: You are right.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Of course I am right.

Mr. Hughes: Mr. Sherrington—

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Let me make my speech. I do not need any of you to help me.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member addresses the Chair, he will be given protection by it.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not have to be protected, Mr. Lickiss. I wish to make the point that I can sing a good solo. I do not need to sing a duet.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, would you mind singing it to the Chair?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I will certainly do that.

I suggest that the rule of caveat emptor goes back to the days when sins of deception were very minor—probably to the days when the large fruit was placed at the front of the stall and the small fruit was sold from the back and other minor deceptions such as that. What is the position today? One only has to read the books of Vance Packard and other experts—I refer the Committee particularly to Vance Packard's "The Hidden Persuaders"—to realise that merchandising today has become a scientific art in the highest degree, where deception is practised right through from the market survey to the time that the consumer actually has the goods in his or her hands. So it is not a question of a person being too gullible. The deceit practised in merchandising is designed so scientifically that I should say only a very discerning housewife or other person in the community could be sure that he or she was getting value for money.

Even as recently as 25 years ago the customer had the services of shop assistants who could say whether a particular product sold well, whether they had had experience of very few returns or rejections, and whether, because they had sold many of them, they thought they could guarantee them. But those days are gone and today, as Vance Packard said, the housewife and other shoppers are the victims of the silent salesmen—or the "hidden persuaders"—and every device is used to gull members of the public into believing that they are getting value for their money. It is no longer a matter of people being able to discern whether they are getting value for their money, because the ways of the advertisers and the packaging experts are so devious.

Mr. Hartwig: Where has the employee gone?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: If the honourable member had been listening to me, he would have heard me say that the days of the personalised service of the shop assistant are gone. In a supermarket, staff is very limited. It consists mainly of somebody

filling the shelves with pre-packaged and pre-advertised goods and girls at the check-out counter taking the money. There is no specialised assistant for a person to seek assistance from when he is purchasing to see whether a product is selling well or whether it is recommended.

The question of consumer protection does not rest wholly with the person who is being "taken for a ride". I think I read that the Consumer Affairs Bureau handled something like 12,000 complaints last year. Ample evidence is available that there are many dissatisfied people in the community. The essence of protection and guidance for the public is the very thing lacking in the consumer protection laws of this State. As I say, they are a pitiful, weak and effeminate effort on the part of the Government to protect the public from the machinations of many people in the community.

Mr. Kaus interjected.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not like to cite my own case, but if the honourable member would like a classic example I will point out that I bought an electric clock for my wife's birthday in July. It hung on the wall for three weeks, but since then it has been back at the shop being properly regulated.

Mr. K. W. Hooper: Let your head go next time and buy a better one.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: It is all very well for the Minister for Transport to be facetious. I do not like naming brands, but this is something I know a little about and it was a very reputable brand. I have become so sick of taking the clock back that this morning I asked the shop assistant to return it to the manufacturers and ask them if they would like to use it for a boat anchor—which is about all it is good for.

There is no way in the world that the ordinary person in the community can now go into a shop and know whether he is getting value for his money. This very important ingredient of consumer protection is lacking. As part of its consumer protection bureau, why doesn't the Government set up a standards branch to which manufacturers could submit their products for testing? That would be in the manufacturers' interests, too. When applicable, products could be given a seal of approval. The public would know when they saw that seal—the Minister for Justice could put a replica of his head on it if he wished—that it was an approved product. Even the humblest person in the community would know that he could buy such a product with confidence.

The Government should completely outlaw these so-called experts who recommend various products. A tennis player will recommend Gillette razor blades, although he probably uses an electric shaver. A football player will recommend Kellogg's Corn-flakes, but probably he never eats them because they would be fattening when he is

in training. Another so-called expert says, "I use and recommend Brylcreem", but probably he uses Vaseline Hair Tonic. These so-called experts recommend certain products, not because they know anything about them but because they are getting plenty of payola out of it. That sort of advertising should be banned.

Mr. Knox: Look what happened to the honourable member for Redlands as a result of using Brylcreem.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: There is no need for the Minister to get personal. Probably the honourable member for Redlands uses the same type of hair cream as the Minister does.

