

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 1979

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"As Solicitors for the Plaintiffs in the above proceedings and in view of the media publicity given to the institution of such proceedings, we were amazed to read the report on Page 30 of this morning's Courier-Mail headed 'Casey will get sack: Edwards' dealing with a question which you permitted Mr. Gygar M.L.A. to be asked and the answer which you permitted the Deputy Premier, Dr. Edwards, to answer in the Legislative Assembly.

"Both the question and the answer thereto refer to the subject matter of the above action which is subjudice and, therefore, a blatant breach of parliamentary proceedings.

"In the circumstances, on our clients' behalf, we respectfully request that you take such steps as may be necessary to remedy or at least mitigate the grave injustice done to our clients and ensure there is no repetition of such unparliamentary conduct.

"Yours faithfully,

"ROBERTS & KANE

"per: Frank Roberts".

No further questions or debate will be allowed on this matter.

WEDNESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 1979

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. S. J. Muller, Fassifern) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

SUB JUDICE MATTER

BURTON, JONES AND O'SULLIVAN v. HARRIS

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! For the information of honourable members I will read a letter received by me today in relation to a question placed on notice on 20 September and answered on 2 October. It reads—

"ROBERTS & KANE,
 "Solicitors,
 "Cnr. Queen & George Streets,
 "Brisbane, Qld. 4000,
 "3rd October 1979.

"The Honourable Mr. Speaker,
 "Legislative Assembly of
 "Queensland,
 "Parliament House,
 "George Street,
 "Brisbane, Q. 4000.

"Dear Sir,

re: Thomas Stephen Burton, Norman Francis Jones & James Gordon O'Sullivan v. William Julius Henry Harris (Supreme Court Action No. 1512 of 1979)

Mr. GYGAR: I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to a judgment entered in the Supreme Court of Queensland on that matter in which the judge presiding in that issue determined that there were two separate matters under discussion; that one was a hearing before the disputes tribunal of the Australian Labor Party and that the other was a defamation action between certain members of the Australian Labor Party.

His Honour, in delivering judgment in an application for an interim injunction requested by parties to that hearing of the disputes tribunal, determined that the two issues were quite separate and refused an injunction to stop the disputes proceeding on that ground.

In his judgment, which I shall be happy to make available to you, Mr. Speaker, His Honour stated clearly that there was no danger of a breach of the rights of the individuals in the defamation action by the holding of that disputes procedure and by the discussions thereto.

Before you make a firm ruling on this matter, Mr. Speaker, I request that you allow me to make available to you the judgment delivered in the Supreme Court of Queensland on these matters.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I should appreciate any information that the honourable member is able to relay to me in relation to this matter. Until such time as that information is forthcoming, I reserve my judgment on the honourable member's submission.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Anzac Day Trust, for 1978-79.

Agricultural Bank, for 1978-79.

The following papers were laid on the table—

Proclamation under the Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979.

Orders in Council under the Forestry Act 1959-1979.

Regulations under—

Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979.

Sawmills Licensing Act 1936-1976.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. REPLACEMENT OF OFFICIAL AEROPLANE

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Has his Government lodged a deposit for another aircraft to replace the existing State Government aircraft and, if so, on what date was the deposit lodged for a replacement aircraft, with whom and for what amount?

(2) Was the lodgment of the deposit for the new aircraft approved by the Executive Council or only by Cabinet and was such approval carried out in an irregular manner without the knowledge of all members of Cabinet?

(3) Is Mr. Keith Williams, a donor of \$25,000 to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation, an official sales agent in Australia for the Cessna Citation jet aircraft and was the flight by himself and Sir Robert Sparkes to Melbourne for the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation dinner at Mr. Ian Rice's Toorak home in an aircraft of that type owned by Mr. Williams used as a promotional flight to enable him and Sir Robert Sparkes to assess the aircraft's suitability for use as the Queensland Government aircraft?

Answers:—

(1 & 2) In accordance with normal procedures, a submission dealing with the Government aircraft was recently considered by Cabinet, and it was decided that a replacement aircraft of the same type be purchased. To ensure delivery at the appropriate time and, in order to purchase at the best possible price, Executive Council approval was obtained for the payment of a deposit on the aircraft. It is anticipated that delivery will take place towards the end of next year.

(3) The honourable member's political grandstanding has no relevance to the matter.

2. HOUSING COMMISSION RENTS AND REBATES

Mr. Kaus, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) What is the Government practice for establishing rates for Queensland Housing Commission rents and rebates?

(2) Are overtime payments taken into consideration when fixing these rates?

Answers:—

(1) The maximum or full rent for any house is either—

(a) The cost of supplying the house (called the economic rent), or

(b) a rent fixed in relationship to general market levels.

The income of tenants is irrelevant if they are paying full rent.

Any tenant can apply for and, if qualified, get a rebated rent, which takes a fraction of household income. At present the fraction may be between 17 per cent and 24 per cent.

(2) In assessing household income for rebate purposes, overtime is taken into consideration by averaging overtime received over 6-month periods.

3. FENCING OF WOLSTON PARK HOSPITAL

Mr. Kaus, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

Does he agree with claims that a fence should be erected around Wolston Park Hospital to stop some patients from wandering away and becoming involved in fatal or near-fatal accidents?

Answer:—

I appreciate the member's bringing this matter to my attention. I have no intention of throwing up any sort of fence around Wolston Park. It would have an immediate detrimental effect on the patients, most of whom are voluntary. Some deaths and suicides have occurred there over the years and I have made figures of these incidents available to the media on request.

Such incidents are quite tragic but they occur both in and out of hospitals and in many cases no amount of extra staff or barbed-wire fences would prevent them. Treatment of psychiatric patients in Queensland is having definite positive results. Part of the reason for this is the open aspect of the treatment facilities and by fencing in our patients we would be turning the clock back many decades. Wolston Park is a hospital, not a prison.

4. LIGHTING OF LOGAN ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, UPPER MT. GRAVATT

Mr. Kaus, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

What is the position regarding the lighting of the pedestrian crossing on Logan Road, Upper Mt. Gravatt, near St. Bernard's Primary School, and does this come within the work to be completed in association with the new freeway extension?

Answer:—

As lighting in the immediate vicinity of the zebra crossing is considered to be adequate at the crossing, no additional overhead lighting or illuminated signs are proposed. Far from coming within the work to be completed in association with extensions to the South East Freeway, it is intended that the zebra crossing near St. Bernard's Primary School be eliminated when the Klumpp Road connection is completed and carrying traffic, it being considered that with the increased traffic volumes which are anticipated at the proposed Klumpp Road-Logan Road intersection, it is imperative for the safety of pedestrians that they use the signalised pedestrian crossing at the new intersection.

5. UPGRADING OF D'AGUILAR AND NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAYS

Mr. Bourke, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

As he is no doubt aware of the current state of the D'Aguiar and New England Highways connecting Yarraman and the Tarong Power Station site with Brisbane and Toowoomba and as he would also be aware of the imminent increase in heavy traffic across those highways as construction on the Tarong project increases in the near future, what plans does his department have to upgrade these highways?

Answer:—

I appreciate the honourable member's forward thinking on this matter, and I can assure him that the road needs that will result from the construction of the Tarong Power Station have been the subject of discussion between officers of the Main Roads Department, the Co-ordinator General's Department and the Queensland Electricity Generating Board. Resulting from these discussions improvements to the Nanango-Tarong Road have been commenced, and further improvements are planned.

The honourable member will, of course, be aware that improvements to the Brisbane Valley Highway effected in connection with the Wivenhoe Dam project will have substantial benefit for traffic destined for

Tarong. Plans for improvements to further sections of the D'Aguiar Highway, the Brisbane Valley Highway and the New England Highway have been prepared, and much of the work has been programmed to commence in the current financial year.

6. FEMALE'S' OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION ON ELECTORAL ROLLS

Mr. Bourke, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Why does the Queensland electoral roll in describing female enrollees use the term "domestic duties" abbreviated to "D.D." instead of the slightly more appropriate "H.D." (home duties), as used by the Federal electoral roll?

(2) Is he aware of the resentment felt by some women voters at this patronising title?

(3) Why does the electoral roll not use whatever term is selected by the female citizen, as it does with male job classifications?

Answers:—

(1) When electoral rolls were being converted to computerisation in 1971, a decision was made to standardise the occupations of "domestic duties", "home duties", "housekeeper" and "housewife" as "D.D." This was done to facilitate the conversion to computerisation and the printing of rolls.

(2) No, I am unaware of any resentment in this area, but representations have been made to me by the National Party of Australia, Queensland Women's Section, State Conference, to change the occupation to "homemaker". I have informed the State secretary of the women's section that their representations will receive consideration in conjunction with the feasibility study into the joint Commonwealth/State enrolment system in Queensland, which is presently in progress.

(3) See answer to (1). The use of the occupation selected by the female citizen will be considered in the feasibility study.

