

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 1982

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

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development for the year ended 30 June 1982

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations under—

Public Service Act 1922-1978

Art Unions and Amusements Act 1976-1981

Public Trustee Act 1978-1981

Banana Industry Protection Acts 1929 to 1937

Margarine Act 1958-1982

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1981

Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1981

Wheat Pool Act 1920-1979 and the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1981

Regulations to be observed on the appointment of Queen's Counsel

Orders in Council under—

Metropolitan Transit Authority Act 1976-1979 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982

Industrial Development Act 1963-1981

Supreme Court Act 1921-1979

Harbours Act 1955-1982

Port of Brisbane Authority Act 1976-1982

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982

Banana Industry Protection Acts 1929 to 1937

Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923-1981

Electricity Act 1976-1982 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982

Forestry Act 1959-1982

Water Act 1926-1981 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982

Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act 1958-1979

By-laws under the Dental Act 1971-1973

Reports—

Queensland Trustees Limited for the year ended 30 June 1982

Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations for the year ended 30 June 1982

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Radioactive Mineral Sands

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health) (11.5 a.m.): A number of the more dense minerals in beach sands have economic value and in this country, particularly the eastern coast, these dense minerals have been concentrated to the extent that extraction is economically viable. The minerals extracted, usually referred to as heavy minerals are—

- (i) Rutile (Titanium Dioxide)
- (ii) Zircon (Zirconium Silicate)
- (iii) Ilmenite (Iron-Titanium Dioxide)
- (iv) Monazite.

The usual practice is to produce heavy mineral concentrates at the beach sand-mining sites and transport them to separation plants or dry mills for separation and concentration into commercial concentrates. The separation process relies on the differing physical properties of the heavy minerals. The monazite is initially collected as a magnetic, non-conductor component mixed with other materials, including magnetic zircon.

This semi-processed component may contain 10 to 14 per cent monazite as compared with .01 per cent in the original beach sand. The semi-processed component may be further processed to yield a component with up to 50 per cent monazite, which can be further processed as required to yield soluble concentrates of 70-90 per cent monazite.

The beach sand-mining industry has been established on the east coast of Australia since 1934 (at Byron Bay), and has subsequently extended to other locations in New South Wales and Queensland. The possibility therefore exists that dumps of semi-processed material containing 10 per cent or more of monazite may be located near sites where dry mill operations have been carried out.

Over the past 10 months, surveys of sand-mining sites and processing plants in South-east Queensland have been made by officers of my department. Six sites were surveyed. Three were in operation or are still in operation. Varying problems were found with each particular site depending on the extent of the original sand-mining separation process. Many of the heavy metals present in the sand had been separated and removed. Some of the material which was left contained various levels of monazite. The radiation levels from this material varied according to the concentration. It is these radiation levels which have been matters of concern and on which the National Health and Medical Research Council has made recommendations.

In respect of places which are intermittently occupied by members of the public, such as sporting fields and footpaths, the recommended maximum is 2.5 micro-sieverts per hour. In respect of residential land, the exposure set by the National Health and Medical Research Council is .1 of a micro-sievert per hour.

The Consolidated Rutile Limited plant at Meeandah was surveyed. Two stockpiles of some processed mineral and a store of bag monazite were located and surveyed. All monazite in that plant is located well away from areas which are accessible to the public. The radiation levels in the vicinity of the stockpiles and the bag stores are acceptable and are at present no hazard to members of the public or plant operators. It was recommended that no remedial action was required in respect of that plant.

The Associated Minerals Consolidated Limited plant in Ferry Road, Southport, has been extensively surveyed over a period of nine months. There are a number of sites on which material has been tested. It is understood that the company is winding up its operation

and is looking for ways of removing the offending material so that the sites can be sold for residential development. Discussions have taken place with the company with respect to the removal of the offending material and its being buried under controlled conditions to a depth of at least one metre and covered with an appropriate solid fill. If these procedures are carried out, the sites owned by this company may then be sold for residential development.

A survey of the mineral sand processing plant at South Currumbin has recently been carried out. One grass mound was found to have radiation levels above the acceptable level and two smaller mounds had radiation levels below but close to the acceptable levels for recreation areas. The material in those three areas has been removed and deposited in a safe and acceptable manner.

In an industrial area in Maryborough, a sand-mining processing plant had previously been in operation. It ceased some years ago and the property was sold to another commercial company not involved in mineral sands activities. The site has been surveyed and the area that is occupied by the present commercial company does not provide any hazard, but there is an adjacent area which was used to stockpile some processed sand, and that area demonstrates significantly high levels of radiation. Recommendations are being made as to how that site can be handled, and this will probably involve more adequate fencing and the stabilising of the sand on site. Discussions are to take place with the present owners of the site.

Now it has come to the notice of the department that some of the processed sand has been sold to householders in the Brisbane area for land fill. I have already advised the public of this fact and asked for people who have had sand fill placed on their property to come forward so that appropriate tests could be carried out.

Tests carried out on a number of properties at the request of the owners in the past months have demonstrated that there is no hazard and in fact in a significant numbers of cases the background radiation was higher than the radiation level coming from any sand deposited on their residential site. In one instance, in a large garden setting there were a few small peripheral sites where radiation was on the upper level as set by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and on another site the radiation level was significantly higher than the standard set. These householders have been advised, and I understand that the one with significantly higher levels has taken remedial action.

The extent of the distribution of this material in the south-east corner of the State is not known. Records are very inadequate. Companies that have been involved in distributing the material have been co-operative but have been unable to provide definitive information. The only way to get some idea of the extent of the problem is by asking members of the public who have had sand delivered for land fill purposes to bring this to the notice of my department.

It is pointed out that the testing and the surveys that are required are time-consuming and require highly skilled scientific staff. The health aspects of this problem have two components. First is the effect on individual members of the public and, secondly, the workers associated with industrial plants.

Over the years, workers in mineral sands processing plants have been the subject of industrial medical supervision, and these plants have operated satisfactorily from that point of view. These monitoring arrangements will continue and are directed by my Division of Industrial Medicine.

The effect on members of the public has only become significant since the discovery that some of the material has been used on domestic premises for land fill. The levels that have been obtained from surveys of residential premises would indicate that the risk to health is minimal. At one residential site it was felt that the levels did present a demonstrable risk, and action has been taken by the owner of that property to remove the offending material. The health problem generated in this context would be one of 10 to 20 year duration and therefore the immediate effects are negligible. But some risk does exist in the long term where significant levels of radiation are present. On the present information available, it is not anticipated that there will be very many residential sites which would have levels above the recommended National Health and Medical Research Council levels and therefore require remedial action.

This Government has at all stages in this matter acted responsibly and honestly in the interests of the people of Queensland. Uninformed and deliberately sensationalised statements will do nothing to assist in resolving this complex public health problem.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr CASEY (Mackay—Leader of the Opposition): In view of efforts being made by the National Party to make the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation smell of roses, I seek leave of the House to move that so much of the Standing Orders as is necessary be suspended so as to allow me to move General Business—Notice of Motion No. 10 standing in my name.

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

Ayes, 21

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

Noes, 42

Ahern	Hinze	Scassola
Akers	Innes	Scott-Young
Austin	Jennings	Simpson
Bertoni	Knox	Stephan
Booth	Lane	Sullivan
Doumany	Lee	Tenni
Edwards	McKechnie	Turner
Elliott	Miller	Warner
FitzGerald	Moore	Wharton
Frawley	Muntz	White
Gibbs, I. J.	Nelson	
Glasson	Powell	<i>Tellers:</i>
Goleby	Prentice	Gygar
Gunn	Randell	Neal
Harper	Row	

Pairs:

Jones	Bjelke-Petersen
Davis	Kaus
Wright	Bird
Underwood	Tomkins

Resolved in the negative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr MACKENROTH (Chatsworth) (11.22 a.m.), by leave: Last Thursday, in an answer to a question I asked without notice, the Treasurer claimed that I had misinterpreted a statement he made on 6 July 1982 regarding the interest rate to be charged by the Queensland Housing Commission for its new home loan scheme. In the question, I asked why the rate was 14.5 per cent when the Treasurer had stated that the rate would be 12.5 per cent. In his answer the Treasurer stated, "At that time the interest rates charged by building societies were at that level."

Mr Speaker, I have checked the Treasurer's statement of 6 July, wherein he stated for the interest subsidy scheme—

"Those eligible must be building or buying the family home as their principal place of residence.

Twenty-five per cent of the major bread-winner's income must meet interest of at least 5 per cent and up to 12.5 per cent on a loan of up to \$30,000.00."

I do not believe that that statement can be interpreted any other way than that the interest rate would be 12.5 per cent. In fact, the news media at that time reported the scheme as having an interest rate of 12.5 per cent. The Treasurer at that time did not put out a statement claiming that he had been misinterpreted.

I have checked with the two major building societies, Metropolitan and SGIO, and their minimum interest rate payable on loans on 6 July was 14.5 per cent. This rate became effective for the SGIO on 2 April 1982, and for Metropolitan on 8 April 1982.

The Treasurer went on to say that I am well known for misleading the Parliament and that I am a political opportunist who does not tell the facts relative to this matter. Mr Speaker, the stranger to the truth in this matter is the Treasurer, Dr Edwards. He has on two occasions refused to tell this Parliament who was responsible for lifting the interest rate from 12.5 per cent on 6 July, according to his statement, to 14.5 per cent when the scheme was introduced on 1 August.

The Treasurer has a responsibility to tell all the facts relative to this matter, including what interest rate was recommended to Cabinet by the Queensland Housing Commission. As for the Treasurer's statement that I am well known for misleading this Parliament—I challenge him to produce evidence that I have ever misled the Parliament.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Amendment of Traffic Acts Amendment Bill

From Mr Simpson (34 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend legislation dealing with persons found to be driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .05 per cent.

[Similar petitions were received from Mr McKechnie (20 signatories) and Mr Stephan (39 signatories).]

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

1. Overturning of Local Authority Land Zoning

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

(1) On how many occasions in the last two years has the recommendation of the local authority been overturned on (a) proposals for the zoning of land under a new town planning scheme and (b) applications by local authorities on the rezoning of land?

(2) What are the details of each example of such decisions including, in each case, the name of the local authority, the name of the land-owner involved and the zoning eventually approved?

Answer:—

(1) (a) The information sought is not readily available from the records of the Department of Local Government.

Where a local authority proposes to prepare a new town planning scheme, a draft of the scheme is submitted to the Department of Local Government for preliminary review prior to the scheme's being placed on public exhibition. Following examination of the draft scheme by the department, it is not uncommon for a number of proposed land-use zonings to be changed by agreement between the local authority and the department prior to the scheme's being placed on public exhibition.

After the scheme has been placed on public exhibition, the Local Government Act 1936-1981 provides that the local authority shall submit the scheme to the Minister, together with all objections received and the council's representations thereon. The

practice is for town planning officers of the department to inspect the site of each objection and hold discussions with the local authority where there is any disagreement as to the action that should be taken on a particular objection.

Most of these matters are resolved by mutual agreement between the department and the local authority. Any outstanding matters are referred to Cabinet for decision by the Governor in Council.

It will be seen that there is full consultation between the department and the local authority in regard to the action that should be taken on town planning schemes and objections thereto.

(b) Over the past two years a total of 1 506 applications by local authorities for the rezoning of land have been processed by the department and of these only 16 were rejected by the Governor in Council.

(2) A list setting out details of the applications rejected has been prepared, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I table such list. I would point out that where an application for rezoning is rejected by the Governor in Council, the zoning of the land in question remains unchanged and there is no alternative zoning.

No specific listing is kept of applications for rezonings where the Governor in Council's decision varies a zoning from that recommended by the local authority. The number of applications in this category is very low. In each case the matter is the subject of a Cabinet submission and the representations of the local authority are fully considered before a decision is made by the Governor in Council.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid on the table the document referred to.

2. Proposed Uranium Enrichment Plant

Mr D'Arcy asked the Premier—

With reference to reports that sites near Beaudesert and Caboolture are being considered for a uranium enrichment plant—

(1) What discussions has the Government had with the consortium and the Federal Government on these proposals?

(2) What was the outcome of those discussions, if any?

(3) Does the Government intend to consult with the people of the area or hold a referendum on the issue before a decision is made?

Answer:—

(1) The Queensland Government has for a number of years liaised with both the Commonwealth Government and the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (UEGA) on aspects of the group's investigations into the establishment of a uranium enrichment industry.

(2) The Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia has recommended that sites near Brisbane and Adelaide be further evaluated for the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant. No specific site near Brisbane has been selected. A number of possible sites (including the Caboolture area) have been considered on a "notional" basis, in order to test the various site-specific infrastructure requirements of the centrifuge technology.

(3) Before any decision is taken, there will be adequate time for consultation.

3. The Leap-Hampden Turn-off Section, Bruce Highway

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

(1) What action has been taken to upgrade the Bruce Highway north of Mackay, particularly that section referred to as The Leap which he personally inspected recently?

(2) When does he expect that work to commence, and will he endeavour to have the work between The Leap and the Hampden turn-off completed during 1983?

Answer:—

(1) Tenders will be called shortly for the construction of a 5 km section from The Leap to Parapi, allowing work to commence early in 1983. This work is expected to be completed prior to Christmas 1983.

(2) Tenders will be called early in 1983 for a further 5 km section between Parapi and the Hampden turn-off. This work is expected to be completed around Christmas 1983.

4. Crown Land, Whitsunday Coast; Dingo Beach, Proserpine Shire

Mr Muntz asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

With reference to the shortage of Crown land for public purposes on the Whitsunday Coast, together with the problem of squatters on valuable water front Crown land—

(1) Will he have these matters investigated to ensure adequate provision of land for future educational, recreational and Crown residential development in this area?

(2) Will he personally inspect these areas together with problems associated with the Dingo Beach development in the Proserpine Shire?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. As the honourable member is aware, I will be visiting his electorate on Friday and Saturday to look into these matters.

5. Coronial Inquiries

Mr FitzGerald asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) How many coronial inquiries were conducted in Queensland in the twelve months ending 30 June 1982?

(2) How many of these were conducted in more than one court?

Answer:—

(1) 670.

(2) 253.

6. Vehicle-overloading Breaches

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

(1) How many persons appeared before the courts in Queensland charged with vehicle-overloading breaches for the year ended 30 June?

(2) How many convictions were recorded?

(3) What is the total amount of fines imposed?

Answer:—

(1) 7 114 prosecution actions for overloading vehicles were finalised in the year ending 30 June 1982. In some cases more than one prosecution action was brought against a particular person.

(2) 7 112 convictions were recorded.

(3) The fines imposed totalled \$805,156. The average fine imposed was \$113. The maximum possible fine that may be imposed is \$1,000.

7. Local Authority Cultural Centres

Mr FitzGerald asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) How many local government authorities in Queensland have received State Government subsidies for the construction of a cultural centre in the last 10 years?

- (2) Has the Government purchased land and/or donated land to any local authority in Queensland for the purpose of building a cultural centre in the last 10 years?
- (3) Is this matter the province of local authorities?

Answer:—

(1) The Major Cultural Complex Subsidy Scheme was introduced by this Government in 1976. Since that date 25 local authorities have benefited from Government assistance under the scheme.

(2) To the best of my knowledge, no.

(3) The provision of cultural centres in local communities is a matter for each local authority to determine in the light of what it perceives as the needs of that community and its capital works priorities having regard to available resources.

8. Administration Block, Pimlico High School

Mr Smith asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) When will reconstruction of the burnt out administration block of the Pimlico High School commence and when is it expected to be ready for occupation?

(2) Will the Pimlico building requirements delay other education building program in Townsville, including the commencement of the TAFE Catering College?

(3) Will he take action to have security lighting as well as a burglar alarm and an automatic sprinkler system installed in the new Pimlico administration block and progressively install this equipment in other school administration and library buildings in schools in the Townsville area?

Answer:—

(1) Technical officers of my department have assessed the damage to ascertain the extent of work necessary to restore this block. Documents in accordance with replacement requirements are being prepared. It is not possible at this stage to indicate when the work will commence and be completed.

(2) The Pimlico building requirements will not delay any other educational building program in the Townsville area.

(3) No. Security lighting was installed at selected schools in the Brisbane and Ipswich areas but subsequently found to be uneconomical and ineffective in most cases. Alternative methods to secure buildings are currently being investigated by officers of the Departments of Works and Education.

9. Bowen-Ayr Section, Bruce Highway

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

(1) How many motor vehicle accidents have occurred over the past two years to 30 June on the Bruce Highway between Bowen and Ayr?

(2) How does this compare with other sections of the Bruce Highway of approximately equivalent length and vehicle density?

(3) In view of the number of serious accidents on this stretch of the highway, will he provide an assurance that this section will receive the highest priority for upgrading?

(4) As a temporary measure, and until this section of the highway is upgraded, will he undertake to have flashing amber warning lights installed at the approaches to the numerous one-lane bridges?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The numbers of accidents over various sections of the Bruce Highway for the 1980-81 financial year are contained in Table 3 on page 41 of the "Report on a Study of Needs to Upgrade the Brisbane to Cairns National Highway", a copy of which

was forwarded to the honourable member. The Bureau of Statistics' accident report data for the 1981-82 financial year is not presently at hand, as this data takes time to assemble and assess.

(3) Following my inspection of the Rockhampton-Townsville section of the Bruce Highway earlier this year, I have given high priority to the upgrading of the Mackay-Townsville section.

(4) There are several practical problems associated with the installation of flashing lights at one-lane bridges. However, the Main Roads Department is about to commence a program to further upgrade the standard of signing on the approaches to these bridges on the Bruce Highway between Greta Creek and Tully.

10. Pre-school, Middle Park

Mr Innes asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the announcement in the Budget papers of the proposal to build a new pre-school at Middle Park in the Sherwood electorate—

When might it be expected that the tender will be let, and at approximately what time can the entry of the first children into this much-needed facility be expected?

Answer:—

It is expected that tenders will be called by early 1983 to build a new State pre-school centre at Middle Park, and that the first children will be enrolled early in the second semester of 1983.

11. "Waltzing Matilda" as National Song

Mr Innes asked the Premier—

With reference to the sense of pride and exhilaration that was shown by Queenslanders and Australians at the Commonwealth Games recently, which feelings were most vividly demonstrated in the opening and closing ceremonies by 60 000 people singing "Waltzing Matilda", a song that was written by Banjo Patterson on Dagworth Station near Winton in the Queensland outback in 1895 inspired by a happening at nearby Combo Waterhole—

(1) Will he agree that few parts of the world are blessed with a tune and a song that is so widely known and identified throughout the world?

(2) Will the Government make it this State's official song or anthem at least until the Commonwealth has the imagination and boldness to make it the national song or anthem, an action which would be another Queensland first?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The honourable member's suggestion is certainly an interesting one. However, as "Waltzing Matilda" is so popular on an Australia-wide basis, I very much doubt if it would be accepted as belonging to Queensland alone.

12. Flag Ford Pty Ltd, Tingalpa

Mrs Nelson asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

(1) Has he seen comments made by a spokesman for Flag Ford Pty Ltd of Tingalpa in which the spokesman accused the Government of cheap politicking in tabling in Parliament a list of 16 firms which had offered used cars for sale in need of repair?

(2) Are the claims made by Flag Ford correct?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) It will be my intention from time to time to name in Parliament those used car dealers who do not satisfy inspectors of motor vehicles who will be calling with increasing frequency to check the standards of used vehicles on display for sale at the premises of used car dealers.

I regret that Mr Phil Poat, the managing director of Flag Ford, Tingalpa, chose to claim that the Government was "cheap politicking" in highlighting the deficiencies of used car dealers, including his own firm. I did not intend to place any special emphasis on any operator, but this gentleman challenged the facts.

The facts of the matter are as follows:—

Three vehicles at Flag Ford, Tingalpa, were issued with repair notices by inspectors of motor vehicles of my department on 22 July 1982. These vehicles were:—

(a) Ford Fairmont Sedan, registered No. 485-OBX

This vehicle required attention to an oil leak in the region of the steering box and the hand brake was inefficient.

The original inspection was made on 22 July 1982, and the reinspection was made at Dutton Park on 5 August 1982. It was passed as satisfactory at the time of the second inspection and the inspector was satisfied that the vehicle had received attention before being presented.

(b) Ford Escort Sedan, registered No. OTF-450

In addition to the door handle and windscreen referred to by Mr Poat of Flag Ford, this vehicle also required attention to an oil leak at the right-hand rear wheel.

The repair notice did not make reference to a missing door handle but required attention to an ineffective door release. With regard to the windscreen, Flag Ford took this vehicle to the Dutton Park Inspection Centre for an independent opinion, and the assistant senior inspector confirmed the original inspector's opinion that the windscreen should be replaced.

(c) Falcon Station Sedan, registered No. 326-OJZ

The following repairs were required to this vehicle—

(i) Fit approved road wheels to suit and to comply with manufacturer's tyre placard and keep track measurements within 25 mm of maker's specifications.

(ii) Return air cleaner and carburettor and pollution control equipment to manufacturer's standards to comply with Design Rules 27A and 28.

(iii) Make R.H. stop light and reversing light effective.

(iv) Adjust hand brake to reduce excess travel.

(v) Check L.H. rear wheel oil leak.

(vi) Replace damaged muffler.

(vii) Reposition R.H. front brake hose.

(viii) Foot brake to be tested on reinspection.

The items referred to are essential to the safe use of this vehicle with items (i) and (ii) also being necessary to maintain compliance with Australian Design Rules for Motor Vehicle Safety. The Chief Inspector of Motor Vehicles does not consider such to be relatively minor as suggested by Flag Ford.

It is correct to say that it is not necessary for a current certificate of roadworthiness to be in effect at all times whilst a vehicle is on display for resale purposes. An owner is required to have at the time of disposal of a second-hand vehicle, a certificate of roadworthiness issued within 30 days prior to the date of disposal.

As dealers allow prospective buyers of second-hand vehicles to use their vehicles on the road for test purposes, it is important that the dealer ensures that such vehicles are in a roadworthy condition before they are allowed on the road.

I consider that Flag Ford has not been unjustly treated by my department in respect to the inspections carried out.

13. Government Purchase of Land, Lakefield National Park and "Rokeby" Station
 Mr Scott asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

With reference to Government land acquisition in North Queensland—

(1) What was the price paid by the Government to the previous owners of the land now known as the Lakefield National Park?

