

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 1981

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

Mr HOOPER: I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member for Ipswich, Dr Llewellyn Roy Edwards, MB, BS, sitting in his correct place?

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

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Small Business Development Corporation for the year ended 30 June 1981

Townsville Harbour Board for the year ended 30 June 1981

Mackay Harbour Board for the year ended 30 June 1981

Metropolitan Transit Authority for the year ended 30 June 1981

Films Board of Review for the year ended 30 June 1981

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under the Diseases in Plants Act 1929-1972

Orders in Council under—

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981, and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979

City of Brisbane Market Act 1960-1978

Fisheries Act 1976

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1981

Soil Conservation Act 1965-1980

Rural Training Schools Act of 1965 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923-1979

Forestry Act 1959-1981

Regulations under—

Fisheries Act 1976

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1981

Statutes under the Griffith University Act 1971-1980

Resolutions of the 111th meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council held in Darwin, Northern Territory, on 3 August 1981

Report—

Legal Aid Commission of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1981

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Activities of Mr M. A. Beattie in Pool-manufacturing Industry

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations) (11.5 a.m.): I wish to make a brief statement about the activities of Mark Alexander Beattie of 11 Fairbank Street, Sunnybank, who is involved in the pool-manufacturing business.

He is currently associated with Myer Pools. Myer Pools manufactures supposedly reinforced concrete pools. The concrete panels for the pools, which are approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ in thick, are prefabricated in Mr Beattie's backyard and reinforced by the addition of metal filings to the mix. The resulting panels naturally have very little strength.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs has prepared a report on current and previous activities of Mark Alexander Beattie in the pool-manufacturing area, and I urge consumers who are planning to have a pool built to take particular note of the results of the Consumer Affairs Bureau investigation.

For the benefit of members, I table the commissioner's report.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the report on the table.

Paper on Family Welfare Legislation

Hon. T. A. WHITE (Redcliffe—Minister for Welfare Services) (11.7 a.m.): On 12 May 1981, I presented to Parliament a brief paper on family welfare legislation. In that paper and in my consequent speech to Parliament, certain substantive and procedural steps towards the development of a family welfare Bill were outlined to the House. At that time I commented—

“The paper will be widely disseminated throughout the community so that individuals and interested organisations may comment upon it”.

The paper which I propose to table today is based on a very considerable amount of feedback from many different sources on the May paper. In the foreword, I have made the point—

“The paper represents another important stage in the overall exercise in that it elaborates proposals without being a definitive statement on the final form that the legislation will take. The paper gives the community a further opportunity to consider the intentions of the Government and to respond by written submissions if so desired.”

In my view, social legislation which affects the lives and well-being of members of the community is something to be proceeded with cautiously. I hope to obtain a high degree of consensus within the community before presenting the legislation in the form of a Bill. It is for this reason that this paper is being tabled in the House today.

In this document are outlined the assumptions which form its basis. The assumptions are as follows:—

- (1) The family is the basic unit in society;
- (2) Governments have a responsibility to support family life;
- (3) Families need access to appropriate services;
- (4) Children should be cared for by their family of origin;
- (5) Children as dependent members of society need protection; and
- (6) Children who commit offences should have the same legal rights as adults.

The document outlines new arrangements for services to families, and proposals for the protection of children. It deals extensively with new approaches to children who are in conflict with their families and children who are in conflict with the law.

The paper, in the form of attachments, sets out the objectives of the new proposed Act and suggested parts of the proposed Act.

In general, it is a long step forward from the previous papers tabled. I look forward to community reaction to the paper.

I table the paper, and I move that it be printed.

Whereupon the paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Mr CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (11.9 a.m.), by leave: When the Standing Orders Committee of this Parliament was formed by Sessional Order on 11 March this year, it was quite clear that the intent and feeling of all members of this House was that this committee should get on with the job of reviewing the Standing Orders of this Parliament in certain particulars.

I know, Mr Speaker, that this was also your clear intent, and your actions since that time in convening various meetings of that committee and in chairing same have quite clearly been with a view to progress.

At the meeting of that committee on 5 August it was the clear intent of all members present, including myself—

Mr NEAL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is supposed to be making a personal explanation. I am wondering how the matter personally affects the member.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the comments of the Leader of the Opposition further before I make a determination.

Mr CASEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As I said, at the 5 August meeting of that committee it was the clear intent of all members present that, following the review of the submissions that had been received from the various party groupings within the Parliament and from individual members, as a demonstration of good faith the Standing Orders Committee should complete an interim report and present it to the Parliament before the end of the session this year. As a member of that committee, my understanding was that that was the unanimous opinion of the committee.

That was also my understanding and that of my colleagues on this side of the House, when the final draft of the committee's interim report was considered at its most recent

meeting, held on 17 November last, when it was agreed that the report should be submitted to the Government Printer so that Parliament could then deal with it in the appropriate way.

So far, that report has not been tabled by the Government for consideration and determination by the Parliament. I clearly indicate now that unless this is done before or on the resumption of this House following the luncheon recess today, I intend to seek leave to table my draft copy of the Standing Orders Committee report and to then seek the opinion of the House whether it should be printed.

I recognise, Mr Speaker, that this would be a highly unusual procedure. However, I feel that those members of the committee who have displayed good faith in this matter, and especially you, Mr Speaker, who at all times during the various Standing Orders Committee meetings have always sought to achieve progress on this matter, should have the opportunity of letting the House make its determination upon their work.

Mr BERTONI (Mt Isa) (11.13 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday, in a speech in this Chamber, the honourable member for Cook (Mr Scott) indicated to the House that I live in Brisbane. I make it quite clear that that is not so. I notice that the honourable member is not presently in the House. His remark could have been facetious; but, just to put the record straight, I assure the House that I do not live in Brisbane.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Non-interest-bearing Bank Accounts

From Mr Burns (96 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will on behalf of pensioners request the national Government not to proceed with a proposal to place a ceiling on the allowable amount of savings in non-interest-bearing accounts.

Air Travel for Disabled Persons for Recreational Purposes

From Mr Casey (890 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will introduce for disabled persons airline travel for recreational purposes.

Expunging of Record of Conviction for Traffic Offender

From Mr Moore (1 signatory) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will expunge the record of conviction of a traffic offence against the petitioner and restore his lost traffic points.

State Service Superannuation Scheme

From Mr Fitzgerald (485 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will end discrimination against female employees under the State Service Superannuation Scheme and adjust the benefit to employees who leave prior to the retirement age.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

Questions submitted on notice by members were answered as follows:—

1. Cook Freeze Pty Ltd

Mr Casey asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a letter I received from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer dated 26 November which followed a question by me in Parliament to him as Acting Minister for Health on 12 November concerning the supply of meals by Cook Freeze Pty

Ltd to organisations or establishments other than Government hospitals or institutions and in view of the comments made regarding this facility in the consolidated reply by the Government regarding certain observations made in the Auditor-General's report tabled in the Parliament by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on 1 December—

(1) How many meals were provided to hospitals in the first full year of operation of the facility at Wacol?

(2) What fee will be paid by R. M. Gow and Company Limited for the 120 000 "Chalet" meals to be produced at the Wacol facility?

(3) What amount of that fee is allocated for (a) a percentage of the management fee payable to Cook Freeze Pty Ltd by the Department of Health, (b) the use of departmental plant and equipment and (c) depreciation costs of both the building and the plant?

(4) Is Cook Freeze Pty Ltd or the Department of Health negotiating any further agreements for the supply of meals or packaged foods to any other organisations or establishments?

Answer:—

(1) Meals are not supplied. Portion packs and bags of various products are supplied from which hospitals and institutions prepare meals. Cook Freeze Pty Ltd has advised that from 1 September 1980 to 30 September 1981 a total 742 132 were delivered.

(2 & 3) To cover all aspects of the production of "Chalet" meals the department is reimbursed—

(a) The actual cost of all materials;

(b) The actual cost of all labour plus all on-costs such as sick pay, holiday pay and workers' compensation;

(c) The sum of 20c per meal produced;

(d) The sum of 5c per meal for all meals produced during normal working hours as an offset against the management fee payable to Cook Freeze Pty Ltd.

(4) No other negotiations are presently proceeding with any private organisation.

2. Withdrawal of Prosecution for Destruction of Protected Fauna

Mr Casey asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

(1) With reference to his personal instructions that a case against a Mr J. Afribo for the illegal destruction of protected wildlife scheduled for hearing in the Proserpine Court on 12 November be withdrawn despite the fact that the Solicitor-General in Brisbane had the conclusive evidence that the person concerned had destroyed protected fauna by a prohibited method, namely the use of poison, and that even the forestry rangers and the honorary fauna protectors involved in the case were not advised until their arrival at the court that morning—why did he order the withdrawal of this case, and does this mean that any person can now poison protected fauna at will, without fear of prosecution, provided they can have him on their side?

(2) Does this also mean that Government rangers and honorary protectors, who act to prosecute persons for such offences, to protect our flora and fauna, will see their hard work wasted?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has my assurance that this matter is under further investigation, and should there be evidence that Mr Afribo is continuing to break this State's wildlife laws, then he will be prosecuted.

3. Contract Chicken-meat Growers

Mr Warner asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Is he aware that major problems are being encountered by contract chicken meat growers which have affected the efficiency and stability of that industry due to the intentions of the relevant Act not being adhered to?

(2) Will he take action to amend the Act, if necessary, so that the provisions of the Act can be enforced?

Answer:—

(1) I am aware of the conflict that has existed between groups of contract chicken-meat growers and certain processors. However, I am informed that the major areas of difference have been largely resolved. In any event, I will be having discussions on Monday next with the chicken-meat processors. I have earlier had discussions with chicken-meat growers.

(2) I will await the outcome of the present round of discussions before commenting on possible future legislative action.

4. Milk-bottling

Mr Booth asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the recent decision of the Milk Tribunal to force the Warwick Co-operative Dairy Association Ltd to process and bottle milk on a six-day-week basis—

(1) Is any other factory in Queensland bottling on a five-day week?

(2) If other factories in Queensland are bottling on a five-day week, what are the names of these factories and the reasons for such latitude?

Answer:—

(1) There are presently 19 factories registered by my department and licensed by the Queensland Milk Board to treat, package, store and sell pasteurised milk and cream. Seventeen of these factories operate under Orders in Council with respect to conditions of operation and the area in which they must provide pasteurised milk and cream. It is a condition of the processor's licence "that the holder shall, unless the Board otherwise approves, process and bottle or pack milk and cream on not less than six days in each week". All but three processors, the Warwick Co-operative Dairy Assn Ltd, the Beaudesert Milk Pty Ltd and the Mt Isa plant of the Atherton Tableland Co-op. Dairy Assn Ltd, have been complying with this requirement, which is designed to bring milk in the freshest condition possible to the consumer. The pricing mechanism for milk caters for processors operating on a six-day processing cycle.

(2) No approval has been given to any processor to depart from the six-day schedule. In addition to the Warwick Co-operative Dairy Association, a direction to comply with the requirements of the legislation is also being issued to the Beaudesert Milk Pty Ltd and the Atherton Tableland Co-op. Assn by the Board.

5. Grain-handling Report

Mr Booth asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the grain-handling report—

(1) Has provision been made for independent grain merchants to share in the growth of the grain industry?

(2) If not, will he consider the possibilities of private grain traders having access to grain-handling facilities?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The McKechnie Report on Future Grain and Oilseed Planning, Storage and Transport was adamant that provision should be made for private grain merchants to share in the exciting growth prospects of the Queensland grain industry. The report recommended that the proposed grain-handling authority should negotiate with merchants who wish to have access to the central storage, handling and transport system. However, it was made clear that preference should be given in the allocation of facilities to those users who make a long-term financial commitment to the capital and operating costs of the authority.

6. Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board

Mr Booth asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

With reference to the recent decision to abandon the dingo barrier fence—will the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board retain control of the rabbit fence in view of its successful operation over a number of years?

Answer:—

The Cabinet decision with regard to the future of the dingo barrier fence has no bearing on the retention of the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board fence which is administered under a different statute. There are no proposals, at this point in time, to interfere with the operation of the Rabbit Board fence. Ultimately the functions of rabbit control will pass to the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board, as the single pest authority for the State, but no variation in the operation of the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board is envisaged when this takes place.

7. Sale of Wynnum Fish Market

Mr Shaw asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the advertisements which have appeared in the Press offering the Wynnum Fish Market for sale by auction, and the advertisements do not mention any requirements that purchasers provide for the needs of professional fishermen presently using this port—

(1) Has protection of the rights of professional fishermen been built into the terms of the sale and, if so, in what way?

(2) If the Wynnum fishermen have not been guaranteed continued use of this port, what other arrangements have been made to provide marketing facilities?

(3) If alternative arrangements have not been made for Wynnum fishermen by 16 December, will the auction still take place?

(4) What assistance will the Government give to the local fishermen's co-operative to enable it to compete for the purchase of the Wynnum market?

Answer:—

(1) As the honourable member has indicated, an auction of the Queensland Fish Board's Wynnum depot has been set for 16 December. No special conditions will apply to the auction. The board, some six weeks ago, wrote to the Wynnum Branch of the QCFO requesting an indication of interest in the property. Although there has been some contact by Wynnum groups with the board, no serious proposal has yet been submitted. However, it remains the board's desire to enter into a commercial arrangement with Wynnum fishermen, if that is at all possible, up to the date of the auction.

(2 & 3) If Wynnum fishermen are unwilling or unable to enter into a commercial arrangement with the board by 16 December, then the auction will proceed. If the

property is sold at auction and the purchaser is unwilling to maintain the present fish market facilities, it is the board's intention to maintain a presence if this can be achieved on commercial terms.

(4) Under the Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act, fishermen's co-operatives are entitled to apply for Government guarantees on borrowings in the same manner as other bodies coming within the ambit of the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act. In order to obtain such guarantees, it would be necessary for a co-operative to demonstrate the probable viability of its operations and its ability to service any loan which may be guaranteed. An examination is currently being made of other possible forms of assistance.

8. Pesticide Residue in Food

Mr Shaw asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Medical Services in which it is stated that pesticide residues in excess of levels set by the National Health and Medical Research Council were found in everyday foods sold to Queenslanders—

(1) What action has been taken against (a) the manufacturers, (b) retailers or (c) importers responsible for the products mentioned in the report as containing excessive levels of pesticides?

(2) What are (a) the brand names of products referred to and (b) the names and addresses of the manufacturing companies responsible for the problems uncovered by the Health Department?

(3) What action has been taken to ensure that the brands of products referred to in this report have (a) been withdrawn from sale or (b) had the chemical levels reduced to meet health standards?

(4) What types of fish contained excess mercury levels and excessive levels of other chemicals, and where were these fish caught and sold?

(5) What was the brand name of the meat pies found to be deficient in meat, who was the manufacturer and what substance or substances did they contain other than meat?

(6) What are the brand names of the bread found to be deficient in crude fibre content, and is the sale of inferior products such as those mentioned a breach of the Trade Practices Act?

Dr EDWARDS: The answer is a very lengthy one, so I seek leave to have it incorporated in "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

Answer:—

(1) The problems have been drawn to the attention of the persons concerned and follow-up action carried out. As many of the goods were primary products, the aid of officers of the Department of Primary Industries has been sought in the rectification of the problems.

(2) Where investigations reveal an anomaly considered to warrant prosecution the departmental proceedings are carried out with the utmost vigour.

The hearings are conducted in open court at which the public and the media may attend to report the findings of such prosecutions. The due process of law deals adequately with each case and I am not prepared to continue the prosecution by naming the organisations in the annual report or in this house.

(3) See (1).

(4) With regard to excess mercury levels in fish caught in Queensland waters, I supply details as hereunder with regard to the type of fish and the catch area. A significant quantity was removed from the Queensland market.

Specimen	Catch Area
Shark	Southport
Shark	South Stradbroke Island
Shark	Boonooroo
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Gulf of Carpentaria
Shark	Maryborough
Shark	Tin Can Bay
Shark	Scarborough
Shark	Mitchell River
Shark	Cairns
Shark	Cairns
Shark	Cairns
Shark	Maryborough
Shark	Tin Can Bay
Shovel Nosed Ray	Tin Can Bay
Shovel Nosed Ray	Tin Can Bay
Shovel Nosed Ray	Tin Can Bay
Marlin	Mooloolaba
Tailor	Tewantin
Mackerel	Bundaberg

(5 & 6) See (2).

9. Queensland Cultural Centre

Mr Shaw asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Is he aware of the growing concern and speculation in the building industry about problems associated with the multimillion-dollar Cultural Centre at South Brisbane?

(2) Did the Government originally announce that the Barclay Bros Pty Ltd contract would be for approximately \$26m, covering 120 weeks commencing in September 1979?

(3) Have Barclay Bros Pty Ltd now announced a projected finishing date of December 1983, instead of the original February 1982 completion date calculated on the contract period of 120 weeks?

(4) Has the Government paid only \$10m to date on works completed, and are there continuing wrangles about payments and claims?

(5) If not, what total sum has been paid to date?

(6) Is he aware of problems experienced by subcontractors and others who have been told that some of these problems were associated with late changes in design and delays in approval of drawings and other procedures?

(7) Has a consultant from Melbourne been called in to report to the Government on the project?

(8) Will he give a full and frank report to Parliament detailing the total costs, expected finishing date and the reason for major problems that have caused subcontractors to go broke on this job?

Answer:—

(1) I am fully informed as to the present position on this contract and am not aware of any speculation within the building industry in this regard.

(2) Yes.

(3) Barclay Bros Pty Ltd has submitted a revised program, which is presently under consideration.

(4 & 5) To date, including latest certificate on 13 November 1981, payments total \$11,923,352.

(6) Arrangements with subcontractors are entirely within the contractor's area of responsibility.

(7) No.

(8) This contract is at present being reviewed by Cabinet to ensure that the client will receive a first-class building to meet the purpose for which it is being built. The interests of the contractor and those people working for him are protected by the conditions of the contract.

10.