This sort of advertising should be legislated against. The ordinary people in the community are not gullible. I can remember the time when the Opposition took the former Speaker to task because he lent his name to an advertisement for a certain make of caravan. I am not reflecting on him, but I am saying that if a person is well known in the community it is completely wrong for him to be receiving payola by using his name to advertise a commodity and by posing as an expert and recommending its use. If we had real consumer protection in Queensland, that sort of thing would not be allowed.

Mr. Wright: What about Gabby Horan?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not want to mention any names. I could go through a long list of people who would not have a clue about the products they advertise but who, because their name is well known in the community, help perpetrate deceit of the public by recommending them. As I say, if the truth were known, not one skerrick of the products they advertise would be found in their homes. They advertise it only because they are getting payola out of it. For the sake of consumer protection, I think the Government should legislate to make it illegal for anyone in the community, other than a properly constituted standards branch conducted by a Government-controlled consumer protection bureau, to recommend anything to the public from the point of view of quality. I have advocated this step for a long time and, having done my part, it now rests with the Minister to do something about it.

I reiterate that the Minister in charge of police took me to task some time ago because, when dealing with the Vagrants, Gaming, and Other Offences Act, I mentioned the art union regulations, the Racing and Betting Act and a few other matters. I was disgusted with a Government that consistently persists in banning bingo in this State, thereby making it necessary for church organisations, football clubs and charitable institutions to play bingo behind locked doors in order to raise funds to carry on their work. The Government's attitude to this matter is so outmoded that it is laughable.

I reiterate what I said previously. I can do it in the debate on these Estimates, although I admit I was "off the beam" a little in mentioning it on the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act. This Government is turning political parties into criminals who must deceive the law in order to raise funds. Would the Minister prefer that political parties in this State should run art unions or raffles in order to raise funds, or would he rather see them get their funds from other sources, thus giving rise to all sorts of graft, corruption, and so on? When this Government came to office it banned the issue of permits to political parties to run raffles, yet I happen to have with me a newspaper of a couple of months ago featuring Mr. John Gorton, the former Prime Minister, at a Liberal barbecue for Mr. Don Cameron, operating a chocolate wheel, which is an illegal method of raising funds.

(Time expired.)

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice) (9.29 p.m.): It has been somewhat disappointing in this debate to see the very narrow limits within which some honourable members confined themselves, when the ramifications of the Estimates of this department are so widespread. A tremendous area of the Estimates was not touched upon at all. Nevertheless, as I said when I spoke before, it is almost inevitable in dealing with the Justice portfolio, which administers 150-odd Acts, that social questions rather than actual administration should be dealt with.

When we deal with these questions, inevitably we become involved in a debate on legislation and possible amendments to legislation. Although Standing Orders and parliamentary practice prevent us from discussing legislation during this debate, by virtue of the subjects that have been discussed by various speakers I am more or less forced to discuss it. All the same, the debate has been quite useful and we should take note of some of the points that have been raised. I think we should thank the tolerance of the Chair in this respect.

I wish to deal first with the electoral rolls and the administration of the Electoral Act. It is an incredibly difficult task to look after the 1,000,000-odd names that appear on the electoral rolls. There is, of course, room for enormous human error from the time when a person applies for enrolment until the time when the roll is published and, indeed, even well after the votes are counted. With the multitude of operations that are required with all these names, it is surprising to me that more errors are not made. The fact of the matter is that human errors do occur.

A number of honourable members have referred to circumstances surrounding their own electorates as well as to some of the problems that arose in the checking, the marking and the compilation of the rolls, with attempting to vote, and with the sending out of the "Why didn't you vote" notices.

It is an experience that I, too, have had, not only in the recent State election but also in every election in which I have been a candidate. It happens, too, in Federal elections. However, this is the first occasion on which I have really been in a position to critically examine the administration of the electoral rolls.

In common with other honourable members, in past elections I have lodged complaints with former Ministers about certain matters and conduct relative to those elections. Similarly, in the recent State election quite a number of new honourable members have discovered for the first time the sort of problems that arise.