(2) What are the names of the previous owners and which of the now aggregated properties did they own?

(3) In addition to the purchase price, what other favourable conditions were granted to these owners as part of purchase conditions?

(4) Have the people referred to now sold the rights to run cattle on the Lakefield National Park to another party?

(5) What is the name of the new permit holder, what was the transfer price and how long will private owners have the right to run cattle on the national park?

(6) What was the purchase price for the property known as "Rokeby" station near Coen?

(7) From whom was this property purchased and what are the various conditions in regard to cattle and other matters of the purchase?

Answer:—

(1) \$300,000 was the purchase price paid for Lakefield Aggregation, which comprised Lakefield Pastoral Holding, Laura Pastoral Holding, Brown Creek Pastoral Holding, Walwa Plains Pastoral Holding, freehold portion 285, Parish of Breeza and Occupation Licence 560 Cooktown District.

(2) The former aggregation was acquired from Bizant Pty Ltd, formerly Stereotype (No. 142) Pty Ltd. A further company name change has since occurred to Stereotype (No. 212) Pty Ltd. The principals of the company were Antony John Anderson, Marilyn Susan Anderson, Ian Alexander Edwin MacCormick and Elizabeth MacCormick.

(3) The concessional conditions allowed to the former owners as part of the purchase price comprise—

(a) For the purpose of a winding-down operation and the removal of stock from the Lakefield Aggregation, the vendor company was given until 31 December 1979, to muster stock on the aggregation and contain such stock within an area agreed upon by the company and the Director of National Parks and Wildlife on Lakefield National Park. The vendor company then had the right to negotiate a stock grazing permit with the National Parks and Wildlife Service over the area agreed upon by the company and the director on Lakefield National Park for a period of five years from 1 January 1980.

(b) Such permit attracts Crown rent and local authority rates, payment of which is the responsibility of the company.

(c) The right by the company to make hay on the improved pastures during the period of occupancy. (The present area under improved pastures is about 5 600 ha).

(d) An obligation by the company during the period of occupancy to maintain only those facilities required for the purpose of managing and selling the livestock on the property.

(e) No obligation by the company to insure all or any improvements on the property during such period of occupancy.

(4) The right to graze cattle on the former Lakefield Aggregation has been transferred as from 20 July 1982. This entails the sale of the issued capital of Stereotype (No. 212) Pty Ltd and the stock to Liddle Holdings Pty Ltd.

(5) A new Stock Grazing Permit No. 44 has issued in the name of Stereotype (No. 212) Pty Ltd, this company having been acquired by Liddle Holdings Pty Ltd. The consideration for transfer is not specified.

A stock grazing permit issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in favour of Stereotype (No. 212) Pty Ltd, in new ownership, expires on 30 June 1983.

The reissue of any further permit will be reviewed on or after the expiry date of the existing permit.

(6) The purchase price for the Rokeby/Croll Creek Aggregation was \$275,000.

(7) The former ownership of Rokeby Pastoral Holding as recorded by the Department of Lands was in the names of John Herbert Broinowski, John Darling, James Maurice Gordon and Ross Farm Pty Limited as tenants in common in the interests of two-fifths, two-fifths, one-tenth and one-tenth respectively.

The similar recorded ownership for the former Croll Creek Pastoral Holding was in the names of John Herbert Broinowski, John Darling, James Maurice Gordon and Ross Farm Pty Limited as tenants in common in the interests of two-fifths, two-fifths, one-tenth and one-tenth respectively.

Conditions with regard to cattle and other matters of purchase for Rokeby/Croll Creek provided for:—

(a) The use of all vehicles, plant and equipment for a transition period of three months. After that date the use of this equipment is at the discretion of the director or an officer nominated by him.

(b) The use of buildings, out-buildings and other improvements at the main Rokeby homestead until 31 December 1981.

(c) The use of buildings, out-buildings and other improvements at Jaberoo Station until 31 December 1983.

The destocking program as required, permitted by way of a stock grazing permit, will be approved for the period up to 31 December 1983, to be paid for on a purely nominal basis and will, as well as Rokeby and Croll Creek, include the former Archer River Holding. Any further occupation will be renegotiated but the permittees will have first refusal of any subsequent grazing operations.

If for any reason the permittees should wish to discontinue mustering, they would be permitted to do so with notice as prescribed within the standard stock grazing permit conditions. A further obligation attaching to continued occupation of the land under a stock grazing permit is to pay the Cook Shire Council rates as assessed. It is further agreed that permittees will have exclusive mustering rights on the areas of Rokeby, Croll Creek and Archer River until 31 December 1983.

In respect of any control-burning for the purposes of facilitating destocking, this is permitted provided a plan including a map of the proposed burn area is submitted and approved by the director or his nominated officer well in advance of any burning operation.

It is also the responsibility of the present permittee, who is the occupier, to insure any equipment, buildings or improvements as necessary to protect their value during that period in which they have an interest in use of same.

It is further agreed that permittees will have, with the approval of the director or his nominated officer, the rights to maintain mustering facilities such as fencing, yards and watering places as necessary.

In general I might add that by employing experienced local people the service has established a sound management presence on both Lakefield and Rokeby/Croll Creek National Parks. Good relationships exist between the service, the Cook Shire and neighbouring landholders.

14. New High School, Thursday Island

Mr Scott asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Has the commencement of construction of the Thursday Island High School at the new site been deferred for one year, and will stages one and two of the construction program be carried out concurrently owing to difficulties associated with satisfactory water supply to toilets and other facilities?

(2) When is it expected that some of the buildings at the new site will first be in use?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) No firm decision has been made as to when a new high school will be built at Thursday Island and consequently at this time no indication can be given as to when any buildings will be available.

15. Traffic Counts, Peninsula Developmental Road; Australian Bicentennial Road Program

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

(1) At what locations are traffic counters installed on the Peninsula Developmental Road north of the Desailby Range?

(2) Does the department have any traffic counters installed on the Bamaga Road north of the Weipa turn-off and, if so, at what locations?

(3) What are the most recent figures available in regard to traffic density between (a) Laura and Coen and (b) between the Weipa turn-off and Bamaga?

(4) Are departmental officers able to determine, from local knowledge of local traffic densities, the proportion of traffic on the roads referred to that might be classified as tourist traffic?

(5) Has he been given any indication by the Federal Government when funding will become available for the lesser categories of State roads such as the Peninsula and other North Queensland developmental roads and shire roads under the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program?

(6) If there is to be at some future date a long overdue increase in spending on remote-area roads, has there been an increase in the volume of road-design work being carried out in anticipation of expenditure under the ABRD Program?

Answer:—

(1) The only traffic counter installed north of the Desailby Range on the Peninsula Developmental Road is located at the Palmer River.

(2) The department has not installed traffic counters on the Bamaga Road, as it is not a declared road.

(3) On the Laura-Coen section, the average daily traffic for 1981 recorded just outside Laura was 70 vehicles. Figures are not available for the section between Weipa turn-off and Bamaga.

(4) Tourist traffic and local traffic are not counted separately.

(5) The Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program legislation is presently before Federal Parliament. From background papers issued by the Commonwealth Minister for Transport, it is anticipated that \$5.3m will be allocated under the ABRD program to local roads in Queensland for 1982-83.

(6) Planning work and road design have been accelerated for all road categories, including roads in more remote areas of the State, to take advantage of the ABRD funding.

16. Education Department Land, Rode Road, Stafford Heights

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Education Department land fronting Rode Road near Markway Street in Stafford Heights—

(1) What type of education facilities does his department intend to provide on this land?

(2) When will construction commence?

(3) What is the anticipated date of completion?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I appreciate the honourable member's continuing interest in this piece of land, which is very valuable to my department. The site was originally intended for a primary school. Although this need is still prevalent, an interest has been taken

in the future establishment of special education facilities. No specific dates can be provided for either type of facility as capital resources are limited. However, I can assure the honourable member that his representations will be taken into consideration when a decision is being made.

17. Purchase of Housing Commission Houses by Long-term Tenants

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

With reference to his ministerial statement in the House on 21 September, concerning the new Queensland Housing Commission rental scheme in which he stated that "Long term tenants of the commission, those who have lived in their homes for five years or more, will generally have the option to buy the house"—

(1) Under what circumstances will these long-term tenants not have the option to buy their houses?

(2) How many tenants will be affected by these restrictions?

(3) What action has he taken to advise individual long-term tenants of their rights to purchase or the reasons why they will not be able to purchase their houses?

Answer:—

(1) There are no sale restrictions in any area other than—

(a) Gladstone;

(b) For tenancies commencing after July 1978 in areas under the control of the Brisbane City Council and the Ipswich City Council. In these areas, long-term tenants are refused the option to buy if the house is on flood-prone land or on B-zone land and sale would destroy redevelopment potential or a duplex dwelling.

(2) The information would not be available without a great deal of costly research.

(3) All long-term tenants are aware of right to purchase. Tenants since July 1978 acknowledged that they could not purchase when signing their tenancy agreement. Many tenants have, in fact, already applied for a purchase price. A suitable reminder notice will be forwarded to all tenants with rent-advice letters.

18. Housing Commission Rental Adjustment Scheme

Mr Gygar asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

With reference to sentiments expressed in this House during the debate on the proposed Queensland Housing Commission rental adjustment scheme on 16 September—

Will he give an unequivocal assurance that he will review the scheme to ensure that the anti-family aspects that will force parents to turn their children out of the family home will be removed from the proposal?

Answer:—

I assure the honourable member and Parliament again that the rental scheme will not be introduced until all aspects have been thoroughly examined and amended if necessary. The scheme will be phased in so that no family suffers hardship.

The treatment of children's income and the suggested impact on family life will be one of the aspects that will be most carefully considered. Under the scheme proposed, only a percentage of the minimum wage or the social security benefit received by children under 25 years of age is added to the assessed household rent. This means until a child is 25 years old he is asked to pay either \$7.60 per week to age 19 or \$15.20 per week to age 25 for his use of the welfare house. It is difficult to accept that these are excessive amounts that would break up a family, particularly as these rules for children's income already apply in 11 000 rebated rent households.

After a child reaches 25 years of age, his income less a tax allowance is added to household income and rent assessed. On present indications, only 9 per cent of households have working children over 25 years of age. Their income impact on rent depends on the amount of other household income.

As I mentioned last week, many families will have their rents reduced and will benefit by having more income left after rent.

I again assure the Parliament that the scheme will not be introduced until it is fully examined and amended if necessary.

19. Testing of BMX Bicycles

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

With reference to a recent report from South Australia which indicated that the Government was testing BMX bicycles following an incident in which a youth received a severe injury from the saddle—

Is the Consumer Affairs Commission examining this question in Queensland?

Answer:—

No.

However, for the information of the honourable member I point out that all bicycles now supplied in Australia must conform with Australian Standard 1927-1978 Pedal Bicycle. AS1927 specifies the performance requirements both for the bicycle as a whole and for the individual components and assemblies upon which the safety of the cyclist is dependent.

If a BMX bicycle does not meet the appropriate standard it is in breach of the Trade Practices Act if it is sold by an incorporated supplier.

In the particular instance referred to by the honourable member, investigations have revealed that the bicycle originally met the Australian Standard. However, it was in a very poor condition through lack of maintenance and had been substantially modified since purchase. The bicycle seat was not the same as the one originally fitted and it appears that the most likely cause of the accident was the lack of maintenance and poor tightening of the seat, combined with rough treatment.

This accident highlights the need for all parents to ensure that their children's bicycles are maintained adequately and not modified at the expense of safety.

20. Playing-fields, Kirwan High School

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

As Kirwan High School in the Townsville electorate has been built for four years and has not yet had playing-fields constructed, when will a definite decision be made to construct the playing-fields as requested on numerous occasions by the headmaster, the parents and citizens' association and the present member for the electorate?

Answer:—

Documents for the construction of sports facilities at the Kirwan State High School are being prepared at present and consideration will be given to calling tenders for the work when these are available.

21. Fines for Traffic and Drink-driving Offences

Mr Burns asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What is the total amount collected each year for the last five years (1976-77 to 1980-81 inclusive) in Queensland, and also in the Brisbane area only, in the form of fines for traffic offences such as drink-driving, driving without a licence, speeding, failing to stop at stop signs and negligent driving, but excluding fines collected for parking-related offences?

(2) What is the total amount collected each year for the last five years (1976-77 to 1980-81 inclusive) in Queensland, and also in the Brisbane area, in the form of fines for drink-driving offences only?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Revenue from fines for traffic offences has been—

	Brisbane	Queensland (including Brisbane)
	\$	\$
1976-77	1,174,606	2,434,751
1977-78	1,187,329	2,754,934
1978-79	1,188,586	2,943,820
1979-80	1,465,740	3,286,442
1980-81	1,732,572	3,818,098

The above figures include revenue from all traffic offences, including parking related offences. It is not possible to provide information as to revenue from particular offences such as parking or drink driving.

22. Surveys under Queensland Marine Act Amendment Act

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services—

(1) Is he aware of concern in marine circles over the fate of the Queensland Marine Act Amendment Act 1981 proclaimed with subsection 2 not operated upon and not proclaimed?

(2) What was the reason for this "delay"?

(3) As this Act provided for surveyors which would classify a vessel as safe and seaworthy, why has the provision for "competent engineering surveyors" and "competent ship surveyors" been watered down by removing the words "competent", "engineer" and "shipwright"?

(4) Have boat-builders and slipway operators met the Marine Board and has consideration been given to allowing boat-builders and slipway operators to carry out the highly complex technical duties of a competent engineer or shipwright surveyor?

(5) As safety at sea is of paramount importance, why has the Government moved to water down safety inspections in this way?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The honourable member for Lytton is well aware of the reason for the delay. The threats that he made on behalf of his colleagues in the union area when the legislation was passed crystallised into a situation in which both unions and employers in the shipping industry have sought amendments so that, when the legislation is proclaimed, it will find an assured acceptance on the part of the unions and avoid possible disruptions. Considerable time and effort have been directed towards getting the parties together and obtaining agreement on provisions which involve the Government in laying down precise requirements which in other areas of employment would be left to the parties to resolve.

(3) There are many surveying tasks which can be carried out by an experienced person irrespective of whether he is qualified as an engineer surveyor or a shipwright surveyor, and the amendment aimed at making it clear that certain surveys could be performed by one surveyor. There is no suggestion that a surveyor will be involved in carrying out work which he is not competent to do.

(4) Yes; but only in respect of renewal surveys. The matter is still under consideration.

(5) Any changes proposed will take full cognisance of safety considerations.

23. Drivers' Rest Periods, Sunshine Coast Buses

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is he aware of the serious threat to the safety of passengers travelling on charter bus trips in buses owned by Sunshine Coast Buses?

(2) What action has he taken to investigate claims that drivers work without properly drawn up rosters, which provide the necessary rest periods between trips?

(3) Do drivers returning from trips at midnight find their next day's instructions on the hook where they have their keys?

(4) Do they, after this midnight return, have to wash their buses inside and out, taking up to three hours, before returning for work at 7 a.m. the next morning to transport passengers on our busy highways?

(5) What checks are made on the hours of work and safety procedures of charter buses?

(6) Is there a regular program of checks to see that people in these responsible positions have sufficient rest between trips and, if so, will he give complete details of the program?

Answer:—

(1 to 6) In answer to the honourable member, inspectors from the Department of Transport are currently investigating a complaint made through the Queensland branch of the Transport Workers Union of Australia in regard to the hours of duty required of drivers employed by Sunshine Buses.

These investigations will determine whether drivers are being required to work excessive hours. If such a situation is established, appropriate action will be taken by the Acting Commissioner for Transport to rectify any irregularities.

Officers of the Department of Transport are in the process of checking all charter bus operations throughout the State. Driving hours is one of the features of this continuing check.

24. Insurance Against Defamation Actions, Pine Rivers Shire Council

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to action by the Pine Rivers Shire Council in establishing an insurance scheme to indemnify members and officers of that council against defamation actions retrospectively for three years?

(2) Will he take action to remove doubts in the public mind by investigating this matter and inform the House of the result of those investigations?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) The matter is one involving a legal interpretation as to the powers of the Pine Rivers Shire Council, and accordingly I do not consider it would be appropriate for me to comment thereon. The Director of Local Government has already suggested to the council that it should consider obtaining the opinion of senior counsel in the matter.

25. Arrest of ABC Television Camera Crew During Illegal Street March

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

With reference to the concern of many people in Queensland that a serious precedent has been set by the arrest of two members of an ABC TV camera crew carrying Press cards last week during an illegal street march, however justified that action may have been, will he set out the full details of this matter in a statement to the House as soon as legally possible, so that the public can judge the police action for themselves?

Answer:—

As the charges recently preferred against the ABC TV camera crew are the subject of court action, it is not proposed to enter into any discussion on the matter at this stage.

26. Cost of Industrial Accidents

Mr Akers asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

- (1) What is the cost of industrial accidents in Australia generally?
- (2) What is the relevant position in Queensland?
- (3) What action is his department taking to further improve the situation?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) There is no true figure available for the cost of industrial accidents in Australia. There are two chief reasons for this. Firstly, the true cost of an accident would be very difficult to determine, given the losses that can flow. For example, as well as the human suffering there is loss of wages and production and possible damage to plant. The second problem is that in the other States the proliferation of workers' compensation insurers has prevented the collection of a reliable data base.

National estimates were made by DOLAC (Departments of Labour Advisory Committee) over a five-year period from 1973 to 1978. This gave an average of 300 fatalities per annum and approximately 300 000 disabling injuries per year with a consequent loss of 1 000 000 man-weeks. These are fairly crude estimates but are probably on the conservative side.

There is no formula to apportion this on a State basis. Latest ABS figures for Queensland are for 1978-79 and show that 1 332 750 working-days were lost.

Even given the timeliness and the estimate features of these statistics, it is obvious that industrial accidents are a matter of crucial concern.

Laws relating to safety and health in the work-place administered by my department are continually being reviewed and updated. However, a heavy responsibility rests with management which must continually endeavour to raise the standard of occupational safety and health to an even higher level than the minimum statutory requirements and through training to increase the safety awareness of employees.

To this end, the Queensland Government has, through the Workers' Compensation Fund, given far greater financial assistance to the National Safety Council than has any other State Government in Australia. I am hopeful that it will be possible to further enhance the safety training role of the Queensland Division of the National Safety Council in the near future.

Given the human condition, it is impossible to eliminate all accidents. Accordingly, a system of workers' compensation has been developed in Queensland that offers benefits to injured workers comparable to those offered in the other States but at much less cost to employers. There is also an active and substantial commitment to rehabilitation.

27. Mary River Barrage

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

- (1) When will the Mary River barrage be completed?
- (2) In monitoring the river levels since the commencement of the building of the barrage, have the levels been in accordance with the Estimates of his department?
- (3) Have there been any unexpected problems in the lower reaches of the river as a result of the building of the barrage?

Answer:—

(1) The barrage is due for completion by 3 December 1982. Construction is on schedule and is expected to be completed on or before that date unless unforeseen circumstances occur.

(2) Following closure of the river, tide heights below the barrage were affected with increases in high tides and decreases in low tides. The recorded levels are in close agreement with the predicted changes. Monitoring is continuing.

(3) The Queensland Water Resources Commission is aware of only one unexpected problem. Reduced water levels at low tide have caused some difficulties for gravel barges operated by Byrne Bros Pty Ltd in traversing the river.

The construction of levee banks, which was well advanced prior to closure of the barrage, will provide immunity for low-lying lands from increased tide heights.

28. Flashing Warning Devices on Rail Crossings, Hervey Bay Area

Mr Powell asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the number of accidents at the railway crossing in Main Street, Pialba?

(2) What criteria does his department have before flashing warning devices are placed where railway lines intersect roads?

(3) As Hervey Bay is now quite a large town, will he cause an investigation to be made to have flashing warning lights erected on each road crossing within the Hervey Bay local authority area?

Answer:—

(1) Yes, my attention has been drawn to the number of accidents which have occurred at railway crossings in the Pialba area. Since January 1979, there have been six accidents at the level crossing in Main Street, Pialba, and another five accidents at other level crossings in the Pialba-Urangan area.

(2) Priorities for the installation of flashing light warning devices are assessed on the basis of road and rail traffic densities and factors such as visibility, angle of crossing and accident probability. The warning devices are installed according to their priority as funds become available.

(3) In the Hervey Bay area there are 17 level crossings between Nikenbah and Urangan of which two are equipped with flashing lights. Although priorities are reviewed annually, these remaining 15 crossings have a very low priority compared with other crossings in the Maryborough district.

I am sure that the honourable member for Isis will appreciate that there are a large number of level crossings throughout the State in circumstances similar to those in the Hervey Bay area, and it is essential that all such crossings be classified in a proper way to enable improved warning devices to be installed according to their assessed priority.

29. Great Sandy National Park

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

(1) Does the National Parks and Wildlife Service keep records of numbers of visitors to various national parks in Queensland?

(2) If so, how many people visited the Dundubara centre on Fraser Island during the months of June, July, August and September?

(3) How many officers are employed by his department on Fraser Island?

(4) What influence have they had in encouraging the use of better camping techniques by visitors to the island?

Answer:—

(1) Visitation figures are not available for all national parks but are generally recorded on those parks which have developed camping grounds and/or developed day-visit facilities and are staffed full time by National Parks and Wildlife Service officers.

(2) Estimated 1982 visitation figures at the Dundubara camping ground on Great Sandy National Park are—

(a) June—981 campers and day visitors; (b) July—1 031 campers and day visitors; (c) August—1 134 campers and day visitors; (d) September—Figures not yet available; but would be greater than August figures.

(3) Three National Parks and Wildlife Service officers are employed full time on Great Sandy National Park. One is located at Dundubara, and two are based on the western side of the national park at Wathumba Creek.

(4) Camping regulations are explained carefully to visitors either during patrols or at the point of issue of camping permits. National Parks and Wildlife Service officers do approach park visitors at areas away from the Dundubara camping ground and explain the need to care for the environment of the island, particularly the fragile foredunes. The overall approach taken is one of long-term education. In addition, several heavily used areas have been temporarily closed to allow for rehabilitation work. These closed areas have been clearly signposted and the reason for closure is displayed on these signs for the benefit of park visitors. This rehabilitation work is showing signs of success.