7. PERCEPTUAL AND/OR SENSORY-MOTOR PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN

Mr. Bourke, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education—

Is he aware of any current programme to ascertain the number of children in Queensland schools with diagnosed perceptual and/or sensory-motor problems and, if not, will he consider such a programme as an essential step in the path to discovering possible causes of such problems and the most appropriate educational approach to treatment?

Answer:—

I am not aware of any current research in Queensland into the number of children with perceptual and/or sensory-motor problems.

The nature of perceptual or sensory-motor problems in children is such that they range along a continuum of severity. Surveys conducted in Britain and the United States have resulted in widely differing results according to the criteria used in determining what constitutes a problem. My department already has specialist staff such as guidance officers, speech therapists, remedial and resource teachers who are well equipped to diagnose children's learning problems and offer appropriate treatment where required.

8. LAND SALES BY ALFRED GRANT COMPANIES

Mr. Burns, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Did the Alfred Grant group of companies, of which Tweed Valley Pastoral Co. Ltd. was a member in the late 1960s and early 1970s, embark on a programme of selling land in Queensland to residents of the United Kingdom and Europe and, to facilitate the processing of these sales, did the Alfred Grant group of companies incorporate Capricornia Finance and Marketing Corporation Ltd. in Jersey in the Channel Isles?

(2) Were the directors of Capricornia Finance and Marketing Corporation Ltd. the wife and/or daughters of Alfred Grant and was the sales company, Australian Land Sales Limited of London, directed by Alfred Grant's family?

(3) Did Alfred Grant and his companies agree to pay Capricornia, the company directed by his wife and daughters, commission on sales amounting to approximately 45 per cent of the contract price and did they also pay Capricornia a collection fee of 5 per cent, thus providing half of the money on each sale to the company directed by Grant's wife and daughters?

(4) Has any investigation been carried out as to the reason why Grant and his family set up these companies to sell land on such a highly inflated commission?

(5) Did Alfred Grant Pastoral Properties Pty. Ltd. provide an indemnity to the accountants involved in the transfer of the Alfred Grant Holdings and 23 subsidiary companies to public companies that all overseas debtors would be satisfied?

(6) As the Alfred Grant group at the time of the appointment of receivers in 1976 had approximately 700 purchasers who had partly or fully completed their commitments under their contracts and most had not received title to the land purchased, did the Auctioneers and Agents Act of 1971 provide that real estate agents selling portion of land on any deed were

required to hold all moneys in a trust account until title could be passed to the purchasers?

(7) As the companies involved were either controlled or owned by Queensland residents, Alfred Grant and his family, and the land was situated in Queensland, what action has been taken to see that in the terms of the Queensland Act all moneys associated with these sales of Queensland land can be returned to the purchasers?

Answer:—

(1 to 7) The progress towards resolution of this complex matter has been canvassed on a number of occasions.

Having full regard to legal matters involved, I can say that discussions are currently taking place between the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and the receiver and liquidator, with a view to finding the best means of distributing all available moneys in Queensland to persons who may be entitled to any claims in respect thereof.

I might also advise that the receiver and liquidator, respectively, have consulted eminent legal authorities in this State, who have not been able to suggest any presently available means of distributing the moneys concerned.

9. IWASAKI LANDHOLDINGS, BUSINESS INTERESTS AND TOURIST PROJECT

Mr. Burns, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) With reference to reports that the Japanese millionaire Mr. Iwasaki is purchasing land in Central Queensland and other areas of the State in direct contravention of agreements made between him and Commonwealth authorities, will he list all lands owned or leased in this State by (a) Mr. Iwasaki, (b) his companies, and (c) his nominees or his partners?

(2) What business other than the tourist business covered by the agreement passed in this Parliament is conducted by Mr. Iwasaki, his partners, his companies and his nominees in Queensland?

(3) What work has been carried out to date on the area at Yeppoon covered by the special legislation passed in this House and how much has been spent to date?

(4) Has Mr. Iwasaki complied with all provisions of the agreement?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Everyone would be well aware of the agreement and the project being undertaken by Mr. Iwasaki at Yeppoon, which were the subject of full debate in this House. The land transactions related to that agreement are not in contravention of that agreement. Any transactions outside that agreement are not a matter for this Government.

There would be many nationalities owning land and property throughout Queensland and Australia, and I see no justifiable reason for keeping a special dossier on Mr. Iwasaki for the benefit of the honourable member, who adopts a racial attitude in this regard.

10. ILL-TREATMENT OF CATTLE TRANSPORTED BY RAIL

Mr. Burns, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) With reference to the petitions presented to this Parliament by over 14,000 persons seeking action on the inhumane and cruel treatment of some cattle arriving by rail and road at the Cannon Hill saleyards, is he aware that on Wednesday, 26 September, a train from the Central West carried 28 dead and crippled cattle on arrival at Cannon Hill and that one of the wagons containing stock from Jericho carried 39 beasts, of which 23 were dead or crippled on arrival?

(2) Is it true, as stated by the secretary of the R.Q.S.P.C., that the adequate capacity of the wagon would have been 16 large beasts or 25 of smaller size at most, and will he advise what action is to be taken against the grazier or agent responsible for the overloading of this wagon?

(3) Has consideration been given to providing the R.Q.S.P.C. with sufficient funds to provide a full-time inspector to check saleyards, loading facilities and trucks and trains carrying stock?

(4) Has consideration been given to amending the Animals Protection Act 1925-1977 to remove loopholes and weaknesses that prevent prosecution of those wilfully ill-treating stock or guilty of neglect causing unnecessary cruelty?

(5) As the new rail contracts for transport of stock by rail will obviously provide concessions for stock owners and be subsidised by other rail users or the Queensland taxpayer, has consideration been given to writing into the contract a provision for the use of drovers on these trains?

(6) What investigations have been carried out into inadequate holding yards and watering facilities at localities where stock are loaded onto cattle trains?

(7) As the number of stock arriving dead or crippled seems to increase in the summer months, and as many areas of the State are drought-affected, when can some action from his department be expected to ensure that the horrifying death tallies that occurred last year do not occur again?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The carrying capacity of a "K"-class wagon varies according to the size of the stock carried, but it is agreed that the

loading of 39 beasts (three-quarters grown) would have exceeded the generally accepted carrying capacity of this wagon. This apparent overloading of the wagon will be pursued.

(3) The expenditure of funds in this manner could not be regarded as a function of the Railway Department. In any case, however, there would be considerable practical difficulties associated with the implementation of such a proposal, having regard to the fact that approximately 2,500,000 head of cattle were conveyed by rail last year from a diversity of loading points.

(4) The administration of this Act is not one of my responsibilities.

(5) No. The contracts do not offer any reduction in the present by-law rates. They are for a three-year period and provide for the existing by-law rate to be charged for the first two years and for the rate in the third and final year to be subject to a maximum increase of 5 per cent, irrespective of any by-law increases during the period. Thus they provide stability for the future.

The inclusion of a clause making provision of drovers mandatory with all rail consignments would deter many owners from signing and result in a substantial diversion of cattle traffic to road transport. The results would be detrimental to railway finances, to road safety and to road maintenance costs.

It is noteworthy that much has been said of stock losses by rail transport but very little about road transport losses. It is difficult to believe that the diversion of long-distance transport of cattle from rail to road would result in any significant reduction in cattle losses.

(6) The department has, over the years, pursued a continued programme of upgrading stock-loading facilities, and it is considered that adequate provision now exists at the many loading points throughout the State.

(7) The general question of the transport of cattle by road and by rail is at present under investigation by the Queensland Meat Industry Organisation and Marketing Authority.

11. PRE-SCHOOL, HATTON VALE

Mr. Gunn, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education—

As the pre-school facilities at Laidley are fully committed, resulting in many country children being deprived of pre-school education, will he consider the establishment of a pre-school at Hatton Vale, where there are a number of children of pre-school age who are unable to obtain such education?

Answer:—

At the present time, there are 52 children enrolled at the Laidley North State Pre-school Centre and the only child whose name is on the waiting-list is to be enrolled in the near future.

Of the 56 names on the waiting-list for 1980, seven children live in Hatton Vale. Present indications are that parents will be arranging transport for these children to attend the Laidley North State Pre-school Centre.

The estimated numbers of pre-school children who would be eligible for enrolment in the future at Hatton Vale are—
1980—6; 1981—4; 1982—2; 1983—2.

These numbers indicate that provision can be made for the enrolment of these children at the Laidley North State Pre-school Centre. In this light, the construction of State pre-school facilities at Hatton Vale does not appear to be a viable proposition.

12. FEASIBILITY REPORT, BARKER CREEK DAM

Mr. Gunn, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources—

With reference to a report on the feasibility study of an irrigation dam on Barker Creek near Nanango that was undertaken by officers of his department some time ago, has this report been completed and, if not, when is it likely to be completed?

Answer:—

A joint investigation into the potential of water resources development along Barker and Barambah Creeks by the Department of Primary Industries and the Queensland Water Resources Commission is now nearing completion.

It is expected that the report on the scheme will be finalised for submission to and consideration by the Government before the end of the year.