Anzac Day

Mr Simpson asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

(1) Is he aware that Anzac Day, 25 April, in 1982 falls on a Sunday?

(2) Is he also aware that the RSL and the public of Queensland do not favour the suggestion on some calendars that Anzac Day will be changed to Monday, 26 April?

(3) Will he consult with the RSL and State parliamentary members in an endeavour to correct the situation?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am aware that 25 April falls on a Sunday in 1982. For the information of the honourable member, I would point out that schedule to the Holidays Acts, 1912 to 1961, provides that when Anzac Day falls on a Sunday the next following Monday shall be a holiday. This provision has existed since 1921.

It is not proposed that action be taken to amend the Holidays Acts to alter the public holiday for Anzac Day on 26 April when 25 April falls on a Sunday.

11 & 12.

Complaints about Dentures

Mr Simpson asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

In the last three years, how many complaints have the Consumer Affairs Bureau received about overpriced dentures from (a) dentists and (b) dental technicians?

Answer:—

(a) Nil.

(b) Nil.

Mr Simpson asked the Minister for Health—

In the last three years, how many complaints has the Dental Board of Queensland received about ill-fitting dentures from (a) dentists and (b) dental technicians?

Answer:—

There have been ten complaints received by the Dental Board of Queensland about dentures supplied by dentists and two about dentures supplied by dental technicians during the past three years.

13. Chairman, Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation

Mr Powell asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) How is the position of Chairman of the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation decided?

(2) What salary is attached to the position, what allowance is advanced and what is the tenure of office?

Answer:—

(1) Regulation K12 of the Fisheries Regulations 1977 requires the Queensland Commercial Fishermens State Council at each general meeting to appoint from its members a chairman to hold office until the next annual meeting or until he sooner vacates that office.

(2) No specific salary attaches to the position of chairman. The chairman may be paid such allowances as the State council recommends and the Minister approves.

Regulation K14 of the Fisheries Regulations allows the State council, with the approval of the Minister, to fix fees, expenses and allowances that may be paid to State council and members of district councils.

The council has recently submitted its 1982 budget to me for approval. This is the first budget submitted by the council since the change in ministerial responsibilities in regard to the administration of the Fisheries Act.

I am currently seeking further information from the State council in relation to certain matters relating to the 1982 budget.

14. Levee-banks, Mary River

Mr Powell asked the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

(1) Have levee-banks been built along the Mary River downstream from the junction with the Tinana Creek?

(2) Have the tidal readings in the Mary River which have been taken in the past two months confirmed the view of his department that the levee-banks will contain future spring high tides?

Answer:—

(1) Levee-banks are under construction along the Mary River and Saltwater Creek. Work has been completed on sections of the levee-banks in the Plantation Island area and will progress into the Walker's Point and Prawle areas. Investigation and design have proceeded ahead of actual construction.

The works completed or in progress commence some 10 km downstream of the Tinana Creek junction with the Mary River. Other short sections of levee-bank further upstream in the Granville, The Pocket and Tinana/Bidwill areas have yet to be commenced.

(2) The levee-banks have been designed to cater for the highest tide recorded in the area during the past five years. A computer program has been used to predict the effect of the barrage on that tide and an additional margin of freeboard has been provided in determining levee-bank height.

The current tide readings provide data on the existing situation, prior to construction of the barrage, and do not provide any confirmation of the predicted effect of the barrage.

15. Adulteration of Food and Liquor

Mr Mackenroth asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Health Department annual report—

(1) What was the brand name of the mineral water, described in the report as an expensive imported variety, that was found to be similar in content to Brisbane tap water, and why was the brand name not published in the report as a guide to consumers?

(2) What were the names of the hotel keepers, or their staff, prosecuted last year, at which hotels were the offences committed and why were the names not included in the report?

(3) What were the names of the butchers prosecuted and what offences did they commit?

(4) Will he immediately take action to step up the random testing of food and provide progressive reports throughout the year so consumers do not need to wait a full 12 months to learn the results of tests?

Answer:—

(1) The imported mineral water mentioned conformed to the prescribed standard for mineral water. Brisbane tap water has a significant mineral level. The brand concerned was "Perrier", one of the best known in the world.

(2 & 3) Where investigations reveal an anomaly considered to warrant prosecution the departmental proceedings are carried out with the utmost vigour. The hearings are conducted in open court at which the public and the media may attend to report the findings of such prosecutions. The due process of law deals adequately with each case, and I am not prepared to continue the prosecution by naming the organisations in the annual report or in this House.

(4) A review of tables 84 to 87 in the report will disclose the considerable increase in investigations into numerous samples of food. This investigation will continue with assiduity, and the department will remain vigilant in protecting the health of the people of Queensland.

The routine sampling and analysis of food is a continuing program and present technical staff and facilities are fully committed. The Minister for Health has always made public comment on significant matters as they have arisen.

16. Local Authority Noise Regulations or By-laws

Mr Mackenroth asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

(1) Which local authorities in Queensland have regulations or by-laws relating to noise?

(2) On what date were these regulations or by-laws approved for each local authority?

(3) Will he make available copies of these regulations or by-laws?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The information sought by the honourable member necessitates the researching of the by-laws of all local authorities in the State. The information is being extracted, and I will furnish it to the honourable member as soon as possible.

17. Water-testing, Mary Kathleen Mine

Mr Mackenroth asked the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

With reference to the answer he gave to the member for Everton on 25 November—

(1) Were the two inspections carried out at Mary Kathleen land site routine inspections?

(2) If not, at whose direction were the inspections carried out?

(3) Why were tests not conducted by the inspector from the Water Quality Council?

(4) Is it the normal practice of the Water Quality Council to accept results of tests carried out by polluters in preference to doing their own?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Because there was no evidence at either inspection that any discharge from containment dams was occurring.

(4) It is normal practice to take account of the results of occupiers' tests where these are available, but this occurs only in the minority of cases. Where problems are suspected, independent tests are run regardless.

18. Maintenance-free Car Batteries

Mr Lickiss asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

With reference to the recent reports that so-called maintenance-free car batteries are exploding while being recharged—

(1) Have there been any such cases in Queensland?

(2) If so, what action is being taken to protect the consumer from potential injury?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) In 1980 inquiries were made of the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland and advice was received that during 1979 a small number of exploding maintenance-free batteries were reported to the RACQ. The precise number is unknown.

A very recent inquiry of the RACQ's chief engineer revealed that complaints, in fact, have dropped markedly during the last 12 months, so that the problem has obviously been partially overcome.

Furthermore, inquiries reveal that this problem is apparently not restricted to low-maintenance and maintenance-free batteries, but may be experienced with any battery using a plastic case. It appears that high-pitch vibrations generated in the vehicle are dissipated to a large degree by the use of a battery with a hard, rubber case, whereas with a plastic case a fracture occurs where the poles are attached to the plates. It is therefore important that the correct electrolyte level be maintained otherwise a reaction within the battery could cause an explosion if the level is allowed to drop below the point of the fracture.

Because these batteries are advertised as low-maintenance or maintenance-free, people could neglect to regularly check the electrolyte level (commonly referred to as the water level) resulting in the plates not being fully covered.

It would appear that the vast majority of maintenance-free batteries were produced by the one manufacturer and sold by battery retailers under their own brand names. The manufacturer agreed prior to November 1979, that there was a problem with maintenance-free batteries. However, subsequent design changes appear to have remedied the situation.

The problem seems to be consumer ignorance to a large extent in that, to keep pace with the automotive industry, battery technology has advanced in recent years so that low-maintenance and maintenance-free batteries with improved plate alloys have different characteristics from the batteries to which many people have been accustomed.

I understand that there are five areas where explosions can occur when re-charging a battery, namely—

Not removing the cell caps which allows a dangerous build-up of highly explosive hydrogen gas.

Failure to switch off the battery charger before removing the charger leads. This can cause arcing and the danger of an explosion.

On older battery chargers, corroded alligator clips can fall apart and cause arcing and the risk of explosion.

Using a cheap battery charger that does not meet the recognised standards and allows the voltage across the terminals to creep well beyond 15 volts.

An internal fault in the battery where a loose or faulty plate bridge can cause a high resistance with subsequent overheating and the danger of igniting the hydrogen gas.

Any overcharging of the battery can cause gassing with a subsequent buildup of hydrogen gas which can be highly explosive. If this is allowed to continue, a dangerous situation could develop should a spark occur.

In addition to overcharging, gassing can also be produced by high ambient temperatures so that in Queensland with its hot climate the potential for danger tends to be greater.

Consumers can take two precautions to reduce the likelihood of an explosion. Manufacturers specify minimum and maximum charging rates for their batteries and, in Queensland, consumers are advised to adapt their recharging rates to the lower limit.

The second precaution consumers can take relates to checking the level of electrolyte in the battery. This can be difficult for the average consumer and it is suggested that motorists take their vehicles to battery retailers to have the electrolyte levels checked. If the level of electrolyte is sufficiently high this should eliminate the possibility of sparks leading to explosions.

Action has been taken by battery manufacturers to provide a built-in feature for the purpose of overcoming the possibility of an explosion caused by the problems outlined.

19. Report of Small Business Development Corporation on Shopping Centre Leases

Mr Lickiss asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

With reference to the report by the Small Business Development Corporation on shopping centre leases, which contains some information that was given on the basis that it remains confidential—

(1) Will he seek the corporation's advice on whether it is possible to edit the report with a view to preserving confidentiality?

(2) Will he table the edited report if the corporation's advice is favourable?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The report of the Committee of Inquiry into Shopping Complex Leasing Practices tabled in the House on Tuesday, 22 November last, contained in Appendix 2 a summary of the Small Business Development Corporation's report on the subject. This summary includes all relevant aspects of the corporation's report while maintaining the confidentiality of the submissions made to the corporation by both tenants in and owners of shopping complexes.

I see no purpose in preparing an edited version of the corporation's report as it would not give any additional information to that already provided in the appendix in the report of the committee of inquiry.

20. Home-made Bread Supplied to Health Food Shops

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

Are there any restrictions covering the supply of home-made bread to health food shops and, if so, what are the relevant sections of the appropriate Act?

Answer:—

Section 15 of the Bread Industry Committee Act provides for the establishment of a code of trading practice for the bread industry. This code is not intended to apply to home-made bread.

It is my intention to introduce into this House a Bill to amend the Bread Industry Committee Act 1979. This Bill will contain proposals for the registration of commercial bakeries, but provision will be made for the exemption of non-commercial bakeries.

21. Delay in Magistrates Court Hearings, Townsville

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Is he aware of the huge increase in Magistrates Court work in Townsville?

(2) What action is he taking to overcome any delay in hearings which this increase is causing?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) A request has been made to the Department of the Public Service Board for the appointment of an additional stipendiary magistrate at Townsville.

This appointment is listed amongst the highest of the department's priorities for additional staff and it is anticipated that an additional magistrate will be appointed early next year.

In addition, action has been taken to have sound-recording equipment installed in the courts to reduce the length of hearings and provide a more efficient method of recording evidence.

22. Anzac Day

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

(1) What action, if any, does the Government intend to take on the 1.30 p.m. opening time for public entertainment on Anzac Day?

(2) Are service groups throughout Queensland being canvassed about this issue by the Government and, if so, what has been the result of that survey?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Under the Anzac Day Act places of public amusement cannot open until 1.30 p.m. on Anzac Day, while the Racing and Betting Act stipulates 12.30 p.m. as the opening time for race meetings on that day.

In view of the conflict between the two Acts I have sought the views of all ex-service organisations in Queensland so that the situation can be fully assessed.

A number of replies are still being received. Nevertheless I propose to place the replies before the Government for consideration in the near future.

23. Adulteration of Food and Liquor

Mr Vaughan asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Medical Services—

(1) What was the brand name of the wines found to contain excessive amounts of preservatives, who were the manufacturers and where were the products sold?

(2) What were the types and brand names of the spirits that were found to contain alcohol levels below minimum specified strengths?

(3) What action has been taken against the manufacturers or sellers?

(4) What were the types and brand names of soft drinks found to contain excess preservatives and what action has been taken or will be taken against the manufacturers?

(5) What are the names of the imported jams described in the report as being "inferior" and what action has been taken against the importer responsible and to prohibit the continuation of this practice?

(6) Will he explain why names of manufacturers and brand names have been suppressed in the report?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Where investigations reveal an anomaly considered to warrant prosecution the departmental proceedings are carried out with the utmost vigour.

The hearings are conducted in open court at which the public and the media may attend to report the findings of such prosecutions. The due process of law deals adequately with each case and I am not prepared to continue the prosecution by naming the organisations in the annual report or in this House.

(3) Legal action was instituted against the offenders in regard to spirits. Manufacturers were requested to rectify the situation in regard to wines.

(4 & 5) See (1 & 2).

(6) In the food area, the object of the annual report of the Director-General of Health and Medical Services is to advise the Minister and Parliament of the present status of health standards. In the context, the names of manufacturers and brand names are not relevant.

24. Anakie, Rubyvale and Sapphire Gemfields

Mr Vaughan asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to the Anakie, Rubyvale and Sapphire gemfields—

(1) Are there any areas of unoccupied Crown land set aside specifically for tourists who hold a miner's right to camp and dig for gems?

(2) If so, where are these areas, are they marked and what facilities exist to inform tourists of such areas?

(3) If no such areas are set aside for such purposes, will he initiate action to provide such areas?

(4) If not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The holder of a miner's right has no authority to camp on unoccupied Crown land by virtue of that document and there is no intention that he be allowed to do so.

However, following an approach from the honourable member for Peak Downs, I have initiated discussions with a number of my ministerial colleagues over the problems of accommodation, hygiene, and environmental pollution arising from the influx of large numbers of tourists who visit the Central Queensland gemfields annually to engage in itinerant mining activities as holders of miner's rights.

25. Comalco Ltd Power-station, Bowen Region

Mr Vaughan asked the Premier—

With reference to the report in "The Courier-Mail" of 12 November, which stated that Comalco Ltd had submitted a proposal to the Government to build a power-station in the Bowen region in conjunction with an alumina refinery—

(1) Has Comalco Ltd submitted such a proposal?

(2) If so, what is the proposed generating capacity of such a power-station?

(3) When does Comalco Ltd propose to proceed with such a project?

(4) What locations are being considered for such a power-station?

Answer:—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Approximately 800 MW.
- (3) Timing of the project will depend on the outcome of detailed investigations into the future world demand for alumina and aluminium. These investigations are not expected to be completed until late in 1982.
- (4) Sites to the south and to the west of Bowen are being considered.

26. Freeholding of Auction Perpetual Leasehold Land

Mr Tenni asked the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

When will the Water Resources Act be amended to allow freeholding of auction perpetual leasehold land under the Land Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1981 which at the present moment excludes areas granted or held under the Irrigation Areas (Land Settlement) Act, which in effect is every parcel of land under lease in an irrigation area?

Answer:—

I assure the honourable member that both the Honourable the Minister for Lands and Forestry and I have this matter actively under review. The position is being thoroughly investigated and any necessary legislation will be introduced in the first session of Parliament in 1982.

27. Caravonica State School

Mr Tenni asked the Minister for Education—

When can the Caravonica State School Parents and Citizens' Association commence use of all of portion 77 and part of portion 56 both adjoining the existing school reserve?

Answer:—

It is not intended to present to acquire the whole of portion 77 for inclusion in the school reserve. This is consistent with the unanimous decision reached at the on-site meeting held on 29 September 1980 which was attended by representatives of the parents and citizens association.

The acquisition of part of portion 56 is currently in the hands of my colleague the Minister for Lands.

28. Thomatis Creek Bridge

Mr Tenni asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

Have tenders been called for the construction of the Thomatis Creek Bridge and, if so, who was the successful tenderer, when will construction commence and what is the expected completion date of the bridge and approaches?

Answer:—

Tenders were opened on 16 November 1981 and the tenders received are currently being analysed. A successful tenderer should be known within two weeks. Work on the bridge is expected to commence early in 1982. The bridge and immediate approaches should be completed by December 1982.

29. Fenitrothion in Breakfast Cereals

Dr Lockwood asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to fenitrothion in seven of the 18 samples of breakfast cereal tested in 1980-81—

(1) Were the 18 samples selected at random or specifically referred for testing and, if referred, on what basis?

(2) What were the seven products containing this insecticide, who manufactures them and where?

(3) In each case was the grain for the breakfast cereals purchased from statutory boards, corporations or private agents and which?

(4) What are the effects of single exposure to such levels of fenitrothion in food and the long term effects of regular exposure?

(5) Should consumers regularly change their breakfast cereal to avoid the problem of chronic exposure?

(6) Has the Government yet considered revising downward the maximum recommended levels of fenitrothion insecticide in breakfast cereals or ordering withdrawal of offending products?

Answer:—

(1) They were selected at random.

(2)—

Cerola Crunchy Toasted Muesli (Cerebos); Skippy Corn Flakes (Sanitarium); Kellogg's All Bran (Kellogg's); Kellogg's Rice Bubbles (Kellogg's); Uncle Toby's Muesli (Clifford Love & Co.); Nabisco High Protein Extra G. (Nabisco); White Wings Vitos E (White Wings).

The products were manufactured in New South Wales and Victoria.

(3) This information is not available.

(4) The levels of fenitrothion found in the products tested constitute no hazard in humans either on single exposure or repeated consumption.

(5) No.

(6)—

(i) The honourable member's attention is drawn to page 110 of the report where the statement is made that revision of the MRL tables is needed here.