I thank the honourable member for his interest and concern in this matter. I know that he has been very much aware of the position and has done much to try to alleviate the problems to which he alluded in his question.

30. Rail Link to Townsville Jetty Wharf

Mr Wilson asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has a final decision been made on a new rail link to the Townsville jetty wharf?
- (2) Have plans been finalised and what is the estimated cost?
- (3) What will be the route of the rail link?
- (4) Have the plans met with the approval of the Townsville City Council?
- (5) Will the line run through any residential properties?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) No final decision has been made for a new rail link to the Townsville jetty wharf. No plans have been finalised, no route has been determined and no estimates of costs have been made. The Townsville City Council is represented on a steering committee that monitors all investigations into the alternative routes. Until a final decision has been made as to the route, it is impossible to say precisely what residential properties, if any, will be affected.

31. Ross River Road—Rising Sun Section, Bowen Road

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

(1) Will the section of Bowen Road between the Ross River and the Rising Sun be made a four-lane road and, if so, at what time?

(2) Will the road be bituminised from kerb to kerb to alleviate the dust menace to businesses and private houses?

Answer:—

(1) Plans are being prepared to upgrade the section of Bowen Road between Ross River Road and Rising Sun to four lanes. It is anticipated that the scheme will be released in about three years' time. However, the timing of the release of the scheme will be dependent on the availability of funds.

(2) The actual width of the seal will be determined in the more detailed design stages.

32. Traffic Lights, Stuart Drive/Bruce Highway Intersection

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

When will the proposed traffic lights on the intersection of Stuart Drive and the Bruce Highway be installed?

Answer:—

It is proposed to call tenders early in 1983 for intersection improvements, including the provision of traffic signals at the Stuart Drive/University Road intersection.

33. Community Health Centre, Emu Park Bay

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the growth of Emu Park—

Will he investigate the urgent need for a modern community health centre so that visiting doctors can see patients in better surrounds than exist at present?

Answer:—

I have been advised by the Rockhampton Hospitals Board that the possibility of providing more suitable accommodation at Emu Park for the visiting medical officer's clinic is presently being explored.

34. Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services—

With reference to the welcome visit by him recently to my electorate—

(1) What program is proposed for the dredging of Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour and when will this work be carried out?

(2) What does his department anticipate doing in relation to fuel operations at Rosslyn Bay?

(3) Will tenders be called for fuelling rights at Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour?

Answer:—

(1) Although dredging works would be desirable in the harbour, funds presently available for expenditure on small-craft facilities, after allowing for other priority works, will not permit the work to be undertaken in the near future. The matter will be reviewed in the light of future fund allocations and expenditure priorities.

(2) Prior to the relinquishing of management and control of the boat harbour by the Livingstone Shire Council, the council had carried out negotiations with a fuel distributor who had effected installations for the purpose of supplying fuel within the boat harbour. The Harbours Corporation has sought to complete such negotiations with the distributor concerned.

(3) The by-laws of the boat harbour allow for the issue of fuelling licences to persons requesting such approval. It would not be appropriate to call tenders for fuelling rights, but any proposal made by a person having access to a leased area within the boat harbour would be given full consideration.

35. Thangool-Biloela Section, Burnett Highway

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

What program is proposed for upgrading the Thangool-Biloela section of the Burnett Highway?

Answer:—

Upgrading of the Thangool-Biloela section of the Burnett Highway is of high priority and is included in the Callide B Power Station infrastructure package currently being finalised. I am presently unable to state when such infrastructure funds will be available.

36. Brisbane-Gympie Section, Bruce Highway

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

(1) What is the anticipated construction program to 1988 for the Bruce Highway upgrading to eliminate the dangerous two-lane sections of highway between Brisbane and Gympie under the new bicentennial scheme?

(2) Will consideration be given to concurrent construction of four lanes to Nambour, the by-pass of Nambour and Cooroy, and realignment through Yandina?

(3) Will these initiatives meet the many requests and deputations over the years to him by local State members of Parliament?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The Commonwealth has announced that four lanes to Nambour, including the Nambour bypass, will be constructed as part of the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program by 1988.

The Main Roads Department has yet to finalise the new programs beyond 1982-83 arising out of additional ABRD funding.

Increased funding will accelerate construction of a number of urgent road-works, but it is not expected that the additional funds provided will allow construction of all those high-priority works for which requests and deputations have been made in recent years.

37. Police Stations and Staffing, Sunshine Coast

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

With reference to police matters on the Sunshine Coast—

(1) When will the Coolum Police Station be built?

(2) Has the availability of a suitable site delayed this much needed facility?

(3) How many extra policemen can be expected on the Sunshine Coast as a result of this year's Budget?

(4) When will the Tewantin Police Station be replaced with a new permanent station in the Tewantin/Noosa area?

(5) When will a 24-hour mobile patrol be established at the northern end of the Sunshine Coast to service the Noosa/Tewantin area?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) When the additional police approved in the 1982-83 Budget are recruited and trained, the staffing needs of the Sunshine Coast will be considered in conjunction with the requirements of all police districts throughout the State.

I have had discussions with the honourable member about a station at Coolum and a site for it. I undertake to have further discussions with the planning and research branch about the proposed Coolum Police Station.

Land has been acquired at the junction of Cooyar and Langura Streets, Noosa, for a future police station. This project is listed on the Police Department's forward-planning program.

(5) A police needs assessment of the Sunshine Coast Police District will be undertaken early in 1983. The requirement for a 24-hour mobile patrol will be examined during the course of this needs assessment.

38. Dairy Factory Supplier Groups

Mr Simpson asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

What is the current position in each dairy factory supplier group for (a) total production, (b) current entitlement, (c) average entitlement per dairy farm, (d) maximum and minimum entitlement, (e) number of drop-outs, (f) number of amalgamations or change in farm principals, (g) growth in market milk, (h) average return per litre of milk supplier and (i) percentage of market milk of each supplier group?

Answer:—

Much of the information sought by the honourable member is contained in the annual report of the Milk Entitlements Committee for the year ended 30 June 1982. This report is included in the annual report of the Queensland Milk Board. A copy of the report is being forwarded to the honourable member.

The adjustments due to the allocation of growth are expected to be completed within two weeks, and I will then advise the honourable member of the final details.

Milk sales within Queensland are divided into three regions, namely, South-east Queensland, Central Queensland and Northern Queensland.

Total sales within the State are 267 million litres with approximately 200 million litres being sold in South-east Queensland. I assume that the question refers only to South-east Queensland, which is the prescribed area under the control of the Milk Entitlements Committee.

There were 14 dairy supplier groups who collectively supplied the market in the prescribed area until 30 June this year. Since then two of the groups have amalgamated with other co-operatives—Mt Sibley Co-operative Dairy Association Limited with Downs Co-operative Dairy Association Limited and Felton Co-operative Dairy Association Limited with Warwick Co-operative Dairy Association Limited.

Growth in sales of milk for the last 12 months in the south-east area has been approximately 7 million litres. The Milk Entitlements Committee is in the process of allocating this growth to the supplier groups. This growth allocation, along with literage adjustments from drop-outs, will substantially alter the figures shown in the Milk Entitlements Committee's annual report.

39. Eligibility for Housing Commission Finance

Mr Mackenroth asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Is he aware that in assessing eligibility for home finance the Queensland Housing Commission will lend to families a greater amount if the wife can prove she has had a salpingectomy operation?

(2) As this practice is sexist and an infringement on people's civil liberties, does he agree with this practice?

Answer:—

(1) Under the commercial home-ownership scheme, loans of up to \$50,000 are available. In some cases the joint income of a couple is sufficient to obtain the amount of loan they require but the major bread-winner's income is not. In these cases—and there has only been one in Brisbane—the couple is informed of the amount of loan available. They are advised the commission would be prepared to reconsider their case on any advice they could give regarding continuity of future joint income. No couple is ever asked—I repeat: ever asked—to produce medical evidence of any sort.

(2) It is difficult to understand the member's insinuations when a couple provide unsolicited evidence to get the amount of loan they so desperately want, and the question underlines the member's inability to understand the strong desire by thousands of families to own their own homes.

40. State Service Superannuation Fund

Mr Mackenroth asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What amount of money was held by the State Treasury at 30 June from the State Service Superannuation Fund?

(2) What is the present interest rate paid by Treasury for these funds?

Answer:—

(1) The balance at credit of the State Service Superannuation Fund at 30 June 1982 was \$352,897,526.

(2) The interest rate is at present under review and a decision on any variation will be made in the near future.

41. Buying and Exporting of Queensland Gemstones

Mr Greenwood asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

With reference to complaints which have recently been made that a buying ring for gemstones is operating in Queensland and operating in such a way that many of the best quality sapphires and emeralds produced in this State are being exported for cutting and setting overseas to the detriment of Queensland industry—

(1) Has he any data available on this problem?

(2) If so, will he make it available to the House?

(3) Is it possible to have an officer of his department seek additional information from Queenslanders in the industry and report on the various options available to the Queensland Government to overcome this problem?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The main gemstones mined in Queensland are sapphires, the majority of which are exported to Thailand for cutting, polishing and setting. This situation has arisen due to a number of factors including the Australian industry's fragmented structure and the extensive and organised processing and marketing arrangements in Thailand. Australian producers also face higher labour costs and a shortage of experienced and skilled cutters.

A recent Commonwealth/State study of the Australian gemstone processing industry recommended that a number of steps be taken to assist in encouraging increased processing of gemstones within Australia. I understand that these matters are currently under consideration by the Commonwealth Government.

42. Niminbah Bore Scheme

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

Will he investigate the possibility of having the proposed Niminbah bore scheme in the Daymar/Thallon area considered under the Federal Government's drought relief scheme in which funds are to be made available to local authorities to provide water for landholders and towns in drought areas?

Answer:—

Yes. I have arranged for the Commissioner of Water Resources to discuss this matter with the Co-ordinator General. I will advise the honourable member of the outcome of those discussions.

43. Moonie Highway

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

What is the present program of works for the upgrading and widening of the Moonie Highway, in particular those sections that become extremely dangerous after even small showers of rain?

Answer:—

It is hoped that early in the 1983-84 financial year work will commence on reconstruction and widening of a rough section 10 km in length commencing 16 km west of Moonie. Progressive widening of the highway east of Moonie will follow as funds permit.

44. Revenue from Mining

Mr Vaughan asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to the 1982 Auditor-General's Report on the Treasurer's Financial Statement which shows that "other" revenue from mining in 1981-82 was

\$6,893,340, \$3,376,660 below the estimate and \$573,978 below similar revenue in 1980-81—

(1) What was the reason for such a substantial reduction in this source of revenue from mining?

(2) Why did payments received from authorities to prospect decrease by \$1m when, according to the latest Mines Department annual report, the number of authorities to prospect for minerals and coal increased from 695 in 1980 to 756 in 1981?

(3) How many (a) mining leases for coal and (b) mining leases for other minerals were held by mining companies in (i) 1980 and (ii) 1981?

(4) Why did the amounts received as rent from mining leases substantially decrease?

Answer:—

(1) Under pressure from the international economic recession, the Queensland mining industry has demonstrated its overall resilience and potential by maintaining production at a high level for 1980-81. However, owing to the decline in metal prices and the overall weakening of the economy at the same time, there has been a reduction in prospecting activities resulting in a net decline in "other" mining revenue in the category to which reference is made.

(2) Figures shown in the department's annual report are as at 31 December 1981. When taken to 30 June 1982 the number of authorities to prospect for minerals and coal decreased to 582.

(3) This information is not available in compiled form and can only be provided by extensive manual searching of departmental records. I am not prepared to divert staff from more important functions to collate this information.

(4) Rents on tenements under the control of the department have, in fact, increased by \$480,378 in the period concerned.

45. Report of Minister for Mines and Energy on Mission to Europe

Mr Vaughan asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to his five-week fact-finding mission to European countries earlier this year—

(1) What countries did he visit on this tour?

(2) What matters involving mining and energy were the subject of discussion during this tour?

(3) With whom did such discussions take place?

(4) Were any discussions held regarding the proposed Ben Lomond uranium mining project?

(5) If so, with whom were such discussions held?

(6) Will he be reporting to this Parliament on his trip?

(7) If so, when will such report be made?

(8) If not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

(1) United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, West Germany, Netherlands, France, and Italy.

(2) Various technological developments in mining and energy, utilisation of coal including coke manufacture and coal liquefaction, prospects for further export trade in Queensland minerals into Western Europe, particularly energy minerals.

(3) With numerous Government and company representatives in the relevant fields.

- (4) Yes.
- (5) With representatives of the companies concerned.
- (6 to 8) A full report has been submitted to Cabinet, following my normal practice.

46. Houses rented to Mining Companies by Housing Commission

Mr Vaughan asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many houses were rented by the Queensland Housing Commission to mining companies in 1981-82?

(2) What is the total annual rent received by QHC from such mining companies in 1981-82?

(3) In 1981-82 how many houses did QHC rent to (a) Utah, (b) Thiess Dampier Mitsui, (c) Dampier Mining, (d) Thiess Coal, (e) Queensland Alumina and (f) Boyne Smelters Ltd?

(4) What was the annual rental received from each of these companies in 1981-82?

Answer:—

(1) 1 437.

(2) \$4,138,579.

(3 & 4)—

	Number	Amount
		\$
(a)	710	2,163,064
(b)	199	471,611
(c)	128	502,200
(d)	189	548,522
(e)	136	269,389
(f)	Nil	Nil

47. Apprentices, Dickson & Johnson Pty Ltd

Mr Lee asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

What efforts were made following the closure of the Brisbane operations of Dickson & Johnson Pty Ltd of Acacia Ridge in relation to the placement of that company's apprentices?

Answer:—

Of the 15 apprentices employed by this company, a total of 14 were placed with other employers as a result of the efforts of officers of the Industry and Commerce Training Commission in my department and members of the relevant industry and commerce advisory committee. One apprentice voluntarily elected to cancel his indenture to enable him to pursue alternative employment.

48. Railway Crossing, Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly

Mr Lee asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to his personal inspection with me of the Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly, railway crossing, and as he has personally seen the bottle-neck caused to traffic—

Will he give urgent consideration to the elimination of this level crossing, thus saving thousands of man-hours in traffic delays and making life for many of my constituents bearable?

Answer:—

In answer to the honourable member, the considerable delays and inconvenience caused to motorists at the Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly level crossing have been the subject of a Government investigation.

I must pay a special tribute to the honourable member for Yeronga for his persistent representations to the Government to have this bottle-neck removed for his constituents.

At the honourable member's invitation, I personally inspected this crossing earlier this year to see first hand the problem which it caused to local traffic.

I am pleased to be able to report that this level crossing has been programmed for elimination commencing in the 1983-84 financial year. It is proposed to build a flyover at Fairfield Road at an estimated cost of \$1.5m in 1983-84 and \$3m in 1984-85.

A committee comprising representatives of the Government departments involved and the Brisbane City Council has been formed to report on the planning and construction of this project.

49. Staging of Olympic Games in Brisbane

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

With reference to the fantastic success of the Brisbane Commonwealth Games and speculation that Brisbane may host the Olympic Games in the future—

- (1) How many additional sporting events are contested at Olympic Games?
- (2) How many additional venues would be required to stage the Olympic Games?
- (3) How much additional accommodation would be required?
- (4) What would be the expected additional cost?

Answer:—

Prior to responding in detail to the honourable member's question, I feel I should make some general observations.

In terms of Olympic protocol, the International Olympic Committee selects the city in which the Games take place at a meeting in a country having no city as a candidate. This selection, save in exceptional circumstances, is made at least six years in advance. Thus the selection for 1992 will probably be made in 1986. The organisation of the Games is then entrusted by the International Olympic Committee of the country in which the chosen city is situated.

The Olympiad events must all take place in or as near as possible to the city chosen and preferably at or near the main stadium.

Turning now to the question—

- (1) There were 10 sports at the recent XIIIth Commonwealth Games at Brisbane:—

Track and Field; Boxing; Cycling; Wrestling; Shooting; Swimming (including Diving); Archery; Weightlifting; Badminton, and Lawn Bowls.

The coming Games of the XIIIth Olympiad at Los Angeles in 1984 will host 21 sports:

Track and Field; Rowing; Canoeing; Equestrian; Boxing; Cycling; Fencing; Basketball; Soccer Football; Hockey; Handball; Gymnastics; Judo; Wrestling; Shooting; Volleyball; Archery; Modern Pentathlon; Yachting; Weightlifting, and Swimming (including Diving and Waterpolo).

Generally speaking, eight sports are common to both Games and consequently there are 13 additional ones at Olympic level. Quite apart from the number of additional sports, I should point out that Olympiads have team sports and Commonwealth Games do not.

- (2) Sports facilities for an Olympic Games obviously must be of an international sports standard with spectator seating reflecting the additional numbers. Quite a deal

of research would be necessary to provide the information about additional facilities as requested by the honourable member.

However, I have selected six of the 21 sports and mention some of the competition and training venues which would have to be considered in any Brisbane 1992 Olympic bid.

Soccer

For competition, four complete stadiums would be required, with four large dressing-rooms in each. For training, eight fully equipped training grounds would be required.

Gymnastics

One competition venue with 20 dressing-rooms and a warm-up area of 12 different gymnasiums for training would be required, with at least five of the training gymnasiums having the groundwork square or mat.

Hockey

One complete stadium with synthetic surface and four large dressing-rooms would be required, together with one fully equipped training ground with synthetic surface.

Canoeing and Rowing

The principal need would be for a main course and warm-up area. Additional needs would be: boat sheds for 300 boats; sufficient launching hard and rest rooms for 300 to 400 persons. A course and warm-up area would also be required for training.

Equestrian

Special competition venues; 120 horse stalls in covered stables; dressage pitch; jumping course; cross-country course; steeple course as well as training pitches, etc.

It has been pointed out that Australia has problems in staging this sport owing to its quarantine regulations.

Swimming

Apart from main swimming and diving pool, two water polo pools would be necessary, plus training pools.

In addition to the foregoing, it should also be borne in mind that spectator capacity at an Olympiad is another cost consideration, as opening and closing ceremonies could each attract 110 000 people. Average attendance at football events could be 40 000 and at swimming events 12 000. Facilities have to be provided to accommodate crowds of that magnitude.

(3) So far as accommodation requirements for athletes and officials are concerned, by 1992 a calculated guess would be 12 000 attendees in those categories.

I am aware that the Moscow Olympiad provided 18 sixteen-storey apartment blocks with two and three-room apartments as an olympic village. The sports complex at the village included a 400-metre track, three football grounds, an indoor swimming pool, three gymnasiums and basketball and volleyball courts. There was a concert hall with 1 200 seats, two movie theatres each with 250 seats, a library, a discotheque and a dance hall.

(4) The expected additional cost for facilities and village requirements for an Olympic Games at Brisbane would be considerable, and I am not in a position to give any firm estimate at this juncture.

50.

Changes to Liquor Act

Mr Turner asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to the changes to drinking laws during the Commonwealth Games and the apparent success of this undertaking—

When is it expected that changes to the Liquor Act will be introduced?

Answer:—

I have asked all licensees who successfully applied to vary their trading hours and conditions during the Commonwealth Games to keep records of their trading so that my parliamentary justice committee and I can attempt to ascertain public acceptance or otherwise of the variations. The statistical information relating to flexible trading will, of course, be closely analysed and will be considered along with other areas which are currently being examined.

It is hoped that proposals for a partial review of the Liquor Act will be ready for consideration by the Government during the current session of State Parliament.

51. Staff and Equipment, Cairns Airport

Mr Jones asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the loss of a single-engined Cessna 205 aircraft within an estimated 32 km radius of Cairns, which aircraft had departed from Mt Isa at approximately 4.15 p.m. for Atherton, on the gazetted Commonwealth Games holiday, 30 September—

(1) Is it a fact that, on advice from a ham radio operator at Edge Hill in Cairns, at approximately 6.20 p.m., the senior operations controller in Townsville was advised and the last contact was logged, by the pilot of the aircraft, at approximately 8.40 p.m., over two hours later?

(2) Is it a fact that, at the time in question, the light aircraft was recorded missing and, during that two hour period, the meteorological station at the Cairns Airport was unmanned?

(3) Furthermore, if a qualified radar operator had been in attendance, might the stricken plane's location have been pin-pointed?

(4) Was the weather radar not in operation because of a staff situation created by staff cut-backs and, if so, what has been the savings in wages, the cost of the search and rescue operations launched, and the number of missing persons on this aircraft which has not yet been located?

(5) Had the weather station in Cairns been manned, is it not a fact that the scope of the search would have been considerably enhanced with equipment designed to enable the station to pick up aircraft and, with this weather radar station not in operation, every resource was not utilised in the search?

(6) Was there a smoke haze prevailing at the time, did the pilot report that he was totally confused and was the plane equipped with life jackets?

(7) If the answers to (6) are in the affirmative, can an explanation be offered why the radar in the control tower at the Cairns Airport remained unmanned?

(8) As the Cairns Airport, reputed to be the sixth busiest in Australia, is undergoing redevelopment, will he make his Commonwealth counterpart aware of the need for an inquiry into all aspects of the upgrading including the provision of adequate facilities, to prevent any recurrence of these circumstances, costing invaluable lives of North Queenslanders?

Answer:—

(1 to 8) All of the matters raised by the honourable member are directly under the jurisdiction of my Commonwealth counterpart.

According to information conveyed to me, the aircraft in question was on a private flight at the relevant time and therefore was not subject to any State-issued air licence.

May I suggest that the honourable member direct his question to the Commonwealth Minister for Transport.

52. Marine Surveys; Tendering Costs of Queensland Firms

Mr Jones asked the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services—

(1) Do marine surveys of ships for the coastal trade not apply to vessels built outside this State?

(2) If such regulations only apply to Queensland-built craft, is compliance a factor which adversely affects the tendering costs of Queensland firms?

Answer:—

(1) A vessel built outside this State but having a certificate of survey issued by the marine authority of the State in which the vessel was built is recognised as meeting the initial survey requirements of this State and has its first full survey in Queensland only when the other State's certificate expires. However, in most cases an equipment survey is carried out when the vessel arrives in Queensland waters to ensure that the life-saving equipment and fire-fighting equipment are in order.