13. LIQUOR PURCHASES, CLONCURRY AND MT. ISA AREAS

Mr. Bertoni, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

Will he give the collective liquor purchases each year for the last 10 years for the following areas:—(a) Cloncurry and (b) Mt. Isa?

Answer:—

Purchases by holders of licences were—

(a) Cloncurry—

1969-70, \$436,066; 1970-71, \$487,017;
1971-72, \$506,450; 1972-73, \$506,833;
1973-74, \$497,950; 1974-75, \$634,770;
1975-76, \$799,539; 1976-77, \$844,788;
1977-78, \$598,238.

(b) Mt. Isa—

1969-70,	\$2,213,233;	1970-71,
\$2,773,483;	1971-72,	\$2,932,183;
1972-73,	\$3,178,900;	1973-74,
\$3,005,183;	1974-75,	\$3,517,530;
1975-76,	\$4,561,226;	1976-77,
\$4,798,250;	1977-78,	\$5,181,512.

Total purchases for the year 1978-79 are not presently available at the office of the Licensing Commission.

14. MT. ISA CITY COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY, JULIUS DAM PROJECT

Mr. Bertoni, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

With reference to the recent generous grant of \$450,000 to the Mt. Isa City Council for the Julius Dam and the appreciation of the people of Mt. Isa to the State Government, will he now give details of the Mt. Isa City Council's offer to the Government regarding its responsibility to this project?

Answer:—

Before answering the honourable member's specific question, I think it would be appropriate that I briefly outline the background to the Government's recent decision to provide the recent substantial and final assistance to the Mt. Isa Council.

The overall cost of the Julius Dam and associated works was \$30,700,000. By agreement amongst the parties concerned, this was to be funded under an arrangement which took account of a contribution of \$13,200,000 by Mount Isa Mines Ltd. in respect of its expected usage for its operations and the funding by the State Government of the cost of "spare capacity", \$5,400,000. The remainder of the cost (\$12,100,000) was related to the estimated requirements of the city of Mt. Isa and thus would ultimately become a responsibility of the Mt. Isa City Council.

To relieve the burden on the city, M.I.M. Ltd. undertook to provide an additional \$1,800,000 over and above the cost of its own requirements. The State Government agreed, in accordance with its normal subsidy guide-lines, to provide subsidy of \$4,000,000 on the \$12,100,000 council's share of the cost.

Following very strong and repeated representations from various quarters, including the honourable member for Mt. Isa, the rate of Government subsidy was reviewed by Cabinet and it was decided that the circumstances were such in this case that the payment of the subsidy rate applicable to new water-supply facilities was warranted and justified. The effect of this decision was to increase State subsidy from 33½ per cent to 50 per cent or from some \$4,000,000 to a little over \$6,000,000, leaving the council with a cost of only \$4,200,000 in the \$30,700,000 project.

However, as the council was unable at that time to meet from its own sources the servicing costs on debts incurred by the Water Board on funds raised to meet the council's share of the cost, it was agreed the \$800,000 of the additional \$2,000,000 could be applied to meeting these costs. Thus the debt itself was reduced by \$1,200,000.

After allowing for this reduction, further accretions to the debt by way of capitalisation of debt-servicing costs during construction and grants of \$750,000 from the Commonwealth for debt-redemption purposes, the debt to be recouped by the council stood at approximately \$5,000,000 with an annual debt cost for 1979-80 and thereafter of \$485,000. Recovery of this cost would mean an increase of some \$70 per tenement in water rates, bringing the total annual rate payments to an average of about \$500 per tenement.

It was in recognition of this factor and the fact that the Mt. Isa City Council was in arrears in its payment of debt costs to the Water Board that Mount Isa Mines Ltd. and the State Government, in conjunction with the Mt Isa City Council, considered the question of how a permanent resolution of the council's predicament might be reached.

The outcome of these negotiations was—

(a) An undertaking by M.I.M. Ltd. to provide \$600,000 to meet arrears of debt costs and provide a buffer to substantial rate increases in 1979-80;

(b) An agreement by the Government to provide a special grant to \$450,000 in 1979-80 to be applied to redemption of part of the debt, thus reducing the annual debt cost by some \$45,000 per annum; and

(c) An undertaking by the council to progressively increase rates in 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 sufficiently to meet the cost of servicing the reduced debt.

The council has further agreed in effect that no further claims will be made on the State Government in respect of this matter.

15. BPA BURKETOWN SERVICES;
COUNTRY AIRLINE SERVICES

Mr. Bertoni, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware that Bush Pilots Airways Ltd. has recently announced a reduction of two services per week to Burketown?

(2) As the Burketown Shire Council has strongly objected to the reduction in services, will he have immediate discussions with BPA to have these services restored and inquire if BPA intends to return some of the annual \$150,000 Federal subsidies it receives to maintain these services?

(3) As the Queensland Government is responsible for issuing of licences to airlines to operate within Queensland will he stop the continual downgrading of airline services to country people?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that, consequent upon an investigation of an application made to both Commonwealth and State Departments of Transport by Bush Pilots Airways Ltd., it was approved that Flight 4745, Cessna 210, Saturdays only, between Normanton, Burketown and Mt. Isa, be cancelled as from 1 September 1979 and Flight 4716, Cessna 210, Mondays only, between Mt. Isa, Burketown, Karumba, Normanton and Cairns, be cancelled as from 3 September 1979.

Cessna 402 services are provided by Flight 4746 on alternative Saturdays between Mt. Isa, Cloncurry, Canobie, Iffley, Wondoola, Augustus Downs, Burketown, Doomadgee, Lawnhill, Gregory Downs, Lorraine, Kamileroi, Cloncurry and Mt. Isa, and Flight 4747 the other alternative Saturday, Cessna 402, from Mt. Isa in the reverse direction to Mt. Isa. These services are subsidised. By positioning the Cessna 402 at Mt. Isa, the positioning of the Cessna 210 at Normanton for Flights 4745 and 4716 for the Cairns-Normanton, Flight 4744 is no longer necessary. These organisational changes were made to provide a service generally for the area consistent with its requirements and will be kept under review.

(2) The commuter services between Normanton and Mt. Isa were not subsidised.

(3) Yes, so far as I am in a position to do so.

16. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN AND AUSTCARE

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Why was no money given to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and Austcare last year, in spite of the fact that Parliament appropriated \$10,200 to each charity in the 1978-79 Budget?

Answer:—

While it is one of my functions as Treasurer to arrange for the appropriation by Parliament of various sums for expenditure under the various departmental headings in the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means, the actual expenditure and approval thereof then becomes the responsibility of the particular department concerned and thus the relevant Minister. The provisions to which the honourable member refers were made in the Estimates

of the Premier's Department and the question might therefore be directed to the Honourable the Premier.

Mr. Houston: I do so accordingly.

17. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE INCOME FROM
S.G.I.O.

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Why is the estimated income to Consolidated Revenue for 1979-80 from the S.G.I.O. in lieu of income tax to be only \$7,000,000 when in 1978-79 the income was approximately \$13,000,000 and the income in 1977-78 was approximately \$10,640,000?

Answer:—

The estimate for the S.G.I.O. payment in 1979-80 in lieu of income tax is based on preliminary figures pending the finalisation of its accounts for 1978-79. The difference of almost \$6,000,000 between the payment in 1978-79 on account of 1977-78 and the estimate on account of 1978-79 is attributable mainly to three factors—

(a) An inflation of some \$3,800,000 in the payments made in 1978-79 brought about by a change in the accounting treatment of the fire profits distribution. With this distortion removed, the payment in 1978-79 would have been \$9,200,000. The effect of the change is that an extra \$3,800,000 became payable in 1978-79 instead of in some future year or years.

(b) An anticipated loss on the closure of open treaty accounts which when offset against provisional tax is expected to result in a nil assessment for the 1978-79 year as compared with a \$490,000 assessment for 1977-78.

(c) An anticipated loss on comprehensive motor vehicle insurance policies of \$200,000 for the 1978-79 year as compared with a profit of \$1,700,000 for the 1977-78 year—resulting in a reduction in "tax" of \$900,000.

18. LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON GREY-
HOUND-RACING

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Why is greyhound-racing in this State still restricted by legislation to racing only on certain nights and days while galloping and trotting clubs are not restricted?

Answer:—

The restrictions imposed on day meetings by section 36 of the present Act are identical to all intents and purposes in regard to galloping, trotting and greyhound meetings conducted in the metropolitan area and in designated provincial cities. In

general, day meetings in these centres are restricted to Saturdays, public holidays, another day kept as a public holiday, a day on which an annual and well-established meeting is customarily held and, in the case of galloping and trotting, one carnival-type meeting per year.

Night trotting meetings are restricted to Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays, public holidays or Fridays as permitted by the Governor in Council, with Tuesdays being available for postponements.

Night greyhound meetings are restricted to Saturdays, Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday are debarred for all three codes.