(ii) The Food and Drug Regulations 1977 have been revised and provide that a manufactured or mixed food containing one or more of the foods in which residues are permitted shall not contain residues in greater amounts than is specifically permitted for the quantity of food or foods containing residues used in the preparation of the manufactured or mixed food. All of the breakfast cereals listed above comply with this requirement in regard to fenitrothion residue content and no action has been taken in relation to these products.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Withdrawal of Prosecution for Destruction of Protected Fauna

Mr CASEY: In asking a question of the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, I refer to the answer he gave me this morning in relation to a Mr J. Afribo of Proserpine and the withdrawal of the case against him in the Proserpine Court for illegally poisoning protected birds, and the amazing admission by the Minister, "should there be evidence that Mr Afribo is continuing to break the State's wildlife laws . . .", in other words, an admission by the Minister that he was in fact breaking them. I ask: Why did the Minister protect Mr Afribo? Why was the court case delayed twice? Did the honourable member for Whitsunday make representations to the Minister on this matter and, if not, who did? Is the Minister also aware of a previous case in the same area where

a prosecution against a seed company in which 119 birds were involved was withdrawn? Why is special ministerial protection afforded to people in the Proserpine area who act, as the Minister himself has admitted, illegally?

Mr ELLIOTT: I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition should refer to my previous answer. I do not have anything to add to it, other than to say that I authorise many prosecutions throughout the State. When the circumstances are such that I believe we should continue with the prosecutions, we will. We are investigating the matter further.

Police Superannuation Fund

Mr CASEY: In directing a question to the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police, I refer to the actuarial problems of the Police Superannuation Fund. I ask: When the decision was made to allow police to retire at 55 years of age, was a report on the possible effects of this move on the Police Superannuation Fund sought from the State Actuary? If so, what were the findings and recommendations of that report, and will the Minister table it in this House?

Mr HINZE: I remind the Leader of the Opposition that I was not the Minister for Police at that time.

Mr Casey interjected.

Mr HINZE: I am not ducking for cover; I am just giving the Leader of the Opposition the facts.

The matter of the Police Superannuation Fund has been blown up out of all proportion to try to indicate that there is something seriously wrong. It is a simple matter of fact that the Government of the day decided to allow for optional retirement at 55 years of age.

Mr Moore: It was wrong then, and it is wrong now.

Mr HINZE: We cannot turn back the clock.

Officers of the Police Department who reached that age took advantage of the Government's decision, and that had quite an effect on the fund and also on the numbers in the Police Force. Now, of course, the Government faces the task of trying to secure sufficient funds to bolster the numbers in the Police Force.

The fact is that the Government did allocate some money this year to that fund. That was explained to the Parliament, and it was commented on by the Auditor-General. I say quite definitely that, unfortunately, the Police Superannuation Fund is in the same situation as the Brisbane City Council Superannuation Fund. However, that fund has a greater problem than the Police Superannuation Fund has.

Average Weekly Working Hours for Male Employees in Queensland

Dr LOCKWOOD: I ask the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations: Will he advise what the average weekly working hours are for male employees in Queensland?

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: Based on the latest published figures, the overall average weekly working hours for male employees in Queensland were 40.1. Obviously, the figure varies from one occupation to another. The honourable member may be interested to know that the figures show that employers, the self-employed, and unpaid family helpers work an average of almost 50 hours a week, compared with 37.5 hours by wage and salary earners. I have a table here that I seek leave to incorporate in "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

Table 7—Average Hours Worked (a) by Employed Persons (b), Queensland, August, 1981

Industry division and occupational status	Males	Married females	Other females (c)	All females	Persons
Agriculture and services to agriculture ..	54.3	31.2	36.4	32.2	48.3
Manufacturing	37.9	28.9	30.7	29.6	36.3
Construction	38.6	19.9	..	22.9	36.7
Wholesale and retail trade	39.8	28.1	29.3	28.6	34.9
Transport and storage	40.7	29.2	..	34.0	39.8
Finance, Insurance, real estate, and business services	38.9	27.7	34.7	30.8	35.1
Community services	39.0	25.3	34.4	29.1	32.8
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels, and personal services	42.1	26.9	28.4	27.4	33.8
Power Industries	35.5	30.7	29.4	30.0	34.4
Total employed	40.1	37.2	32.0	29.2	36.3
Wage and salary earners	37.5	26.6	32.0	29.1	34.4
Other (d)	49.5	29.3	33.2	29.7	43.4

Persons with jobs who did not work during survey week have been included in the calculation of average hours worked. When recording hours worked, fractions of an hour are disregarded. This procedure results in a slight lowering of the average hours figures. (b) Civilians aged 15 years and over. (c) Never married, widowed, and divorced. (d) Employers, self-employed, and unpaid family helpers.

Increase in Employment in Queensland

Dr LOCKWOOD: In asking a further question of the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations, I refer to his statement that almost one job in every three in Australia is being developed in Queensland. I ask: Is he basing his claim on some short-term aberration in employment statistics, or is there a sustained long-term growth feature in Queensland's employment market?

Sir WILLIAM KNOX: The latest figures available show that, of the number of new jobs created in Australia, 31 per cent were created in this State, and that is a pretty impressive story. In fact, based on the number of people employed in this State, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development regards the rate of growth in employment in this State as one of the highest in the world.

Electricity Connections on Bribie Island

Mr FRAWLEY: I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: Is he aware that SEQEB will not connect an electricity supply to residents in an area of Bribie Island known as White Patch unless 40 residents contribute \$600 each? Could the Minister advise why SEQEB makes such unreasonable demands on people who require an electricity supply?

Mr I. J. GIBBS: In the main I find that the electricity boards act very responsibly in relation to electricity connections. Some schemes are proposed prematurely and others cost a great deal of money to institute. In such cases people are asked for a guarantee.

I give the member an undertaking that I will examine the matter and, as Parliament is rising very shortly, inform him by mail.

Storm Damage, Sunshine Coast Area

Mr FRAWLEY: I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: Did he inspect damage caused by Sunday's storm on the Sunshine Coast, especially in the Beerburrum/Glasshouse Mountains area? What will result from the inspection?

Mr AHERN: Yes, after Monday's Cabinet meeting, and at the request of Cabinet, I inspected the storm damage to property and to agricultural crops in the area mentioned by the honourable member. I will report back to Cabinet for appropriate action.

I was rather astonished at the amount of damage that had occurred. Departmental estimates are being prepared, but it appears that the agricultural loss in that area caused by that one storm will be of the order of \$2.5m to \$3m. The holdings in the area are not very large, and I am concerned that personal hardship will occur in the wake of the storm. I will certainly report very thoroughly to Cabinet. The necessary details are now being prepared by my department, in consultation with the Co-ordinator-General's Department. I expect that after next Monday's Cabinet meeting the Premier will be in a position to make a further public statement on the matter.

Subsidy Cuts to Local Authorities

Mr FRAWLEY: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: In view of complaints made by local authorities, including the Caboolture Shire Council, that the first they knew of subsidy cuts was after they had drawn up their 1981-82 budgets, could he advise just when local authorities were advised of subsidy cuts and were they warned not to finalise their budgets until a decision had been made on the cuts?

Dr EDWARDS: It is true that in some instances the budgets were drawn up by the councils concerned before advice of subsidy cuts was received by them. However, that aspect has been blown out of proportion by many local authorities, and in fact has been used as one of the major criticisms of the Government's decision in this regard.

I assure the honourable member that the Caboolture Shire Council was made fully aware of many of the aspects of the proposed cuts as soon as the proposal went to Cabinet. I made that very clear to the Caboolture Shire Council.

Apprenticeship Vacancies, Cairns Railway Workshops

Mr JONES: I ask the Minister for Transport: Will he indicate whether apprenticeship vacancies at the Cairns Railway Workshops have been reviewed following my personal representations at the time of his elevation to the ministry? Has any decision been reached and, if so, is he now in a position to disclose the result?

Mr LANE: I acknowledge the representations made by the honourable member several months ago when he expressed his concern about the number of apprentices employed at the Cairns Railway Workshops. As a result of those representations it has been possible within the current Budget to increase the intake of apprentices at the Cairns Railway Workshops to a higher figure than would have been the case had the honourable member's representations not been made.

In his Budget the Treasurer announced a special Apprenticeship Trade Training Scheme within the Railways Department which provides for an intake of 100 apprentices to assist with the great need for apprenticeship training in Queensland. Three of the apprentices from that intake will be assigned to the Cairns Railway Workshops. I had the honourable member's representations foremost in my mind when that decision was taken. Those three apprentices are additional to the two apprentices included in the northern intake to be assigned to those workshops. That makes a total of five new apprentices to be appointed to the Cairns Railway Workshops. I thank the honourable member for his interest.

Recommendations of Department of Harbours and Marine; Iwasaki Tourist Resort

Mr JONES: I ask the Premier: Is he aware that the retiring Auditor-General was the same Mr A. J. Peel who, as Director of the Department of Harbours and Marine, was a member of his Government's expert committee that in 1978 cast serious doubts on

numerous aspects of the Iwasaki project? In view of subsequent events, will he now order Cabinet to look again at the questions raised by him and his fellow committee members in relation to this matter, if impeccable accuracy is the durable ingredient of such reports?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member seems to have a vendetta against Mr Iwasaki. He pursues it at every opportunity. He has said some terrible things about Mr Iwasaki and his organisation. The whole matter is Government controlled by a franchise agreement with which Mr Iwasaki has complied to date.

Mr Jones: What about the writ against Iwasaki by Watkins?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: That is a civil matter. I understand that a number of writs have been issued or are likely to be issued against the honourable member. That is nothing new. The honourable member is in good company if, like Mr Iwasaki, he has a writ against him. It is good to see the two of them together.

The honourable member for Cairns has an unjustifiable vendetta against Mr Iwasaki.

Relocation of Aboriginal Families at Kuranda

Mr JONES: I ask the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs: Is the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs currently investigating the relocation at Kuranda or adjacent centres of Aboriginal families currently living at various points along the Barron River between Myola and Koah and who previously lived in the area of the proposed Flaggy Creek dam site?

What is the ownership and tenure detail of the land on which the houses at present occupied by these families are located?

Does the Water Resources Commission propose to proceed with the construction of the Flaggy Creek Dam and, if so, when?

Mr TOMKINS: I cannot give a great deal of information on that matter. It has been investigated. Notice has not been given at this stage to proceed with the scheme. A decision will be made on the matter early next year.

Admission of Patients to Public Hospitals

Mr FITZGERALD: I direct a question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer as acting Minister for Health: If a patient covered by hospital insurance presents himself at a casualty department of a public hospital and he needs to be admitted as an in-patient, can he be admitted only as a private patient?

Dr EDWARDS: Any patient who presents himself to a hospital is admitted to a public ward at his request. He can also be referred to that ward. The Government's policy is that patients are admitted according to the request of the patient or his doctor and not according to his insurance status. If the honourable member wishes to draw a particular case to my attention, I will have the matter investigated.

Comparison of New South Wales and Queensland Electricity Charges

Mr FITZGERALD: I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: Has the Minister's attention been drawn to an article in today's "Courier-Mail" detailing increases in Government charges in New South Wales? Does the Minister have a list of the new electricity charges in New South Wales? If so, what is the comparison with prices in Queensland?

Mr I. J. GIBBS: This morning I read the article in "The Courier-Mail" headed "A state of crisis as Wran magic sours". Last week an article in "The Financial Review" pointed out many of the problems being experienced in New South Wales by a Government that appears to be spending more money than it is making. The article is based on the New South Wales Auditor-General's report.

The electricity charges quoted in Queensland are up to date. I am aware that in New South Wales there is another charge to come which will increase the tariffs well above the present charges made in Queensland. The electricity industry is very large. A tremendous amount of money is spent on expansion.

Unfortunately, the New South Wales Government is having a great deal of trouble with its plant and maintenance of plant. The problems will have tremendous long-term effects on the electricity industry in New South Wales.

Last week, my counterpart in New South Wales was reported in the Press as spelling out the problems as he sees them. His statements were very honest and straightforward ones.

As a result of Queensland's forward planning and expansion in the electricity industry, we have a good deal of spare generating capacity up our sleeve. In the long term, Queensland will have the cheapest electricity in Australia. Our electricity industry is on a well-planned, sound basis.

Shopping Complex Leasing Arrangements

Mr INNES: I ask the Minister for Commerce and Industry: In view of the motion carried by the House in support of the recommendations concerning self-management in the shopping centre industry, as published in the Cooper report, will he recommend to the Government that it use its influence and good offices with the SGIO to ensure that all shopping centre leases in instances in which it is the landlord do not contain clauses that were found by the Cooper committee to be oppressive and do contain clauses that conform to the committee's recommendations?

Mr SULLIVAN: The report has been widely circulated. I hope that people involved will take note of its contents and recommendations. As I indicated recently, although the Government wants the people involved to self-regulate, it must consider introducing legislation if certain people choose not to self-regulate. I hope that the people involved get the message.

I would expect the SGIO to be a leader in this field. I assure the honourable member that I have already had talks with some of the people involved. I have not discussed the matter with the SGIO, but I will be doing so next week.

Building Units and Group Titles Act

Mr INNES: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Has he any idea of how many inquiries have been received by the referees since the Building Units and Group Titles Act came into operation? Does he know how many applications for orders have been received? What action has he taken to bring to the notice of lot-owners that services of referees are available to try to settle disputes?

Mr DOUMANY: The latest figures show that, to date, 2 932 inquiries and 122 applications for orders have been received. The publicity program is a very comprehensive one. It includes the circulation of a booklet explaining the provisions in the Act, the holding of seminars, the publication of advertisements and, over the past six or nine months, the insertion weekly of a column in "The Courier-Mail". However, I believe that wider publicity is needed. From the submissions that we are receiving concerning the current review of the Act, there appears to be a good deal of misunderstanding about its provisions and the feeling that it is overcomplicated. We have to concentrate a great deal more than we have on education and publicity, together with simplification of certain provisions that are causing trouble for lay secretaries in bodies corporate.

Stradbroke Island Bridge

Mr BLAKE: I ask the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police: Is he aware of a report in last night's "Telegraph" to the effect that he now proposes the construction of a bridge from the mainland to Stradbroke Island? Is the report true and, if so, who recommended the construction of such a bridge? Is he aware that reports such as this are used for the purpose of selling land on bay islands at inflated prices? Will he now clear the air on the issue?

Mr HINZE: I thank the honourable member for his question, because the air certainly needs to be cleared.

The report in the "Telegraph" is based on supposition by the writer. I have not made any such statement and the report is not authentic.

I accept the honourable member's comment that reports such as this are used for the purpose of selling land. It has been rumoured that I own land on Russell Island. That is poppycock. All I can say is that in the real estate business there are some nefarious blokes who should be struck off the roll.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Parliamentary Procedures; Appointment of All-party Committee to Examine Legislation

Mr WARBURTON (Sandgate) (12 noon): The words "civil liberties" are far too often bandied around in Queensland in what can only be described as too nonchalant a manner. The rights and liberties of persons in our society should be of paramount importance, and recognition of that fact must be reflected in all legislation. In too many instances conflict has occurred in this State between its people and those who implement the laws because the people have considered that their personal rights and liberties have been trespassed upon.

We, as lawmakers, cannot always be held responsible for improper actions by the agents of government. Nor can we always be held responsible for the actions taken by some members of the Police Force, egged on by Government reactionaries. However, as parliamentarians, it is incumbent on us to ensure that the laws we make are good laws. It is of the utmost importance that Bills coming before this House be subject to proper scrutiny to ensure that they do not contain provisions that interfere with the rights and liberties of the people we purport to represent.

Last Thursday, when I sought leave of the House to move a motion without notice, all Liberal and National Party members were fully aware that I was seeking to initiate a debate concerning the appointment of an all-party select committee to scrutinise and report upon provisions of Bills that interfered with the rights and the liberties of citizens of Queensland. In true form, the Liberals combined with the Nationals to block debate on this matter which all thinking and caring politicians must regard as a matter of importance and grave concern to the public. Admittedly that was not an unusual approach by the Queensland Government to matters of grave public concern.

The Business Paper placed in front of every honourable member contains no fewer than 11 notices of motion relating to matters of major concern to Queenslanders. Members on this side of the House have a genuine desire to get the matters aired by way of parliamentary debate, but we know full well that the Government will use the antiquated system available to it to ensure that issues such as the establishment of a parliamentary public accounts committee, land rights for Aborigines, electoral reform, foreign ownership of land and the personal rights and liberties of the people—to name just a few—are not debated. The notices of motion are merely words on the Business Paper of the Queensland Parliament to conveniently disappear when Parliament is prorogued.

What has concerned Queenslanders and me over a long period is the absolute hypocrisy displayed from time to time by the Liberals in this Parliament. Outside the House they indulge in an exercise of deception, pretending that they agree with the principles contained in our proposals. How many times, for example, have the Liberals said that they believe in the establishment of a parliamentary public accounts committee and that they support electoral reform? Yet in this Parliament, where it counts, where honourable members have to put up or shut up, political expediency takes over from their so-called principles, and the hapless marriage of convenience continues to flounder along.

In recent times there has been no better example of that deception than the orchestrated opposition to proceeding with the Education Bill. Just enough Liberals crossed the floor to ensure that the boat was not rocked too much.

As to the proper scrutiny of Bills, and how best that can be achieved—honourable members are no doubt aware that following the initiative taken on 17 November this year, by Senator Missen, who, incidentally, is a Liberal, the Senate decided to appoint an all-party committee for the scrutiny of Bills. That initiative taken by Senator Missen

was not the result of a sudden reduction in the effectiveness of the Senate in its role of ensuring that provisions of Bills passed by the House of Representatives did not interfere with or trespass on the rights and liberties of people; it was the result of experience gained by senators following the presentation of two reports to the Senate in 1978 and the refusal of the Senate at that time to agree to what senators readily agreed to in November 1981.

The 1978 Senate reports dealt with the scrutiny of Bills and the delegation of parliamentary authority. Recommendations and proposals contained in the reports were for the establishment of a joint committee of both the House of Representatives and the Senate to carry out the scrutiny of Bills that was deemed necessary. The Senate has made its decision to form an all-party committee for scrutiny of Bills in its own right, because the Federal Government is not prepared to accept the recommendations and proposals contained in the 1978 report.

The refusal of the Government was relayed to the Senate on 22 November 1979. The rejection was made on grounds similar to those which would be put forward in any argument by those in this House who might wish to oppose the establishment of such a select committee.