(2) Under the Uniform Shipping Laws Code adopted by the Marine and Ports Council of Australia, the survey requirements are moving towards uniformity among the States. It is unlikely that the standard of survey in another State would be less stringent than that in Queensland to an extent which would disadvantage Queensland boat-builders in submitting competitive tenders.

53. Third-party and Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Insurance

Mr Jones asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

(1) Is he aware of the various Canadian provinces third-party policies and comprehensive motor vehicle insurance which provide for vehicular damage and the minimum amount of insurance possible, as determined by agreement between the provinces?

(2) Will he undertake investigations with a view to protecting the insured motorist against parties involved in collisions absconding from their personal responsibilities and liability in this regard?

Answer:—

This matter is not one which comes within my administrative responsibilities. I suggest that the honourable member refer his question to my colleague the Honourable the Treasurer.

54. Long-line Fishing, Queensland Territorial Waters

Mr Blake asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Is he aware of claims made recently by marine explorer and film maker, John Fairfax, that marlin, the mainstay of the North Queensland game-fishing industry are being long-lined so intensely by the Japanese that their numbers are being diminished to the biological point of no return, and that an average of only two marlin a day is caught by Cairns game fishermen compared with five a day average 10 years ago?

(2) Are there any official figures to substantiate these claims and, if so, are representations being made to the Federal Government for further restricting long-lining in territorial waters off the Queensland coast?

Answer:—

(1) Yes. I am aware of the claims made by Mr Fairfax. We have no evidence to suggest that Mr Fairfax's claims are correct. To the best of our information, the black marlin population off North Queensland appears quite healthy and we have received no reports to indicate otherwise.

(2) There are no official figures on capture rates by game fishermen. However, the 1981 season was reportedly very good with many records being set for numbers of fish taken. Significant action has already been taken to protect the North Queensland game-fishing industry. As part of the Australia/Japan Tuna Longline Agreement 1981-1982, long-lining is prohibited off the north-east coast of Queensland within 140 miles east of the Great Barrier Reef.

55. Sludge in Diesel Fuel

Mr Blake asked the Minister for Commerce and Industry—

(1) Is he aware that a waxy sludge in diesel fuel supplied by Ampol's Queensland refinery is so prevalent as to ruin filters and block fuel supply to motors of agricultural, industrial and road vehicles after periods of operation so brief as to render its use a serious economic handicap?

(2) Is he also aware of allegations that the sludge is so prevalent as to cause a serious restriction of flow through the outlet pipes at the bulk terminal at the Port of Bundaberg, despite remedial action?

(3) Is any immediate action being taken to improve the quality of the diesel fuel produced, or is it correct that improvements to the plant to correct quality deficiency is uneconomic, and not intended?

(4) If the production of clean diesel fuel is not to be achieved at the refinery in the near future, what action does the Government intend to take to either have acceptable quality diesel fuel supplied to areas presently dependent on Ampol's Queensland refinery or arrange a substandard fuel price for a substandard product?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) The recent problems associated with the quality of diesel distillate are an Australiawide phenomena. The formation of waxy deposits has occurred in some distillate exposed to very cold conditions, and fuel stored for very long periods can develop gums and sludges. Furthermore, distillate stored for long periods under adverse conditions, such as with water contamination, can grow micro-organisms that cause filter and injector problems in diesel engines. Many of these problems can be eliminated by keeping distillate under good conditions and not storing it for long periods.

The whole question of diesel distillate quality is presently being examined on a national basis with a view to preparing a new Australian standard for diesel distillate so that the quality problems currently being experienced can be overcome.

I would like to assure members that each batch of distillate leaving all of Queensland's oil refineries is checked to ensure that it meets the existing specifications.

56. Bridge over Burnett River, Bundaberg

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

With reference to my previous representations seeking early construction of a traffic bridge over the Burnett River at Bundaberg, and his reply that a commitment could not be made until increased funds were forthcoming from the Commonwealth Government—

Will he now indicate a planned construction date in view of increased Federal funding resulting from the increased tax or excise on fuel?

Answer:—

The new Burnett River bridge at Bundaberg is one project being considered for inclusion in the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program, but it must be remembered that the additional funds expected for arterial roads from this source will not meet all the very great needs in this category.

57. Mining Rentals for Miner's Homestead Perpetual Lease and Miner's Homestead Lease Tenures

Mr Katter asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) Will he remove the imposition of mining rentals for MHPL and MHL tenures?

(2) As no other form of home ownership in Queensland is so taxed, does he not agree that this imposition is grossly unjust?

(3) Is he further aware that this fee is now on average \$60 per year, which represents a full week's income for a pensioner in Charters Towers?

(4) Is he further aware that if this rent is not paid on time, after a two-month period the land and the house of the poor person is forfeited to the Crown?

Answer:—

(1) It is felt that the existing legislation does not place an undue burden on the holders of miner's homestead perpetual leases or miner's homestead leases and therefore it is not proposed to amend the legislation at this time.

I would point out that because of the expiration of time the annual rental on all miner's homestead leases is 10 cents, if demanded. It is only on rare occasions that such rental is, in fact, demanded.

The rental on miner's homestead perpetual leases is only 3 per cent of the capital value of the land. Such capital value is determined by the warden or, if the land is sold by auction, the upset price or greater sum bid by the lessee at the auction. The value may be redetermined after each period of 10 years.

(2) It must be remembered that this land has never been purchased from the Crown and has been held since the time it was applied for merely by the payment of what in the majority of cases could only be described as a nominal rental.

(3) I believe that it is reasonable to expect that if a person has the lease of a piece of land from the Crown he or she should pay a rental for that privilege. The figure of \$60 a year is not considered excessive. There are a great many people living in rented accommodation throughout the State, many of whom are pensioners, who would be paying in excess of \$60 a week and are not living in their own home and are not able to sell or mortgage such accommodation as are the holders of these leases from the Crown.

(4) The Miners' Homestead Leases Act requires that rental be paid before 31 December in respect of the year next ensuing. If default is made, the lease can be forfeited at the option of the Crown—and I stress "at the option of the Crown". Further, if a lease has been forfeited, the Minister may waive that forfeiture and reinstate the lessee on payment of the required moneys.

I assure the honourable member that every effort is made by my officers to collect outstanding rent before any forfeiture action is taken. Further, it must be appreciated that if the Governor in Council sees fit, on application by a lessee he may reduce the rental payable in respect of a particular year to a sum which he considers reasonable having regard to the lessee's circumstances.

58.

TAFE College, Emerald

Mr Lester asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to his visit to Emerald with a view to convincing the Federal Government to support and help finance a college of technical and further education—
Was he impressed with what he saw?

Answer:—

The area and location of the site adjacent to the industrial estate in Emerald, which I inspected recently, is suitable for a college of technical and further education.

With regard to Federal Government funding to support the design and construction of the Central Highlands College of Technical and Further Education—I believe that the acting chairman of the Technical and Further Education Council of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission indicated when speaking at a meeting in Emerald that \$300,000 to enable the design of the college to be completed will be available during 1983 when the Commonwealth Government's States Grants Tertiary Education Assistance Amendment Bill 1982 is passed. He indicated also that funding could be available in 1984 for construction of the college subject to documentation being submitted by the Queensland Government before 31 March 1983.

59.

Kilcummin Road

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

Can work on the Kilcummin Road, which services the grain-growing area, be extended?

Answer:—

It is proposed to release a scheme early in the 1983-84 financial year to extend the bitumen a further 2 km. Subject to the availability of funds and shire priorities, similar releases may be made in the following two financial years.

60. Road-works, Peak Downs Electorate

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

With reference to the need for road-works in the Peak Downs electorate—
Will he, in the near future, make an inspection tour of the condition of the roads?

Answer:—

I am pleased to confirm my intention to visit the honourable member's electorate on 12 and 13 November next to perform, amongst other things, the official opening of the Retreat Creek Bridge. I look forward to the visit, and I will be very surprised if the honourable member, in his usual hard-working and dedicated manner, does not show me every pot-hole and drive me over nearly every kilometre of road within his electorate.

61. Small Claims Tribunal Hearings, Ipswich

Mr Underwood asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to Small Claims Tribunal hearings in Ipswich—

- (1) What dates were hearings held in December 1981 and January 1982?
- (2) How many cases were heard and decided for each date?
- (3) What were the names of the parties involved in each decision?
- (4) What dates were those decisions forwarded by the Ipswich Registrar of Small Claims to the Queensland Registrar of Small Claims?
- (5) What dates were those decisions received by the Queensland registrar?
- (6) What dates and in what newspapers were those decisions published?

Answer:—

- (1) 11 December 1981, 30 December 1981 and 18 January 1982.
- (2) The hearing on 11 December 1981 was adjourned for further hearing, and one case was heard and decided on each of the other dates.
- (3) The parties involved in the cases that were decided were Barry Wallace against Crawfords, Norm Crawford and Sons trading as Crawfords, and Malcolm Coombe and Janet Coombe against Mr and Mrs L. Morgan.
- (4) 24 September 1982 and 9 February 1982, respectively.
- (5) 27 September 1982 and 10 February 1982, respectively.
- (6) The decision in the first-mentioned case is published in today's "Courier-Mail" and "Queensland Times" newspapers. The decision in the second-mentioned case was published on 18 March 1982 in both "The Courier-Mail" and "The Queensland Times".

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired. Unanswered questions will appear on the Notices of Questions tomorrow.

SUPPLY

Committee—Financial Statement—Resumption of Debate

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

Debate resumed from 14 October (see p. 1455) on Dr Edwards's motion—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1982-83, a sum not exceeding \$512,000 to defray Contingencies—His Excellency the Governor."

Mrs NELSON (Aspley) (12.28 p.m.): I rise to support the Treasurer in the presentation of the 1982-83 Budget, and I shall take the opportunity to comment on a number of matters in the Budget that relate to my electorate.

Before addressing the Chamber on those matters, I pay a tribute, as other members did last week, to those responsible for the running of the Commonwealth Games. Brisbane was able to show Australia—in fact, the world—that it is a city that has arrived in every sense of the word. I sincerely hope that the sophistication shown by the city of Brisbane during the period of the Games is to be carried on by both the Brisbane City Council and the State Government relaxing some of the ordinances that were suspended only for the period of the Games and allowing people to live in a city that provides facilities that every other city in the world takes for granted.

I wish first to speak about education and to say how delighted I was to see provision made for a reduction in class sizes in Queensland. I have campaigned on that subject for some time, in my electorate, and I support the Treasurer who, in these very difficult economic times, is able to provide an additional 1 545 teachers in Queensland, which will enable the first phase of that reduction to be introduced this year.

I also pay a tribute to the work done by a section of the Department of Education that very rarely receives mention. I refer to the section of the department that assists in the establishment of school project clubs. Many country schools have project clubs, but very few urban schools have them. However, the Aspley State School has project clubs, and I place on record my appreciation and support of the work done by that section of the department.

Project clubs provide young people with a very real awareness of the environment; of caring for plants, finding out how they germinate and how to grow them. They learn how to raise funds through selling plants. In addition, project clubs teach young people how to chair a meeting, how to keep minutes, how to keep financial records and how to prepare an annual statement. When I attended the recent annual meeting of the project clubs at the Aspley school I was astonished at the ability of the children in Year 6, who could present a meeting as competently as any group of adults, and probably a lot more competently than many honourable members.

A small problem I mention to the Committee results from something that seems to be overlooked every time that transport problems are corrected for schoolchildren in isolated areas. I refer to the transport problems of children in outlying suburban areas. The electorate of Aspley takes in such suburbs as McDowall, Bridgeman Downs, Carseldine, parts of Bald Hills and parts of Zillmere, all of which have very poor transport services. The school transport service has to be provided by private bus lines. Those private bus lines are very expensive. Families in my electorate living in Albany Creek Road and Beckett Road in sections of McDowall and Bridgeman Downs have to spend \$15 to \$20 a week to get two or three children to and from primary and high school. That is not an acceptable expense for parents in urban communities when such an outlay is not expected of parents in isolated communities. I have written to the Minister on the matter. I have asked a question in the Parliament. The Minister has written to me outlining the details of what is available to persons who live more than 2.6 km from the nearest school. I would like to see the department provide to city parents in outlying suburbs, the services, facilities and subsidies that are available in country areas.

While I am speaking about education, I comment on the two high schools in the electorate. The Aspley State High School is now the largest high school in the State. It is appalling that any young person should have to attend a school which has 2 000 or more students. It is the result of bad planning by officers of the Department of Education. It should never have been allowed to happen. It was left almost too late to provide the Albany Creek High School, which is also growing at an extremely fast rate, and has only helped to relieve the problem of student accommodation at the Aspley State High School. No more students can possibly be enrolled at that school. The Government should be giving urgent consideration to the establishment of another high school in that region.

There is a need for more primary schools in the area. The only new school established in that area in recent years was at McDowall. That school has grown very quickly to a Class 1 school. It is an excellent school, which my children attended for a number of years before we moved to Bridgeman Downs. We were actively involved in that school's

p. and c. committee. The school certainly does a remarkable job. However, it, too, is growing too quickly. In my view, all the schools in the area are too large. The Department of Education should not just consider the proximity of children to schools in city areas but also how large schools should be.

I applaud the Minister for Health for working very hard to maintain existing services in the State, despite the very real reduction in funds made available by Canberra. It has been an extremely difficult couple of years, and I pay a tribute to the Minister's resilience, both politically and personally, in just keeping the ship afloat. I shall comment on a number of matters in the health field—again, they are parochial—one of which relates to the Prince Charles Hospital. As many honourable members would be aware, that hospital has one of the best cardiac units in the world. It rates fifth out of 10 in the world. I am delighted that its new theatres will be constructed within the next 12 to 18 months. Cardiac surgery is now so refined that it is available for children of a young age up to middle-aged people. It is available to everyone who needs it. Cardiac surgery has enabled many people to lead a full and active life. Many children who previously would have died before the age of 10 years are now able to look forward to a normal life.

In Prince Charles Hospital, however, there is a blot on society's copybook. I refer to the ward known as C.1, in which are those people who have failed to be rehabilitated—and I am not referring to their own failure—in the spinal injuries unit. Nobody particularly wants them. As there is nowhere else for them to go, they are dumped in C.1. In other words, they are chronically disabled.

Their ages range from 16 to 60 years, so some of them are the young chronically disabled. The building, which is an old World War II hangar, is appalling. It might be suitable in that it has wide doorways and is on the ground, but that is about all it has in its favour. I urge the Government, through the officers of the Treasury Department and the officers of the Health Department, to urgently consider moving those young people into a more suitable environment. It is their home; they will have to live in that sort of medical environment for the rest of their lives. They deserve a lot better than they now have.

So little are they considered that earlier in the year when there was a bacterial outbreak in the hospital, it was thought to be good enough to take away from them some of the room that they then had and convert it into an isolation ward. Before honourable members say, "So what!" I point out that it is all right in the dry weather because that isolation ward is accessible from outside, but in wet weather patients who have that contagious bacterial infection which is rampant in Australian hospitals at the moment have to be taken through C.1 to get into the isolation wing. I consider that to be an invasion of their rights and an invasion of their privacy.

The Royal Women's Hospital was built many years ago, both in the wrong place and in the wrong style. Nothing can be done about that, although I believe that now that the Government has purchased the land on which Rosemount stood, it has an ideal opportunity to shift the women's hospital away from a densely populated area that has a tremendous volume of traffic travelling past it all day. I ask the Government to consider the proposal to build a new women's hospital and an orthopaedic rehabilitation unit on the site of Rosemount. Before the Treasurer goes into a state of collapse at the cost, I point out to him that to renovate the Royal Women's Hospital will in itself be a monumentally expensive exercise. The plumbing and the electrical work is so outdated that it is totally inadequate for any sort of women's hospital, and it may well cost at least \$15m to renovate that hospital to modern standards.

If that hospital was converted to a storage unit for the computer information services and so on for the Health Department and to a nurse training centre, which also has to be provided, there would be no need to spend vast amounts of money on renovating the electrical and plumbing work. The structure of the building is more suitable for those purposes than it is for a women's hospital. I seriously ask that the Government investigate the cost effectiveness of building a new women's hospital at Rosemount and putting the nurse training centre and the computer information services, etc., in what is now the Royal Women's Hospital. Of course, that would involve a transfer of property from the board of the Royal Brisbane Hospital to the board of the Royal Women's Hospital, but I think that could be done.

I pay a tribute to the Government for expanding services in the home nursing area. The number of nurses allocated has been increased by 13 and the subsidy has been increased by \$200 a year per nurse. I was approached by both St Luke's Nursing Service and the Blue Nursing Service some time ago. I wrote to the Treasurer and the Health Minister, and I am delighted to see that those increases have been made. However, I sound a note of warning to the Committee: that will be nowhere near enough to provide for the increasing population of aged persons in Queensland.

If we are to have a philosophy that suggests that people should stay in their own home as long as possible, it is time that the State and Federal Governments sat down and talked about their conflicting philosophical approaches. On the one hand, we have the Queensland State Government doing what I believe to be the right thing and encouraging people to stay at home as long as possible and, on the other hand, the entrance criteria laid down by the Federal Government for entry to nursing homes and residential accommodation for the aged automatically preclude persons with any serious illness. The problem is that very young and healthy people are entering residential villages for the aged because they know that, if they do not go in while they are young and healthy, when they need a bed they will not get one. That philosophical dilemma ought to be resolved immediately between the State and Federal Governments.

Mr Scott: You are not wearing a maternity gown, are you?

Mrs NELSON: Just to put it on record, I have had three children and I cannot have any more. Does that satisfy the honourable member for Cook?

I now make a few comments about the proposed new Housing Commission rental scheme and the proposed ownership schemes. I support entirely the two schemes that the Government has introduced concerning home-ownership. It is an original step. Ours is the first of any State Governments to initiate such a project, and I support it entirely. However, I place on record my strong hostility to the proposed rental scheme, two particular facets of which I find quite objectionable.

The first facet I find objectionable is that which takes into consideration the income earned by very young members of a tenant's family. I feel strongly not only about that but also about the fact that in many cases the tenants have lived in those homes for a long time. Some of the commission's houses are pretty awful. Having driven around Zillmere and had a look at the standard of Housing Commission accommodation, I think some of the tenants ought to be paid to live in the houses. They are not painted or otherwise maintained regularly.

The Government should think long and hard before it initiates this new rental scheme. A lot of Housing Commission tenants have reared four, five and six children on one income, and with the children now having grown up are just starting to get on their feet financially. A number of wives have come to see me about this. One said to me, "I took a job this year for the first time in 25 years because the kids have all grown up. Some are married; there are a couple still at home. For the first time I have some independence and some money. And what is the Government going to do to me? Tell me that I am now going to have to pay \$150 a week for a house that isn't worth \$50 on the open market, or get out."

Mr Mackenroth interjected.

Mrs NELSON: I do not agree with the point made by the member for Chatsworth about its being their home. The provision of welfare service housing is just that—the provision of housing temporarily for people who cannot afford their own.

Mr Mackenroth: Is this official Liberal Party policy you are putting forward?

Mrs NELSON: This is my own point of view, but I think the honourable member will find that it is increasingly the view of many members on the Government side. I think we might see the present policy sink into the dust.

Before I was interrupted, I had intended to make the point that the other untenable feature is that there is no ceiling on the new rents. If a person wants to rent property in the market-place he has to maintain it at a certain standard to obtain a certain rent. He has to own property in a certain area to obtain a certain rent. There is no indication that the Government intends, through the Housing Commission, to impose any ceiling on the rents. Many of the houses that it is asking people to pay \$85, \$95 and \$120 for would not

command anything more than \$65 on the open market. Although the Government should actively encourage, and perhaps force, the movement of people out of welfare housing when they no longer require it—

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mrs NELSON: That is spurious nonsense. I was at that conference in Sydney, too, and it was nonsensical. I must tell members about it. It was the first conference I have attended at which somebody was referred to as "Ms Chairperson". That was the end for me. For heaven's sake, what is the matter with the world? For goodness sake, why was she not called "Madam Chairman"? She was an extremely competent town planner from one of the institutions in New South Wales.

Mr Milliner: She wasn't a man.

Mrs NELSON: She is not anything if she is called "Ms Chairperson". In fact, if that is to be carried to its logical conclusion she would have to be called "Miss Chairbody" because the word "son" appears in "person". I made that diversionary comment only because the member for Chatsworth was at that conference in Sydney which discussed housing needs in Australia, and he sat through, as I did, some pretty tedious speeches by some of our Australian Democrat members from the Federal Parliament. I think we all agreed on the nature of his comments.

Mr Mackenroth: Name him; go on, name him.

Mrs NELSON: There is no need to name him; who it is is evident.

Turning to roads and again being parochial, I refer to the particular problems facing residents of the northside. Since the Commonwealth Games there has been a lot of emotional comment in the Chamber to the effect that the Olympic Games should be held here in 1992. There is only one reason why I would support the holding of the Olympic Games in Brisbane and that is in the fond hope that the northside might start to get some money spent on it for road-works and facilities. I am sure that the members for Pine Rivers, Stafford, Redcliffe, Wavell and others would echo my sentiments.

A large number of my constituents came back from the Commonwealth Games and said to me, "Boy, everything has happened on the southside in the last decade. When are we going to get some decent roads? When are we going to be able to get to work in under an hour?" When people in my electorate take 48 minutes to drive to the city and eight minutes to drive from the city to Mt Gravatt, on the freeway, they have a legitimate complaint. So I would support holding the Olympic Games in Brisbane in 1992—on the condition that some of the facilities are on the northside and that some of the necessary road-works are carried out.

Mr Davis: That is parochial.

Mrs NELSON: Yes, I am doing a Vince Lester.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mrs NELSON: That is a very reasonable suggestion from the member for Brisbane Central.

Mr Simpson: We might get a northern freeway.

Mrs NELSON: The honourable member for Cooroora and I have an interest in common, namely, the building of a freeway or expressway to the North Coast. Because the honourable member for Cooroora drives through my electorate every week, he understands the nature of the problem.

The development of the hypermarket at Aspley, will have a dramatic and chaotic effect on traffic in my area. I am reliably informed that the final plans have been approved by the council, subject to a few modifications.

Mr Milliner: Who informed you?

Mrs NELSON: I was informed by the Town Clerk, by letter. I will be happy to provide the honourable member for Everton with a copy of it.