The question therefore begs the point, but the honourable member will be aware it is proposed that in a redrafting of the Act greater administrative flexibility should be provided in allocating both original and postponed dates.

19. ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT LOCUST
PLAGUE

Mr. McKechnie, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) What Government assistance has been given in an endeavour to help overcome the current locust problem in the Waggamba and Inglewood Shires?

(2) Will he explain to landholders the procedure to be adopted in seeking Government assistance and also the part that the Australian Plague Locust Commission plays in trying to solve the problem?

Answers:—

(1) The control of plague locusts in Queensland is currently vested in the Plague Grasshopper Destruction Committee constituted under the Plague Grasshopper Extermination Act 1937-71. Relevant local committees are active in the Waggamba and Inglewood Shires at the present time. Resident departmental extension officers act as technical advisers to these committees.

In the present outbreak, departmental officers have additionally acted as liaison officers between the committees and the Australian Plague Locust Commission which has been active in the area. I am also aware that for some weeks now the Rabbit Control Authority, which operates under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources, has made available both staff and vehicles to assist local bodies in control measures.

(2) Queensland Government financial assistance for certain items may be made available if the local committee, in consultation with its Department of Primary Industries technical adviser and local primary producers, considers that they do not

have the capacity to control the outbreak. The committee may make a direct representation to the Director-General, Department of Primary Industries, Comalco House. A telex or telegram is satisfactory for this purpose.

The charter of the Australian Plague Locust Commission is to control infestations of Australian plague locusts which in its opinion constitute a potential hazard to agricultural production in interstate areas. The commission has been active in spraying appropriate locust targets in the area during recent weeks.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BEXLEY CORPORATION LAND AT LABRADOR;
PREMIER'S ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH
MR. IAN RICE

Mr. CASEY: In directing a question to the Premier, I refer him to his answer on 18 September to my question about the Gold Coast rezoning scandal, in which he implied that the chairman of the Bexley Corporation (Mr. Ian Rice) was a casual acquaintance in Melbourne with whom he once discussed very briefly the matter of ice cream in North Queensland. I now ask: Is that casual acquaintance the same Mr. Ian Rice who, according to reports, used his office at his invitation yesterday to listen to proceedings of this Parliament, rather than use the public gallery, and this morning met him and Sir Robert Sparkes again at Parliament House? In view of the mounting suspicions about the Labrador land rezoning, will he, in the interests of restoring honest Government, have the Cabinet decision set aside and the rezoning referred to the Local Government Court?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Leader of the Opposition has many problems of his own in his party, naturally, with Senator Georges and a whole lot of other things. He is certainly clutching at straws in trying to draw attention away from his own party and his leadership problems as well as the problems he has elsewhere in Australia with Mr. Hawke and others in the other States. Naturally, he would ask this type of question—

Mr. Casey: Did you meet him with Sir Robert Sparkes? Don't hedge around it. Just answer it.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: When the honourable member can show some respect for you and this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, I will finish my answer.

Mr. Casey: I have a lot of respect for Mr. Speaker, but not for you. You won't answer the question.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr. Speaker, I must appeal to you. Sooner or later some account must be taken of the attitude the Leader of the Opposition takes in this House.

It is impossible to deal with, or to answer, a man who will not allow me to answer the question.

There are many aspects of his question. All I want to say in reply is that Mr. Ian Rice was in my office yesterday. I told the Press that he was in my office yesterday. I wanted him to be there to listen to allegations that it was thought would be sought to be made by certain honourable members not only on this side of the House but also on the other side. Of course, they did not eventuate.

I asked him, together with other people, to come to my room again this morning to have a discussion.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is quite obvious that they do not want me to answer the question. They are more interested in trying to gain some publicity out of it.

As I was saying, they were with me this morning to assess all of the remarks that were made yesterday on this whole issue. That is the sound, solid, practical, logical way for me, as Premier, to act when I am confronted with certain suggestions. Of course, they did not eventuate, although every opportunity to bring them forward was given to the honourable members concerned, including the Leader of the Opposition, who still wants to pursue the matter and persist with smear tactics and the innuendo that he is such an expert at levelling not only against this Government but also against the interests of the State and Australia as a whole.

RETURN TO AUSTRALIA OF MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAIN ROADS

Mr. JONES: I ask the Premier: In view of the fact that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads is now back in Australia—this has been confirmed this morning by customs officers—why is he not present in the Chamber?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: One would think that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads was the twin brother of the member for Cairns; he seems so terribly concerned that the Minister should be here. He completely refuses to recognise that the Minister cannot just transfer himself from Sydney to here at the drop of a hat.

Mr. Casey: When did he arrive in Sydney?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Why does the Leader of the Opposition want to know that? He is not the Leader of the Opposition's brother, either. The Minister has been carrying out important work in the United States. I am sure that all honourable members will be very glad to see and meet him. I am also sure that they will all

give him a right royal welcome. If Opposition members contain themselves a little longer, they will no doubt have the pleasure of seeing him tomorrow.

JAPANESE LONG-LINE FISHING IN GREAT BARRIER REEF WATERS

Mr. SIMPSON: I ask the Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism: What is the present position regarding the lucrative black marlin industry in Queensland and the Commonwealth Government's proposed agreement to allow the Japanese to fish the marlin waters off the Queensland coast?

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: I welcome the honourable member's question. I hope that most Queenslanders, including even members of the A.L.P., show some concern for the conservation of the various fish species in Great Barrier Reef waters and also for the total environment on the reef.

To give a brief history of the present controversy surrounding the taking of black marlin from Barrier Reef waters—over the past 20 years, the Japanese have been engaged in long-line fishing for tuna, marlin and other species in Great Barrier Reef Waters. Although fishing organisations and local authorities in North Queensland have protested to the Federal Government about this, I am afraid their plaintive cries have not received much attention until the present. Perhaps this is because the Federal Government had little authority over the area as it was considered to lie in international waters.

By international agreements, most countries will soon declare 200-mile economic zones off their coastlines. The Federal Government is hoping to make such a declaration on or before 1 November this year. As a consequence, it will enter into agreements with other countries to allow them to take fish from within our 200-mile economic zone. The Federal Government has approached various State Governments asking if they had any objection to the inclusion of various areas in the proposed fishing zone, because those areas might be considered as areas fished by Australian fishermen.

As a consequence of that, the Queensland Game Fishing Council and the State Fisheries Service made submissions to the Federal Government to the effect that certain areas of Great Barrier Reef waters, particularly those between Lizard Island and Innisfail, should be excluded from Japanese long-line fishing operations, in view of the fact that those waters are one of the few breeding grounds of the unique black marlin species.

Some inconsistency has arisen between statements made by the Federal Department of Fisheries, the Queensland Fisheries Service and the game fishing organisations. Although the Federal department accepts

the fact that there is a need for the conservation of this particular species in North Queensland waters and has in fact advised the Japanese Government that this matter is a very sensitive one, it has stated that it will reassess the situation in 12 months' time. Because the Japanese know that these waters provide a prolific supply of black marlin, the Japanese wish to fish them and maintain their presence in them.

I feel very strongly about this matter and hope that the Federal Government will see fit to renegotiate the proposed agreement with Japan. It is due to be signed on 17 October. I hope that the Federal Government will in the near future hold meaningful discussions either at Prime Minister/Premier level or with the appropriate Ministers in an attempt to delineate an area from which the Japanese can be excluded.

Anyone in Queensland who sets in a creek a line with two or three hooks is committing a criminal offence and can be prosecuted. Yet the Federal Government proposes to allow the Japanese to set 20-mile lines with 20,000 hooks.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

IMPENDING FUEL CRISIS

Mr. LESTER (Peak Downs) (12 noon): I take the floor of the House to call on all Queenslanders and Australians to look realistically at the impending fuel crisis. I am very sure that many Australians do not realise the magnitude of the problem that confronts them. Too many persons are content to sit back and blame the Government and everybody else for the problem. However, it is of our own making. We must make sure that we comprehend the extent of the coming energy crisis.

At present Australia is roughly 70 per cent self-sufficient in its fuel requirements, but by 1985 it will be less than 50 per cent self-sufficient. Because of expansion in Australia, energy needs are increasing by up to 6 per cent annually. Honourable members may ask why we are faced with an impending energy crisis. In reply, I would point out very clearly that Russia, which has been exporting oil for many years, has reached the stage where it will have to import oil, while Third World countries and other developing countries are building factories and engaging in manufacturing, for which they will need more oil. Very clearly they will be in competition with us in the not distant future in purchasing oil that is available from the O.P.E.C. countries. Quite clearly we in Australia are faced with expansion of industries, decreasing home supplies and increasing competition from other parts of the world. All this will

make it more difficult for us to obtain adequate oil supplies. That brings me to the situation where, very clearly—

Mr. Scott: I told you all this last night.

Mr. LESTER: Last night the honourable member repeated what I said some time ago.

We need more oil, we are producing less and are able to buy less. That is not a rosy picture.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr. LESTER: Plenty of oil is still available throughout the world, but it is becoming harder to get. I have it from reliable sources that by the year 2100 no really large supplies of oil will be left in the world.