On election day itself, the Leader of the Opposition stated through the news media that the rolls were "in a mess", and that between 9,000 and 10,000 persons had been disfranchised as a result of the poor condition of the rolls. His claims received wide publicity on the afternoon of election day, and I was approached by the news media and asked if this was a fact and stated that if indeed confusion had arisen and people had been disfranchised as a result of incorrect rolls, I wanted to know about it. In addition to the comments that I made then and there, I repeated my statement in the evening, again on the Sunday, and on several "open line" sessions the following day. Throughout the State, the Press gave wide publicity to my statement that I wanted to hear from those people who had been refused a vote and believed that they should have been given one. As a result of my appeal to those people to come forward and acquaint me with the circumstances, I received 96 letters.

Mr. Wright: What about the notices that were sent out?

Mr. KNOX: I will come to that. I just want to show what happens. This is not abnormal. Only 96 people wrote to me telling me of the circumstances surrounding their inability to cast a vote when they believed that they were entitled to vote at the polling booths where they tried to vote. We took considerable trouble to examine all these letters. The staff at the Electoral Office were instructed to be thorough in their examination and, if necessary, to go back to the people who had made checks of the streets involved and find out what had happened. We found satisfactory explanations for all but 16 or 17 of the complaints. I cannot remember the exact figure, but it was close to that number. That is out of the several hundred thousand people who voted on election day.

Mr. B. Wood: What do you mean by "satisfactory" explanations?

Mr. KNOX: It was found to be the result of error on the part of the persons concerned. They were in error concerning either the booth at which they were supposed to vote or the electorate for which they were enrolled.

Mr. Sherrington: Do you know that on my supplementary roll there were 380 people who lived outside the electorate? As a matter of fact, one lived next door to the Minister for Tourism.

Mr. KNOX: On my roll there were 10 such people, and on another roll there were 400. The necessary corrections were made in time for election day.

Mr. Sherrington: Only because members of Parliament brought it to notice.

Mr. KNOX: That is so—and other people did likewise.

Errors occur during every election. Some people are placed on the wrong roll. In the election before last, at least a dozen people from the Sherwood electorate were placed on my roll although my electorate is on the north side of the river and Sherwood is on the south side. Human errors occur, and in my position particularly I find out how it happens by visiting the place where all the records are kept and seeing what happens.

Mr. Sherrington: On this occasion the Electoral Office had to do the work in a hurry.

Mr. KNOX: There are ways in which errors can be corrected. I am not saying that human errors do not occur, but they should be kept to a minimum.

Mr. Sherrington: You did not get the redistribution legislation through early enough.

Mr. KNOX: That is not so. The lists were ready at the same time as for any other election, and the Electoral Office had all sorts of additional aids on this occasion.

In relation to the 16 or 17 complaints for which no satisfactory explanation was found, electoral officers went to the people concerned and in most instances discovered that there had been a genuine error either by a checker or in the transcription from one sheet of paper to another sheet of paper, resulting in these people being disfranchised. They were the only ones I was able to discover who had been genuinely disfranchised at the last State election by error.

Mr. Sherrington: A whole street—Boundary Street—was left out of my electorate.

Mr. KNOX: That may be so, but I am quite sure the people got a vote.

In response to the point made by the honourable member for Rockhampton concerning the 60,000 or more people who allegedly had not voted, of this number quite a few were found to have a satisfactory explanation for not voting. Quite a number had in fact voted, but again owing to human error in transcribing from the clerk's roll to the main roll in the returning office, and also in compiling the main rolls in the Electoral Office, some people were incorrectly

struck off. That has happened quite frequently in every election with which I have been concerned, particularly where people have similar names, and reside at the same address. One person in my electorate came to see me about the allegation that he had not voted. I was actually with him outside the booth until he went in and voted. He spoke to me after casting his vote—but he received a Form 17 notice.

This experience is not unusual. However, I believe that there are ways that should be employed to soften the effect on the public. There is room for better public relations generally. First, there is room for better relations on enrolment matters between the Electoral Office and the general public. It is very impersonal to send out a form saying, "An objection has been lodged to your being on the roll", when people have lived at the same address for 25 years and had no reason to believe that they would ever be struck off the roll. We should do something between the point at which it is discovered that they are not on the roll and the point at which they receive the formal request to explain why they are not on the roll.

Mr. Wright: Would you consider changing the wording of the form?

Mr. KNOX: No. I do not think we can change it, because ultimately a legal statement must be made to a person that his name has been taken off the roll. I still think that there is room, between the "Please explain why you didn't vote" point and the point where it is discovered that the person has not voted, for people to give an explanation. Thousands of people, before receiving a Form 17, actually write to the Electoral Office and say they have not voted on election day for some reason or another. If their explanation is accepted, they do not receive a Form 17. There should be some way of asking the people to give this explanation in order to reduce paper-work.