In all, 1 853 car-park spaces will be provided in the hypermarket development. That does not take into account all the trucks that daily will be delivering and picking up goods there. Before the hypermarket can open, between \$5m and \$7m will have to be spent

on road-works in that area in the next 18 months. I ask the Treasurer to deal sympathetically with any special application for assistance made by the Department of Main Roads.

A monumental traffic problem in that area will involve Robinson Road, Albany Creek Road, Gympie Road, Gayford Street and Maundrell Terrace. Solving of the problem will require the acquisition of property and massive expenditure.

It is a great tragedy that the Brisbane City Council, in its infinite wisdom, did not get very much out of the developer when it gave approval for the original shopping centre to go ahead.

Mr Milliner: Do you support the hypermarket?

Mrs NELSON: I do not. I have not supported it from the outset. I point out to the honourable member for Everton that I find it amusing that, six months after the event, some innocuous little man who is from somewhere on the North Coast and is running against one of the Federal members should be holding a public protest meeting tomorrow in Petrie, Strathpine or somewhere else that is totally irrelevant, about the hypermarket at Aspley. I understand that one of the Opposition's illustrious potential leaders, Mr Wright, is to address this meeting. Mind you, if tomorrow he does not get elected Leader of the Opposition, he may go away in a fit of the sulks and not attend the meeting. However, my reliable information is that Nev Warburton will get the leadership and that Tom Burns will get the deputy leadership.

Mr Vaughan: You had better be more kind to us. If we leave the Chamber, you are in trouble.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Aspley will address other honourable members by their correct titles.

Mrs NELSON: The honourable member for Sandgate will be the leader, and the honourable member for Lytton will be the deputy leader. As the honourable member for Nudgee knows, many Government members have offered proxies to keep the honourable member for Mackay in his present position.

Better transport services are needed in the Aspley electorate. I have already mentioned the poor public services available in McDowall. I draw honourable members' attention especially to those problems. The Brisbane City Council has let the area down very badly. The Minister for Transport, through his involvement with the Metropolitan Transit Authority, should immediately ask for an expansion of the public transport services in that area, not the least of which should be regular connecting services to the nearest railway stations and shopping centres.

I congratulate the Minister for Transport on co-ordinating the fast services to the city by way of Enoggera Railway Station—it is called the Enoggera interchange service—and the fast bus service, which the council has introduced, from Carseldine. Alderman John Goss and I have asked the council to expand that service, to start it at the tennis centre at Carseldine and to eliminate the stop at the Lutwyche Shopping Village. Rather than use that bus service for the purpose for which it was provided, many people simply use it to travel to Lutwyche.

I pay a tribute to the Minister for supporting the establishment of a car/bus interchange at Carseldine. I make a plea for the immediate provision of a railway station at Beams Road, Carseldine, which is long overdue.

Following the amalgamation of the colleges the campus of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education at Carseldine will, next year, have 1 500 to 2 000 students in addition to its normal quota. All teacher training will be done at that college, to which there is no public transport of any sort. It is appalling that the three levels of government in Australia can provide educational institutions, yet none of them can co-ordinate a public transport service to get young people to and from those institutions.

The Minister has promised a railway station. He has not said when it will be built. I should like it to be built next year or the year after when electrification goes through.

Mr Yewdale: Why should you get preference?

Mrs NELSON: It will help the honourable member for Nudgee, who has left the Chamber. Many of his constituents would be able to leave their cars there and catch the train to work.

One small matter to which I should like the Minister to address himself is the failure of Queensland to have reciprocal arrangements with other States for concessional pensioner cards.

Mr Yewdale: That's an old one.

Mrs NELSON: I know it is old but, according to the Treasurer's Budget Speech, discussions on that matter are taking place. There is a special problem in Queensland—

Mr Yewdale: Joh is the problem in Queensland.

Mrs NELSON: No. If the honourable member knew the facts, he would know that the problem is that the Sunlander is heavily booked with free travellers and cannot handle the paying customers.

Mr Davis: That is not true.

Mrs NELSON: It is not true? If it is not pensioners, it is railway workers who are taking advantage of their free trips. The Minister could give the honourable member figures showing how many free passengers travel on the Sunlander each week. That problem must be overcome, either by providing additional cars on the train or by providing another service, before reciprocal rights can be given to pensioners from other States. However, it must be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

As to matters of transport and road safety—one of the two vehicle inspection centres in the metropolitan area that checks the safety of vehicles is located in Pineapple Street, Zillmere. That centre is hopelessly understaffed and terribly overworked. People having vehicles inspected there experience long delays and, because of the clamping down on trucks and heavy vehicles, the number of inspections has increased dramatically in the past three months.

I urge the Treasurer to allocate more staff to that inspection centre and to examine the way in which it operates. All of the officers working there have to prepare handwritten reports on each vehicle inspected. They then have to go through their report with the nominated driver of the vehicle. That person can then question the officer about the details in the report. The person goes away, has the vehicle repaired and returns. The officer has to prepare another handwritten report on the vehicle. It takes a person nearly an hour to have a vehicle assessed.

It is my considered view that the Public Service has sufficient competent stenographers who can take down the reports in shorthand and type them quickly so that people would have access to the reports much more quickly. I have been to the centre a couple of times, once with the Minister, and I have been told by the men working there that a crisis has arisen. The stage has virtually been reached when officers cannot take leave. Even so, the delay in having a vehicle inspected is four or five hours.

I turn now to culture and the arts. The Queensland Government made a grant of \$920,000 to the Lyric Opera Company of Queensland. I pay a tribute to the high standard of that company's productions this year and to the professional and sophisticated manner in which the company has operated. I was fortunate enough to attend two of its productions this year. A couple of us purchased season tickets and, on the basis of the success achieved this year, intend to take them out again next year. The Government ought to be congratulated on making that grant available, and the Lyric Opera Company deserves special recognition for its outstanding work.

I have never seen sets to equal the ones that were used; I have never seen such a high standard of choreography in locally produced opera. The quality of the singers was outstanding. It was a pleasure to attend the opera. Because some National Party backbenchers cannot understand why I like opera I have told them that next year I might purchase an additional ticket so that I can select one of them at random and introduce him to the delights of opera.

I wish to make some comments about Moreton Island. I pay a tribute to the Minister for National Parks for the work that he has done. My comments on Moreton Island are personal ones and are not Liberal Party policy. There is a growing trend by Government members, particularly those in the Liberal Party, to move away from allowing any sort of sand-mining. It has never been my view that there ought to be sand-mining on Moreton Island. I have consistently opposed it in the House. It is one issue on which I have crossed the floor. I will do that again, if necessary. Moreton Island is one of the last pieces of Queensland left unspoiled for urban dwellers in this State. People living in Brisbane find it far too expensive to pay the enormous costs of flying or travelling by train to the islands in the north of this State. Few people can afford to do that. Many people who live in the metropolitan and surrounding areas can afford to go to the coastal islands.

I object to the construction of a bridge to Stradbroke Island. However, that is a separate issue. Today I would like to restrict my comments to Moreton Island.

Mr Mackenroth: If you keep going, you can join the Labor Party.

Mrs NELSON: The member for Chatsworth thinks that the Labor Party has a monopoly on virtue and good ideas. I hate to disillusion him, but it has no monopoly on such things; in fact, it is sadly lacking in them.

Moreton Island is a treasure-house. It belongs to the people of Queensland. It ought to be left that way and managed totally as an environmental park. I am pleased that in the next few months five people will be employed on the island to take care of the people who are now going to the island without any supervision. What the Brisbane City Council has allowed to happen to that island by failing to recognise its responsibilities in removing rubbish and providing for adequate rubbish removal is tragic. The island is more likely to be damaged by tourists than by sand miners. The State Government should act promptly—before Christmas, I hope—on the initiatives announced in the Budget.

Mr Scassola: Don't you think that some urgent steps ought to be taken relative to off-road vehicles?

Mrs NELSON: Absolutely. If they do not already exist, there ought to be regulations to prevent people ruining the dunes with four-wheel-drive vehicles. That is a problem that is encountered not only on Moreton Island but also on Fraser Island, Stradbroke Island and on many of the State's beaches. A few years ago an acquaintance of mine had his spine broken when someone driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle drove over him on a Gold Coast beach. Attention should be directed immediately to incidents such as that.

I congratulate the Treasurer on his presentation of the Budget. Queensland is one of the few States in Australia that can say with some pride that it has balanced its books. Last year, 80,000 additional jobs were provided in Queensland. It is hoped that a significant number of new jobs can be provided this year. If it were not for the increasing number of people who are coming to Queensland to live, this State would be able to reduce its unemployment rate. Because 1 000 new dwellers are coming here each week, it will be very difficult to overcome the problem of unemployment. I support the Treasurer in his efforts to overcome it.

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

Mr SCASSOLA (Mt Gravatt) (2.15 p.m.): At the outset, I congratulate the Treasurer on the presentation of this year's State Budget. For the past 25 years, the treasurership of this State has been in the hands of successive Liberal Treasurers. It is a tribute to the present Treasurer and to those who have gone before him that, at the conclusion of a 25-year period, the accumulated deficit in the Consolidated Revenue Fund amounts to only \$145,000, with an anticipated expenditure of \$3,600m for this financial year. It is a truly remarkable result, given the reduced world demand for our natural resources, which has had an effect on revenue, and the reduced domestic activity.

It is important for honourable members to note that this Budget has been prepared without having to resort to widespread tax increases, which is in marked contrast with other States, notably New South Wales.

Mr Davis: Here we go!

Mr SCASSOLA: New South Wales is frequently held up by Opposition members, including the honourable member for Brisbane Central, as being a paradise. The reality is that because of mismanagement, that State Government has had to resort to the imposition of massive increases in taxes and charges and to the raiding of accounts held by statutory authorities, not to balance its Budget but to endeavour to prevent the State from sliding into bankruptcy.

I am reliably informed that, at the end of the last financial year, the New South Wales Government had difficulty in finding sufficient funds to meet its wage commitments. I understand that that same Government is contemplating the dismissal of public servants, a drastic step indeed, which underlines the desperate and chaotic state of affairs in New South Wales. The Opposition in Queensland has been advocating the same policies that are presently being pursued in New South Wales. Basically, those policies mean spending more than one earns—indeed, spending a lot more than one earns. If the Opposition in this State were ever permitted to implement those policies, Queensland would face the same catastrophic result.

I am pleased to see the increase in the pay-roll tax exemption levels. Of course, that increase is part of an ongoing program that commenced some years ago to assist small business. Employers will also benefit from pay-roll tax rebates to be provided in respect of wages for first-year apprentices. The scheme is similar to the one that I proposed some three years ago and will provide an incentive to small business employers to take on apprentices.

The increase of about 8 per cent in real terms in expenditure on education is very pleasing. It is a substantial commitment on the part of the Government to reduce class sizes over a four-year period to the levels recommended by the Ahern committee. I am certain that every honourable member will be pleased about that. The students of this State will benefit from it. I sincerely hope that the statement made to the effect that the additional teachers employed will be utilised in the class-room will be strictly adhered to.

The increase in the number of people migrating to Queensland, especially to the growth areas of the State, is creating a demand for additional capital expenditure on additional teacher accommodation, as well as creating a demand for teachers. In some instances that demand is acute. I cite as an example the Sunnybank State High School, which is in my electorate. That school currently has a student population of about 1 400. It is expected that by 1984 the school student population will have increased to 1 600. The accommodation areas at the school are now totally utilised. There is simply no more room for additional buildings. The school was initially built, many years ago, on a tract of land that is not sufficiently large to permit the construction of additional buildings. Unless urgent steps are taken to ensure the construction of a new high school to relieve the pressure by 1984, the school will simply not have sufficient teaching accommodation for the expected number of students. The MacGregor State High School, which is also in my electorate, faces a similar prospect, although the amount of land on which it is situated is substantially larger. There is much more room for expansion at that school. I therefore make an appeal to the Minister for Works to examine the matter closely with a view to taking some action to relieve the pressure, particularly in that area. I am quite certain that there are schools in other growth areas that face a similar prospect.

In recent times reference has been made to the following statement contained in the most recent report of the Auditor-General that was tabled in the Parliament—

“Today as the size, diversity and complexity of modern government expands the task of monitoring financial administration performance of the Executive and the Administration grows more crucial if the principles of responsible government are to be safeguarded.”

The Auditor-General continued—

“There is all the more reason for some formal procedure to be laid down to ensure proper constitutional control of finance through accountability and discharge of the Government’s responsibility with respect to each completed financial year.”

Mr Davis: Why don’t you support our call for a public accounts committee?

Mr SCASSOLA: The honourable member for Brisbane Central talks about support for a public accounts committee. He will well remember that some few weeks ago I

proposed that the Standing Orders Committee bring back to this Parliament by 16 November proposals for a public accounts committee, and the honourable member for Brisbane Central was one of those who voted against that proposal and ensured its defeat.

It has been said that the statement of the Auditor-General calls for the establishment of a public accounts committee. Although I believe that the establishment of a public accounts committee is an important step in securing a chain of accountability, the statement made by the Auditor-General expresses a much broader concern. In his statement the Auditor-General calls upon the Parliament to take action to ensure that the principles of responsible government are preserved. I believe that he is also drawing attention to a very important distinction, a distinction that frequently is lost. The distinction is this: the accountability of Parliament to the people as against the accountability to Parliament by its various agencies through which Government raises money and effects policy.

The principles of responsible government involve the whole of Government being answerable to the Parliament. The Public Bodies Review Committee of Victoria in its first report put that proposition simply—perhaps too simply—in these words: "Accountability means stewardship and responsibility to someone for something."

There is a tendency to believe that the Government's financial activity revolves around what is commonly called the Consolidated Revenue Fund. In reality, that fund is one of a number operated and managed by Government. Apart from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Government administers the Loan Fund and approximately 150 trust and special funds. Indeed, the totality of all of those funds is but one part of the total picture of Government financial activity in the broad sense. The other part of the picture consists of the accounts and funds conducted and administered by statutory or semi-government authorities whose activities are not, by and large, recorded or incorporated in the Budget accounts.

Those boards, committees and authorities—indeed, all of the bodies established by statute or by instrument of subordinate legislation, sometimes uncharitably referred to as qangos (quasi-autonomous non-government organisations)—have a much greater impact on Government than is generally known. A few facts will serve to illustrate the magnitude of those bodies.

I do not think that anyone knows precisely how many statutory authorities are actually in existence. It is only in very recent times that any attempt has been made to compile a rudimentary register of them. It is known, however, that there are about 950 such bodies in Queensland, ranging from 134 local authorities, 100 standing committees, 81 fire brigade boards and 80 advisory councils to the Parthenium Weed Advisory Committee and the Innisfail Local Advisory Committee for the Control of Giant Sensitive Plant, whatever that might be. Many of them, of course, have been in existence for many years. Some, such as the Brisbane and Area Water Board, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, and the Queensland Film Corporation, have been added in more recent times. The activity of statutory authorities is wide ranging and diverse. It ranges from tourist and port development to advising on parthenium weed control.

In the 1980-81 year, statutory authorities, including local authorities, employed some 54 600 people on a permanent basis, which represents some 5.4 per cent of the State's work-force. By contrast, the persons employed in the departments of the Government represented some 4.5 per cent of the State's work-force over the same period. During the 1980-81 year, the total income of statutory authorities was about \$2.8 billion and the expenditure incurred by them was of the order of \$2.6 billion. As at 30 June 1981, there was a contingent liability on the part of the State for borrowings by statutory authorities amounting to some \$3,000m.

The sum total of those few facts is that statutory authorities in this State are immensely powerful. Statutory authorities are frequently given extraordinarily wide powers and authorities. They are not infrequently given power to borrow funds, enter into contracts and impose taxes in the form of levies and charges, and some of them are given the power to legislate. The imposition of charges and levies is affected without reference to this place. Legislation in the form of by-laws or other instruments of subordinate legislation, in many cases adversely affecting the rights of citizens, is simply not referred to the Parliament, and in many of those cases the Parliament has no right to scrutinise or to disallow those instruments of subordinate legislation.

For example, until 1982 the Parliament had no right to scrutinise by-laws made under the Harbours Act of this State. As I understand it, the Parliament still has no authority to scrutinise the legislative instruments made under the Canals Act or the Fire Brigades Act, and in that context of subordinate legislation, I have long advocated that the subordinate legislative instruments of all authorities in this State should be subject to tabling in this Parliament and to disallowance by this Parliament. Until that occurs, this Parliament will simply not have a sufficient supervisory role over the legislative activities of those authorities.

Statutory authorities appear to have been established not in accordance with any system or strategy but simply on an ad hoc basis in response to a need seen to exist at a particular point in time. Parliament certainly establishes those bodies but, more often than not, thereafter the role of Parliament ceases, and the Parliament is excluded from any real supervision of them. Neither the Government nor the Parliament has any machinery to monitor the progress of, or exercise control on a continuing basis over, such authorities once they have been established. There is no system to ascertain whether a statutory authority is pursuing its objectives, whether it pursues its objectives efficiently or effectively and economically, whether the structure of the body is suited to the activities which it is required to perform, and matters of that kind.

The lack of any strategy or plan has led to substantial ignorance of the operation of statutory authorities, and not infrequently has led to duplication. For example, what is the difference between the Brisbane Transportation Study Committee, which was established "to advise on ways and means to control the development of transportation facilities in the Brisbane area", and the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which has the task of providing "a properly integrated and efficient system of public passenger transport" in Brisbane?

The most disturbing feature of statutory authorities, however, is really the lack of accountability. Parliament is kept out of the picture, as it were. The Victorian Public Bodies Review Committee, in its first report to Parliament, said—

"As Australian Governments have responded albeit slowly and often with reluctance to community pressure for increased openness and greater accountability members of Parliament have discovered sometimes with surprise that in many, far too many cases, Parliament has been by-passed by Government and that much or most of the information necessary for the member to act in an informed and responsible manner is either not available or is in a form inappropriate to his or her needs.

That deficiency is nowhere more evident than in the area of Government activity conducted by public bodies."

For example, how many members in this Chamber know that the Port of Brisbane Authority currently has a staff of about 82?

I have already referred briefly to the power vested in statutory authorities to levy charges and to legislate free from the control and scrutiny of Parliament. One of the fundamental breaches of the principle of accountability of such bodies lies in the fact that many do not report to Parliament on their operations. Some, in fact, do not even report to the relevant Minister, and the relevant legislation is not infrequently silent on the matter of reporting. There is no statutory or other standard setting reporting requirements as to the matter to be included, or the manner of reporting. Such a situation makes the comprehension and analysis of the operations of such bodies nigh impossible.

The Premier, in his response to a question on 21 March 1979, listed 459 statutory authorities which, at that time, did not report to Parliament either separately or through the relevant Minister. Among the authorities that did not report through the Minister, or directly to Parliament, were the Auctioneers and Agents Committee, the Soil Conservation Authority, the Cannery Board and the State Wheat Board. The other authorities, as honourable members can see, are listed in "Hansard".

Because they are out of the public gaze and their operations are not subject to sufficient control, not infrequently they do as they wish. For example, I am reliably informed that in the past five years electricity authorities have doubled their personnel. The normal rule is that State departments are subject to the Public Service Board.

Statutory authorities do not have any such control. Accordingly, they can employ people at will without having to seek the consent or concurrence of an authority such as the Public Service Board.

In the case of authorities to be established, the principal question that should be asked is, "Can the task proposed be performed within the existing structure?" Preference should always be given to the accepted system of ministerial responsibility through Parliament. An authority should be established only if the existing machinery cannot undertake the required task efficiently or effectively. In other words, a clear need should be established for a separate authority before one is established.

Parliament and the Government should exert substantially greater control over existing authorities than that which exists at present. Enabling legislation that establishes new authorities should set out with precision the objects, powers and functions of the authority. Guide-lines should be given for their operation so that the Parliament has some understanding of their operation.

The principle should be established that all statutory authorities report to Parliament annually with respect to their finances, the action taken in pursuit of their objectives and the exercise of their powers. The statement made by the Public Bodies Review Committee of Victoria, that the lack of consistency in format and content of the annual reports of public bodies has made most of them meaningless to the Parliament and the public for the purpose of performance evaluation, is equally applicable to statutory bodies in Queensland.

The subordinate legislation that is propagated by each authority should be required to be tabled in the House and made subject to disallowance by this Parliament.

The inclusion of a sunset clause in enabling legislation would be a valuable tool in the supervision and monitoring of progress of statutory authorities. Under such a clause an authority could be established for any given period, at the end of which some positive step would have to be taken before the authority could continue in existence. The concept of sunset legislation has been implemented and used in this State very recently in respect of the various pieces of Commonwealth Games legislation.

A sunset clause would be a valuable tool, as I have said, but the Parliament none the less has an ongoing responsibility to oversee and monitor the performances of statutory bodies. There is a need for this Parliament to have a parliamentary committee similar to the Public Bodies Review Committee, which was established in the Victorian Parliament. The committee in that State was established under statute and has the function of reviewing the activities of statutory authorities.

In so doing it inquires into matters such as whether or not the objects of the body are worth pursuing in a contemporary society; whether or not the body pursues its objects efficiently, effectively and economically; whether or not the structure of the body is suited to the activities that it performs; whether or not the body duplicates the work of another person or body; the financial and other liabilities and obligations of the body; the extent to which the body seeks information as to the effectiveness of its activities; the extent to which it considers the public interest in pursuing its activities, and so on.

Machinery of that kind would be a means of overseeing the operation and performance of such bodies. The establishment of such a committee of this Parliament would be an invaluable tool in such supervision.

Information relating to statutory authorities should be readily available and should be subject to scrutiny. Those authorities which have no useful role to play in the public interest should be terminated. By making all the statutory authorities subject to the examination of this Parliament and by ensuring that meaningful information is available, the public interest would be served and the performance of such public bodies would certainly meet the standards which the public is entitled to expect.

Mr DAVIS (Brisbane Central) (2.45 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to speak in the Budget debate. Before commenting on the nitty-gritty figures contained in the Budget, I refer to the comments made by the member for Mt Gravatt. In his usual moaning and whingeing way, he repeated the rubbish that we have heard since he was elected to this Parliament. He always refers to the Westminster system and quotes reports from Victoria. He always tells us what we should do to change Standing Orders. He forgets that on the last occasion that we had an opportunity to change the Standing Orders, he was the person who sabotaged the day. He stood up in this Chamber and spoke for at least an hour. He moved a ridiculous and fictitious amendment. He now stands up and, in his pious way,

says, "We have to get this Westminster system going in this Chamber." It would be much fairer if he told the public that this Parliament is the most regressive Parliament anywhere in the British Commonwealth.