We must face up to what we should do about the oil crisis. It is clear that we are wasting fuel in Australia through inefficient pollution controls on motor vehicles. It is pertinent to say that in 1972 a 6-cylinder vehicle normally returned about 26 miles to the gallon. It is not unrealistic for current 6-cylinder vehicles to return 18 miles to the gallon. In my book that does not make common sense. Very clearly the motor car manufacturers must have a hard look at what is happening. Manufacturers in the United States are getting economy from their motor cars equal to that achieved before pollution controls were introduced, which is reasonable. Our motor car manufacturers are charged with a grave responsibility to build more efficient engines.

Many factories are not doing what they can to conserve energy. It was reported that one factory in the United States, after instituting a little witch-hunt, was able to save 40 per cent on its annual fuel consumption. Loss was occurring through leaks in the plant, waste of fuel in motor cars, bad tuning and faulty equipment.

In Queensland we must plan very carefully and place emphasis on electricity generation. It is a fact of life that in Central Queensland the coal trains will shortly be using up to 50,000 gallons of diesel fuel a day. If any honourable member wishes to challenge that statement, I will explain it very clearly to him after I have completed my speech. Obviously we must electrify our coal lines. It is a pity that we have not done this, but we must make a start on it. The coal-mines are making a profit, and electrification of the lines to them would be one way of saving diesel fuel in this State.

Mr. Scott: Who would have the responsibility for electrifying the lines?

Mr. LESTER: Let me make it very clear that when the Labor Party was in power it did not want coal-mines at all. It fought the Utah company. Rex Connor fought the opening of coal-mines in Australia. In all of Australia not one new coal-mine was opened up when the Whitlam Government was in power. So let the honourable member not

talk about what we are doing about electricity. He is talking through his hat. That is all the Labor Party ever does. It is not prepared to face facts. Clearly, Labor members can't take it. Why were they beaten in South Australia? They were beaten in South Australia because they did not wake up to the energy needs of that State. They were beaten in South Australia because they did not try to create jobs. We cannot be accused of that in Queensland, and we never will be. Labor members sit on the back benches here and make a lot of noise, but do nothing.

Might I continue by saying that overseas the problem is very serious. Is it realised that no air-conditioning is allowed in most overseas buildings? Petrol stations are closing. In Australia we face the closure of fuel depots. Commercial airlines in Australia face difficulties in getting aviation fuel. That brings me to the question as to what we must do. I am doing something constructive. I am saying what we are able to do. We need to explore the possibilities of converting our coal to liquid fuel. We have to explore the possibilities of converting ethanol and other spirits to fuel for petrol and diesel engines. We have to convert to greater electricity use, using coal for its generation.

At the moment we have plenty of coal. We are now using 80 000 000 tonnes a year. By the year 2020 we are likely to be using 400 000 000 tonnes a year. There are plenty of coal reserves. Very clearly, though, we have to undertake much more research. Do honourable members realise that in the United States a plant has been built that consumes 30 000 000 tonnes of coal a year to produce 100 barrels of oil a day? That plant cost \$52,000,000. Quite clearly, the costs are enormous. In Australia we use 700,000 barrels of fuel a day. I might bring that into a more realistic perspective by saying that if we were to build a plant to produce 100,000 barrels of oil per day—one-seventh of our needs—it would cost \$2,000 million, or half of our Budget deficit. Therefore, if we think we do not have a problem ahead of us in relation to energy needs in this country, we need to do just a little bit more thinking.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. LESTER: But the problem will be overcome. My purpose in speaking in the House today is to try to bring the problem to the notice of the people and to let them see that we are trying to do something constructive. I am putting forward facts and figures and suggesting that we do something. The honourable member for Archerfield ought to hang his head in shame. He ought to be totally ashamed of what he is trying to do to distract the people's attention from the energy needs of this nation. That is the Labor Party all over. It was dealt with at the polls in South Australia for its inactivity in dealing with the problem. If it continues on its present path, the Labor Party will pass into political oblivion. The way they carry on, Labor members are not fit to be

in this Parliament. I am trying to put something constructive about what we ought to do about the fuel needs of our State. Let them not interject on me again.

We need to look at converting ethanol and other substances into motor fuel. It all costs money, but we can cover it. It does augur well for the coal future of our State. It augurs well for Central Queensland. It augurs well for the Peak Downs electorate. We have the coal. We can provide the energy. It is up to this State and this nation to make full use of the natural resources that we have.

AUSTRALIA/JAPAN FISHING AGREEMENT

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (12.10 p.m.): After listening to the previous speaker, I can readily understand why there is only one Country Party member in South Australia.

On 9 October 1975, I asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, who controlled the Queensland Fisheries Service, a question concerning the Japanese threat to the game-fishing industry. In that manner I brought to the attention of the House the threat that the Japanese long-line, tuna-fishing industry posed to the Cairns game-fishing industry by endangering the species of bill fish, the black marlin, which abounds in the waters off Cairns. Even at that time the Japanese were plundering the Great Barrier Reef. The then Minister (Mr. Wharton) gave certain assurances and indicated that he proposed to take the matter up urgently with the Australian Fisheries Council. That was four years ago.

The present incumbent of that portfolio is expressing surprise at the developments and is making belated and misguided submissions to Cabinet to prevent, he says, the exploitation of this fishing ground. Today we learn that Mr. Nixon, the Acting Minister for Primary Industry in the Federal Government, has told the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Dr. Edwards, that he will hear Queensland's submissions possibly next week. Again today, in this House, the present Minister arranged with a flunkey, the honourable member for Coorooora, to ask a Dorothy Dixier question as soon as he saw my name on the list of members to speak in the Matters of Public Interest debate. Obviously he realised that I would be speaking on this matter.

I realise that Mr. M. D. Hooper is a newly appointed Minister, but he has been left floundering. He is the responsible Minister, and he has been left thrashing violently out of water on this issue. Either he is not prepared with a brief or has not familiarised himself with one.

The Australian fishing zone will be enforced in three weeks' time. The threat to the North Queensland black marlin is real. The threat is being perpetuated by an agreement entered into by the Commonwealth Government, with the acquiescence of this State.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. JONES: The Liberal Party, in coalition with the National Country Party, will allow Japanese access to the marlin-breeding grounds. For the State Minister to threaten at this stage to withhold his signature concerning the first stage of the marine national park is less than honest. It is misleading and devious. To refuse to sign that joint State/Federal agreement on the first marine national park on the Great Barrier Reef borders on the ridiculous. If the first proposal is evaded, what hope is there for the second proposal for a marine park outside Cairns, which contains the breeding grounds of the black marlin and other marine life in the reef waters?

The Minister expresses dismay, while the \$20,000,000 North Queensland game-fishing industry is up for grabs for the Japanese yen. It is up for grabs for \$1,400,000. That amount was agreed to under some subsidiary arrangements in 1976 to give access to the area. This is confirmation and an extension of that agreement. I am very sceptical of any chance of success in the Minister's tilting-at-the-windmill submission to prevent the inevitable. It is a sell-out of the marlin fishing grounds.

I commend to the Minister a reading of the ministerial statement of the then Minister for Primary Industry last Tuesday week in the House of Representatives concerning the commencement of the 200 nautical miles Australian fishery zone.

At that time Mr. Sinclair said quite categorically—

"We commenced negotiations on access to the A.F.Z. first with the Japanese Government."

He also said—

"Negotiations by officials have now concluded."

He added—

"Talks have also been held with Taiwanese commercial interests concerning access."

He continued—

"The Commonwealth Government appreciates the importance which the States attach to fishery matters."

I shall elaborate on that later. I want the State Minister and this House to take particular notice of the following section of the Federal Minister's statement. He went on to say—

"Throughout the period of preparation for the A.F.Z., the Commonwealth has maintained continuous consultations with the States."

He said further—

"I have kept them informed of the progress throughout the negotiations. Among the matters under discussion with the States are the role of State officers in enforcement of the rules applicable to the A.F.Z. and in gathering information on foreign operations there."

If the State Minister and his department are fully informed, as the Federal Minister states, and the continuous consultations with the States have in fact occurred, why at this late stage after the announcement have we seen these expressions of amazement by the Minister and the Treasurer and threats of sanctions?

Mr. SIMPSON: You haven't heard all his reply yet.

Mr. JONES: As a fellow North Queenslander, I wish the Minister well, but I fear he has been left far behind. I accept that interjection. A ministerial statement should have been made. I have argued this case in the House over a long period and have consistently condemned Dorothy Dix questions, by flunkies like the honourable member.

Mr. SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member does not need to take a point of order. That is an unparliamentary comment and I ask the honourable member for Cairns to withdraw it.

Mr. SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order. It is also incorrect, and I would like it withdrawn. It was not a Dorothy Dix. If you peruse the sheet—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will accept the explanation.

Mr. JONES: I accept the explanation. I think the Minister has been left well behind.