The Federal Government said, among other things, that somehow the move would cause delays in the passage of legislation. It was suggested that the provisions of Bills had already been scrutinised by Cabinet and various committees. The Senate knew, as we in this House know only too well, that the system, however effective it might seem to be theoretically, is not working in practice.

If it is working, how on earth could the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, for example, introduce a Bill on 6 October this year designed to consolidate and amend the law relating to the conservation of native plants? I know that I have to be careful in raising this matter. Honourable members know full well that some of the provisions of that Bill have alarmed the civil liberties people and the Law Society. They are well aware of the reason why the debate on that Bill has been delayed.

Persons concerned with civil liberties and persons concerned with the rights of the people in this State have been outspoken in their criticism of provisions that go completely overboard. The overturning of traditional rights to remain silent, powers given to volunteers that even the police do not possess, searches of people without warrant and unreasonable powers of arrest—all of these are provisions that trespass upon the rights and liberties of the individual, provisions that constitute bad law for which this Parliament can be held responsible if it is not careful.

To say that the system presently in operation ensures proper scrutiny of Bills is ridiculous, to say the least. Members of the legal fraternity are on the various ministerial committees in this place. They supposedly ensure that the proper—

Mr ELLIOTT: I rise to a point of order. I understood the honourable member to say that the provisions in the Native Plants Protection Bill included search without warrant. That is not correct. I ask that that statement be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Powell): Order! Did the honourable member for Sandgate make that statement?

Mr WARBURTON: A long time ago, yes, I did give an indication that there were such provisions in legislation, but not particularly in that Bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Sandgate.

Mr WARBURTON: I am the last to suggest that those honourable members are incompetent or not interested in their work. It is the system that is falling down in this place, just as the system so long accepted by the Senate was found to be deficient.

Mr Jones: Do you think the Premier would be pleased that Llew survived today?

Mr WARBURTON: I would go further and say that I believe that the Premier may have influenced the decision to retain Dr Edwards. I also add, for the information of the media, that I understand the vote was 14 to 8. However, that is a matter that the Deputy Premier has to worry about.

The position simply is that an all-party select committee is needed to scrutinise Bills. There have been far too many instances, and there is evidence that there will be more instances, of the inclusion of provisions that are contrary to the rights of the ordinary citizens of this State.

(Time expired.)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Powell): Order! I inform honourable members that because a very noisy fan is operating on my left, it is difficult for me to hear. I ask them to acknowledge the difficulties under which we are operating and speak up.

Labor Party Failure to Inform Liberal Party of Proposed Motions; Business Practice Legislation

Mr PRENTICE (Toowong) (12.11 p.m.): I rise to speak about the operation of business in this State; but, before doing so, I wish to comment on the contribution of the honourable member for Sandgate to this debate.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated.

Mr Underwood interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ipswich West will cease interjecting.

Mr PRENTICE: As I said, I rose to speak on a number of matters; but the honourable member for Sandgate referred to certain items on the Business Paper and, in particular, certain matters related to parliamentary reform.

Mr Underwood interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Ipswich West under Standing Order 123A.

Mr PRENTICE: The honourable member referred to me and certain of my colleagues in the Liberal Party and said that we took stands but then in the Parliament, when it counted—I think that he used words along these lines—"Where were they?" The point that I make in response—

Mr Jones: Isn't that correct?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Cairns will cease interjecting.

Mr JONES: I rise to a point of order. Surely I, as a member of this House, am entitled to interject when a member is speaking if he makes incorrect or foolish statements.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Cairns may have an opportunity to speak later. He will not persist in interjecting.

Mr JONES: I rise to a further point of order. You know very well, Mr Deputy Speaker, that this is the last day of the sittings. I am not on the list of speakers for the debate on matters of public interest, and I will not have an opportunity to speak in this debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Cairns will not argue with the Chair. I call the honourable member for Toowong.

Mr PRENTICE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I see it, Opposition members are afraid to hear a few facts. They do everything they can to grandstand. They will twist the facts, if necessary, purely to score some points. As Opposition members well know,

the facts are that they have placed various motions on the Business Paper. When they think that they might get some kudos in the Press—usually they do not get very much—they try to bring one forward, but they do it in a sneaky, underhand way.

Mr DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the honourable member is not addressing the Chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! It is I who will decide whether the honourable member is addressing the Chair. There is no valid point of order.

Mr UNDERWOOD: I rise to a point of order. The member for Toowong has said that the Opposition acts in a sneaky, underhanded way. I find that offensive and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ipswich West finds the remark personally offensive. I ask the member for Toowong to withdraw it.

Mr PRENTICE: I withdraw it.

In attempting to move motions in this Parliament, the Opposition acts in a way that is beyond description. I say that because they decide on the spur of the moment that they will move a motion, and they do that knowing full well that, as Standing Orders are now framed, the proposed motion may not be read out. Opposition members make very sure that they do not tell Liberal members or Government members what the motion is that they wish to move. So when they stand up and say, "Mr Speaker, I seek leave to move a motion", or words to that effect, what happens? Government members do not know what the effect of the motion is; we are never told.

Mr R. J. GIBBS: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask you to inform the member for Toowong that it is extremely rude to keep pointing.

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

Mr PRENTICE: Opposition members try to bring motions forward when they know full well that Government members do not know what the motions relate to. How can they blame Government members for taking the stand that they do? If Opposition members had the courage of their convictions, they would be prepared to inform Government members of the terms of the motion that they were seeking to move. They are simply attempting to grandstand and, by some strange means, to create a false impression in the minds of the members of the public. It is all very well for the member for Sandgate to make pious comments.

Mr UNDERWOOD: I rise to a further point of order. It is not the Labor Party that is attempting to create a false impression; it is the Liberal Party. It never produces the numbers to change Government legislation.

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

Mr PRENTICE: The continual interruptions by Opposition members indicate that they do not like to hear the hard facts of the matter. All they are prepared to do is attempt to use the procedures of this House in the wrong way. In my opinion, that is a disgrace. Neither the media nor the public of Queensland will be fooled by that sort of a trick.

I wish to move from that matter—

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr PRENTICE: Probably one would not wish to spend more than five minutes in any day in dealing with the Opposition's actions.

In the five minutes remaining to me, I point out that from time to time in this House one hears complaints from many members, including some Opposition members, about the activities of certain business enterprises. Those complaints range from the

management of, and leases in, shopping centres, monopolies and how they use their power, the bread industry, and consumer protection generally; to oil companies and the way in which they operate with service stations.

If one looks at those complaints and at the way in which Government generally tends to operate, one finds that all too often an ad hoc approach is adopted. An inquiry was held into shopping centre leasing practices. It produced some results that vindicated the stance taken by many members on both sides of the House, and which may lead to the introduction of legislation in the new year. Equally, some concern has been expressed by service station proprietors about the way in which the major oil companies are pricing petrol and controlling its sale.

The danger in adopting an ad hoc approach to each and every one of these matters is that separate legislation may be introduced to cover shopping centres, bread, and service stations, when there is a common thread running through all of them. That common thread is business relations, fair trading practices, what can be done honestly, and what should be fairly tolerated by any Government or by business in general.

Instead of having price fixing for petrol stations, as some people suggest, statutory control over leases and closed shops, such as that which exists for the milk industry, the Government should be considering the introduction of some type of legislation relating to business practices. If it was prepared to introduce such legislation, it might find that it could treat problems as they arose under one piece of legislation. Wherever possible, the Government should stay out of the market-place and give small businessmen and businessmen in other industries the greatest degree of freedom.

These problems cannot be ignored any longer by the Government, because it has a responsibility to ensure that there is equality amongst industries in the market-place.

If the State Government was prepared to look at trade practices legislation, as the Federal Government has—although its legislation cannot cover all of Queensland's problems in this regard—and if an approach was found that covered all problems, it would not be left with a mishmash of legislation that takes away the rights and freedoms of individuals and creates closed shops in the market-place. An approach of that type will not work. It will increase the prices that Queenslanders have to pay, and only those who can actually get a licence, or whatever is needed, will be able to engage in business. If the Government is prepared to use the alternative approach, as I believe it should, some solutions that might surprise, and, indeed, please, us all might be found.

Sewerage Charges, Caboolture Shire Council

Mr FRAWLEY (Caboolture) (12.21 p.m.): In view of the concern about new valuations and the fact that many ratepayers are worried about an increase in rates, I thought it advisable to investigate some of the rates and charges levied by the Caboolture Shire Council. I unearthed some very interesting facts, especially in division 2.

The deputy chairman of the Caboolture Shire Council called for fairer treatment of landholders and stated that, because local authorities were obliged under the Act to base rates on valuations, many people in the Caboolture Shire would pay higher rates. I commend the deputy chairman for that attitude and I am sure that the ratepayers of Deception Bay, whom the deputy chairman has represented in the council for the last 12 years, feel the same as I do.

But I was surprised to learn that the ratepayers of Deception Bay are paying exorbitant sewerage charges. Everybody knows that the Redcliffe City Council treats the sewage from the Deception Bay area and in return receives payment from the Caboolture Shire Council. That arrangement commenced in 1974-75, in which year the Redcliffe City Council charged the Caboolture Shire Council a total of \$8,295, or \$10.36 per house. In 1975-76 the charge was \$14.14 per house, making a total cost of \$12,860. In 1976-77 the Redcliffe City Council charged \$33,862, which was \$33.22 per house. In 1977-78 the charge was \$36,117, or \$31.93 a house. In 1978-79 the charge was \$39,863, or \$29.60 a house. In 1979-80 the total charge was \$56,738, which is a cost per house of \$40. However, the Caboolture Shire Council charged those ratepayers \$130 for sewerage and levied a sewerage fee on vacant land of \$100.

For 1980-81, there were 1450 houses at Deception Bay whose sewage was treated by the Redcliffe City Council at a cost of \$58,218, which works out at \$40.15 per house. However, the Caboolture Shire Council charged those home owners \$150 for sewerage and the holders of vacant land were charged \$110. For 1981-82 the cost per home will be a little over \$41 to cover the charge by the Redcliffe City Council, but the Caboolture Shire Council proposes to charge home owners \$168 for sewerage in the Deception Bay area and charge the holders of vacant land \$125. I obtained all that information from the Redcliffe City Council budget, which is available from the Redcliffe library.

Of course, it could be argued that the Caboolture Shire Council constructed the sewerage mains and therefore is entitled to recoup the costs involved. But because the Caboolture Shire Council constructed the mains with a 40 per cent subsidy from the State Government only as far as the border with the Redcliffe City Council, that argument does not hold water. From the shire border the Redcliffe City Council constructed the mains to the treatment works at Clontarf, and it had to carry the full cost because the State Government, because it had declared the Redcliffe City Council's sewerage capital works program completed, would not provide any subsidy.

The length of mains constructed by each council was approximately the same, so if the Redcliffe City Council can construct a main using its own funding and recoup the capital cost plus interest by charging \$40 per house for 1979-80, increasing to \$41.15 for 1980-81—this year it will be slightly over \$41—then, in the same years, for the Caboolture Shire Council to charge \$130 and \$150—this year it will charge \$168—reeks of profiteering at the expense of the ratepayers of Deception Bay.

However, Caboolture Shire Council constructed the lines from the sewerage mains to service the homes, so it is entitled to recoup some of those costs. According to my investigations, a fair charge for Deception Bay sewerage for 1980-81 would have been \$80, and for the year 1981-82 it should be \$90. However, residents will be charged \$168, and the charge for vacant land will be \$125. I can only conclude that the residents of Deception Bay are subsidising the sewerage scheme for most of the Caboolture Shire. The ratepayers of Deception Bay should demand an explanation from the deputy chairman. He has represented the people in the district for 12 years, yet he has allowed that to occur. Regardless of whatever explanation is given, the cold, hard facts remain: the Deception Bay ratepayers last year paid \$150 for sewerage. The cost to the Caboolture Shire Council for providing that service will be \$40.15. This year the ratepayers will be paying \$168, and it will probably cost the Caboolture council \$41.

Mr John White cannot be blamed for this because he was appointed only a few months ago. He replaced Councillor Barry Broomhall, who is allegedly a successful businessman. He should have noticed the sewerage charges. I can only conclude that Mr Broomhall either did not care or was incompetent. I suspect the latter. Councillor Camilleri, another division 2 councillor, is serving her first term on the council. I suppose one could forgive her for not detecting that matter. However, there is no excuse for the deputy chairman of the council. He has represented Deception Bay for 12 years. It is reasonable to assume that he knew that the Deception Bay residents were paying that high cost for sewerage.

Mr Kruger: What is the deputy chairman's name?

Mr FRAWLEY: Councillor John Thomas McLoughlin.

It is amazing to think that from 1972 to the present time the Caboolture Shire Council has received from the State Government a total of \$4m in sewerage subsidies. In fact, from 1 July 1972—I was elected on 29 May—to 30 June 1981 the Caboolture Shire Council has received \$12,356,987 in subsidies and grants. I know that that will make other member envious. The Federal Government contributed \$3,312,545 and the State Government contributed \$9,044,442. Those grants have brought Caboolture into the top bracket. It is the envy of many less fortunate local authorities. However, the ratepayers of Caboolture are rarely informed of these facts. After listening to some Caboolture Shire councillors one would gain the impression that the State Government contributed nothing to local authorities.

Caboolture is a developing shire and it certainly needs and deserves Government assistance. I have made representations to the Government to restore some of the

subsidies to developing shires, such as Caboolture, Landsborough and Pine Rivers, but nothing to Duaringa. I am aware of the concern expressed by the Caboolture Shire Council about the reduction in its subsidies. I am hopeful that some subsidies will be restored.

I leave the matter to the people of Deception Bay. If they are satisfied to pay those sewerage charges to the Caboolture Shire Council, then they should do nothing about it. However, if they are not satisfied, they should do something about it, and what better time to do it than at the next local authority election early next year!

Foreign Ownership of Land

Mr KRUGER (Murrumba) (12.28 p.m.): A week ago in this House I tried to have brought forward the notice of motion on the Business Paper concerning foreign ownership of land and its associated problems in Queensland. I was denied that right, so I intend today to make further comment to bring forward some of the problems with which we are faced.

The National Party is selling off large chunks of Queensland to the highest foreign bidders. Despite the National Party's public grandstanding, it intends to do nothing of substance about it.

In the last five years a staggering 2.7 million hectares of Queensland has gone into foreign hands. In the past year foreign investment and control has expanded at phenomenal rates.

Figures released by the Foreign Investment Review Board this week show that from June 1980 to June 1981 foreign acquisitions of Queensland real estate for development and resale increased from \$9.7m to \$169m, an increase of 1736 per cent; that in the same period proposed acquisitions of Queensland real estate for development and retention for foreign interests increased from \$1m to \$27.2m, an increase of 2720 per cent; and that foreign acquisition of rural Queensland land has increased from 29 000 ha per annum in the fiscal year 1976-77 to 1.3 million hectares per annum in the fiscal year 1979-80.

In 1965 this Government repealed the aliens' acquisition of land provisions, which meant that from that date foreigners could take up land in Queensland as if they were native Queenslanders. Since that time it has been open slather for foreign investment in Queensland. Apart from the 2.7 million hectares transferred to foreign control over the past five years, Queenslanders have no idea of what proportion of the State is already under foreign control.

The land is going; we know very little about how much has gone; the FIRB checks on transactions involving more than \$350,000, but no record is kept of those involving a lesser sum.

Mr Davis: We will be tenant people, won't we?

Mr KRUGER: That is what is happening. For a while it looked as though the Government was going to introduce the Young Farmers Establishment Scheme today, but it has been shelved for the time being. At least that scheme will give a few young persons a chance to get on the land.

The invasion of foreign speculative money is creating spiralling land prices, forcing up interest rates and is not doing anything for the people of Queensland. We in the Labor Party are happy to note that a register of foreign-owned land will be set up.

Mr Prest: Fancy allowing Iwasaki to have more land! Watkins has taken him on for not paying his accounts.

Mr KRUGER: That is true. This morning the Premier tried to defend Mr Iwasaki. The position is that Iwasaki has plenty of land, he cannot use what he has, and he does not even pay the people who carry out construction work on his resort.

A register of foreign ownership of land will do nothing to solve the problem. All it will do is show us where the land is, who owns it, where the owner lives and what he may intend to do with the land. However, Queensland will gain nothing from such information. The problems associated with foreign ownership will continue.

I have the National Farmers Federation interesting report on foreign ownership of land. Under the heading "Government Foreign Investment Policy", it says—

"In general terms the Government welcomes foreign investment because of the contribution it can make to the development of the Australian economy. However, there are areas of the economy where, because of national interest consideration, the Government restricts foreign investment. Real estate, including rural land, is one of the areas given special attention. The Government is concerned to ensure that foreign persons not ordinarily resident in Australia should not engage in speculative land acquisitions which are intended purely for capital gain without accompanying benefits to Australia."

That report was circulated by the National Farmers Federation, which is the organisation that is most concerned with this issue. The federation is quite adamant that the situation is not as it should be.

The report goes on to say—

"Since April 1976, the Foreign Investment Review Board has had the responsibility of reviewing foreign investment proposals and making recommendations to the Treasurer. The Treasurer, not the FIRB, makes the final decisions."

It is all very well for the Government to blame the FIRB, but the Treasurer is the one who makes the final decisions.

Later the report says—

"The FIRB in its deliberations also consults with a number of other Government agencies—including the Department of Primary Industry, Aboriginal Affairs, the Heritage Commission, the Commissioner for Taxation and, more recently, respective State Departments of Agriculture."

It is no good the Government's saying that it does not know anything about it. The Government should be forcing foreign investors to talk with it so that it knows exactly what is going on.

Mr Lee: You sold thousands of hectares yourself.

Mr KRUGER: Listen to who is interjecting! The National Farmers Federation report continues by saying—

"In June 1978, the Treasurer announced that acquisitions of real estate valued at less than \$250,000 would no longer require examination by the FIRB. This threshold was increased to \$350,000 from May 1981."