Mr. Wright: There is nowhere on the form for them to say that they did vote. They are only asked why they didn't vote.

Mr. KNOX: There is space where they can make any statement they wish, and they can attach any other document they want to. There is nothing unusual about this. It has been happening, election after election. When the Act comes up for review, the position between those two points I mentioned should be looked at.

The honourable member for Toowoomba North again dealt with Farmer Greenfield. This matter has been fairly well canvassed today, and I do not intend to go over it again.

The honourable member for Ithaca dealt with a number of matters, some of which are not within my responsibility. However, he and several other honourable members dealt with one important point, namely, local option polls, the provisions for which were given the imprimatur of this Legislature. It

may well be that, following the experience of holding six polls on the one day, people have second thoughts about the radius of the area covered. However, some honourable members did agree that the present distance was reasonable. We are entitled to change our minds and one cannot always be certain that various suggestions will be practical or acceptable when they are actually put into practice. A three-mile radius might cover too large an area if the people on the perimeter have no interest in the matter. Again, when this subject comes up for review, as it will in the course of time, it will be interesting to see where honourable members stand on what the distance should be and, indeed whether local option polls should be held at all.

The Government, through the Premier, has, on several recent occasions, stated that its policy is that there will be no poker machines in Queensland. The honourable member for Ithaca knows this, as he has participated in the framing of that policy.

The honourable member for Barron River dealt with a number of matters, principally the Literature Board of Review, and he questioned the motive for the publication of certain types of material. The fact of the matter is that it is extremely difficult for any screening process, such as the Literature Board of Review, to know what pornography or obscenities in print are circulating in the community, as we live in a fairly free-flowing society where communications are very efficient. Indeed, newspapers and other publications, such as periodicals and trashy pulp magazines, can appear on the bookshelves and be sold within a day or so before they are brought to the attention of the Literature Board of Review. On the other hand, if every single publication had to be submitted to the board before being allowed into the State, the board would spend an enormous amount of time on literature, 90 per cent of which is perfectly in order and presents no problem to the community. Indeed, most of the literature examined is quite satisfactory. It is virtually on reports that the Literature Board of Review acts. It has to be that way, otherwise its operations would become cumbersome.

Mr. Jensen: The Consumer Affairs Bureau does the same thing. Why don't you do it first?

Mr. KNOX: If a huge organisation was set up to examine every publication that came into the State, there would be an enormous waste of time. Over 90 per cent of the literature that comes into the State is quite satisfactory.

There was some criticism of the Titles Office. I think I dealt with that matter earlier today.

Mr. Hughes: I hope you will give consideration to providing more staff at the Companies Office.

Mr. KNOX: I spoke about that matter earlier today, too.

The honourable member for Somerset raised the matter of the implementation of the Invasion of Privacy Act. It may be of interest to the Committee that the number of applications for licences under that Act is 490, and the number issued is 402. There have been 33 applications for licences as private inquiry agents, four as credit reporting agents, and 356 as subagents. There are still 88 applications to be attended to. It will therefore be seen that a fairly good job has been done in implementing the provisions of this Act, seeing that it was not proclaimed until July of this year. It is working satisfactorily, and most people seem to be happy with it. However, it has yet to be seen whether credit reporting bureaus are prepared to observe both the letter and the spirit of the legislation. This will be discovered by experience.

I should like to bring to the attention of the honourable member for Somerset that all cases of book sales in which the books have been returned have been concluded in the interests of the consumers.

It was difficult to follow what the honourable member for Brisbane was talking about. That is one of the difficulties of accepting a brief and not understanding what it is all about. The honourable member did not understand the nature of the documents to which he was referring. No doubt it will be explained to him in due course.

The honourable member for Wavell dealt with some philosophical matters, as well as matters of censorship and respect for the law, which are very important today. I thank him for his contribution.

The honourable member for Salisbury complained that the Consumer Affairs Bureau dealt with matters after, as he put it, "the horse had bolted," and he spoke about the standards bureau in the United Kingdom. In Australia there is also a standards association that has been operating for many years, and its mark of approval appears on many articles. The imprimatur of the Australian Standards Association is recognised throughout Australia, as well as internationally.