Reference has also been made to enforcement being the role of the State and its officers. But we have to look at the expanse of water encompassed by the 200-nautical-mile zone. We must realise that we cannot even put a surveillance team of reasonable strength into the Peninsula or the Gulf in order to provide adequate enforcement. We cannot do this in any area. We suffer from a lack of officers and funds, and a lack of facilities such as boats, aircraft and vehicles. There is an abysmal lack of surveillance and this automatically increases the amount of illegal fishing taking place.

Because of technical advances, which have been enumerated in this House over the years, the advantage is weighted towards the poacher. To expect to stop poaching and other illegal activities by increasing the responsibilities of our Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers is bordering on the ridiculous. Japanese long-liners, Korean head fisheries and Taiwanese and United States commercial interests are increasingly gaining access to our waters, yet we have virtually no real coastal maritime surveillance capability at all.

The Great Barrier Reef, and therefore Queensland and Australia, will suffer from lack of protection, as will Australian fishermen. Their problems will be greatly exacerbated. It is an open invitation—an open-handed deal. We are handing over another

great Australian resource to Japanese and other foreign interests. To allow Japanese long-line fishermen to enter a marlin spawning area is not only incredible but criminal. A continual and sustained attack on juvenile stock will decimate the marlin fishery and wreak irretrievable havoc. We have seen examples of the mismanagement of other fisheries, and the marlin fishery in Peru is a case in point. Our own barramundi industry is currently at risk.

An amount of \$1,400,000 is a meagre sum for which to sell out our marlin fishery. It is peanuts compared with the earnings of that industry and the tourist industry in Far North Queensland. There would be 10 times that amount invested in boats, equipment and facilities in Cairns alone. The marlin industry would earn 10 times that amount.

Subservience to the Japanese yen—the commitment to the Japanese long-liners—is sacrificing the Queensland tourist industry, particularly the boats operating out of the port of Cairns. It is a criminal act. The Japanese long-liners are not interested in marlin, either young or old. They seek tuna. Whatever they hook onto they catch. They slaughter and plunder. They will eat anything. There are 130 to 140 million people in Japan, and they consume any fish. I have been there, and I know. The honourable member for Windsor and I nearly starved when we visited there. These fishermen set out to hook tuna, and if they hook marlin they are still reeled in by the long-line process. All the surface fish go into the hold and go home to Japan to feed the masses. The species is of no consequence.

The proclamation of the first section of the marine park on the Barrier Reef ought not to be jeopardised. It would be far better to redouble our efforts and obtain clear agreement to declare both the first and second areas in conjunction. The solution should be obvious—a top priority rating for the declaration of the Great Barrier Reef as a marine park. We should declare taboo areas in the waters adjacent to Cairns which are the breeding ground for the black marlin. We do not want to see here a duplication of what happened or what was said at Charlie's Restaurant in Canberra by Kevin Newman. If Mr. Newman chose to confess that he took the unique step in Parliament of altering the correct version of events, that is his concern. There should be a lesson in that comedy of errors concerning his misdemeanour last May. In regard to the proposed Barrier Reef Marine Park declaration, our Minister concerned with fisheries should not change his course for the sake of convenience.

(Time expired.)

AMUSEMENT AND PIN-BALL MACHINES

Mr. SCASSOLA (Mt. Gravatt) (12.20 p.m.): I draw the attention of the House today to the rapid expansion in this State of the number of amusement machines in

operation, including what are commonly referred to as pin-ball machines, and the problems which that rapid expansion is bringing with it. Unless swift action is taken to closely control the number and placement of such machines, the community will have on its hands a social problem of very significant proportions.

The more recent proliferation in the number of amusement machines, their siting and the siting of premises containing them, have caused a considerable degree of anxiety and concern in the community. Parents and teachers alike have expressed their alarm at the rapid growth of so-called modern-day leisure centres. Indeed, that growth has been the subject of comment in other places and, in particular, it has been the subject of adverse comment at a recent Liberal Party Convention in New South Wales.

Under the Art Unions and Amusements Act, a person desiring to conduct an amusement machine may make application for a permit to the Under Secretary of the Department of Justice. If it is intended to conduct more than two machines in the premises, a permit for such premises is also required. The astonishing growth in the number of available machines is revealed by the following figures: at the end of 1974, there were just in excess of 300 machines in Queensland earning, so a "Sunday Sun" report of 5 January 1975 said, in excess of \$5,000,000 per year for clubs. The Minister for Justice and Attorney-General informed this House last week, in answer to a question I asked of him, that there are now permits current for 6,341 machines, including 4,102 so-called pin-ball machines. In addition, 824 premises are the subject of permits for the installation of such machines. In other words, the number of such machines currently operating in this State is 20 times greater than the number operating at the end of 1975.

The installation and operation of such machines is not confined to clubs. If it were, I would have no objection. The popular view once held that such machines could be found only in inconspicuous places in commercial areas is also not in accord with present-day reality. Permits are sought for the installation of such machines in shops, in commercial shopping centres, in clubs, in arcades and, more importantly, in or in close proximity to quiet residential neighbourhoods. There are also instances where applications for permits relate to premises which are close to schools attended by thousands of children.

In my own electorate, there are already several premises containing such machines in close proximity to schools. An application was recently made for a permit to install in excess of 30 machines in premises some 20 or 30 yards from established housing, within walking distance of four existing schools having approximately 4,000 students, and within walking distance of a fifth school which is in the course of construction.

It is the effect of the installation of large numbers of machines in such premises on young people which is of concern. It is said in favour of the installation of amusement machines that they provide entertainment. I challenge that assertion. I question whether standing behind an unattractive, noisy, flashing machine, pushing a button in bursts punctuated by groans and gestures, can be classified as entertainment. I suggest that those machines are merely a means by which young people are robbed of their valuable time.

Pin-ball and like machines have been aptly called "time swallows". I concur with the view expressed that there are in many urban areas insufficient recreation facilities for young people. Obviously there is an obligation on the part of the whole community to provide facilities for wholesome recreation for young people, and clearly insufficient attention in the planning of those areas was given at the time when the original subdivisions were made. The existence of such leisure centres is not wholesome. They are unwholesome; they are objectionable. They are not part of the leisure industry; in fact, they are part of a noxious industry. They are nothing more or less than a means of blatantly exploiting the vulnerable, impressionable young.

The local authority concerned—in this case, the Brisbane City Council—in allowing subdivision of very large areas of land without insisting that areas be set aside for recreational facilities, is deserving of the greatest possible censure. It remains, however, that the installation of entertainment machines and other machines of the type to which I have referred in premises is simply not the answer.

There is evidence that machines of the type to which I have referred are a temptation and a menace to young people. Experienced school administrators in schools that are close to premises containing such machines say that absenteeism has increased considerably since the advent of those machines in those premises. In one case where a relatively small number of machines is installed in a shop close to a school, I am informed that school students have been found in those premises during school hours. I am also informed that students have travelled into the city during school hours on school days to play machines of this type, such is their magnetism.

There is evidence, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that some students are hypnotised by and become addicted to the machines. Addiction to play has led to standover tactics by some students towards others to obtain more money. I am informed that groups of students have resorted to stealing money in rotation from their parents so that money could be obtained to play the machines. I am told that some young teenage students have been known to spend up to \$20 a week on entertainment machines.

There is concern—and concern, I might say, within the school population itself, the community, and those charged with the responsibility of upholding law and order—that the installation of large numbers of machines in premises has a tendency to attract undesirable elements in the community. Concern of the kind to which I have referred has resulted in one school student representative body expressing its unanimous opposition to premises containing large numbers of amusement machines.

I believe that the rapid growth in the number of entertainment machines is causing considerable concern in the community.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: I am on side with you on this.

Mr. SCASSOLA: I realise that, but my time is limited.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you agree with the speech that I made two weeks ago?

Mr. SCASSOLA: Yes. Government policy with respect to licensing of such machines requires urgent review and, in saying that, I am mindful of the difficulties that confront government in these circumstances because, as every member in this Chamber knows, local authorities are the ones who are charged with town planning responsibilities in terms of zoning and in terms of consent use of premises. Planning rules that enable such premises to be sited in areas close to residential subdivisions and near schools attended by thousands of children require overhaul.

In my opinion, the Government has to take into account social implications attendant upon the granting of permits relating to pin-ball and entertainment machines. I believe that there ought to be prohibition against the licensing of premises the sole purpose, or substantially the sole purpose, for which is the installation and operation of entertainment machines. Secondly, I believe that the installation of such machines should be restricted to premises situated in large commercial areas, and the installation of such machines should certainly not be permitted, in my view, close to residential areas or in close proximity to schools. One or two machines placed in the corner of an establishment catering principally for another purpose is one thing; but to have 20, 30, 40 or more machines as a principal attraction or a focal point of interest is quite another.

USE OF AMYGDALIN IN CANCER CURES

Mr. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (12.30 p.m.): A good deal of public money is spent on cancer research. Because cancer is a terrible disease that afflicts a great number of people and in many instances causes death, all of us would applaud such expenditure. A number of people in the community believe that they have found the answer to cancer. They do not ask for any help from the

Government in trying to prove that their treatments are successful; all they want the Government to do is stop hindering them.