The problem is aggravated by the fact that a family or a company can buy three or four blocks each at below that price and then amalgamate those blocks into a property worth a couple of million dollars. The Government has no control over such a practice. It must take steps to ensure that the acquisition of land by foreigners is stopped. However, the Government has no intention whatever of doing more than simply finding out who has the land.

The report goes on to say—

"The exemption threshold does not apply to the large majority of proposals for foreign interests to acquire Australian rural properties because rural properties comprise 'businesses' within the meaning of the Foreign Takeovers Act."

It further states—

". . . the exemption threshold does not apply to the large majority of proposals for foreign interests to acquire Australian rural properties because rural properties comprise 'businesses' within the meaning of the Foreign Takeovers Act the exemption does not extend to proposals caught by the Act. Technically, therefore the Government has legislative power to intervene in almost every proposal for a foreign resident to acquire rural land in Australia irrespective of the size of the property. However, the normal practice has been not to intervene in foreign acquisitions of rural land involving a total consideration of less than \$350,000."

The general outlook of the FIRB is to ignore what is happening. Possibly pressure from the NFF and various other organisations will make the Governments of Queensland and Australia take notice of what is happening.

The NFF report continues in this way—

“. . . the FIRB only deals with proposals which represent the ‘first port of call’ for the overseas sums involved . . .”

That explains quite clearly the problems confronting us.

I point out that land values were increasing because of overseas investments. I have here a “Telegraph” article headed “Value of unit land doubles in 18 months”, which reads, in part—

“Land at Caloundra suitable for unit development doubled in value in the first eight months of this year, according to a real estate survey.”

Mr Davis: They sell the land overseas.

Mr KRUGER: That is what happens. The article refers in these terms to the area mentioned by the honourable member for Rockhampton yesterday—

“The population of Kawana, a residential and light industrial area north of Caloundra, increased from 3 500 to 4 200 in the past financial year.”

That shows clearly what is happening because of overseas investment. The honourable member for Rockhampton told us that certain real estate agents have been pushing land sales overseas. He referred to Alfred Grant and some of his associates who, according to all reports, have the blessing of the Government.

Mr Borbidge: Are you saying that no units should be sold overseas?

Mr KRUGER: What garbage! I have more important things to do than reply to the honourable member. I intended to take his interjection, but he could not make a sound, sensible suggestion.

I am concerned about a report released by the Federal Treasurer relative to overseas investment in Australia. Last year, the largest increase in overseas investment, came from Singapore. In the year ended 30 June 1980, estimated development money from Singapore totalled \$2,670,000, but in the year ended 30 June 1981, the estimated development money from Singapore increased to \$186m. That was a fantastic increase in the amount of money pouring in from Singapore alone.

Mr Hewitt: What is the document you are quoting from?

Mr KRUGER: It is a Press release from the Federal Treasurer (Mr Howard), relating to the FIRB report. I should have thought that most honourable members would have studied it.

A recent “Telegraph” editorial, “Moving on speculators”, reads, in part—

“The Queensland Government’s move to prevent speculation in land here by foreigners is welcome.”

(Time expired.)

Reform of Parliamentary Procedures

Mr SCASSOLA (Mt Gravatt) (12.39 p.m.): This morning I wish to refer once more to the reform of this Parliament. Firstly, I shall refer to some comments made this morning. The honourable member for Sandgate said, in effect, that the Liberal members—and I believe he included me in his general comments—have been informed of motions that he and his colleagues have proposed in this House from time to time. I take it that he is referring to the occasions on which it was proposed to move motions without notice.

I say categorically that I have never been informed in advance of the nature of the motions that were to be brought forward. Indeed, the honourable member for Sandgate has taken advantage of the antiquated Rules of Practice that exist in this House to the

effect that a member who seeks to move a motion is not permitted by the rules of the House to inform members of the text of the motion. Unless a member deliberately takes the trouble to inform members of the House in advance of the text of his proposal, members can make no intelligent decision on whether leave ought to be granted or not. That rule requires urgent reform. The honourable member for Sandgate is really being quite unfair in suggesting that advance notice has been given. It has not been given. As I said, the honourable member has taken advantage of that really antiquated rule of practice.

I want to refer to one or two comments made by the Leader of the Opposition. He said that it was a matter for the Government to table in this House a report of the Standing Orders Committee. I join issue with him strongly on that matter. The matter of the report of the Standing Orders Committee has nothing to do with the Government. The matter of reform of this Parliament has nothing to do with the Government. The committee which has been appointed is an all-party committee. It was appointed pursuant to the Standing Orders of this Parliament. It is not a Government committee. The obligation is not on the Government to bring a report to this Parliament. It is, though, a duty of the committee to bring a report to this Parliament. If the Leader of the Opposition has any quarrel he has it not with the Government but with his fellow members on the Standing Orders Committee, and that may be valid criticism.

He said also that he proposed to table in this House a copy of a draft report of that committee. If he purports to table in this House a report which he has compiled, that is one matter; but if he seeks to table in this House a report which is not his report—indeed a draft report of a committee of which he is a member—it is improper unless he has the consent of the committee. The obligation to table any report in this Parliament is an obligation of the committee, through a duly appointed agent of the committee. It is quite improper for anybody to take on that responsibility when it may well be that the committee has not agreed to the content of the report. Frankly, it may be that the Leader of the Opposition is posturing to improve his position in his own party.

The facts are that the Standing Orders Committee met in March, for the first time in some seven or eight years. It is a matter of regret that nine months later, in December, the Parliament is still without a report of that committee. There has been no official pronouncement by the committee, or the chairman or delegate of the committee, as to the progress which the committee has made. This House is entitled to information as to the progress of the committee. It is entitled to better treatment than it has received from the Standing Orders Committee.

There have been rumours in the corridors of the House that, in fact, there would be an interim report of the committee. Indeed, I had some correspondence with the Speaker. In a letter to me of 31 August, the Speaker intimated that an interim report or a report was being considered. The relevant part of the Speaker's letter reads—

"To date the Committee has met and analyzed the content of the submissions and the final determination on some of the subject matter is expected to be made at the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 9 September 1981. However, it is not my purpose to attempt to preempt any decisions which will be made by the Committee."

He goes on to say that the committee will carefully consider every aspect of the suggested changes. I then had some further correspondence with Mr Speaker in which he told me that the committee was still considering matters.

But the point that I make is that some nine months later this Parliament still has no information from that committee as to its deliberations. I believe that this House is being treated with scant regard by the committee. The lack of progress is a matter of very grave concern, because it is a lack of progress on matters which are of real concern to members of this House. It may be that the members of the committee give the reform of this Parliament a very low priority, but it is a matter of high priority to a great number of members of this House and the community outside.

I call on the committee to report to this Parliament as to its progress, and to bring forward a report at the earliest possible moment. My colleagues and I have awaited the report of the committee in the anticipation that it would contain some matters of moment. Clearly one cannot support motions moved in this House when one has no way of knowing what their content is; but the proper course is to await, within a reasonable time, the report of the committee, debate its contents and deliberate on its recommendations.

I repeat that it is a matter of considerable regret that nothing has come forward from the committee. I might add that my colleagues and I will, in the March session, be bringing forward matters relating to the reform of this Parliament unless, in the interim, there is some report or substantial matter coming to this House from the Standing Orders Committee. I repeat that the reform of this Parliament is a matter of very great importance, and the members of this House are entitled to consideration.

MLC Fire & General Insurance Co. Pty Ltd; In Defence of Collinsville

Mr KATTER (Flinders) (12.48 p.m.): Before I commence the main thrust of my remarks, in order to keep up a running interest in the MLC Insurance Company, I inform members that it is opening a \$12.3m extravaganza in the central Brisbane area. It can easily afford to do that type of thing when it does not pay its debts to society or face up to the responsibilities to which it has committed itself through its agents.

I inform the House again that, despite the article in the "Sunday Sun" last week, the company has not paid to the family concerned a single cent more than the \$2,000-odd about which I informed the House two weeks ago, when it had contracted itself through its agent to a payment of \$14,000 should the house burn down. I will not repeat the very tragic circumstances that resulted from the company's dishonouring its responsibilities. I am not the only one disturbed at the company's attitude. I was told by a "Sunday Sun" representative that it adopted a similarly arrogant attitude to him as that displayed to me. I again serve notice on the MLC that I will continue to say things of that sort about it until some sort of justice is achieved in that case to which I have referred.

I now want to say a few words about the much-maligned town of Collinsville, and I will title what I have to say "In Defence of Collinsville". To generalise, I should say that most certainly my Government and I would not be popular with the people in Collinsville. Having said that, I must say that I like the reasons that they have for disliking the Government and me. They are reasons with which I and a lot of other Australians would sympathise.

I shall look at the history of Collinsville, and I feel that I am entitled to do that for many reasons. My uncle managed the family store there for many years. He had been a personal friend and old school mate of Peter Delamothe, who was later to become the member of Parliament for the area. Later, Collinsville was part of the Federal electorate of Kennedy, which my father represents. I attended the Mt Carmel College in Charters Towers with many boys from Collinsville. At least one of them was a very close friend of mine throughout my many years at boarding school. MIM now owns and runs the mine at Collinsville. I find myself very much at home in Collinsville because I meet many of the people with whom I worked when I was a labourer in the mines at Mt Isa for six months.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr KATTER: I think that it is important to make that point. I worked at the bottom of the barrel. In fact, I worked in the bag house of the lead smelter, which is the worst job in the mine.

Mr McKechnie: What union were you in?

Mr KATTER: I was an active member of the Australian Workers Union.

When one looks at the history of Collinsville, one understands the attitude of the people. Collinsville was a State-run colliery. The workers were State employees. Even though it was a terribly inefficient operation, the Labor Government at that time kept the mine going to provide employment for the people. The mine was kept open by the ALP Government during a protracted period when the economies dictated that the mine should really be closed. Of course, they were the Depression years in Australia.

A change of Government occurred in Queensland in 1957, and the incoming Nicklin Government brought a halt to the Collinsville mine. I am not saying that that was a wrong decision; it was probably the right decision. But the same thing did not happen at Collinsville as happened in Charters Towers, which was looked after by the then Minister

for Mines, who was a very powerful and influential member of the ALP Government. The Government built two large hospitals in Charters Towers to mop up the unemployment resulting from the closure of the gold mines.

Collinsville was not so fortunate. When the mine closed at Collinsville the people simply had no work and nowhere to go. The people had lived there for many years. Everything they owned was situated in Collinsville and they had no way of getting out of the town. Instant destitution was created by the newly elected Nicklin Government. One can understand why the people of Collinsville have a great bitterness about the treatment that they received at that time. Some alternative employment should have been provided for them, and that could have been done in a number of ways.

In more recent years, the Government has been reasonably sympathetic towards Collinsville in so far as it built a power-station there, and the reason for that was that underground mines, of their very nature, are not nearly as efficient as the above-ground mines at places like Blackwater, which operate on big economies of scale. Consequently, Collinsville needed something to allow it to continue to exist. That something was the construction of a power-station. It was built in Collinsville at the insistence of Ron Camm for the specific purpose of allowing the town to continue to exist.

I am talking about the sorts of things that made the Collinsville people very anti-Government. When the power-station was being built, there was a strike. I do not want to go into the reasons for the strike, but it was a very bitter dispute. A considerable amount of violence was attached to it. The then Nicklin Government introduced scab labour. It employed people to take the place of those who were on strike, and anyone who has any understanding of unions and the way in which they operate in big industrial complexes knows that there is no way in which that sort of a decision can be tolerated. It was not tolerated by the people.

Mr Yewdale: Your Premier has been doing it.

Mr KATTER: That was in the case of essential service industries. That is a different matter, which I do not intend to go into now.

To any sincere unionist or other person involved in industry, the term "scab" is very ugly. No person should lightly employ scab labour. That does not mean that there are not times when Governments or companies have to do that.

It is my considered opinion—it is easy to be wise after the event—that scab labour should never have been used in the construction of that power-station, but unfortunately it was. That has created tremendous bitterness in the people towards the Government and towards any conservative member of Parliament. Dr Delamothe, who was the member for the area at the time, was knocked semi-conscious at the workers' club at Collinsville during the upheaval.

Mr Yewdale: You are electioneering very early.

Mr KATTER: No, I am not.

When the people from Collinsville visit Bowen or Townsville they are treated like pariahs. Even though they may not be great friends of mine, I like to think that I have done everything humanly possible to represent the people of the town as well as they can possibly be represented. My conscience is clear. I am sick of having those people treated like pariahs; they do not deserve it. If people of other towns in Queensland had lived through events similar to the ones that occurred at Collinsville, they would think in much the same way as the Collinsville people do.

The power-station has had a most unfortunate history of industrial disputes. Many of those disputes have been brought about because the people on the spot who are in charge of the power-station have no autonomous decision-making powers. Even though the person in charge of the power-station may agree that the workers have a justified grievance, he is later overruled by somebody from Brisbane. That inability to negotiate on the spot has been a continuing problem at the power-station and one of the causes of disputes.

Over recent years since the MIM group has been in charge of the mines at Collinsville, they have had an incredibly good industrial history. In fact, the year before last they worked through Christmas. To no small degree that was due to the work of John Maitland, who is a very competent and highly respected trade-union leader in the State.

One of the biggest strikes that occurred at the mines was when MIM lost its contract to sell coal to Korea at the same time as the power-station was closed. MIM had nowhere to sell its coal. Unfortunately the wages agreement expired at precisely the same time. Naturally, MIM was not in a position to grant any large wages increase.

(Time expired.)

Bread Industry Committee

Mr YEWDAL (Rockhampton North) (12.58 p.m.): In last night's Adjournment debate I spent a few minutes speaking about the attitude of the Government and the Bread Industry Committee, which is a brainchild of the Government.

I now wish to refer to an article in today's "Telegraph", written by Mr Mike Frost, which mentions the rising cost of bread, the average male wage and also the percentage of that wage that is taken by the cost of bread. I wish to level some constructive criticism at the article. The article states that in June 1981 the average male income in Queensland was \$281.90 and the cost of bread was 0.23 per cent of that wage. The article shows that over a period of years, back to June 1971, that percentage has remained reasonably consistent.

However, that average male income of \$281.90 gives a totally false impression to the readers of the newspaper. The income received by pensioners, the unemployed and casual or part-time employees does not form part of the basis of the calculation of the average wage. Therefore, the cost of bread is a much higher percentage of their income. I also point out that the average male income that has been used in the article is derived from figures across the board. It takes into account my salary, salaries of bank managers and the salaries of the Speaker of Parliament, other parliamentarians and those in the high-income groups in the State. When an average wage is calculated from across-the-board figures, a false impression is created. Any number of people in the community have to live on an income that is well below that average wage. People on a base rate of wage and people in receipt of compensation have to live on an income that is well under that figure.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 10 March, the time allotted for the debate on matters of public interest has now expired.

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

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Leave to Table First Interim Report

Mr CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition): I seek leave to table the first interim report of the Standing Orders Committee, for the First Session of the Forty-third Parliament, in relation to proposed amendments to Standing Orders.

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

Ayes, 22

Blake	Jones	Underwood
Burns	Kruger	Warburton
Casey	Mackenroth	Wright
D'Arcy	McLean	Yewdale
Davis	Milliner	<i>Tellers:</i>
Eaton	Prest	Hansen
Fouras	Shaw	Scott
Gibbs, R. J.	Smith	

Noes, 47

Ahern	Jennings	Scassola
Bertoni	Kaus	Scott-Young
Bird	Knox	Simpson
Bjelke-Petersen	Lee	Stephan
Borbidge	Lester	Sullivan
Edwards	Lickiss	Tenni
Elliott	Lockwood	Tomkins
FitzGerald	McKechnie	Turner
Frawley	Menzel	Warner
Gibbs, I. J.	Miller	Wharton
Glasson	Moore	White
Goleby	Muntz	
Greenwood	Nelson	
Gunn	Powell	<i>Tellers:</i>
Harper	Prentice	Gygar
Hewitt	Randell	Neal
Innes	Row	

Pairs:

Hooper	Austin
Vaughan	Lane
Wilson	Doumany

Resolved in the negative.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 26 November (see p. 4044) on Dr Edwards's motion—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr D'ARCY (Woodridge) (2.21 p.m.): The Opposition has no objection to the Bill, which has been introduced as the result of the Government's stated policy in the Financial Statement. It raises the exemption level from \$36,000 to \$50,000. The Opposition regards this measure as being in line with the Government's stated monetary policy and has no objection whatever to it.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (2.22 p.m.), in reply: I thank the honourable member for his comments. He has indicated that he has no objection to this budgetary measure. I appreciate his support.

Motion (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Miller, Ithaca) in the chair

Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Dr Edwards, by leave, read a third time.

STAMP ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 26 November (see p. 4045) on Dr Edwards's motion—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr D'ARCY (Woodridge) (2.26 p.m.): This is a further amending Bill resulting from a Government promise made in the Budget, but it is a little more mysterious and disturbing than the Bill that has just been passed by the House. I question why the Treasurer has gone ahead with this move now.

The Bill provides that, as from 1 January 1982, the lesser of the fire brigade levy component of the net premium payable on insurance policies or 0.1 per cent of the sum insured will be excluded for the purpose of the calculation of the stamp duty payable.

It is a fact of life that the Opposition cannot oppose this measure, and it does not intend to do so. Firstly, it is a flow-on from the Budget and a promise made by the Treasurer.

The unexplained feature of the Bill is that the concession to the individual will be absolutely minimal. The Treasurer told us that about \$2m will be deducted for the remainder of this year, and I have calculated that for a 12-month period the amount will be about \$5m. It is very difficult to understand why this measure is being pursued when the Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services has given notice, by way of ministerial statement, that he intends to change the basis of fire brigade levies. He said that that will be done in two stages. The first stage will relate to the ordinary householder, and the collections will be made by local authorities on an average basis. When that legislation becomes effective, the legislation now being debated will no longer apply to the individual householder or policy-holder.

A further disturbing feature is that the Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services explained to me privately that, at some subsequent stage, he will introduce an amendment that will affect commercial and industrial policy-holders. The stamp duty will apply for a longer period for commercial and industrial policy-holders than it will for individual householders. In the circumstances, the procedures are a little mysterious.