I have been in this Chamber since 1969, off and on.

A Government Member: For too long.

Mr DAVIS: Before ridiculous comments are made about that short time that I was out, I point out that I have been here since 1969. During that time I have seen these allegedly small "l" Liberals—actually, they are to the right of Bjelke-Petersen, Attila the Hun—do nothing. They are committing fraud because they intend to do nothing. The member for Toowong is equally bad. I am sure that the member for Ithaca would agree with me.

Mr Prentice: Since when have you been prepared just once to vote against your own party?

Mr DAVIS: I will cross the floor at any time when I believe that a good proposal has been put up by the Government. However, good proposals are never forthcoming from the Liberals or from the Government.

The member for Mt Gravatt referred to a public accounts committee. On the Business Paper there is an Opposition Notice of Motion which occupies a page and a half. It outlines what a public accounts committee should be. The Opposition asked for support. How many times have Opposition members asked for leave to bring in that motion? How many times have the members for Mt Gravatt and Toowong voted against the Opposition? They are hypocrites of the highest order. I hope that we do not continue to have the same cry from the member for Mt Gravatt. He piously gets up in this Chamber and goes through the same rigmarole time and time again. It does not wear with us. Opposition members know how farcical he is and they know that he acts out a charade. I will not waste any more time on the member for Mt Gravatt.

Functions, such as the opening of Parliament, have now become a farce. When I arrived for the opening of Parliament a number of my colleagues and I were flat out finding seats. In the front row, in the No. 1 seat, was Sir Robert Sparkes, an unelected member of this Assembly. He was sitting there as if he were conducting a court. I noticed a few National Party members coming in and paying court to their beloved Sir Robert. As a matter of fact, I think it was the member for Carnarvon who went up and said, "Sir Robert, how are you?" Sir Robert looked at him and said, "Do I know you?"

I thought that the Budget introduced this year would be designed to assist in getting the economy back on the right track, but what did we find? Member after member on the Government side has got up in this debate and, in his usual grovelling way, congratulated the Treasurer. Government members always get up and refer to the great Budget that the Government has introduced. We are living in bad times and we expected the Government to introduce a Budget that would benefit all Queenslanders, but the only difference between this Budget and other Budgets that have been presented since 1969 is that the present one contains coloured photographs.

The honourable members for Carnarvon and Warrego got up with their little briefs prepared by Mike, Jimmy or Sir Robert.

Mr Moore: Who is Jimmy?

Mr DAVIS: Jimmy Dalgleish.

Mr Frawley: He is your uncle.

Mr DAVIS: He is not my uncle; he is my nephew. I have told honourable members this story before. The boy was always a bit slow. We did not know whether to buy him a pie stall on the Warrego-Wyandra road or make him secretary of the National Party. He got the job with the National Party.

Do members of the National Party talk about the problems in Queensland or in Australia? No, they do not. They talk about the problems in New South Wales. Recently, when the member for Carnarvon was speaking in this Chamber, we thought that he was a member of the New South Wales Parliament. He did not say anything about the problems facing Queensland. All he did was denigrate the progressive policies of the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria. As a matter of fact, two weeks ago, together with some of my colleagues, I visited Sydney and Melbourne. After hearing what members

of the National Party and the Liberal Party had said about those States, I thought that they would be devastated. Surprisingly, when I went to Sydney, I saw brand-new XPT trains. They are the most modern trains operating anywhere in the world.

Mr Frawley: Who owns them?

Mr DAVIS: The New South Wales Government owns them.

Mr Frawley: They sold them.

Mr DAVIS: Mr Warburton, do I have to put up with the clown from Caboolture?

Figures may be tampered with, but the cold, hard fact is that the level of unemployment in this State is as high as that in any other State in Australia.

The plan of the Confederation of Industry to reduce inflation and unemployment is to cut wages. It says, "We are too highly priced. Wages are too high, so what we have to do is cut wages."

Mr Shaw: Never cut profits.

Mr DAVIS: No, never cut profits; always cut wages. The Confederation of Industry says, "Let's get into the workers and give them a good sort of a belt."

Member after member on the Government side has got up in this debate and referred to the prosperity of the State. They have said that the people in this State are 100 per cent better off than people anywhere else. Let us look at the facts. I will quote from a publication called "Investing Today", a recognised journal of financial advice.

Mr Prentice: Who publishes it?

Mr DAVIS: It is published by Capital Services, and the honourable member could subscribe to it if he wanted to.

It gives the lie to what has been said about the supposed buoyant real estate industry. The article is headed "Delay in Leasing Space in New Buildings" and states—

"Some months after advertising of space started for a new office building in Brisbane about 40% of the space is still to be let."

We hear time and time again that there is a shortage of space, yet 40 per cent of that building is still to be let. The article continues—

"This shows how grossly incorrect were recent claims of a severe shortage of space. If the space had been anywhere near as short as some real estate people were suggesting, there would have been a queue of tenants competing madly for the space in the newly completed building and the space available sign would not have been necessary. As we pointed out in the supplement to our February issue, a survey which had been widely publicised at that time which suggested a severe shortage of space for some years was invalid. Like many other comments on supply and demand it overlooked the significant amount of space made available in premises vacated by tenants who move into new buildings; it was based on estimate of demand rather than objective figures and did not make allowance for differences between estimated and actual situations."

Mr Kruger: What is that document?

Mr DAVIS: "Investing Today". The editor is Austin Donnelly.

I did not have an opportunity to debate the motion relating to the Commonwealth Games. However, I take this opportunity to congratulate all who were associated with the Commonwealth Games. They make us all proud to be Australian. At the same time as awards are being presented, I think brass gongs should be handed out, particularly to the camera-hogging opportunist, the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser. If any person made me want to vomit it was the Prime Minister, who time and time again tried to associate himself with some of the star sportsmen.

Mr Mackenroth: Trying to share their glory.

Mr DAVIS: He certainly was. Before the Games, he barely knew where Brisbane was, but there he was for the whole 10 days being photographed presenting medals to the stars.

Mr Kruger: At least he smiled.

Mr DAVIS: I don't know about that. At one stage when the anthem was being played his wife was trying to mouth the words but he didn't have a clue. He didn't even know when to stand.

How false can he get? Those same sports stars were the ones he prevented, or tried to prevent, from attending the Moscow Olympics.

Mr Prest: Another political ploy.

Mr DAVIS: That is right. He was the person who made the statement, "We can't have politics interfering with sport." He should be condemned, as should the person who allowed the hotel float to be included in the closing ceremony.

I turn now to the control of prices and wages. We all seem to have become complacent about increases in prices. I can recall that years ago when the price of bread went up a couple of cents we would ask questions about it. We would want to know why the price of bread had gone up. Now if it goes up 10c a loaf we seem to accept that as the norm.

Mr Frawley: It used to be half a loaf.

Mr DAVIS: It is not a matter of that. The fact is that the State should be doing more. Perhaps I could give an example of what I refer to as exploitation.

A recent article in the "Telegraph" refers to one essential service—that provided for dentists—over which there is no price control. On occasions the cost of dental care increases by up to 300 per cent. For instance, a person may be charged between \$200 and \$500 for the capping of a tooth. Members opposite would probably say that that is private enterprise, but I do not agree with that. It is time that the Government considered introducing prices and wages control. The State has the constitutional right to introduce price control.

Hungry landlords are in a similar category. Because of the so-called boom—it does not really exist—the trendy types, who exploit everything, buy properties for capital gain. They dislodge the poor, old people who have been there for years and years. Recently I heard of people who had rented their Paddington house for over 30 years. Because the landlord was an old bloke who had bought a couple of houses, the tenants had been paying only reasonable rent. The member for Ithaca would know of similar cases.

Mr Kruger: He owns a few.

Mr DAVIS: No. He knows that this goes on and entirely agrees with me.

As I said, those people had, by today's standards, paid a minimum rent for 30-odd years. They had never bought the property, because they had endured recessions, depressions and so forth, and had retired. The old landlord died suddenly. The landlord's family, who took over the house, were not interested one iota in the friendship that had been built up with the landlord over the years. They put the house up for sale. The trendy people came in, bought the property and out went the old couple. Surely those old people should not simply be evicted. The Residential Tenancies Act should be tightened to such a degree that rent control is introduced.

A Government Member: What!

Mr DAVIS: Of course I believe in rent control. The State has had wages control since either 1924 or 1918, so I believe that there should be control of prices. Together with wages control, that would ensure a reduction in the inflation figure and would stop the present price spiral.

Mr Vaughan: I voted "Yes" in the referendum.

Mr DAVIS: Because we are both very bright people, the honourable member for Nudgee and I voted "Yes".

As a sovereign State, Queensland has the right to immediately introduce legislation relating to price control, which I wholeheartedly support.

I wish to speak now about heritage legislation and old buildings. My electorate has experienced a number of problems—that is the best word for them—in relation to old buildings. Recently a person who is involved in a church in the Fortitude Valley area said to me, "It is all very well for people to want old buildings retained but, because of people leaving the inner city and an ageing population, the congregation of the church has diminished. Only a very few people are left to look after this old church."

The great majority of people do not even know how much it costs to get a loan from the Federal Government under heritage legislation. For instance, an architect's report costs \$9,000. A small amount of work done on a verandah costs approximately \$20,000. Queensland certainly needs heritage legislation.

The Opposition has had enough of the Minister in charge of national parks and whatever else. Only 12 months ago he said that the Government was considering the introduction of heritage legislation. I am sick and tired of people coming to me when the ball and chain are just about ready to be used to demolish a building. It is no good saying, "We've got to do something about saving this building," when the demolition people are already at work. The Government has had sufficient time in which to introduce legislation. I say to the National Trust, "Don't come and see me about any of these old buildings unless you put your own house in order." I am tired of hearing National Trust members bleating about the demolition of old buildings.

I recall seeing the honourable member for Ithaca leading 3 000-odd people down here in 1974 to complain about the removal of the verandas from the Bellevue Hotel. Four months later an election was held. Where were any of those 3 000-odd supporters of the National Trust then? What role did they play in that 1974 election campaign? What did they do to ensure the preservation of the Bellevue? They were as silent as Tutankhamen's tomb. They began again when it looked as if the Bellevue was about to be demolished—"We must save the Bellevue!" I recall the member for Pine Rivers saying in front of the television cameras on the night that the Bellevue was demolished, "I am going to resign. As soon as I get the opportunity, I am going to resign from the Liberal Party." I can verify that.

Mr Frawley: Where were you?

Mr DAVIS: I was there, but I did not get television coverage. The television crews just wanted to show the member for Pine Rivers with tears in his eyes threatening to resign. But what happened? Something happened, because later in the morning, after he had made that threat to resign, the sun came up and he saw the light of day. When he arrived home, he probably said to his then fiancée, "What have I done?" He immediately decided not to resign but to stand and fight in the Parliament.

Of course, all honourable members saw the stand taken by him and that other group of imposters the small "l" Liberals. I will not bother naming them. They are always crossing the floor, but making sure that they do not bring down the Government. Now they want heritage legislation, but we have not seen any sign of it. Heritage legislation is necessary—

An Opposition Member: Here he is now, coming into the Chamber.

Mr DAVIS: I have to be fair. I do not think that the member for Toowong was around at the time of the demolition of the Bellevue. He voted by proxy.

Dr Scott-Young: How can you remember all your other facts if you don't know that?

Mr DAVIS: The member for Townsville asks how I remember the other members. I was there as the bulldozers driven by scabs came in and crushed the Bellevue. I was there trying to protect it, but I admit that when the big trucks arrived I had to step back.

Dr Scott-Young: Did you see me there?

Mr DAVIS: I did not see the honourable member.

Dr Scott-Young: I was there.

Mr DAVIS: Where was the honourable member?

Dr Scott-Young: I was coming round. I was stopped by a policeman.

Mr DAVIS: The honourable member should have showed him his gold pass.

Seriously, heritage legislation must be introduced. I think it is completely unfair for any developer who has bought an old building to be told by the National Trust—another group of show ponies—that he cannot develop it.

I thought that the words of the Minister for Works and Housing recently, when we celebrated on the lawn the opening of the refurbished Parliament House, were extremely funny. Of course, mere members of Parliament never got anywhere near the front

because of all the supporters of the National and Liberal parties. Mr Wharton said, "We are a Government of restoration." The Government has not yet restored the Bellevue, and it looks as if it never will. That is another promise that has gone by the board.

I do not like criticising honourable members. That is not my way of doing things. However, the honourable member for Carnarvon knocks the New South Wales Government continually. His pet theme is the criticism of electricity charges. He must think he is on a winner. While levelling criticism the other day he forgot to blame the Queensland Government for increasing electricity charges by 20 per cent. When he blamed the Wran Government for increasing electricity charges, he did not blame the North-West County Council. When Opposition members blame the Queensland Government for increasing electricity charges they are told that that is the responsibility of the generating boards.

When the honourable member for Carnarvon spoke about a great number of consumers being affected by increased electricity charges he conveniently forgot that he is one of the people in country areas who can use electricity charges as a taxation deduction. I note that a Minister is agreeing with me that electricity charges associated with primary production are a taxation deduction. At the same time, the man on the land has a very handy seven-year term over which he can average his returns. Is it any wonder that the honourable member for Carnarvon is called the Goondiwindi galah?

Mr Neal: You are being very unfair.

Mr DAVIS: I am not being unfair. I am glad that the honourable member for Balonne interjected because he is of the same ilk as the honourable member for Carnarvon. All he can do is try to blame the Wran Government. Judging by the way he talks it could be thought that the New South Wales Government was running Queensland.

Mr Vaughan: New South Wales is still cleaning up the mess left by the Liberals.

Mr DAVIS: That is 100 per cent correct.

I come now to the Bruce Highway and road funding.

Mr Moore: You should be lying on it waiting to be run over by a semi-trailer.

Mr DAVIS: I will pause for the laughter. There being no laughter, I will carry on.

After one of his very infrequent visits to Queensland, the Federal Minister for Transport said that the North Queensland section of the Bruce Highway was the worst section of main road anywhere in Australia. That statement is recorded in Federal "Hansard".

This year the members for Whitsunday and Mirani have been asking parrot-like, Dorothy-Dix questions about what is to be done to improve the Bruce Highway. That prompted me to think who were the previous members for Mirani and Whitsunday. The former member for Mirani was Mr Newbery, a Minister of the Crown, and the former member for Whitsunday was Mr Camm. From 1969 to 1980 Mr Camm held a certain ministerial portfolio. It should be remembered that the Federal Minister for Transport said that the North Queensland section of the Bruce Highway was the worst section of main road in Australia and that Mr Camm was the Minister in charge of main roads. What a wonderful administrator he must have been! While he was Minister for Main Roads he could not make sure that the road was improved.

Mr Hewitt: No-one has a greater sense of the dramatic than you have. I would pay you a further compliment: you leave the member for Archerfield for dead.

Mr DAVIS: He coached me.

After so many years of ministerial representation the road is still in a terrible state. How can we fix it? All is not lost. The Liberal-National Country Party Government in Canberra devised a brilliant scheme. It has already flogged us with a 4½% increase in petrol prices in the past five years. That increase is attributable to darling Doug Anthony, the main instigator of this excessive taxation. The motorist will be taxed more to enable the Bruce Highway to be upgraded. That is not a bad effort! The only way the road program can be funded is by applying a special surcharge on motor spirit and diesel fuel.

Mr Vaughan: Do you know who proposed it to the Federal Government?

Mr DAVIS: It was Darling Doug.

Mr Vaughan: It was the Queensland Government that suggested it at the last Premiers Conference.

Mr DAVIS: I did not know that and I am glad that the honourable member told me.

I must now touch on one of the most, shall I say, newsworthy problems in Australia—bottom of the harbour tax-dodging. Since the release of the Costigan report we have learned how rotten the capitalist system is. Some of the tax-dodging schemes indicate how low some of these thieves will stoop. The worst part of it is that many people, including members of the Press, adulate them. They depict these thieves leading round millions of dollars worth of bloodstock and include their names in the social pages. I am glad that the honourable member for Archerfield has revealed them in their true light. As I said, the worst part of it is that these people who, in many cases, have bled this country dry are made out to be good fellows.

Mr Vaughan: They are regarded as successful men.

Mr DAVIS: That is right. They are held up as being successful. If I were a betting man, I would wager that a good deal of the funds in the Bjeike-Petersen Foundation came from the money made from these schemes. I pose this question to the conservative politicians on the other side of the Chamber: Why are they so much in favour of protecting the tax dodgers? Why did Sparkes say the other day that we could not have retrospective legislation? Then he somersaulted. But he is not the only one. All members of the Liberal Party are in favour of not having that type of legislation. They are in favour of allowing tax dodgers to get away with \$6,000m to \$7,000m.

Mr Prentice: You are misrepresenting the position.

Mr DAVIS: I thought that the barrister from Toowong would be more au fait with this matter.

I point out that 4 300 companies, working through one operator, ripped off millions of dollars. The directors of those companies are living in luxury at the Gold Coast. The members on this side of the Chamber pay 52c in the dollar on their salaries. They, the truck drivers, the bricklayers and the carpenters are paying the tax that should be paid by those free-loading b's at the Gold Coast who are living in the lap of luxury. But Government members support and protect them.

Mr Prentice: Nonsense!

Mr DAVIS: Government members support them 100 per cent. These parasites must be stamped out, and the tax load should be shared fairly throughout the community.

I must pass a few comments on something that occurred recently in this State. The member for Aspley, the member for Salisbury and a Liberal Party Senator, Ms Kathy Martin, held a meeting to discuss anti-discrimination laws throughout Australia. I want to examine just how much this State has done regarding the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry into the Status of Women in Queensland. A report was published in 1974. It must be remembered that one woman to whom I have referred has been a member of Parliament for two years, the other has been a member since 1974 or 1975. Let us see how much they have pushed to ensure the furtherance of the status of women in this State. I will not bore honourable members with all the commission's recommendations; I will cite some which I am sure will be of interest to the member for Toowong from a legal point of view.

Mr Frawley: You should be fair.

Mr DAVIS: I will be 100 per cent fair. If I am wrong, the honourable member can correct me.

In relation to voluntary sterilisation, the report recommends that section 282 of the Criminal Code be amended. I will not read it. However, that has not been amended. Nothing has been done about the advertising of contraceptives. Equal pay has received attention to a certain degree. In relation to the judiciary, the report recommends that the Crown Law Office should encourage women to practise as barristers within its employment. I would say that there are very few, if any, women barristers employed in the Crown Law Office. Since 1974 Queensland has not had one female magistrate—not one! I am sure that the honourable member for Toowong would not be proud of that.

Mr Milliner: How many Liberal Attorneys-General have we had since 1974?

Mr DAVIS: They have all been Liberals, so they would be the ones who would be responsible for that state of affairs.

I will not refer to family day care, after-school care, school courses, women in education, family life education, women amateur sports, self-help, and so on.

In conclusion—it would be far better for the member for Aspley, the member for Salisbury and the female senator from the State of Queensland, Ms Kathy Martin, to exert pressure on their male colleagues in their political parties to get the Government of this State to ensure in all fairness and justice that this report is implemented. I was going to conclude; however, I wish to raise one other point.

Mr Hewitt: That is always the problem with these extemporaneous lectures.

Mr DAVIS: No, the important matters should be raised, and I do not believe in side-stepping them.

They include the question of land rights. If ever a Government should be condemned, it is the present National-Liberal Party coalition Government. I do not know why it wants to have confrontation with our indigenous dark brothers and sisters. Surely it is not much to ask that they be given freehold title to their land. It is amazing how many people in our community are misinformed on what the Aboriginal land rights question is about.

Mr Neal: Do you fall into that category?

Mr DAVIS: No.

With all deference to the honourable member, Country Party members and country members see the black person only as an enemy to them.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Row): Order! The honourable member will relate his remarks to the Budget.

Mr DAVIS: Of course.

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. Again in this debate the member for Brisbane Central has made the mistake—I am sure that it was not a mistake—of referring to the “Country Party”. A party of that name does not exist at either the State or Federal levels. I ask the honourable member to use the correct terminology.

Mr DAVIS: Mr Row, I rule that there is no point of order.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr NEAL: I rise to a point of order. I object to his implying that Aboriginal people are my enemies, and I ask that those words be withdrawn.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! This afternoon, I have been prepared to allow the debate to range widely, but I hope that the honourable member for Brisbane Central will return to the Budget and not continue to make provocative remarks that will cause points of order to be taken.

Mr DAVIS: I would be the last member in this Chamber to give wrong information about those honourable members. Let me refer to the points of order as they were taken. The first point of order was that the Country Party no longer exists. I have never recognised the change in name from Country Party to National Party, so I will continue to refer to it as the Country Party. If honourable members do not want me to refer to it as the Country Party, I will refer to it as the “Bushwackers Party”.

Mr KATTER: I rise to a further point of order. I object to the use of the term “Bushwacker”, and I ask the honourable member to withdraw it.

Mr DAVIS: The honourable member knows that there is no point of order.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I take the point of order inasmuch as I think that the debate is becoming far too irrelevant. I ask the honourable member to return to the subject-matter and not make further provocative remarks.

Mr DAVIS: I wish to make one point to clear the air once and for all: this is the Budget debate, and I am dealing with Aboriginal affairs, which is covered by the Budget. I am making that accusation against the National Party or Country Party or “Bushwackers Party”. In the main, country people, particularly conservative country

people, have got it in for the dark people, the Aborigines, and it has been that way for a long time. They are fearful of the dark people, but I do not know why. They regard them as second-rate citizens, and have continually done so.

Mr KATTER: I rise to a point of order. I do not like continually interrupting the debate, but the honourable member continues to use offensive phrases. I do not see dark people as my antagonists. I find his remarks offensive in the extreme and I ask him to withdraw them.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I take the honourable member's point of order and ask the member for Brisbane Central to withdraw that implication.

Mr DAVIS: I will withdraw the implication because the member has asked me to do so and, under the Standing Orders, I must do so, but could I also make this submission—

Mr Frawley: No qualification.

Mr DAVIS: There is no qualification.