Some time ago I asked the Minister for Health if he would have his department investigate the claims set out in the book "World without Cancer". He answered that the subject was too vast for such a comprehensive exercise. Perhaps that is so. However, as a compromise I asked that each year the department investigate at least one of the claims made in the book. To that question I received the answer that the Health Department would not do that.

Subsequently I wrote to the Minister for Health suggesting that at least one of his senior medical officers might read the book so that people could discuss it with him. To that letter I received a reply to the effect that the book would be made available to a doctor in the Health Department but that because he was engaged in other important community health work he could not read it for some time. This matter is so serious that it should be treated by the Government with some urgency.

Recently a person who believes in the method of treatment set out in the book wrote to each Cabinet Minister. I read from his letter as follows—

"I would like to bring to your attention a glaring and very serious anomaly that exists in the Queensland State Health Act.

"The word 'Amygdalin' is included in the list of prohibited drugs. The Act states that a person may not have any of these substances in their possession, nor any substance which contains 'any proportion whatsoever' of any of the listed substances.

"On making enquiries as to the reason for the inclusion of Amygdalin in the prohibited list, I was informed by a representative of the State Health Department that it 'could be dangerous', and that it 'contained cyanide'.

"I therefore take this opportunity to put before you the following points for your urgent consideration:—

1. Amygdalin is neither dangerous, nor is it a drug. It is a natural substance which exists in nature in many plants and vegetables throughout the world.

2. Amygdalin was first isolated in the 1830's, and has been recognised by eminent scientists ever since, as being non-toxic. It is not a 'new drug'.

3. Amygdalin has been listed in many reference books, including the highly respected American Pharmacopia for over 100 years as being a non-toxic substance.

4. Studies over the last 30 years have shown conclusively that Amygdalin is less toxic than ordinary sugar.

5. Eminent physicians throughout the world have testified to the non-toxic properties of Amygdalin, not the least of whom is Dr. M. Navarro, of Santo

Thomas University, Manila, who regularly administers very large doses intravenously to cancer patients, has 26 years of experience with Amygdalin, and has written many scientific papers on the very encouraging results he has obtained. Professor Navarro is known to have administered it with no adverse side-effects."

That can be compared with chemotherapy, which causes the patient's hair to fall out and has other side-effects.

The letter goes on to say—

"6. Many of us in Australia, and particularly in Queensland, are very much aware of the harassment caused to some doctors in the U.S. by agents of the F.D.A. for treating patients with Amygdalin for cancer."

It should be understood that apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes and many other common foods that we enjoy and believe to be health-giving contain amygdalin.

If it is an offence for a person to have amygdalin in his possession, will the Health Department prosecute people for having apples, apricots and other fruits in their possession? In fact, in this House I asked the Minister for Health whether it was an offence for a person to sell apricot kernels and he replied that it was not. If apricot kernels contain amygdalin, why did the Minister for Health answer the question in that way? I believe that the Health Department is not carrying out its responsibility to thoroughly investigate amygdalin. It should not take advice from Commonwealth and overseas sources. It is a fact that until recently—and I assume that the position is still the same—no other State in Australia has seen fit to place amygdalin on the prohibited list.

The theory behind treating cancer with vitamin B₁₇ (which is a derivative of apricot kernels and so on, and which can be synthesized from amygdalin), is based very simply on the fact that many people throughout the world do not get cancer. The fact that the Hunzas of the Himalayas have not had a reported case of cancer is attributed to their diet. Indeed, the medical profession is starting to understand that diet has an effect on cancer.

Many years ago—before I became interested in this subject—I read that Japanese living in Hawaii suffered a much higher rate of cancer than Japanese living in Japan. That, too, was attributed to diet.

The theory behind the vitamin B₁₇ treatment of cancer is simply that our forefathers ate food that had a high vitamin B₁₇ content while it is lacking in our modern diet. The places where people live in the world and their dietary habits affect the incidence of cancer in society.

I make it very clear that I do not necessarily hold that vitamin B₁₇ is an acceptable form of treating cancer. But I do say that insufficient

research has been done in Australia for anybody to say categorically that it is good or bad. When people claim that they have a worthwhile treatment for cancer, the State Government, and particularly the Health Department, should take the claims a little more seriously and thoroughly investigate them, rather than worry about overseas research that some people say is discredited.

The treatment of cancer with vitamin B₁₇ is no magical treatment whereby the vitamin is simply injected into people. Many other things have to be done, and a large change in the patient's dietary habits is involved.

If we are to institute a proper trial in Queensland to determine whether or not these people are offering a worthwhile alternative to traditional forms of cancer treatment, it will be necessary to set up a clinic. What happens in the clinic will be very simple: the patients' diet will be controlled and a couple of medical treatments, such as enemas, will be required every day. At the same time, the patient will be injected with vitamin B₁₇ and be given other vitamins. I am sure that no-one would knock any person who wanted to give people simple vitamins.

It is claimed that laetrile is simply a vitamin. Other people hold different views. I want the Health Department to make a proper study to determine whether the claims made are true or not. The Health Department should realise that they are worth investigating.

I again stress that I believe no-one in Australia is well enough qualified to be 100 per cent certain that either argument is correct. The Health Department has a duty to investigate the claims that have been made by certain people.

WOODY POINT SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mr. KRUGER (Murrumba) (12.39 p.m.): I rise today to speak about the Woody Point Special School. It is situated just outside the electorate of Murrumba, but I have no hesitation in raising this matter. I understand that it is the first special school of its type to be built in Queensland. While special schools have been in operation, this is a special type of special school. The school is quite commonly known as the white elephant of the Peninsula. I might add that many of my constituents have children attending the school and have recently contacted me about it. The only reference they make to the school is to "the white elephant". They do not say that because they think the intention to build the school was wrong. They say it because of the management of the staffing of that school. Parents and citizens of the area are very concerned about what has arisen. They have raised many matters with me, as a result of which I asked the questions to which I received answers yesterday. I would like to refer to those before I proceed further.

I asked a question about the enrolment at the school. Presently it is 42. I asked about the maximum capacity, which is 120. The approximate cost of the school was \$1,500,000. I asked about staffing for medical care. To that I received the type of answer that I expected. However, I have other material on that matter.

The need for the school is great, but the services are nil. The building could only be classed as magnificent for the care of handicapped children; yet the Government has done nothing to fulfil its obligations in staffing it for medical care. As it is a new concept, I will quote some articles about the Woody Point school and the philosophies and policies proposed so that honourable members will know exactly what I am talking about.

Mr. Bourke: What are you quoting from?

Mr. KRUGER: I am quoting from a document entitled "Woody Point Special School: An overview of the philosophies and policies proposed". It is a document put out by the department. It says—

"... the school when fully established would cater for children with at least some degrees of physical handicap resulting in ambulatory or manipulative difficulty, and in most cases this would be accompanied by varying degrees of mental retardation and/or sensory difficulty in marked educational handicap.

"The school would provide broadly based, and comprehensive development and educational programs. Professional staff other than teachers are required to contribute skills to this type of concept, and it has been envisaged that this would occur in a multi-disciplinary team approach. Because of the nature of the children involved, it is planned to use the full time services of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapists, and the part-time services of a medical officer."

It goes on to spell out that it is expected that the school would have four functions: an assessment function, a support function, the provision of appropriate and continuing programmes and, most significantly, assistance in developing parent management of handicapped children. I believe that that last point is very important. It continues—

"The population of the proposed Woody Point Special School will consist of children drawn from the following areas of physical handicap—cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, heart disorder, motor vehicle accident victims"—

and so on. It shows the wide range of handicaps the school is intended to cater for.

It spells out that many of the children would be taken to school in wheelchairs, which is why the school has been designed in a particular way. The dining-room was

laid out to teach handicapped children how to manage their disabilities while feeding themselves.

The Health Department's handling of the school has been nothing but a disaster, shambles, bungle, or any other appellation that could be used to describe mismanagement. The reason for the school's being called a white elephant is not its layout or the fact that it has been situated at Woody Point. It relates to its management not being handled correctly. On 5 September 1979 a child took seriously ill there, but no nurse was in attendance.

I will refer now to some other articles I have. I will read an advertisement that was inserted this year, following one that had been placed in August 1978. The advertisement, placed by the Department of Health, calls for a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, community health nurse and two community health aides. The applications, which had to quote the position reference number and contain full particulars of name, address, telephone number, date of birth and so on, were to be lodged with the Public Service Board at its post office box number.

In May 1979 people were actually appointed to positions. I refer to a letter from the Minister for Health to Mr. Hyde, who is president of the p. and c. committee down there. It said—

"I refer to your letter of 6th August, 1979 concerning the provision of health services by my Department to the Woody Point Special School.