As the Minister pointed out, the present stamp duty is 0.1 per cent, or 5c per \$100. The Bill proposes that the lesser of the fire brigade levy component of the net premium payable on insurance policies, that is, the 0.1 per cent of the sum insured, will be excluded for the purpose of the calculation of the stamp duty payable.

We can expect a massive reduction of 5c per \$100! If it is supposed to be generous, I, and I am sure the policy-holders, fail to see what the Treasurer has done. It is not much of a saving for the hard-pressed holder of household insurance. I suppose we should be grateful for small mercies and not look gift horses in the mouth. The Treasurer cannot be accused of throwing the State's money round or being over-generous. Probably an individual policy-holder is saving less than \$1.

Dr Edwards: It will cost \$5m in a full year.

Mr D'ARCY: I realise that. The Treasurer said that it will cost the people of Queensland \$5m but the individual policy-holder saves only \$1. The insurance companies will mop that up in one fell swoop and not blink an eyelid. In fact, they will mop up more than \$1 for each policy. I am mystified why the Treasurer has made this move, when it will be changed in any case. That amount of \$5m could be well spent in many electorates.

The Government will collect some \$289m in pay-roll tax this year and will collect \$329m in 1981-82. Stamp duty is the next highest form of State taxation. It will return the State some \$218m this year and \$235m next year.

There are cut-backs in all areas of State services. The Government is not keeping pace with inflation in its commitments to society, particularly in the areas of welfare, housing, education and health. I cannot understand why the Government can afford to forgo \$5m when that amount can be mopped up quickly by the greedy insurance companies that seem to prey on the Government's generosity.

As I said, we do not oppose the Bill. We understand why the Minister has introduced it. The points I have raised are significant. The Government should question the reason behind the introduction of the Bill. As I said, it will not really affect the individual and it will be changed when a subsequent Treasurer alters the method of collection.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (2.34 p.m.), in reply: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his remarks. There has been no final decision by the Government relative to the funding of fire brigades through the collection of premiums and levies by local authorities. The Government has approved it in principle but a great deal of discussion is going on between the Minister, the department and local authorities. It may be 12 or 18 months before something can be done, depending on the acceptability of the scheme.

We believe that there is double taxation in that there is taxation on the fire brigade levy as well as on the insurance premium. The Government is honouring an election commitment. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, if the Government goes ahead with the other proposal there will be an alteration to the program. To say that \$5m is not very much assistance to policy-holders is not correct.

I am not sure whether the honourable member's figure of \$1 per policy is correct. I do not know the specific figure, but there will be some benefits to home unit owners, and I am sure that that is appreciated by them.

I assure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the Government is continually watching the amount of stamp duty collected as a percentage of total revenue, because it is one of the Government's major sources of internal revenue. We believe that this partial exemption will benefit some people in the community.

Motion (Dr Edwards) agreed to.

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Miller, Ithaca) in the chair

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Dr Edwards, by leave, read a third time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (QUEEN STREET MALL) BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 1 December (see p. 4125) on Mr Hinze's motion—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr PREST (Port Curtis) (2.37 p.m.): I am pleased to be the spokesman for the Opposition on this Bill, which will enable the construction of a pedestrian mall, to be known as the Queen Street Mall, in Brisbane. An endeavour is being made to brighten up Brisbane and make it a show-place for visitors attending the 1982 Commonwealth Games. I congratulate those responsible for the development of the Queen Street Mall, because planning has now reached the stage that we are discussing a Bill to allow the Brisbane City Council to begin work on its construction.

The Bill provides that the Brisbane City Council will receive finance to assist in the construction of the mall. This will benefit the ratepayers of Brisbane and, in particular, the shopkeepers in the vicinity of the mall.

I should perhaps discuss the construction of other malls throughout Australia and the methods that have been used to finance them. The Rundle Street Mall in Adelaide was paid for on the basis of one-third being contributed by the State Government, up to a limit of \$300,000, and the other two-thirds being contributed by way of loans raised by the Adelaide City Council, up to a limit of \$600,000, with one half of the interest and the capital recovery being paid by the council and the other half being paid from funds derived from a special rate levied on ratepayers in the vicinity of the mall.

Then, coming closer to home, not very long after the construction of the Rundle Street Mall, the Flinders Street Mall was constructed in Townsville. The total capital cost was approximately \$1.6m, and it was financed solely by the local council, with the exception of a \$9,000 subsidy from the State Government, which was only a 15 per cent subsidy towards the cost of drainage. That is all the assistance that the Townsville City Council received for the Flinders Street Mall.

The Launceston City Mall in Tasmania was completely financed by the city council. The cost of the Hunter Street Mall in Newcastle was divided between the retailers and the council on a 50-50 basis. The mall at Footscray in Melbourne was financed almost wholly by the city council.

The cost of the Queen Street Mall will be shared between the State Government, the Brisbane City Council and private enterprise. In August 1981, Cabinet decided that the State Government should pay one-third of the estimated cost of \$2.1m for the mall on condition that it was completed before the Commonwealth Games in 1982.

Mr Lee: That was a good idea.

Mr PREST: I agree with the honourable member. The Government's contribution to the mall will assist not only the ratepayers of Brisbane but also the business people fronting the mall. The area that has been selected for the siting of the mall in Brisbane is very good. The Royal Australian Planning Institute stated in its journal that one of the main criteria for a mall is that it should be an easy walking area and, in particular, a flat area. The designs that have appeared in the Press indicate that it will be an attractive mall and, when it is completed, it will be of great credit to all the people responsible for constructing it.

The Flinders Street Mall is comparatively new. The idea was thought up in the early '60s, and in 1974 the State Government introduced legislation to allow that mall to be constructed. It has done a lot to improve the appearance of Townsville. It has been very well accepted by the ratepayers and by visitors.

The Cavill Avenue arcade on the Gold Coast is only a small arcade, but it is very popular.

Dr Lockwood: Was it a main through street?

Mr PREST: I do not know.

Dr Lockwood: That is the point. They did not block off main streets.

Mr PREST: The Brisbane City Council and the other people responsible for building the Queen Street mall went into a lot of detail at the planning stage. They looked at how the mall would affect not only the pedestrian traffic but also the vehicular traffic. The mall will complement the development that will take place in a neighbouring street, or that development will complement the mall.

We do not need to look very closely at the provisions of this Bill because most of them have been taken from legislation that has been introduced to set up other malls. Those provisions seem to have worked very well.

Mr Lee: Have you seen the mall in Perth?

Mr PREST: No.

Mr Lee: It is a good one.

Mr PREST: If I ever get the opportunity to go to Perth, I shall take the trouble to look at that mall.

Clause 10 of the Bill deals with the entry of vehicles and beasts into the mall. It provides—

“(1) The Council may, by notification published in the Gazette and in a newspaper that circulates throughout the City, specify—

(a) vehicles or working beasts that may enter upon or be on any part of the Mall;”.

I sincerely hope that the very progressive council that administers the city at the present time will not be changed and that the city will not go back into the age of the working beasts for the purpose of carting rubbish away from or supplying goods to the commercial premises in the area. Nevertheless, I suppose that provision for working beasts has been in previous legislation and so it has been included in this Bill.

Mr Moore: It might be a police horse.

Mr PREST: It could be a police horse. Nevertheless, it would be a very rare occasion when police horses would have to enter the area. I suppose the Government might use them to patrol the area during demonstrations or something like that. That would enable police on horses to use batons on people who were walking peacefully through the area.

The Bill states that the advisory committee shall consist of seven persons, comprising the mayor of the city or, if he is the alderman referred to in paragraph (b) of clause 14, the vice-mayor of the city, who shall be a member *ex officio*, and an alderman of the council who represents the area in which the mall is included—

Mr Hinze: You would not have any objections against those two, would you?

Mr PREST: Not at all. I am not saying that I have any objections.

The remainder of clause 14 lists the other persons who will be members of the council as follows:—

“(c) a person appointed by the Council who is or is employed by an owner of rateable property;

(d) a person appointed by the Council who is carrying on business or is employed in a business carried on from rateable property;

(e) a person appointed by the Council on the nomination of the Minister;

(f) two other persons appointed by the Council.”

As an alderman of the Brisbane City Council will be a member of the advisory committee, perhaps it would not be wrong for serious consideration to be given to appointing to that committee a person who holds office in the State Parliament for the area concerned.

Mr Lee: Are you talking for Davis, now?

Mr PREST: I said “who holds office”. I did not indicate any particular person. Everybody knows that Mr Davis will be the member for Brisbane Central until he wishes to retire. I said that the person who holds office in the State Parliament for the area concerned should be a member of the advisory committee. The Minister and the city should give consideration to that appointment.

The construction of the mall that we are discussing today has been long debated by the Brisbane City Council. I have Press cuttings about it that go back to 1974. So it is not a project that has been rushed; it is a project that has been well planned. The artist's impression of the mall indicates that it will become a show-piece and something of which not only we as members of Parliament but also the people of Brisbane can be very proud. No doubt visitors to Brisbane will be impressed with it.

The development will complement the other progress that has been made in the city over a long period of time under the present administration. I do not intend to become political in any way, but I want to give credit to the people who have done so much to improve Brisbane. I am very pleased that the State Government is to make a contribution of \$700,000 provided that the project is completed before the commencement of the Commonwealth Games. I am certain that every endeavour will be made to have it completed by that time. It will be a credit to the city.

Because the Opposition knows that the Brisbane City Council has been in close liaison with the Government and that it is through those two tiers of government that the final arrangements have been made, the Opposition supports the Bill.

Mr MOORE (Windsor) (2.50 p.m.): Whilst supporting the concept of a mall in sub-tropical Brisbane, one has to query the wisdom of locating it on a main arterial road

that provides access to a bridge, and why, if it was so important, it could not be located in Elizabeth or Adelaide Streets. That is beyond me. Malls are probably worth while in a subtropical city such as Brisbane.

When I visited the mall in Ottawa, Canada, many shops displayed notices "Shifted to new address". I inquired about that matter when I visited Parliament House in that city. I was told that the business could not trade profitably because there were insufficient people to support them, especially in cold weather. Although the concept will work in subtropical Brisbane, it is not successful everywhere in the world.

The concept of a mall in Brisbane is a good one, except that it has been located in the wrong position.

Mr WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (2.51 p.m.): Like the spokesman for the Opposition, I too, support the legislation that is before the House. It sets a worthwhile precedent by the State Government. It is now involving itself rather heavily in financial terms in the construction of malls throughout the State. I was told by the member for Townsville West that a minor contribution of approximately \$30,000 was made by the Government towards the construction of the Townsville mall. Approximately \$700,000—one-third of the overall cost of the Brisbane project—will be contributed by the State Government. That is a very important precedent.

The Townsville City Council should be commended for the initiative it took with the construction of the Flinders Street Mall. It certainly set a fine standard for the construction of malls throughout the State. That city also has a very fine memorial to the initiative of the Labor council, more particularly to the late Perc Tucker, a former member of this Assembly and Mayor of Townsville, who was the innovator of that scheme. This Assembly's recognition of the work done by him should be recorded in "Hansard".

I welcome the Government's involvement for a number of reasons. As a result of my association with a campaign conducted by small businesses for some time, I have noticed the difficulties experienced by traders in the inner parts of the cities in this State. The commercial areas are facing a downturn in viability. Consumer throughput is decreasing.

Following the construction of a K mart in Toowoomba, a report revealed that trade in the city centre dropped by one-third. It took more than two years for the level of trade to be restored to its original level. Recently a local businessman in Rockhampton said that many of our cities at night-time are like electrified cemeteries. Although there is plenty of light, there is no movement. It is as quiet as a cemetery. People should be encouraged to return to those centres. The construction of a mall would generate greater use of those centres in daytime and night-time.

As the Brisbane city mall and others throughout the State are established, I would hope that the economic trends facing inner city areas can be reversed. Those areas are usually high-rated. The businesses in those regions have carried the economies of cities and towns over a long period. Today, because of the great suburban expansion that is taking place and the need to build houses many miles from the inner city and the proliferation of shopping centres in urban areas, most businesses in the city centre have great difficulty in surviving. The proliferation of shopping centres in toto cannot be stopped; it can certainly be halted. Those areas that have carried the economies of cities and towns should be given a chance to survive.

The Government involvement in the construction of the mall in Brisbane sets a precedent. I would hope that the Government, apart from involving itself financially, will, through the Local Government and Works Departments and other expert bodies, investigate the possibility of establishing malls in existing and future towns. I would suggest that there is some merit in constructing malls in new towns in Central Queensland. Town-planning experts should consider the mall principle when drafting plans for the location of commercial areas.

I should like to think that new towns that are established in Central Queensland are there not for 10 years but for 110 years and more. In years to come, those towns will face the difficulties arising from the proliferation of shopping centres. So I see an ongoing role for the Minister, a role in which he involves himself deeply in legislation such as this.

He could ask the Small Business Development Corporation to participate in the ongoing activity of determining how the inner areas of Queensland's cities and towns can be upgraded and made viable once again.

This legislation has my support. The mall will be an added attraction to the city of Brisbane. It should encourage people to come back into the centre of the city, and it should make shopping safer, which, after all, is one of the criteria that should be considered. It must give a positive result.

Dr LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (2.57 p.m.): Opposition members have stated that they are pleased to see the entry of the Government into the funding of malls. I would hasten to point out that the funding of \$700,000 as proposed by the Bill will not in any sense flow on. This offer is a once-only offer.

Mr Wright: It sets a precedent.

Dr LOCKWOOD: It does not set a precedent. The mall is being established in the capital city, which is preparing for the Commonwealth Games. For any other city to seek a flow-on, it would have to be the venue of an event such as the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Wright: Wouldn't you like to see something like this in Toowoomba?

Dr LOCKWOOD: I shall deal with Toowoomba in a moment.

The malls in Perth and Adelaide are successful because they are in the centres of those cities. They do not seriously disrupt the traffic flow. They serve those cities very well. They provide refuges, if I might use the term, for city workers in the middle of the day.

In contrast, the mall in Darwin is a disaster. It is at the end of the old city, which is located on a long peninsula. Furthermore, it contains a very large number of small specialty shops, none of which is earning a high income. There are simply not enough shoppers. The shops in the Darwin mall rely for their livelihood on the office workers, who, generally speaking, are public servants. They cannot spend all day in the shops looking for tourist trinkets; all they can do is spend their lunch-hours in the shops and perhaps their breaks for morning and afternoon tea. The mall in Darwin might have been successful but for the construction of the huge Casuarina shopping complex. The city of Darwin does not have a population large enough to support the shops in the mall.

A mall has been proposed for Toowoomba. If it is constructed, the result will be similar to that in Brisbane—the closure of a main street. The proposal is that Ruthven Street in Toowoomba be closed. As yet, no proposal has been put forward for an alternative traffic route. Mention has been made of other proposals, but no research has been carried out into traffic flows.

I warn other cities not to expect a flow-on of funds for the construction of malls. The cost of a complete re-routing of traffic in Toowoomba will be of the order of \$12m to \$15m. I warn other cities that they cannot expect the State Government to foot the bill.

Hon. R. J. HINZE (South Coast—Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police) (2.59 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions. I realise that, but for the Christmas festivities and the rising of Parliament this afternoon, the debate would have attracted many more speakers. The proposal outlined in the Bill is a most attractive one.

The honourable member for Windsor expressed some concern about the freeway and the end of the Victoria Bridge. He claimed that, because of traffic flows, the mall is possibly being constructed in the wrong location. I hasten to say that the Main Roads Department engineers looked closely at the problem. They have all told me that they are convinced that no difficulties will be created and that Queen Street is as good a place as any in the city for a mall.

I have looked at various malls throughout the world. I walked along the one in Vienna, which is about a mile long. When I heard of the choice of the area between Albert and Edward Streets I thought that it would close the city of Brisbane; that if the mall extended from George Street to Edward Street, it would be too long. There is no worry about the area that is being closed; the longer the mall, the better.

Whilst speaking about the mall, I wish to remove once and for all any doubt about the correct pronunciation of the word. There seems to be some doubt about whether it should be pronounced "mawl" or "mal". Let me begin with the letter "B". The word "ball" is pronounced "bawl", not "bal"; the word "call" is pronounced "cawl" not "cal"; the word "fall" is pronounced "fawl", not "fal"; and the same principles apply to the pronunciation of "gall", "hall", and so on. When we speak of Pall Mall, we say "pawl mawl", not "pal mal". We live in Queensland, not in England; we are Australians. The word is pronounced "mawl", not "mal". I hope that I have convinced honourable members of that.

Brisbane is the capital city of Queensland and we are all proud of it. I argued a case in Cabinet for special assistance for the construction of the mall. I am proud of Brisbane, irrespective of which political party controls the Brisbane City Council, and I have made an arrangement with Mr Sleeman. He has maintained for a long time that the development of Anzac Square will not proceed till he has clarification in relation to the financing of the construction of the mall. On my recommendation, the Government agreed that its construction should be financed on the basis of one-third of the cost being borne by the Government, one-third by the Council, and one-third by the benefited businesses.

I am sure that every sensible, thinking member will agree that we need something worthwhile to show Commonwealth Games visitors, and the Government wants the mall completed. The council, the committee and everyone else associated with it has done a magnificent job to bring to the stage that has now been reached.

Mr Wright: Do you think that you are setting a precedent so that Rockhampton can get a couple of hundred thousand?

Mr HINZE: There is one at Cavill Avenue, Surfers Paradise, and another one at Townsville. I commend the Townsville City Council on the extraordinarily good job done by my friend the late Percy Tucker, who sat with us in the old Chamber. The people of Townsville, and in fact all Queenslanders, are proud of it.

Let us not argue today about contributions by the Government. On this occasion the Government has accepted responsibility, and I have indicated why it has done so. The Bill is necessary to ensure that the legislation is available to the council. The advisory committee will do its job and advise.

Mr Davis: Will you put me on it?

Mr HINZE: The honourable member for Brisbane Central wants to be selected as a representative.