Mr NEAL: I rise to a point of order. I ask the honourable member to withdraw the words that he used against me as well.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr DAVIS: I withdraw them without qualification. However, I refer to the racist statement that the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs (Mr Tomkins) made last week. I also refer to the statement that the Premier of this State (Mr Bjelke-Petersen) made on his recent visit to New Zealand. He said that the Aborigines in this State are living like Arab sheikhs. If that is not a facetious, racist statement, I don't know what is.

Mr Frawley: Oil sheikhs.

Mr DAVIS: Yes, he referred to them as oil sheikhs.

This Government adopts a confrontationist attitude. What is wrong with granting Aboriginal people freehold land rights?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I suggest that the honourable member has made his point. I have allowed him to range away from the subject-matter of the debate. I now ask him to return to the Budget.

Mr DAVIS: I am referring to that part of the Budget dealing with the Estimates for the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs, and the administration of that portfolio covers the land at the Kowanyama and Edward River reserves. Surely there is an allocation of funds to his portfolio.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will relate his comments to financial considerations.

Mr DAVIS: Yes, I will. The financial consideration is this: What cost would there have been to the State if it had given freehold title of the land to those people? It would be purely and simply a transfer on paper. What would the State lose by doing it? We would avoid criticism throughout the world. It would show that at least we have some compassion for those people.

It has been said that they might make a mess of it. So what? What if they do make a mess of administering their own lands? Plenty of no-hoper country farmers have made a nice mess of administering their land. I wouldn't let some of those who voted for the Country Party out at Greenmount run a 16-perch block at Windsor. We owe our Aboriginal people something. Some of the forbears of Country Party members on the Darling Downs, like the former owners of Canning Downs—the illustrious ones who met the Queen last Friday week—killed Aborigines with poisoned flour. We owe it to their descendants to support their land-rights campaign.

Mr FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (3.32 p.m.): I have been in the Parliament for a little over 10 years and I have never heard such drivel as the speech by the member for Brisbane Central. It was absolutely atrocious. He was on about racists. Let me tell you something, Mr Row. Only a couple of weeks ago an Opposition member said to me,

“What we should do with the blacks when they want to come down from Cairns on their first-class air tickets is to have a couple of hang gliders stationed up there. We should load them up, two to a hang glider, tow them down behind a 727, cast the tow rope off at Maryborough and let them glide in.” Who said that? It was the member for Brisbane Central.

I congratulate the Treasurer—I see that he is in the Chamber and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to say this—on the presentation of the 1982-83 Budget. It is the largest ever brought down in Queensland—\$3,668.67m—with an anticipated deficit of only \$0.26m, which is negligible. New South Wales had a record deficit last year of \$161.3m, so it is absolutely ridiculous to compare Queensland's Budget with the New South Wales Budget. The report of the New South Wales Auditor-General shows that that State's Labor Government is almost bankrupt. Imagine a State Government selling off part of its railway rolling-stock—which is what New South Wales did for \$221m—and then leasing it back for \$21m for the first year. Taxes have increased in New South Wales from \$37m to \$76m. At the end of last June, only \$150m was left in the New South Wales Treasury. Now the New South Wales Government is going to sell off Erarang Power Station to private enterprise for \$1,653m. In New South Wales there have been increased electricity charges, increased petrol tax, hospital charges have gone up and fares on public transport have increased, all of which makes New South Wales a great State to leave.

I read a statement in the Press recently which affects all members of Parliament. I refer to the letter that the chairman of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority (Keith Williams) wrote to the National Party President and Ministers demanding that Doug Jennings be either expelled from the party or gagged. That is shameful. It is disgraceful to think that any member of a statutory body should attempt to pressure a member of Parliament—Liberal, Labor or National. Mr Williams should be called before the bar of the House and charged under section 60 of the Criminal Code.

In part, section 60 states—

“Any person who—

(2) Attempts, directly or indirectly, by fraud, or by threats or intimidation of any kind, to influence a member of either House of Parliament in his vote, opinion, judgment, or action, upon any such question or matter, or to induce him to so absent himself;

is guilty of a crime . . .”

Such actions by Mr Williams are absolutely disgraceful. He received a pretty good deal on Hamilton Island, certainly much better than anybody else could get. Recently he obtained two special 40-year leases from 1 January this year for a project known as Fisherman's Wharf on the Spit. It appears that public tenders were not called for those leases. So Keith Williams is a great one to criticise the member for Southport (Mr Jennings)! That any member of a statutory body should threaten or intimidate a member of Parliament is disgraceful and, party politics aside, should be investigated.

Mr Prest: He donated to the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation.

Mr FRAWLEY: He may have or he may not have; I do not know. He has denied that he gave a donation to any fund.

Mr Hooper: This is your last Budget speech, isn't it?

Mr FRAWLEY: Possibly.

Last week the Brisbane “Courier-Mail” reported that during the debate on the Traffic Acts Amendment Bill I crossed the floor and voted with the Opposition. This is another example of misreporting and is incorrect. On Wednesday evening I called the division and the Opposition voted with me. The one who calls the division is the one who should get the credit for it. I divided the House, not because I was voting against the Government but because I was voting for the right of a back-bencher to speak. I did that not only for myself but for all members of this Assembly. For any Minister to attempt to close a debate when members on both sides of the Chamber have their names on the list and are waiting to speak is incorrect. I serve notice that, in future, any time I am stopped from speaking I will again call a division. That division that I called will not be the last.

I now turn to the ALP criticism of the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation.

Mr Yewdale: How much did you give—\$2?

Mr FRAWLEY: I will answer that question. I gave \$250.

Mr Milliner: I bet that hurt.

Mr FRAWLEY: As a matter of fact, it did hurt; but I gave it because it entitled me to life membership.

Mr Hooper: How many years does one have to serve in the National Party before one is entitled to life membership?

Mr FRAWLEY: Life membership can be bought for \$250.

The members of the Labor Party should not criticise because every year they have to kick in 3½ per cent of their salary to retain their endorsement. After the recent salary increase they will have to contribute \$1,305 per year. So the \$250 that I gave is not even a quarter of their annual contribution. In fact, that could be covered by section 60 of the Criminal Code. It is disgraceful.

Mr Katter: From what I have heard, somebody over there will have to put in a bit more than that if he wants to retain his endorsement.

Mr FRAWLEY: I think so, too. I have heard that on more than one occasion.

I have been side-tracked enough, so I shall return to the Budget. One of its most important provisions is the increased allocation to education, an increase of \$136m on last year or 19.4 per cent. The allocation to the Education Department of \$838.5m is 22.8 per cent of the total State Budget. The allocation to the Transport Department is the second highest and is 19 per cent of the Budget, and that to the Health Department is the third highest at 17.4 per cent. The Budget provides for employment of an additional 1 350 teachers in State schools, compared with 621 for last year. It also provides an extra 150 teachers for technical and further education.

Payments for school bus operators have been increased by 15 per cent, and the total cost of school conveyance for this year will be \$25.5m. Incidentally, I understand that the Wran Government has cut out, or is cutting out, free school transport.

State assistance for private schools has increased. I have a few private schools in my electorate. A primary student will now receive \$383, and a secondary student \$486, which is more than the amount provided last year. The percentage of the Budget spent on education is far greater than that spent by the Labor Party when it was in power, as is shown by the following table:—

Year	Percentage
1950-51	10
1951-52	10.8
1952-53	11.3
1953-54	11.5
1954-55	11.8
1955-56	13
1956-57	13.3

The maximum allocation to education in the last 10 years of Labor's reign was 13.3 per cent of the Budget. So under Labor education was downgraded. It was a junior portfolio.

Mr Kruger: Don't be ridiculous.

Mr FRAWLEY: I worked here at the time, and I know——

Mr Kruger: You have to look at the number of schools, the number of teachers and the number of pupils involved.

Mr FRAWLEY: There were only a couple of high schools in operation when Labor was in power, because the Labor Party did not want children to be educated.

Let us now look at some of the grants and endowments made to charitable organisations. Ambulance brigades will receive \$14,237,000. That is something not mentioned by members opposite who whinge about what the ambulance does and does not get. I know that that amount does not meet all the costs of running ambulance brigades, but it is a valuable

contribution. The Blue Nursing Service will receive \$3,264,870, the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service \$1,983,680 and the Surf Life Saving Association \$1,275,880. So they should.

I am not opposed to any of these grants and endowments to charities, because I think they deserve them. I just point out that this Government does give them money. I receive phone calls from strong Labor Party supporters who criticise this Government and say it does nothing for charities. They may have been put up to it by Labor candidates. Of course, their criticism is not true. The Government has not failed in its duty to charity. I could go right down the list and read out all the names, but I will not bore the Committee. Members can read the figures for themselves. But to name a few more: Griffith House After-Care Hostel will receive \$8,000, the National Heart Foundation will receive \$15,000, the Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme \$183,000 and the Endeavour Foundation \$485,000. They are all worthwhile charities.

While I am on the subject of education, I want to say that the Federal Government's education grants for Aborigines in 1983 are absolutely disgraceful. I will be accused of being a racist once again by all the do-gooders and psalm-singers around the place, but members should listen to some of the grants that are to be made. I have here a list that I took to a p. and c. meeting in Caboolture recently. There were more Labor supporters there than anybody else, but they could not believe the figures on this list. These Federal grants are paid through the Queensland Education Department.

For a student living at home an Aboriginal mother receives \$537 a year if he is in Years 11 or 12, and \$376 a year if he is in Years 8, 9 or 10. That allowance is paid to the mother or the student's guardian for 44 weeks of the year. In addition, a boarding house allowance of \$27 a week is paid if a student is living in a private home or \$1,954 a year if he is living at boarding school or in a hostel. There is also a book allowance of \$400 a year for Years 11 and 12 and \$330 a year for Years 8, 9 and 10.

On top of that, students in Years 11 and 12 receive personal pocket-money of \$3 a week and \$1.50 a week in Years 8, 9 and 10. There is also a living-away-from-home allowance of \$400 a year in Years 11 and 12 and \$250 a year for Years 8, 9 and 10. White children receive nothing from the Federal Government by way of pocket-money. All fees for Aborigines at Government schools are paid, and at non-Government schools, sports, library, examination and all other fees are paid.

Aboriginal students living away from home are given four return trips home each year and additional coaching, music, dancing and art tuition, all of which are paid for. A study grant is available to Aborigines after they leave secondary school. A living allowance of \$76 a week is payable to Aboriginal students over 18, and \$64 is paid to those who are under 18. A dependant's allowance is paid for students in the sum of \$42.70 a week for a wife and \$10 extra for each child. A book allowance of \$100 is available. The full cost of additional tuition is paid. An establishment allowance of \$150, plus \$40 for a wife and \$30 for each child, is paid, as well as a clothing allowance of \$60.

Aborigines who continue studying after leaving secondary school are entitled to four return trips home each year or two trips for their wives and children to come and visit them. A married man with one child gets \$128 a week and everything paid. No means test is applied.

Aborigines receive these allowances irrespective of income. Charlie Perkins could get them for his children and, if the truth is known, he probably does.

Much has been said about land rights for Aborigines. The member for Brisbane Central said that that matter came under our Minister. Recently, in the Northern Territory, white people protested against Aboriginal land rights. Members might be interested to know that Aborigines in the Northern Territory own 22 per cent of the Territory and that they have lodged a claim for a further 28 per cent. If that claim is successful, they will own half the Northern Territory. If we give land rights away like that in Queensland, the day will come when an Aborigine will march into a person's home and say, "I want your land. It is mine."

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr FRAWLEY: That will happen.

Mr Milliner: That is utter rubbish.

Mr FRAWLEY: It is not.

Mr Hooper: It is rubbish, and you know it, Did you get that life membership for \$250?

Mr FRAWLEY: Of course I didn't. I just gave that as a donation.

At Alice Springs, a \$5.5m road works program is being held up because a sacred Aboriginal site is involved. The Northern Territory Government asked the Aboriginal Land Council to advise of any sacred site problems before the project was commenced. After a bridge costing \$1.5m was built across the Todd River the Aborigines suddenly discovered a sacred site at the end of the bridge. All work ceased and that \$1.5m bridge leads nowhere. If we give Aborigines land rights in Queensland, the day will come when they will march on to a property and say, "I want this land."

Mr Davis: I hope that this is being recorded.

Mr FRAWLEY: I hope so, too, because I am fed up with the namby-pamby, psalm-singing do-gooders in this State who ramble on about rights for Aborigines. What about rights for some of the white people for a change?

Everyone likes crying about rights for the Aborigines. Senator Keeffe is a good example of that. He complained bitterly about the treatment of Aborigines; but when one of our Ministers, whose name I will not mention, authorised the purchase of a house next to Senator Keeffe's and moved in an Aboriginal family, Senator Keeffe was down at the Minister's office in a fortnight begging the Minister to shift them. As soon as the Aboriginal family moved in next door he wanted them out.

Almost everyone is supporting the Aborigines, but as soon as one moves in next door or wants to marry a daughter or a son, it is a different proposition. I can well imagine what would happen if some Aborigine from down the Valley wanted to marry one of the daughters of the honourable member for Brisbane Central. He would turf him out of the house, and he knows that.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen: That would not be true.

Mr FRAWLEY: Of course it is true. When he had Aborigines driving his taxis, they had to pay for their own petrol. That was absolutely disgraceful.

Mr Davis interjected.

Mr FRAWLEY: The honourable member said to me that the Aborigines should be brought down in hang-gliders from Cairns behind a 727, that the tow-ropes should be cast off at Maryborough and that they could glide the rest of the way.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Row): Order! I ask the honourable member to return to the Budget.

Mr FRAWLEY: Unfortunately, I am being distracted. In fact, I would like your protection from the harassment of Opposition members. It is absolutely disgraceful that I have to put up with this in my last term in Parliament.

An Opposition Member: I am trying to work out who wrote your speech.

Mr FRAWLEY: I write them myself. They are so awful that the honourable member should know that.

Much has been said about mining on Moreton Island. We should sand-mine Moreton Island—dig the damn place up; I don't care a hoot. Sand-mining is to take place on only 6 per cent of the island. What is wrong with that!

On 14 October, the Press referred to trail bikes and four-wheel-drives on the island. People were driving their Jackaroes and Range Rovers round and knocking hell out of Moreton Island and its vegetation.

Mr Innes: You are one of them.

Mr FRAWLEY: No. I am a member of the four-wheel-drive set which goes pig-chasing. I do not drive on Moreton Island. I do not mess round down there. I am not alluding to the honourable member for Sherwood. He has a Toyota. I am speaking about the people who go to Moreton Island, lounge round, whip out bottles of champagne and have lunch there; they are the ones who tear up Moreton Island. The honourable member for Sherwood

is not like that. He drives his four-wheel-drive in the country. He puts it to good use. I am speaking about the Queen Street cowboys who knock hell out of Moreton Island. Those vehicles and motor cycles should be kept off Moreton Island because they, and not the sand miners, are causing the problem. As far as I am concerned, mine the place. There is nothing wrong with that. A bit of sand-mining has never hurt anyone. Moreton Island should have been declared a penal settlement while the Commonwealth Games were being held.

The Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts held a reception for some of the Queensland athletes who competed at the Games. I received an invitation but, unfortunately, could not attend. Everybody interested in sport was invited. I congratulate all Queensland athletes—not only the winners—who competed in the Games. I went mainly to see the track and field events, but the swimming events were very good. The organisation of the Games was a credit to Queensland. I must congratulate the Brisbane City Council and the Railway Department on their magnificent co-operation in organising the transport arrangements. They were first class. I travelled by train and bus one day. To avoid the rush, I parked my truck—my four-wheel-drive vehicle—at the station.

Mr Hooper: You still drive a truck while you are a member of Parliament? You are a man of means.

Mr FRAWLEY: I am the poorest member of this Parliament. I am wearing a second-hand suit for which I paid \$30.

Mr Hooper: You got it from the Government undertaker.

Mr FRAWLEY: I bought it from my brother-in-law.

Queensland covered itself in glory in its organisation of the Games. Many knockers claimed that the Games could not be held in Brisbane, but they were proved wrong. The organisation was first class. The voluntary helpers deserve to be congratulated. All they got out of it was their uniform. They did their best to make the Games a success and I congratulate them. It was a fine effort. All the knockers who complained about the Games can jump in the lake.

Mr Innes: What about the javelin throwing?

Mr FRAWLEY: It was great. I could have beaten half of the competitors in the decathlon, but the rest of it was good.

Mr Hooper: Is there any truth in the rumour that you acted as catcher for the javelin throwers?

Mr FRAWLEY: No truth at all.

The complaints about Raylene Boyle being invited into the official box by the Prime Minister are without foundation. The complaint was lodged by Mr Duncan from the Games Federation in England. There is nothing wrong with an athlete being invited into the official box.

Mr Scassola: Hers was a first-class performance.

Mr FRAWLEY: Of course it was. But for the Prime Minister, the honourable member would have been the first person to congratulate Raylene Boyle because he was proud that it occurred in his electorate.

Dr Edwards: I was very pleased to present the medal.

Mr FRAWLEY: I know. For the information of honourable members I point out that I took a movie of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer presenting the medal. I will show it to him. I even took it in slow motion. I took 250 feet of colour film of different aspects of the track and field events, a good deal of it in slow motion.

The Queensland Government allocated \$10m towards the Games and it is to be congratulated for doing so.

Mr Shaw: The Feds didn't. They short-sheeted them.

Mr FRAWLEY: I do not know what they did. They need to watch themselves or they will not be there too much longer.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr FRAWLEY: I am sitting on this side. I offered them my proxy vote for tomorrow. I am backing the Warburton/Burns team.

I am pleased that the Budget contains an allocation of a couple of million dollars for the upgrading of the road from Brisbane to Woodford through Dayboro, Ocean View, Mt Mee and Delaneys Creek. It is a very important road.

However, I am disappointed that there is no provision in the Budget for an electric train service to Caboolture. I asked the Minister for Transport a question about an electric train service to Caboolture some time ago—

An Opposition Member: Last week.

Mr FRAWLEY: That is right.

The Minister said that the electric train service would be continued from Petrie to Caboolture when money was available. The electric train service to Petrie is to begin half way through next year, if the work is completed on time. The Minister assured me that, when money was available and when the program was being drawn up, Caboolture would be on the list for an electric train service.

I make a plea that money be provided for the building of a police station at Deception Bay. It is a growing community situated 10 miles, or 16 km, from Redcliffe. Deception Bay should be provided with a police station. For many years the Police Department owned land near the school that was unsuitable for a police station. However, I understand that further land is being purchased on Redcliffe Road, or what used to be called the Redcliffe Connection Road. I hope that a police station is established at Deception Bay at the earliest opportunity.

A college of technical and further education is also needed. Land owned by the Education Department in Manley Street, Caboolture, near the Caboolture East State Primary School, has been earmarked for a college of technical and further education. It is about time that the Education Department looked at that, because Caboolture is a growing area and a college of technical and further education would be an asset to the community.

There are approximately 688 Housing Commission houses in the electorate of Caboolture. At present, there are 32 pensioner units in the electorate. I am not saying that there is a need for more housing; an adequate number of houses is available in Caboolture; but there is a great need for more Housing Commission pensioner units. In King Street, Caboolture—

Mr Vaughan: What is the waiting time in your area?

Mr FRAWLEY: It is pretty hard to obtain a waiting time, because so many people want houses in different areas.

Mr Vaughan: For pensioners?

Mr FRAWLEY: I honestly do not know.

Mr Smith: Four years.

Mr FRAWLEY: That is not true.

The land in King Street, Caboolture, just past the war veterans' home, that has been purchased by the Housing Commission is an ideal site. I understand that a block of pensioner units will be constructed on that site.

At Deception Bay, land owned by the Housing Commission was recently rezoned by the Caboolture Shire Council from rural zoning. Housing Commission units can now be built there.

Mr Vaughan: That would be a nice area.

Mr FRAWLEY: A great area.

Recently, 18 people approached me about Housing Commission houses. One person already owed \$260 rent from his previous Housing Commission home, and he skipped out. I was informed by the Housing Commission that he would be considered for another house when he paid that money. He wanted a house at Goodna or Gales. Another person wanted a single unit at Deception Bay, and nowhere else. He did not qualify, anyway, because to obtain a single pensioner unit a person must be in receipt of supplementary rent assistance from the Department of Social Security. Another applicant who came to see me already owned a half-share in a house somewhere else. How could he expect to obtain a Housing Commission home? One applicant wanted a house at Chermside, another wanted one at Enoggera, another wanted one at Zillmere, and another wanted one at Redcliffe. One woman left her husband, applied for a Housing Commission house, came to see me about it, asked me to get on to the Minister, and in the meantime went back to her husband and his house. Another person who came to see me wanted a house at Beenleigh, another wanted one at Inala, another wanted one at Goodna, and another wanted a four-bedroom house at Dakabin. Most people who come to see me about Housing Commission houses do not want them in Caboolture; they want them in some other place.

Mr Milliner: Why do you think that would be?

Mr FRAWLEY: Not because of the member. When it is considered that I defeated two Labor candidates in 1977 by more votes than their combined vote, and defeated them again at the last election, it is certainly not the member that they want to get away from. They want to get away from the Caboolture Shire Council, which is dominated by the Labor Party. I did not really want to mention that; I wanted to be nice to the council today.

Mr Milliner: That would be a change.

Mr FRAWLEY: It would be. The honourable member should not tell them about it; they will faint.

The South East Queensland Electricity Board is a law unto itself. I receive numerous complaints from people about SEQEB; rarely is anyone satisfied with SEQEB. Recently, I wrote to the Minister on behalf of Mr R. Bassett, who has a firm called Pine Bark Supplies Ltd, of Coonowrin Road, Glasshouse Mountains. It employs 25 people. As the name suggests, it supplies pine bark. In November 1981, Mr Bassett applied to have electricity connected to his new premises. There is an electricity line just across the road, and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer (Dr Edwards), the member for Windsor (Mr Moore), the member for Nudgee (Mr Vaughan), and the member for Sandgate (Mr Warburton), who are former electricians, would know that it would not cost SEQEB a great deal to run a line from across the road to his property.

Because he was told, in reply to his first application, that heavier lines would be required to cater for the heavier demand, on 1 June 1982, he submitted an amended application for a reduced load to SEQEB in Nambour. At no stage has SEQEB either telephoned him or written to him. He has rung SEQEB at least 20 times, but he has received no satisfaction. He wants the power connected by mid-November. As I said before, he employs 25 people. SEQEB should be falling over backwards to connect the power for him.