"As you are aware, approval has been given for the staff establishment of the Woody Point Special School to be one Community Health Nurse, one Occupational Therapist, one Physiotherapist, one Speech Therapist and two Health Aides.

"Action was taken in May 1979 to interview a number of applicants, and suitable persons were selected for appointment to the various positions."

It is now October and, in the interim, one sick child recently needed the services of a nurse. The letter continues—

"However, because of the uncertainty of the allocation of Commonwealth funds to my Department for this purpose, actual appointments to these positions were delayed."

The State Government is now throwing the blame back at the Federal Government because it is not funding the school. Staff costs would be a very minor item considering the cost of the school. A State Government that builds a school costing \$1,500,000 must be prepared to provide the staff that the school was designed to take. The letter continues—

"I would now advise that nominations for the selected applicants have been forwarded to the Department of the Public

Service Board, and it is anticipated appointments will be made in the near future."

Applications were invited and they were to be sent to the board. The Health Department is now saying that the applications have gone to the board for consideration. Who is trying to fool whom in these circumstances? That sort of thing is typical of this Government.

Another significant matter is that a by-election was held recently in Redcliffe. In last week's local paper two articles were published concerning the hospital and the Budget. On the front page readers were asked to look at the member's comments on the second page. It was referring to the member who has part of his electorate on each side of my electorate. Of course, I was not asked by the paper to express any opinion on the Budget. It was obvious what sort of answer I would have given. The newly elected member for Redcliffe said in the article—

"In the welfare area, the government has provided funds for extra specialised staff at the Woody Point Special School for handicapped children."

"Mr. White said he had made successful representations for an occupational therapist, speech therapist, physiotherapist, a nurse and two aides to be employed at the school."

Those people were selected last May and the new member is trying to take credit in October for obtaining them because the people in Redcliffe were jumping up and down as the staff they had been promised have not been appointed.

One of the persons selected has decided, after the long wait, to seek other employment. She is not quite sure whether the Government is fair dinkum. Actually, people all over Queensland have the same problem. I have raised this matter today to point out that this girl will be the first of many throughout Queensland to take similar action. If the Government does not meet its obligations to staff schools such as this one, the people with handicapped children will suffer more. They have enough problems without the Government's putting up a \$1,500,000 school and ignoring its responsibility to staff it. The Government is a farce, to say the least.

Today, the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads (Mr. Hinze) is back in Brisbane from his overseas jaunt. He is travelling around in an unmarked police car trying to cover up whatever has been going on while the Government is not meeting its obligations to this school. What is the Government doing? How low will it stoop when it will not meet its obligations? If the Local Government Minister had any decency, he would not be jaunting around in a car; he would be facing up to his responsibilities to the people of Queensland.

Mr. R. J. Gibbs: The rumour is around that Mr. Hinze is at the racecourse in Sydney.

Mr. KRUGER: I understand he is in Brisbane. Rumours do fly around about him. Some of them would not be true but a damned lot of them are.

BOAT-YARD OPERATORS

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.49 p.m.): I should like to say a few words today about a practice that has grown up in recent years which is causing considerable loss of money to members of the public. I refer to the unscrupulous and unethical tactics of a number of boat-yard operators in this State. It has been the practice, as the boat business has boomed throughout Queensland, for people wishing to dispose of boats to take them to a boat-yard in their locality and place them there for sale on consignment. The boats are taken in by the boat dealers on consignment by private individuals with a clear undertaking that the boat dealers will sell the boats on behalf of their clients. In some cases, commission of about 10 per cent of the ultimate sale price is paid. In others, a net figure is arrived at for which the boat will be sold and then a profit which goes to the dealer is placed on top of that figure. The dealer is entitled to take anything he gets above the net figure required by the boat owner.

There are many reputable dealers in the community who have quite properly carried out this function free from any Government controls and without any policing or supervising under any legislative provision. However, in recent months there have been at least three quite disastrous incidents where members of the public have suffered great loss at the hands of unscrupulous boat dealers. Having taken over boats on consignment in the manner I have described, the dealer gets the owner to sign an agreement to allow him to sell the boat on either a commission basis or for a profit above a net figure. Some of these unscrupulous dealers have then approached finance companies who floor plan these boats. In other words, the finance company advances money against that particular stock which, in these instances, the crooked boat dealer has said are his property.

In most instances, up to 90 per cent of the agreed value of the unit is advanced to the boat dealer under the floor plan. However, these agreements are subject to negotiation, and in some cases as much as 100 per cent of the agreed value of the unit is advanced. The money is paid over to the dealer by cheque, which, of course, he immediately banks. The boat is then sold to some unsuspecting person and the boat dealer pays out neither the finance company, as a repayment of the money that has been advanced to him as a result of the floor plan arrangement, nor the owner.

In recent months three yards have been notable for causing this problem. There is one on the north side known as Bridge Marine. I understand that dealer owes a finance company—if, indeed, it is a debt

rather than fraud—a sum somewhere between \$50,000 and \$70,000. A southside firm known at Mt. Gravatt Marine was in a similar situation, owing a finance company an amount between \$75,000 and \$80,000. A similar amount was also owed by another yard at Capalaba.

This whole intricate process has left the owners of many boats in a state of confusion. They do not know whether they own their boats, whether they have the right to repossess them or whether their equity in them has passed to the finance company. All they know is that they placed the boats on consignment to a dealer in good faith.

A further complication is introduced into the process when the boat in consideration is already encumbered to another finance company which has to be paid out after the sale. But as the owner of the boat has lost possession and is not paid after the sale, the initial finance company agreement is not paid out either. As a consequence, there has been a good deal of fighting about who has the right of possession of the boat in the final instance. One finance company has a hire purchase agreement over the boat, another finance company has a floor plan agreement over it, the owner believes he has an equity in it, and violence has occurred over physical possession. Yet the rogue dealer collects twice on the boat, leaving all the other parties up in the air and out of pocket. This is not to say that all boats taken on consignment are at risk. There are sufficient reputable dealers about who carry out this process quite properly, but there needs to be some response from the Government to have this matter corrected.

In addition, some of these boat dealers have failed to pay their advertising bill to the newspapers in which they have advertised their boats, having received 30 days credit from the newspapers. Indeed, others have failed to pay rent for the yard in which they have placed their boats for sale. They have disappeared leaving all these people up in the air.

The finance companies involved in this matter are Associated Securities Ltd. in respect of the Mt. Gravatt yard and Mutual Acceptance Ltd. in respect of the north side yard. I should not imagine that anyone has a great deal of sympathy for these finance companies which should be big enough, bold enough and clever enough to take care of their own affairs; to assure themselves that the boat dealer in fact owns the property before they allow him to floor plan it and advance him any money. In fact, I understand that in recent weeks there has been a tightening up by finance companies in this regard.

The boat-selling industry attracts some very odd types of people. It attracts people who cannot get through the screening process required for a motor-dealer's licence in order to become licensed as car salesmen or car dealers. There is no provision under

the Auctioneers and Agents Act for boat dealers to be licensed. That is the reason why I am on my feet today calling for something to be done.

On 13 July this year, I wrote to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General drawing his attention to the problem and to the hardship that it has caused to many people in the community. I pointed out the losses that had taken place and asked him to bring boat dealers under a system of licensing similar to that applying to motor dealers. I suggested that this would require not only that they be checked out in the first instance but also that they operate trust accounts so that the moneys they received would be kept intact. The Minister replied to me just recently on this matter and indicated that he does not see any necessity for this to happen at the moment. However, he said that he will take the matter into consideration when the Auctioneers and Agents Act is next to be amended.

I am not content to hold my breath until then. If I were to do so, I would go blue in the face. I believe that action is required now before any other decent citizen loses his money in this way. In his letter to me, the Minister said—

“The implementation of a licensing scheme for the motor boat industry would not, in itself, resolve the problems outlined in your letter. I have been advised by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs that it has been his experience, from investigations undertaken by inspectors at his Office, that the licensing of an industry, does not necessarily prohibit or restrict the dishonest operator from participating in fraudulent activities of the type outlined in your letter.”

It certainly does not but, of course, it goes a long way towards making it more difficult for this sort of fraudulent act to take place. I know that people have made complaints to the Police Fraud Squad and that many of the persons associated with the boat-yards I have mentioned are under police investigation at the present time. But that is not the long-term solution to the problem. The long-term solution is merely to require the same standard of conduct, registration and licensing to apply to boat dealers as applies to car salesmen and boat dealers in other States.

(Time expired.)

BEXLEY CORPORATION PTY. LTD.

Mr. R. J. GIBBS (Wolston) (12.59 p.m.): In the minute available to me today I want to throw some light on the sorry saga involving the Bexley Corporation Pty. Ltd., and the facts concerning it. I received information that our friend, Mr. Ian Rice, was booked out on T.A.A. Flight 461 this morning, but he conveniently missed it and is still in Brisbane. Of course, this raises

all sorts of interesting connotations, particularly when one takes into account that the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads is supposed to be back in this State.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 28 August, the time allotted for the debate on Matters of Public Interest has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.