An Opposition Member: Why shouldn't he be?

Mr HINZE: I have nothing against the honourable member.

I have said sufficient to indicate that the Government is very proud of its efforts, and I am very pleased to introduce the legislation. I have tried to explain the details clearly, and I again commend the Bill to the House.

Motion (Mr Hinze) agreed to.

Committee

Mr Powell (Isis) in the chair

Clauses 1 to 36, and schedule, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Hinze, by leave, read a third time.

INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations),
by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Industrial Conciliation
and Arbitration Act 1961-1980 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations)
(3.7 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

This Bill proposes to increase the penalties for breaches of trading hours orders made by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. It also provides for the granting to the commission of power to issue injunctions so that prompt action can be taken to prevent blatant disregard of the trading hours laws within this State and to protect the interests of those shopkeepers who observe lawful trading hours.

Penalties for breaches of trading hours orders made by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission are set out in section 96E of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. That section was introduced in 1964 when the Full Bench of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was given power as an independent tribunal to make orders relating to trading hours of non-exempted shops. At the time of its introduction in 1964, the penalty for a breach of a trading hours order for a first offence was not less than \$10 or more than \$100. For a second or subsequent offence, the penalty was not less than \$20 and not more than \$200.

In a general review of all penalties under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1975, all penalties were doubled as from 12 January 1976. Therefore, the present penalty for a breach of a trading hours order for a first offence is not less than \$20 or more than \$200, and for a second or subsequent offence a penalty of not less than \$40 or more than \$400. These penalties apply to all breaches of trading hours orders except the sale of petrol in Brisbane.

As a result of the petrol trading hours difficulties which developed in Brisbane in 1961, section 114 was introduced into the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to provide penalties for the occupiers of non-exempted shops trading in petrol outside lawful hours in the city of Brisbane only.

The penalties under this section were also subject to the 1975 general review of all penalties under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. As from 12 January 1976 these penalties were also doubled. The section now provides for a first offence of not less than \$40 or more than \$200; a second offence of not less than \$100 or more than \$400; and for a third and subsequent offence of not less than \$200 or more than \$1,000.

It is proposed that section 114 of the Act be repealed as the penalties for breaches of trading hours orders generally under section 96E are by this Bill to be increased to a level higher than those under section 114. If this section was not repealed then occupiers of garages and service stations within the city of Brisbane would be subject to lesser penalties than their counterparts in other centres.

Owing to the level of penalties and the restriction under section 96E in relation to second offences there has been a considerable increase in the number of trading hours offences committed. In the year ended 30 June 1980, convictions were recorded for 62 offences. In the 1980-81 financial year the number of offences for which convictions were recorded increased to 285. Of the 62 convictions recorded in 1979-80 the minimum penalty of \$20 was imposed on 21 occasions while the maximum penalty of \$200 was

imposed on only six occasions. In respect of the trading hours penalties during 1980-81 the minimum penalty of \$20 was imposed on 63 occasions. However, the maximum penalty of \$200 was not imposed by any court. The penalty exceeded \$50 on only 16 occasions.

The experience of my department has been that such penalties have not in any way acted as a deterrent to illegal trading. The most blatant offenders of all were a partnership conducting a supermarket on the southside of Brisbane. In addition to the two partners, the business employed 10 other shop assistants. Between 23 August 1977 and 28 August 1979 the partners were convicted on 83 occasions with fines ranging from \$40 to \$200.

Complaints from rival traders ceased and inspections were not made until further complaints were received late in 1980. A further 18 prosecutions were taken. Having regard to the provision in relation to second offences which requires the offence to be committed within 12 months of the previous offence, the court imposed the minimum fine of \$20 only for each offence. At no stage did any of the fines act as a deterrent to the occupiers of a business of this size. Clearly there is a necessity to increase penalties for the non-observance of trading hours laws to protect the interests of traders operating within the law.

Members will be well aware that an endeavour was made late in 1980 to establish a large open market called the Garden City markets located adjacent to the Garden City regional shopping centre at Upper Mt Gravatt. The building housing this market contained 129 shop areas, of which approximately 65 shops were occupied. 35 of these were non-exempted shops. Generally, the shops at the Garden City markets carried on business on only four days per week, namely, Thursdays (including evenings), Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Under the existing trading hours orders the non-exempted shops were obliged to remain closed on Saturday afternoons and all day on Sundays.

Complaints were received from the Small Business Development Corporation, the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association Limited, the Retailers Association of Queensland Limited, and through individual shopkeepers protesting at the blatant disregard of the existing trading hour laws and requesting that appropriate action be taken to close the Garden City markets.

Inspectors of my department commenced after-hours inspections each Saturday and Sunday detecting many breaches. An application on behalf of shopkeepers in the Garden City markets to the Industrial Commission to permit trading on Saturday afternoons and Sundays was refused. However, this did not deter unlawful trading by non-exempted shops. From Saturday, 4 October 1980, when the Garden City markets commenced operations to Easter Saturday, 18 April 1981, 576 inspections were carried out resulting in 430 convictions being recorded against 37 different occupiers. The cost to my department to employ inspectorial staff at week-ends was considerable. In every instance a minimum penalty of \$20 was imposed. The total fines and costs of court did not cover the expenditure on overtime.

Industrial inspectors are also responsible for the observance of awards made by the Industrial Commission and are also inspectors of factories and shops. Owing to the time taken on the Garden City markets situation, important duties in relation to wages claims and the enforcement of rules under the Factories and Shops Act were seriously delayed.

It is clear that if a system of regulated trading hours is to be maintained in the State adequate means of enforcement must be readily available as persistent breaches can affect other traders. Existing penalties do not act as a deterrent to a trader who is prepared to persistently breach a trading hours order.

The Bill provides for an increase in penalties relating to breaches of trading hours orders not to exceed \$10,000, in the case of a body corporate, and to not exceed \$2,000 in the case of an individual. Jurisdiction is to be conferred on industrial magistrates to hear and determine proceedings involving the new penalties.

The Bill also confers power on the Full Bench of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to grant orders in the nature of mandatory or restrictive injunctions to compel compliance or restrain breaches of its trading hours orders. This will allow prompt action to be taken against blatant offenders. Actions for penalties for contravention of an order made in this regard will come before the Full Industrial Court and will be the same as for non-compliance with a trading hours order.

I commend to the House the Bill now before it to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1980 in certain particulars.

Debate, on motion of Mr Yewdale, adjourned.

BREAD DELIVERY ACT REPEAL BILL

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to repeal the Bread Delivery Act of 1946.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations) (3.17 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

The Bread Delivery Act of 1946 has become an antiquated piece of legislation, mainly because of changes over the years in social customs and needs of consumers.

Briefly, the Act requires a bakery to deliver or to arrange delivery of bread to any person residing within 5 km of the bakery where a person requests such a service. The Act applies to the city of Brisbane and certain other provincial cities and towns. Other centres can be added by Order in Council.

Under the legislation, the person requiring the bread to be delivered must request the bakery to arrange delivery to his residence. Such a request would usually have to be made in writing. The person who makes the request must pay the lawful retail price for the bread at the time of delivery if payment is required by the vendor at that stage. If such payment is not forthcoming, however, then the vendor does not have to leave the bread.

The last proceedings instituted under this Act were in 1954. There is no record of any complaint having been made to the Department of Employment and Labour Relations under the Act since then.

Few people are aware of the existence of this legislation. Its original purpose has been largely negated by the growth in private ownership of motor vehicles.

The requirements of the Act have become completely impractical in today's society, due primarily to modern methods of marketing. Furthermore, if large bakeries had to arrange delivery of bread to private dwellings, the cost of this basic commodity would become prohibitive.

In addition, the legislation contains no provision for an exemption.

It is clear that there is no purpose to be served in retaining this outdated legislation on the statute-book. I therefore commend to the House the Bill now before it to repeal the Bread Delivery Act of 1946.

Debate, on motion of Mr Yewdale, adjourned.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TRAINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Industry and Commerce Training Act 1979-1980 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Sir William Knox, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations) (3.20 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

The Industry and Commerce Training Act came into operation from 19 November 1979 and since that time there has been minor amendment to the Act. Experience with the new legislation over a period now of two years has been that, whilst generally it has addressed the issues associated with the wider aspects of training in industry and commerce that were covered by the former Apprenticeship Act, there are some areas of the legislation which require amendment.

The Bill before the House seeks to amend the Industry and Commerce Training Act to give effect to those situations and to include further provisions which have been found necessary as a result of Government and industry initiatives associated with the future manpower resources of the State.

The Committee for Subordinate Legislation raised with my predecessor the practice whereby any change in minimum standard of education and industries and callings included in the second schedule to the Act necessitated amendment to the second schedule by Order in Council. The committee sought the introduction of legislation to give effect to the matters appearing in the second schedule to the Act being dealt with by way of regulation.

The Bill provides for the removal of the second schedule to the Act and makes provision for the matters contained in the second schedule to be dealt with in the manner requested by the Committee for Subordinate Legislation. Clauses 5 and 6 of the Bill provide for the redrafting of sections 9 and 10 of the Act to give effect to the removal of restrictions with respect to specific callings only having application to specific industries under the second schedule.

Under a joint policy agreed to between my Commonwealth counterpart and me, a committee of Commonwealth and State officers was formed earlier this year to liaise with major developers in relation to manpower assessments for major development projects in Queensland. Earlier this year also, the State Development and Public Works Organization Act was amended to provide that certain major projects could become prescribed developments under that legislation.

The Industry and Commerce Training Commission is developing guide-lines to ensure there is a sufficient commitment by major developers towards manpower requirements and this will become the basis for training schemes specified in the infrastructure co-ordination plans for prescribed developments.

The amendment to section 22 supports these policy initiatives and provides for the commission to liaise with relevant bodies in relation to training schemes for prescribed developments and for developments and works generally. In addition, a new section 22A has been included to give the commission authority to require existing approving bodies of works and developments to supply the commission with such details on the work-force required as the commission considers necessary. This information will form the basis of guide-lines that may be issued to ensure that adequate provision is made for training.

At present there is no provision in the Act for the commission to prepare an annual report, although in practice this is undertaken. The new section 35A formalises that arrangement.

The method of nomination of members to industry and commerce advisory committees in accordance with section 37 is being amended to provide that persons can be nominated by the Minister from a panel or panels of names submitted in a manner prescribed, rather than by individual nomination from the relevant organisations. This will ensure the widest possible representation from which membership of advisory committees can be chosen.

Whereas section 62 of the Act requires an intending apprentice and an intending employer before commencing a contract of employment to make application to the

secretary to the commission, in practice on many occasions the employment commences before the required documentation is completed. Section 62 of the Act is being amended to ensure that the secretary to the commission can still accept applications by an apprentice and an employer notwithstanding that the application was not made at a time before the apprentice commenced to be employed. This will ensure that legal protection can be provided to the parties.

Section 74 of the Act, which provides for attendance at technical college classes by apprentices and submission for examinations, is being amended to give greater flexibility in the fixing and determination of periods of attendance by apprentices at college. At present regulations made under the repealed Apprenticeship Act with respect to technical college attendance are being relied upon and the present section 74 allows no flexibility in varying any existing period of attendance.

Section 93 does not require an employer to retain a record showing details of an apprentice on termination. Should any complaint be lodged by an apprentice after termination, investigating officers may not be able to make a claim on the employer because records may have been destroyed on termination. The proposed amendment to section 93 requires an employer to maintain such record for a period of five years and, therefore, any claims made after termination will be able to be investigated by officers.

The Act provides under section 97 that certain moneys received by the commission in payment of penalties are credited to the commission's bank account. Section 97 is being amended to provide for the audit of moneys paid into the commission's account. This section will comply with the requirements of the Auditor-General.

Section 97 presently provides that moneys credited to the commission's bank account may only be expended and applied towards the provision of awards and prizes in connection with examinations prescribed for apprentices and associated expenses. This section is being further amended to extend application for prizes, awards and associated expenses to all trainees, including apprentices, to whom the Act applies.

Another significant amendment to the Act provides that a training agreement may be required to be completed in respect of training undertaken under section 103 of the Act by trainees, other than apprentices, trainee technicians and adult trainees, where it is desirable that the nature of training being undertaken is that a training agreement should be entered into. Under the existing arrangements only private agreements could be entered into with no involvement by the commission. The parties to the training agreement will be the employer, the trainee and the commissioner. Any training agreement required under this section would be registered with the commission and will ensure that the parties to such an agreement are fully protected. Training agreements will be entered into where the duration and nature of the training necessitates some formalisation of those arrangements.

The commission has had approaches from individual employees who have sought recognition of previous work and training. Under the existing provisions of the Act, the commission can only give recognition to work undertaken in accordance with a training program under the Act. The new section 103A is being inserted to allow the commission to issue certificates in respect of recognised work or training where it is proven to the satisfaction of the commission that the person concerned has the level of competence to be regarded as a skilled operator in his particular field of employment. Previously, many highly skilled workers were unable to be given recognition by a competent authority. The new section will rectify this anomaly.

There are further brief amendments to facilitate operation of the Act to correct defective provisions relating to oversight or errors in drafting of the principal legislation.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Yewdale, adjourned.

BREAD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Minister for Primary Industries), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Bread Industry Committee Act 1979 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Minister for Primary Industries) (3.29 p.m.):
I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

In 1979, following recommendations by a committee which inquired into matters relating to trading practices in the bread industry, the Government passed the Bread Industry Committee Act. This Act was designed to provide for a degree of self-regulation in the industry.

The legislation has worked reasonably well, largely because most individuals and corporations recognised the benefits to be gained from co-operation rather than confrontation. However, because the current Act contains no effective enforcement provisions, individuals have, on occasion, taken advantage of the situation. This has resulted in some disruption to the bread-marketing system in certain areas and has caused economic hardship to a number of efficient small bakeries. Over the last few years, examples of unfair competition have been evident, particularly in country centres. The bread industry is a highly competitive one, but, provided the competition is fair, the free enterprise ethic can operate in the normal way.

The matter has been the subject of thorough consideration by my joint Government parties bread committee and has been discussed with all relevant sectors of the bread industry. I am now of the opinion that the Bread Industry Committee's self-regulation arrangements require a degree of enforcement.

The main purpose of this Bill is to give the Bread Industry Committee sufficient powers to maintain stability in this vital and essential food industry. The Bill is designed to amend the Act in four major respects. Provision is made for the Bread Industry Committee to register bread manufacturers. Commercial bread manufacturers will be required to be registered on an annual basis.

One of the major problems faced by the committee since its inception has been a lack of adequate finance. Currently, precepts are levied by the committee on all commercial bread manufacturers, but there is no effective method of securing payment. A significant number of bakers have not paid such precepts and, as a consequence, the Bread Industry Committee has been restricted in its operations.

Registration will be subject to the payment of appropriate fees and charges. These will be on a sliding scale, which will be related to the size of each bread manufacturer's operation. This arrangement will ensure the funding necessary for the effective operation of the Bread Industry Committee.

Provision is also made in the Bill for certain classes of non-commercial bakers to be exempted from registration requirements. These exemptions will include such business as restaurants, sandwich bars, etc. Small-scale operations such as the supply of “home-made” bread to health food shops will also be exempted.

The second principal area of amendment involves the introduction of anti-dumping proposals. This measure is intended to prevent the sale of bread or bread products into particular markets in a discriminatory way. Dumping of bread is to be prohibited in order to afford some protection, mainly for efficient small bakers and hot bread shops, from predatory trading practices, particularly by city-based large plant bread manufacturers.

Under the dumping provisions, a bread manufacturer will be prevented from selling bread in a particular area, at a lower price than he sells elsewhere, for the deliberate purpose of eliminating a competitor.

The third area of major change is one which has been canvassed very thoroughly. This is the introduction of penalties for breaches of the Act. One of the weaknesses of the existing Act is that individuals could, and did, thumb their noses at the Bread Industry Committee and get away with it. I hasten to add that such instances have been relatively

few, but I believe that it would be only a matter of time before more widespread departures from the code of trading practice occurred unless adequate provision is made for enforcement.

The penalties proposed include monetary penalties for minor breaches and suspension of registration for serious breaches of the code of trading practice. It should be noted that suspension of registration would preclude a bread manufacturer from producing bread for a specified period. The Bill provides for a maximum suspension of seven days for the first or second offence, but longer suspensions may be imposed for repeated offences.

I sincerely hope that such severe penalties will not have to be used and that the mere existence of them will provide sufficient incentive for the various parties to observe the code. Should circumstances warrant, the Bill will enable proceedings for offences against the Act involving monetary penalties to be taken under the Justices Act.

A protective mechanism, will, however, be provided by way of an appeals tribunal. In all cases where a person is aggrieved by a decision of the committee, that person will have the right of appeal against that decision to the Bread Industry Appeals Tribunal. The appeal mechanism which is proposed is based on well-established arrangements for appeals under various pieces of legislation coming under my administration. These arrangements have worked well in other industries and I see no reason why they should not work equally well in this case. The detailed procedure proposed will follow closely the provisions contained in the Milk Supply Act. Other amendments are of a purely machinery nature.

This Bill is a response to a demand from country bakers for the Government to take action in their interest. However, the Bill is an initial document for discussion and consideration by industry. I will be pleased to receive and consider submissions resulting from this discussion and consideration. I will be prepared to amend the Bill substantially if there is widespread industry concern about it. I will be resuming discussions with the Government's committee shortly in relation to it.

Finally, I would repeat that the main purpose of the Bill is to provide the Bread Industry Committee with much-needed authority to maintain stability in this vital and essential food industry.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Blake, adjourned.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. T. A. WHITE (Redcliffe—Minister for Welfare Services), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Children's Services Act 1965-1980 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

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

Second Reading

Hon. T. A. WHITE (Redcliffe—Minister for Welfare Services) (3.36 p.m.): I move—
“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

The Bill deals with two matters. The first relates to the apparently growing practices in recent years of youths abusing various solvents or gases for effect. In recent times there has been increasing concern about the extent of these practices, the most common of which is for youths to inhale the fumes of certain glues by placing over their noses and mouths plastic bags which contain the substances. However, a wide range of solvents and gases may be abused.