Mr. Wright: It is not widespread.

Mr. KNOX: It is extremely widespread. The stamp of approval of the Australian Standards Association is to be found on many household articles.

Mr. Wright: Not on household articles.

Mr. KNOX: On household articles, too. There are many booklets on the various matters with which the Australian Standards Association concerns itself, and honourable members can refer to them. Indeed, when I was Minister for Transport it was decided that motor vehicle manufacturers should use on their vehicles quite a number of articles

that had to meet standards laid down by the Australian Standards Association. That has been quite a common practice.

In regard to consumer protection generally, it is true that gullible people in the community need to be protected. It also is true that the exposure which people now have to telephone salesmen, mail-order salesmen and door-to-door salesmen is much greater than it ever has been in the history of this community and nation, and it is essential that some degree of protection of privacy in these matters be exercised. That is why the Government introduced the Door to Door (Sales) Act. There was no State law to protect the consumer until the Country-Liberal Government came to office in this State.

Mr. Wright: And you ruined it by regulation.

Mr. KNOX: There was nothing done for consumer protection until the Country-Liberal Government came to office.

Mr. Wright: But you have just said that it was not necessary until recently.

Mr. KNOX: All that the Opposition is saying is that the Government has not gone far enough. They will have an opportunity of looking at these matters in the course of time.

Let me turn now to bingo. Provision for the banning of bingo was introduced by a Labor Government.

Mr. Sherrington: That is right. I said that on a previous occasion. You know why, don't you?

Mr. KNOX: I know the whole history of it and how the A.L.P. was involved. Bingo was banned in this State by a Labor Government.

Mr. Sherrington: I know that. I would have said it again tonight if I had had enough time.

Mr. KNOX: Every law that has been introduced in this Assembly discriminating against people because of race has been introduced by a Labor Government—every one. Every repeal of laws relating to racial discrimination in this State has been made by Country-Liberal Governments. That shows the sort of enlightened Government that has come to Queensland. It is the enlightened attitude that has led to law reform resulting in an improved social situation in the community. It has led to all the things for which we are now being criticised and told that we are not going far enough, or are starting too late, or something of that nature. The A.L.P. did nothing about these things when it ruled the roost in this State.

The attack launched by the honourable member for Lytton upon the Consumer Affairs Bureau was typical of the tactics of members of his party who, bereft of constructive ideas but nevertheless obliged to

make a speech of some sort, if for no other reason than to make a loud noise, concentrate on attacking individual public servants. In criticising the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs and his annual report, the honourable member for Lytton conveniently ignored the very considerable degree of success achieved by that gentleman and his officers in their endeavours on behalf of the consumers of this State. The honourable member chose to disregard the figures published with the Commissioner's report which indicated that despite the fact that many complaints received are concerned with matters clearly outside the ambit of the Consumer Affairs Act, no less than 35 per cent of all complaints finalised during the year ended 30 June 1972 were resolved with a full measure of redress having been obtained on behalf of the consumer. In a further 8 per cent of cases some adjustment was secured by the bureau for the complainant.

As the Commissioner points out in his report, some consumers have complained to the bureau concerning what they considered to be misleading advertising or exaggerated claims made for certain products in sales promotion campaigns. In respect of some complaints of this nature, the question of the address of the consumer does not arise. When this aspect of the matter is taken into account, it would be obvious that the success rate achieved by the bureau in its representations has been considerably higher than would appear from the figures published in the report, which in themselves reveal a very creditable performance in a field that is quite new in this State, and which the A.L.P. did not introduce when it was in office.

I should like to say that it will be the practice of this department in future to produce a year book. The first of these is being produced this week. A copy was received from the printer today. I table it. It is titled "Justice 1972". In each year from now on, such a book will be available to members before the Estimates commence so that they will have information additional to that appearing in the numerous annual reports that are tabled from time to time.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 25 October, I shall now put the questions for the Vote under consideration and the balance remaining unvoted for Justice and Attorney-General.

The questions for the following Votes were put and agreed to:—

Justice and Attorney-General—

	\$
Chief Office	990,166
Balance of Vote, Consoli- dated Revenue and Trust and Special Funds	17,351,398

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 9.57 p.m.