These practices can be harmful to a child's well-being and adversely affect his behaviour. Presently a task force which consists of officers of my department and the Departments of Health and Police is in the process of examining ways to combat the

incidence of these practices. One of the alternatives under consideration is the establishment of diversionary programs and activities for the youths concerned. Another is the introduction of appropriate education programs directed to children to explain the dangers of the practice; to voluntary agencies and parents in order that they can better understand the problems and cope with them; to manufacturers in order that they may be encouraged to examine the use of chemicals in their products which cannot be abused by children; and to retailers who display the various products for sale. In addition, the officers will be examining interdepartmental referral procedures for children who abuse the various substances involved. Whilst it is envisaged that emphasis will be placed on these types of initiatives, it is also necessary to strengthen the existing provisions of the Act with what might be described as complementary reserve powers.

The provisions of the Bill which relate to the abuse of solvents or gases are the first of their kind in the Australian States and Territories. I therefore propose that honourable members have adequate time to scrutinise and comment on these provisions before the Bill proceeds further in this House. I wish, however, to issue one word of caution regarding public comment on these practices. In the past it has appeared to officers of my department that non-sensitive publicity surrounding the subject has not decreased the practice and may have even lead to experimentation by an additional number of children with the substances involved.

The Bill provides a definition to cover the substances which, when inhaled or otherwise absorbed by children, are likely to have a visible and undesirable effect on their behaviour. This is provided in terms that can be easily understood by the officers who will be required to administer the various provisions, and some examples have been provided.

Provision exists for a child who consistently engages in abusing the deleterious solvents or gases as a practice to be admitted to the care and protection or protective supervision of the Director, Department of Children's Services. The consent of the child's parent or guardian will not be necessary in the prescribed circumstances when it is impractical to obtain his or her consent. It is envisaged that this action would be pursued when other forms of intervention had failed to assist the child to discontinue the practice.

The Bill provides that an officer who reasonably suspects that a child is under the influence of a deleterious substance may take the child into the custody of the director for a period not exceeding 48 hours, when this action is in the best interests of the child and the child's parent or guardian consents to this action.

An officer who reasonably suspects a child as being under the influence of one of the substances may take the child to his parent or guardian for the purpose of obtaining this consent. The Bill provides that officers who take a child into temporary custody shall forthwith notify the director or his nominee and, as soon as practical, the parent or guardian of the child if he has not given prior consent to this action.

Provision exists, during this custody period, for a child to be medically examined and treated, if necessary, and placed at home or with other persons as the child's best interests necessitate. It is envisaged that arrangements could also be made for the child to be referred to an appropriate diversionary program during this period. In terms of the Bill, it will not be necessary for a child who is taken into temporary custody under these circumstances to subsequently appear before a Children's Court.

The Bill provides powers for officers to confiscate substances containing deleterious solvents or gases and associated articles, such as plastic bags, when they reasonably suspect them to be in the possession of a person for the purpose of abuse by a child, and for them to be appropriately disposed of as circumstances require.

Provision is also made in the Bill for officers to search persons for the purpose of confiscating substances or articles or taking a child into the temporary custody of the director in terms of the provisions of the Bill, and to use reasonable force to overcome any resistance to their relevant prescribed duties.

A provision also exists which will allow a certificate for an analyst to be used as evidence in a prescribed Children's Court proceeding without the necessity for the analyst to appear as a witness, unless the Children's Court orders to the contrary.

The second matter relates to the restriction of the publication of court proceedings concerning children. The existing Act provision has been the subject of examination by the Law Reform Commission and comment in the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Nature and Extent of the Problems Confronting Youth in Queensland.

The Bill will prevent the publication of matters dealt with in Children's Court hearings or committal proceedings that relate to a child. The persons who may be present during these hearings are presently restricted.

The Bill provides for the publication of proceedings involving children in other courts or committal proceedings that relate to an adult on the basis that nothing is published that will reveal certain prescribed particulars or any other particular which is likely to lead to the identification of the child, provided that, in circumstances when a child is a witness only, there is provision for a court to order that a report to the contrary may be published when it considers that good and sufficient reasons have been shown.

The Bill prohibits the publication of pictures of children who are involved in court proceedings.

Provision has been made in the Bill that a person who contravenes any of the prescribed provisions commits an offence against the Act.

As I indicated earlier, it is not my intention to proceed with all stages of the Bill. I intend to let it lie on the table of the House until the sittings early next year.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Fouras, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 o'clock a.m. on a date to be fixed by Mr Speaker in consultation with the Government of this State. Mr Speaker shall, not less than seven days prior to the meeting date so fixed, give notification of such meeting date to each member of the House.”

Motion agreed to.

VALEDICTORY

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (3.44 p.m.): I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

I take this opportunity to convey to all honourable members my wishes for a very happy and very pleasant Christmas.

As another year draws to a close, we can look back with a great deal of satisfaction, within the sphere of government, on the achievements of the past 12 months. Constructive policies have been developed and pursued to assist Queensland's growth and to create new employment opportunities. That is part of the Government's responsibility. As a consequence, people are coming to Queensland in increasing numbers to live and work here.

Our aim in the year ahead will be to continue with the same positive direction and to set the climate that will continue this growth initiative and enterprise for the ultimate benefit of all who reside in our State. It has been a busy year in this Chamber—a year not without its difficulties—but that is to be expected because in the difficult business that is politics members from both sides strive to fulfil their respective roles.

There is much to achieve and much to look forward to in the year ahead. In that context I should mention the forthcoming visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the holding of the Commonwealth Games. The spotlight of the whole world will be

on Queensland at that time, and I know that all honourable members are committed to ensuring the success of that great event while playing host to the many visitors from overseas and interstate who will be with us during that very special period.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to you, Mr Speaker, for the manner in which you have carried out the demanding duties of your high office. You have succeeded in maintaining the dignity and stature of this House while, at the same time, allowing members sufficient latitude to emphasise a point, I suppose one could say, with colour and conviction.

I would like to express our appreciation to Mr Col Miller, who has acquitted himself again with distinction as Chairman of Committees, and I am sure all honourable members would like to say, "Thank you."

To Messrs Don Neal and Bob Moore, the Government Whips, and Mr Brendan Hansen, the Opposition Whip, who have served so steadfastly, I say, "Thank you." It is not easy to be a party whip—it is very difficult to keep honourable members in this Chamber, or at least to know where they are.

Mr Alan Woodward, the Clerk of the Parliament, and Mr Bob Doyle, his deputy, have given valuable assistance in their responsible offices, as has our Parliamentary Librarian, Mr Nick Bannenberg, and his talented staff.

I thank our Chief Hansard Reporter, Mr Cedric Smith, his scribes, and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bernie Stein, who have provided trustworthy and courteous service, as indeed have their support and secretarial staff, typists, telephonists, attendants, messengers and security personnel.

Three other House staff who deserve our commendation are Mr Roach, the Chief Parliamentary Attendant; Mr Montgomery, the ministerial attendant, and Mr Duncanson, the Works Co-ordinator. They have very effectively carried out their duties.

I know I reflect your views, Mr Speaker, and those of every person associated with this Parliament, in saying we are delighted to have Miss Dorothy Granger back with us once again, after her recent illness. I place on record, too, my thanks to our drivers, office staff and room attendants for their efforts and ready assistance over the year.

Our warm gratitude goes also to Miss Glennie and her attentive refreshment room staff for their courteous service at all times. I personally emphasise that point.

No member of this House could effectively represent his electorate or carry out the duties associated with ministerial office without strong staff support.

I am indebted to all members of my department who fulfil their duties with such obvious dedication. Mr Keith Spann, the Secretary, and his officers are public servants of the finest calibre. Their advice is of inestimable benefit. Mr Leo Murray, the Parliamentary Counsel, and his tireless legal assistants have scrupulously and conscientiously drafted a formidable batch of legislation over the past session. Other officers in the Executive Building to whom my thanks are directed include my private secretary, Mr John Walsh, and his deputy Mr Peter Anemaat; my pilot, Miss Beryl Young; my Press Officer, Mr Ken Crooke, and all the loyal support staff in my office. I express my sincere appreciation to them.

Beyond that, I cannot let the opportunity pass without commending the media representatives on their usually reliable reportage of the events taking place within these precincts. We depend on them and they depend on us, and that mutual trust is very rarely abused.

In closing, I know that I reflect the views of all honourable members when I pay tribute to the role played by our wives and families. Without their support and encouragement our duties as parliamentarians would be very much harder to bear. I express my special thanks to my wife, Flo, and the members of my family for the support and encouragement that they continually give me and the sacrifices that they make in accepting the demands and long periods of separation that are part and parcel of parliamentary life for each and every one of us.

Mr Speaker, I join with you in looking forward to even greater accomplishments for this Parliament of Queensland in the year ahead. I again extend my wishes and kind regards to all for a happy and Holy Christmas.

One of the pleasant duties that I have is to be able to record the names of the many people who are associated with the work that the Government does.

Mr CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition) (3.52 p.m.): On behalf of the members of the Opposition, I join with the Premier in expressing good wishes and thanks, first and foremost, to you, Mr Speaker. You administer the affairs within the Chamber and also the daily running of Parliament House. I know that if you were to look at "Hansard" of 3 March, at the beginning of this session, you would see that the remarks that I made then were a little different from the remarks that I am making now. You and I understand each other; that has been the case in this Chamber for a long time. I thank you very much for your efforts during the year, particularly in relation to the matter that I mentioned earlier today. I am disappointed that that matter has not gone further, and I shall leave it at that. I look forward, as I am sure all members of Parliament do, to being with you in this Chamber once again in 1982.

I join with the Premier in expressing good wishes to all the members of the staff whom he mentioned, from the Clerk of the Parliament, Alan Woodward, through to all the other staff. There is a long list of them. I would add the gardeners to the list of names that the Premier mentioned. Excellent gardens are being established in the precincts of Parliament House. Before they leave Parliament House at the end of this session, honourable members should wander round this building, particularly on level 3 on the river-side, and see the work that the gardeners have been doing. It is typical of the dedication of all members of the staff at Parliament House. Rather than repeat all the names that the Premier mentioned, on behalf of the Opposition, I join with him in expressing thanks to all the staff. I refer particularly to the parliamentary attendants and to the table staff who come into more direct contact with us.

With pride, I also pay a tribute to my own staff. The Premier referred to the need for strong staff. Perhaps my staff are the strongest because they have to walk the furthest, and most often, from Watkins Place to Parliament House. They have to work so much harder on behalf of the shadow Ministers and myself.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen: It keeps them fit.

Mr CASEY: Yes. I am pretty fit myself, too.

I have good staff. Malcolm McMillan has been with me as private secretary for a number of years. Chris Ford was appointed to my staff as Press secretary this year. I would like to pay a special tribute to Jack Stanaway, who served for a long time as Press secretary to me and to the previous Leader of the Opposition (Mr Burns). Over the years, he did a tremendous job and became one of the characters in Queensland journalism. Of course, he is still amongst the members of the Press gallery.

I join with the Premier in thanking the members of the Press for their attentiveness during the year. Perhaps sometimes they do not give us the attentiveness that we believe we should receive.

On occasions, when we are locked away in this Chamber with the other 81 members of this Parliament we feel that this is the most important place in Queensland. I can assure honourable members that it is not. Many other things happen in the outside world that need to be reported upon and that perhaps we members of Parliament should take notice of.

As the Premier said, it has been a heavy year in this Chamber and a heavy year legislatively. Many years have passed since the Parliament has sat as many days as it did this year. The work-load has been very heavy, but, nevertheless, all members have risen to the task.

Everybody eagerly is awaiting the Christmas period, which is a time for peace on earth to men of good will. We wish good will to each and every person with whom we have been associated. Personally, I firstly wish it to my colleagues who worked so very hard without a great deal of back-up. By that, I mean that the shadow Ministers do not have available to them the staff support that is seen in other places. That means they have to do a tremendous amount of work, but they do a great job, as do the rest of my colleagues. I wish members of both the National and Liberal Parties and their constituents throughout Queensland all the very best.

Christmas is a time for families and I hope that every member of the Parliament enjoys a period of tranquility with his own family in the location of his own choosing. I sincerely hope that 1982, which, as the Premier has said, is the Commonwealth Games year for Queensland, will be another very exciting and very good year for the Queensland Parliament.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (3.56 p.m.): I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in their remarks at the close of the parliamentary session in 1981. Mr Speaker, I join with the previous speakers who have paid tribute to you, the Chairman of Committees (Mr Miller) and the panel of Temporary Chairmen and thank them for their support and assistance throughout the year. As the other speakers have indicated, this has been a very busy year for the Parliament in which a large number of Bills have been dealt with.

I believe we must pay tribute as well to the Leader of the House (Mr Claude Wharton), who has attempted to placate many members when difficulties have arisen over the passage of legislation, sitting hours of the Parliament, and other difficulties caused by the running of the House.

I also pay tribute to the Clerk of the Parliament, his assistants and other officers of the Parliament for their co-operation. Theirs is not an easy task. I place on record my own appreciation and that of my party for the co-operation and assistance in every way possible that is given by members of Hansard, the Parliamentary Library staff and the other people associated with the running of Parliament. I also join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to the Refreshment Room staff as well as those engaged in cleaning, gardening and so forth.

I also wish to record my deep appreciation to my personal staff, my secretaries and stenographers, my Press secretary and driver. As has been mentioned by the other speakers, people in such positions work enormously long hours and I pay tribute to their loyalty and support throughout the year.

The Premier mentioned our own wives and families. I do not think the community understands the tremendous sacrifice made by the wives and families of politicians. I place on record my deep appreciation to my own wife and family and also to the wives and husbands of all members—we have two female members of the House—who have to make great sacrifices but who, for the sake of this great State of Queensland, are prepared to do so and join with us in part of the development of Queensland.

On behalf of my party, I record our deep appreciation of the work of those people. We express our best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a very bright and prosperous New Year to all Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Mr Premier, Mr Deputy Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and all honourable members: As the session draws to a close, we are all conscious of the fact that it has been a very busy one. During the past few months, approximately 115 Bills have been dealt with by the House. In all probability, it has been one of the busiest sessions in the history of the Queensland Parliament. What has been achieved has been made possible only by the co-operation received from so many people, many of whom have been referred to already.

The Leader of the House and I have been known to have hassled occasionally when we have attempted to program legislation. Sometimes he has found it necessary to make amendments to the program agreed upon but has not had time to inform the Chair or the Clerk of Parliament, and, of course, minor unavoidable difficulties have arisen. I pay a very special tribute to the Leader of the House (Mr Wharton).

I also pay tribute to the Chairman of Committees (Mr Col Miller). All members would agree that, at times, being in the chair is a fairly arduous assignment. I express my appreciation for the assistance rendered by the capable Chairman of Committee and his panel of temporary chairmen, who have been readily available to take the chair whenever I was required to perform other duties around the House.

The Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Alan Woodward, has been a tower of strength to me since my appointment as Speaker. Alan and I were new boys at the same time,

but he seemed to get into less trouble than I did. I do not know whether I can blame him for that. I have always claimed that I have taken his advice, so I presume it would only be fitting that he should accept part of the responsibility. He has always provided sound advice, and I have never had greater dedication or loyalty from any other person with whom I have been privileged to work.

I also pay that tribute to the Clerk Assistant, Mr Robert Doyle, who came to Queensland from Tasmania with a wealth of knowledge. The Queensland Parliament is functioning fairly efficiently. The Tasmanian Parliament seems to have an occasional difficulty, and perhaps his services could be in demand in that State. However, it is not our intention to release him.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, Doug Randle, is also comparatively new to his position. He is a very capable officer of the Parliament, and he is playing his part very well. I express my appreciation to all the table staff, who have been very co-operative, effective and efficient.

I thank my personal secretary, Miss Dorothy Granger. Regrettably, she has not enjoyed good health recently. I am certain that all members join with me in wishing her the very best for the festive season and that the new year brings her better health.

I thank all members of the Hansard staff. They have a very arduous assignment which they carry out effectively. If at times a member is alarmed at statements that appear in his proofs, there is just a vague possibility that he did not express himself as clearly as he thought.

I make specific reference to the boys in the Press gallery. During the luncheon recess I had the privilege of spending a few moments with them. We have had one or two matters to sort out during the year. Although, as they said, we have had one or two spats and hassles, we have resolved our differences. I am sure they will be delighted to know that I now get along with them very well. I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that the gentlemen of the Press are, in fact, human. Twelve months ago I would not have agreed with anyone who made that comment.

Miss Glennie and her Parliamentary Refreshment Room staff work very long hours and, at times, have a very difficult and arduous task. It is not possible at all times to satisfy everyone's palate. However, Miss Glennie and her staff have performed their work in a most commendable manner. I am sure that all honourable members would agree with that.

I thank the building supervisor, Mr Don Duncanson. If members inspect any part of this building at any time—be it daytime, night-time or on the week-end, they will find it spic and span. I pay a special tribute to Mr Duncanson. Of course, he does not do the job on his own; he is assisted by a number of capable persons.

I was pleased to hear the Leader of the Opposition comment on the appearance of the gardens and grounds. They look quite attractive. I pay a special tribute to the gardening staff.

While I have held the position of Speaker, I have had the privilege of visiting many other Parliaments. Without boasting, I can say that the general upkeep and appearance of this Parliament is equal to if not better than that of any other Parliament that I have been privileged to see. That, of course, is a tribute to the staff.

In conclusion, I commend all persons who contribute to the maintenance and well-being of this establishment that we know as Parliament. I wish each and everyone of them a very happy and contented Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I hope that next year members will be refreshed and prepared for the resumption of Parliament whenever that may be. I look forward with enthusiasm to further active and virile debates.

I invite all those persons to whom I have referred to join me in the Parliamentary Refreshment Room so that we will have an opportunity to exchange seasonal greetings on a more personal basis.

Motion (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.7 p.m.