Further down the road is a Mr Bryce. He has had to move his chicken farm to that area so that it is closer to the Glasshouse Mountains poultry abattoir, which is on the main road. He applied for power in August 1981, but he still has none.

As I said, I have received numerous complaints about SEQEB, and I have investigated some of them. SEQEB does not give a hoot. While there is a monopoly, that situation will continue and people will receive little consideration.

Mr Scassola: Don't you think that a qango like SEQEB should be subject to much greater control?

Mr FRAWLEY: Yes, there should be greater control.

Mr Milliner: SEQEB is a qango, and he's a drongo.

Mr FRAWLEY: I was going to say something nice about the time the member played on the wing for the Pineapple Rovers. In fact, he was only first reserve. He got a game once in a blue moon.

Getting back to SEQEB—many people have complained to me about SEQEB. An old lady from the pensioner units in Caboolture came to see me and said, "I have been on holidays but my power bill is out of this world. Something is wrong." I paid the lousy \$2 to have her meter checked. It was found that there was nothing wrong with it.

I have a certificate of competency as an electrical mechanic. It is No. 3459. Years ago, I remember going to a man's house in Redcliffe. He said, "I have got an excessive power bill." I disconnected the power at the power board and the meter continued to turn. I said to the man, "Don't say that I checked it. Go to the SEQEB in Redcliffe and get a test meter put on it", which he did. What happened? He was told that there was nothing wrong with the meter. People cannot win. Even Father Christmas could not beat SEQEB, and he comes only once a year.

Previously, I used to ring SEQEB, but I got a bit sick of that, although I did get a bit of assistance from the engineer in Redcliffe at the time, Max Watkinson, so I wrote a letter to the Minister for Mines and Energy. I admit that some people make ridiculous requests. They want power connected for nothing. They want a mile of wire run to their property and they are not prepared to contribute towards the cost.

I refer back to the person who applied to have power connected in November 1981. SEQEB has never written to him or telephoned him about his application. He has had to ring SEQEB. That is wrong, and the public relations side of SEQEB stinks. SEQEB should give people a bit of satisfaction. It has a monopoly that dates back to about 1927. The City Electric Light got a franchise to supply power, and every little town had its own tinpot power-station. I admit that SEQEB gives a good service, but people pay for it. I still believe that SEQEB's public relations stink, and it is about time that SEQEB did something about that.

There is a small item in the Federal Budget that will affect Queensland greatly, and that is the tax on cheques. Take a small shop owner who has to pay when goods are delivered to him. The person delivering the goods wants cash on the spot. In a month that little businessman will write 100 cheques, varying in amount from \$20 to \$30 up to \$100. On every cheque for less than \$100 he has to pay 10c tax; from \$100 to \$499, 25c; from \$500 to \$4,999, 50c; and over \$5,000, \$1. That will cost a small businessman—the little bloke is writing only 100 cheques a month—another \$25 a month. What a poultice for the small businessman! It is absolutely ridiculous. Its imposition on people has gone practically unnoticed. It is getting at small people. A big firm won't notice it. Consider an employer who has a staff of 100 and who pays by cheque. He will pay at least \$100 per month extra. It is disgraceful.

The taxes on motoring are just as bad. I know that the Government has to get money for the construction and maintenance of roads. I have some figures here from the RACQ journal "Road Ahead". An SL Commodore with a 3.3 litre motor costs \$11,900. Sales tax paid to the Federal Government amounts to \$1,464, another \$116 is stamp duty for our State Government, the registration fee is \$118, third party insurance is \$70.10, and the Nominal Defendant fee is \$3. For every bit of petrol we buy, the Federal Government gets 52c in every dollar.

Mr Vaughan: That's Anthony for you.

Mr FRAWLEY: I am giving it to them all, not just to Anthony. It is ridiculous. It is getting to the stage at which the average man on an ordinary wage cannot own a car these days. He is battling to pay for a vehicle. In some places, especially in my electorate, families have to own two cars so that the wife can get the children to and from school.

Mr Vaughan: \$85 a week to keep a Commodore.

Mr FRAWLEY: It is ridiculous.

School bus services will cost this Government \$25.5m. The Government cannot be expected to provide any more free transport. I am continually receiving requests for the extension of bus services. One woman rang me recently and said, "I want the school bus extended another mile. I have to walk a mile from my house to the pick-up point to collect my son from the bus." I said, "Look, it does you good. In fact, if you take my advice, you will jog the mile." She blew hell out of me. She was not too happy about that.

She said, "I won't vote for you next time." I said, "I know that." That is one thing I am sure about. The imposition placed on motorists, especially those in the country, is disgraceful.

Mr Akers: I hope you don't change your mind about not standing.

Mr Moore: It wouldn't matter. You would win hands down.

Mr FRAWLEY: I think I would. I really believe it. In fact, I think I would win Murrumba if I wanted to have a go at that.

Mr Lee: It is a great pity that you don't.

Mr FRAWLEY: I might do that and do everyone a service—and get rid of the incumbent member, who couldn't beat time with a drumstick.

Bribie Island is in my electorate.

Mr Vaughan: A great place, too.

Mr FRAWLEY: It is. I am pleased that the member for Nudgee has a holiday home, or something, there. He is welcome there any time he likes to come. When he visits my electorate, he always tells me. He would not accept an invitation to go to something on Bribie until he had checked to see that I had been invited first. That is a pretty good way to play politics. There's nothing wrong with that; that is how it should be. I do the same. I go to nobody's electorate without telling him.

Recently a report was published on the Pumicestone Passage water quality and land-use study by an interdepartmental committee. I think all Cabinet Ministers have copies of it. It covers 289 pages and was released in September; so I do not expect them to have read it or made an assessment of it yet. I hope that the recommendations are implemented very shortly. Bribie Island is under threat. Everybody knows that there was a move afoot to put a pulp mill on Bribie Island.

Mr Lee: Are you in favour of it?

Mr FRAWLEY: I am in favour of a pulp mill at Beerburum, not on Bribie Island. I will get into a lot of trouble with the conservationists who, I will be honest, are mostly ratbags. There are only a few good ones amongst them; 90 per cent of them are idiots. They got on to me about it, but this time I am on their side. I do not want to be aligned with them but, unfortunately, I agree with them. It goes against my grain to agree with conservationists at any time, but on this occasion I have to. They are concerned about Bribie Island.

Now it is under threat from a bulk coal-loading facility. Almost everybody knows that Millmerran coal has to be shipped somewhere. I understand that the railways are hard pressed to take the coal traffic through Brisbane. Although no official feasibility study has been carried out, a plan has been drawn up for a railway line to run from Millmerran through Kilcoy to Beerwah where there would be a big coal dump. In slurred form the coal would be transported by pipeline to Bribie Island where it would be loaded on to bulk carriers. I am sure that the ships will not carry loads of slurry; the coal will be separated from the water, which will be poured into the ocean off Bribie Island. If that proposal goes ahead, that is a certainty.

The port is the key point on Bribie Island. If a coal-loading facility is placed on Bribie Island, it will be in the area administered by the Landsborough Shire Council. Bribie Island is administered by two councils. The Caboolture Shire Council has control over the southern, populated part, and the northern part of the island is under the administration of the Landsborough Shire Council. Wisely the Minister for Local Government has tried to get Bribie Island under the control of one council. To me, that is a great idea, but the Landsborough Shire Council has refused to agree. The only development in the area of Bribie Island administered by the Landsborough Shire Council is a small barbecue area constructed by the Caloundra Power Boat Club; there are no houses. So it would be a good idea for the whole of Bribie Island to come under the control of the Caboolture Shire Council. As the populated area is already under the control of that council, I see nothing wrong with that proposal.

If a coal-loading facility is constructed on Bribie Island, it will not be long before APM Ltd wants to construct a pulp mill there. Because a coal-loading facility must be classed as a noxious industry, I am sure that APM would win any case in the Local Government Court. At present the area is zoned rural, but once a noxious industry is established there, an industry such as a pulp mill would win any case before the court. I am against the construction of a pulp mill on Bribie Island. If such a mill is to be constructed in that area, it should be at Beerburrum, on land owned by APM where it would not do as much damage. I know that some people are opposed to that proposal as well.

One of the recommendations of the inter-departmental committee was that the use of Pumicestone Channel and its environs for industrial purposes other than light service industries would be undesirable. If that recommendation is accepted, that would effectively knock on the head any proposal to put heavy, noxious industries on Bribie Island.

Recently the Federal Government invited a consortium to investigate different areas of Australia for the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant. The areas were Caboolture, a place somewhere near Ipswich and a site in South Australia. Of course, Caboolture has only one chance in three of getting a uranium enrichment facility. By no means am I against such a plant, but I do not think it should be constructed in South-east Queensland.

Mr Fouras: Not in your electorate, anyway.

Mr FRAWLEY: I will not be selfish and say that. I will be in the electorate only for the next 12 months, that is until the next election. It would be easy for me to sit back and say that I do not care, but I do.

I am not against uranium enrichment plants—in fact, I am for them. The day must come when nuclear power is a reality in Queensland. I do not care who knocks it, one day it will come—it will have to. I have spent only one day in a nuclear power-station, so I am not an expert on them. A few years ago I visited one at Pickering, Toronto. As the members for Nudgee, Windsor and all the other electricians in the House would know, once a nuclear power-station has generated the steam, it really is no different from an ordinary power-station.

Mrs Nelson: Are you aware that Europe, the United States and Canada have all abandoned plans to develop further nuclear power-stations?

Mr FRAWLEY: I think that is another woman's furphy. I think the honourable member for Aspley dreamt that up yesterday at the cat's party, or whatever it is called. Yesterday all the tabbies were there miaowing and giving we tom cats a bit of a burst.

I am concerned about the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant in Caboolture. In the form of yellowcake uranium is completely harmless; it is not as radioactive as some of the sand around the place at the moment. I admit that I am not an expert on the subject, but I have done a bit of research, and I understand that when it is enriched it turns into a gas called uranium hexafluoride, or UF_6 , and it sublimates at 60 degrees centigrade.

Last week I asked a question of the Minister for Commerce and Industry. The Minister was away the next day when I received one of those damned ridiculous answers, "I advise the honourable member to direct that question to my colleague." When a back-bencher of this Parliament, whether he be National, Liberal or Labor, directs a question to the wrong Minister that Minister should instruct his staff to hand it over to the correct Minister instead of advising the member to direct it to his colleague. By God, I hate that. If I had a stone in my hand and a Minister said that to me, I would throw it. It is one of the most ridiculous things that ever occurs in this Parliament, and if any department does that to me I will bucket it at the first opportunity I get, and I do not give a hoot which department it is. I want the Minister concerned to direct such questions to the correct Minister. I made a mistake the other day, in all honesty, and the next day a Minister stood up and said, "Direct it to the Premier." Fortunately that Minister's department did redirect the question, so instead of bucketing the departmental officers I will just warn them that if they do it again they will really cop it.

Mr Doumany: What do you think is happening in the Labor leadership situation?

Mr FRAWLEY: My money is on the Warburton/Burns combination, and I even offered them a proxy if they are short of a vote. They voted for me last week in a division, and I owe them a favour.

Mr Doumany: What about Mr Wright, do you think he will get up?

Mr FRAWLEY: He couldn't win with a start.

In answer to my question the Premier said—

“Design procedures in the centrifuge uranium enrichment process ensure that in the unlikely event of a leakage of uranium hexafluoride, the leakage would be contained within the building.”

There is provision for containment in most nuclear power plants in the event of a malfunction. As I said before, when I inspected the nuclear power-station in Canada I was assured that in the event of a blow-out the explosion would be contained in the building but, of course, one has to see a blow-out to determine whether the procedure is effective. In theory it is quite good, but if something happens there is trouble. It has been stated that uranium hexafluoride will not constitute any danger to people or animals. I understand that when it hits the air it reverts to a solid. There has to be moisture in the air for that to occur, but apparently there is moisture in all air. As I said, I have only limited knowledge of what occurs, but I did some research when I heard that a uranium enrichment plant might be established in Caboolture. I do not think a plant of that sort should be established in a thickly populated area. If a deep-water port is established at Bribie Island—as I said, that is the key to everything—then a pulp mill will be built (it should be built at Beerurrum but the conservationists would not agree with that either) and then a uranium enrichment plant will be built at Caboolture and, mark my words, the next thing there will be a nuclear power-station at Toorbul Point.

I thank you, Mr Row, for your indulgence in allowing me to digress slightly from the Budget. I have no hesitation in saying that the Treasurer (Dr Edwards) is the best Treasurer I have been fortunate enough to serve with. He and I were elected to this Assembly at the same time, and it has been a pleasure to have been associated with him for the past 10 years. I went on an overseas trip with him and found him to be an excellent Minister.

In all sincerity, it is a pleasure to support the Budget. While the Treasurer retains his position and while this Government remains in power many more Budgets showing only a slight deficit—in this instance, a deficit of \$260,000, which is virtually nothing—will be presented.

Mr Moore: That would be picked up on the short-term money market.

Mr FRAWLEY: Of course it will. We could put a bit more of the superannuation payments on to it and earn extra money. I could cite a few good investments.

I finish my speech with one plea to the Treasurer, and that is to give me part of my superannuation in Evans Deakin shares.

Mr SIMPSON (Cooroora) (4.21 p.m.): It gives me pleasure to support the Treasurer and his record Budget for Queensland, the State that is going places when things in the business world in Australia and elsewhere are not too rosy. That, of course, reflects the management of some of those places. The Treasurer's job is very difficult when he cannot be certain of the income flowing to the State and when continuing demands are made to meet the needs of a growing population. People are coming to Queensland in large numbers because they realise that there are far better job opportunities here than in other States, and in other parts of the world. Notwithstanding that, I am concerned about ensuring that the right priorities in expenditure are maintained so that hospitals, roads, schools and other services are provided on an even basis rather than on the basis that those who make the most noise capture more than their fair share of the public purse.

I am pleased that the Minister for Health is here this afternoon. I appreciate the moves that have been made for a new hospital in my area. Between the Treasurer and the Minister for Health, we have most of the equation needed in terms of getting a new hospital at Nambour. No other hospital in Queensland has a higher bed occupancy than the Nambour Hospital, which is virtually chock-a-block at all times, with the overflow

being transported to Brisbane. The locals are aware of the situation. Notwithstanding that, people are coming to the area because they realise that it is a wonderful place with a delightful climate, and that it is a marvellous area for rearing children.

People never think that they will be sick or injured. It is a little sad that people are separated from their loved ones when they are taken to Brisbane by ambulance. While they are being transported they often have to travel over the road on which they were injured.

The most dangerous section of road in Queensland is the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. The overloaded sections of two-lane highway are recording many deaths and injuries. I am pleased to note the substantial allocation in the Budget and the scheme to provide, by 1988 (Australia's bicentennial year), a four-lane highway to Nambour. That will take a great deal of pressure off the very dangerous sections of the Bruce Highway. In the meantime, the traffic will increase substantially. Motorists will have to be very careful if they are to survive the drive and avoid being taken to the Nambour Hospital. Unfortunately, some of the people involved in accidents do not get to the Nambour Hospital; they are killed on the road.

The Nambour Hospital is over full and the members of the staff realise that, although the patients' loved ones are close by, the patients have to be sent by ambulance to Brisbane. They have to make rearrangements concerning the specialised treatment of some people and others have to be sent to Brisbane. There are many complications in addition to not being able to provide services that would normally be provided in Brisbane hospitals which have beds available.

It is unfortunate that people have to wait several years to receive treatment. In some cases it is imperative that they have an operation or cancer could result. In those situations the patients do not receive a high priority and cannot obtain a bed in places such as Nambour. I plead with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer as well as the Minister for Health to study the present needs of the Sunshine Coast and the added needs that will become apparent with the growth of that area. That growth is assured. The area has all of the elements necessary, such as opportunities, land, jobs and services. People throughout the world are being attracted to the subtropical areas close to the sea. This has been happening for some years in other countries.

The growth is taxing the State road system. That is highlighted in areas such as the Sunshine Coast, where a number of roads are deteriorating and are becoming gravel rather than bitumen roads. The pavement is being repaired constantly, resulting in an uneven surface. This afternoon I led a deputation to the Minister for Main Roads concerning the road between Nambour and Mapleton. Its surface is very uneven. It is continually patched up but it breaks down. Good money is being sent after bad money. The road requires substantial realignment and reconstruction. It is a winding section of road that traverses the Dulong Plateau and continues up onto the Blackall Range Plateau. Many lives are lost each year on that 11 km of road. It is often claimed that inattentiveness of drivers is the cause. It is a very winding road and it is not safe to overtake on any section of it. However, drivers become impatient and do try to overtake. The surface is so uneven that there are no places at which school buses can pull up safely. That road has contributed greatly to injuries and deaths.

Many other roads in the State need upgrading. I am concerned about the added tax on fuel. We have heard today that half of the price of fuel is Federal tax and that it is not being spent where the user needs it to be spent. It never will be, because the greatest proportion of fuel is used in the inland areas.

The upgrading of roads in the less-populated, although not remote, areas should be sped up. I hope that the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program will do just that. Under it there will be some dramatic improvements to the road between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. That program should also provide councils with an opportunity to upgrade roads such as the ones from Coolum to Yandina, from Tewantin to Boreen Point and from Nambour to Bli Bli, as well as the David Low Highway.

The work that has been done on the Doonan Road, as the locals know it, or the road between Eumundi and Noosaville, is great. A new section has just been opened, and shortly a new bridge will be constructed over the North Maroochy River. That is the shortest route to Noosa. The new alignment and an increase in the number of vehicles

using the road will mean, unfortunately, that more accidents will occur. Because of the previously poor condition of the road motorists could not travel very quickly; consequently, few people were injured in accidents on that road.

The service to the public should be balanced. I refer to expenditure on hospitals, education and roads. People are asked, "Do you believe in smaller class sizes?" The majority of people will say that they do. They are never asked whether they would like better roads or a better medical service if in fact they cannot get to a local hospital. There should be a balance in our expenditure in those areas.

I applaud the Treasurer for his commitment to education in the Budget. I have made a request to him to give the very best education to children in Queensland. His commitment indicates that this is the best State in Australia in which to live, not only because of its lower taxes but also because it has the best education system.

The Ahern report indicated that Queensland has the best numeracy and literacy standard of any State in Australia. I am pleased that the Treasurer is not content to rely upon those figures but intends to improve on them with a commitment to reduce the class sizes, especially in the lower years. They are the critical years. It is important to concentrate on the first year and to reduce the class sizes in that year. The onus on teachers is increased year by year. Very often children do not receive basic education in behaviour, courtesy and discipline. In many instances, parents either do not care or they are committed to their jobs and do not have as much time to spend with their children as they used to. That places an added burden on the teacher. Good behaviour, courtesy and discipline are necessary to create a good learning atmosphere. Unfortunately, the extra funds provided by the Treasurer for education will be whittled away by attitudes at home that lack good discipline and measures that will support the work done in schools.

The pre-school program has worked very well. It has been so successful that the Government cannot keep up with the demand for pre-school facilities. In my electorate several pre-school units are needed because of the number of children on the waiting-list. A child's first year at school is a very important one. Parents have the right attitude to placing their children in a pre-school learning situation. They are keen. Their children's names are on the application lists, but they cannot obtain vacancies at Tewantin and Coolum.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SIMPSON: I think that will always be the situation. Those persons who are astute will be the ones who will always do the best for their children. The chap who is prepared to get out and find a job always finds a job; the bloke who could not care less does not.

I think that attitudes count more than the circumstances in which people are placed. The attitude of parents is very important. Some parents just do not take an interest in the school that their children attend. I am sure other honourable members would agree with me when I say that the larger the schools, the poorer the attendance at p. and c. meetings.

There was a small one-teacher school in my electorate, and its enrolment varied between seven and 12 students. However, its p. and c. meetings were attended by anything up to 25 parents. I used to say, "You can't all have kids at the school. The whole community must be here." They would reply, "Naturally. It is our school."

That attitude is not reflected in larger schools, such as the Nambour High School. About 3 per cent of the parents attend meetings of the p. and c. at that school. A greater percentage of teachers attend the meetings. Often teachers show more interest in the school than do the parents of the students who attend the school, and that is sad.

To a great extent, attendance at p. and c. meetings depends on how far parents live from the school. Parents of children who do not travel to school by bus tend to have a better record of attendance at p. and c. meetings. People whose children travel to school by bus find an excuse for not attending p. and c. meetings. After all, the p. and c. association supports the school so that it can provide better facilities for the children.

The problems which the police on the Sunshine Coast face at present result from increased population and the increased number of offences committed. As the pickings become greater, more criminals are being attracted to the area. If people are to be protected, and if all the criminals who cause trouble are to be apprehended, an adequate Police Force has to be provided. Today, I was pleased to hear the Minister for Police say that he will override his department and do something about establishing a police station at Cooloom. There are some 6 000 people in that area and there is no police station. On several occasions a police station has been promised for the area, and it is high time that one was established there. Unfortunately, some people are suggesting other locations for the police station. That is just a red herring to try to stall the situation, and that is sad.

Funds continue to be required for the National Parks and Wildlife Service so that it can look after the national parks in our State. Funds allocated for national parks should be closely looked at to ensure that we get the best value possible for our money. I fear that that is not the case at present. We should be tapping the great pool of voluntary workers who are available to carry out more interpretive work in national parks and thereby further developing them as tourist attractions. There is no doubt in my mind that most national parks in Queensland surpass national parks anywhere else in Australia or in the world.

To run the national parks properly, I believe that volunteer workers should be properly trained to carry out interpretive work. If I might explain, interpretive work is informing visitors to national parks what they are looking at and the points of interest about them that they may not know or understand. It could be the background history of how the area was formed, the various plants in the park or its geological formation. A person who receives a good interpretive description of what is in a national park comes away enriched and enthusiastic, if it is done properly, and not only returns but also enthuses about it to others. It has a snowballing effect. To a certain extent we saw a spin-off when mining was stopped on Fraser Island. However, Fraser Island is only one of the many places in Queensland that could be sold in a positive way and supported with the facilities necessary to enable tourists to enjoy such areas.

Queensland could host more tourists, which would be of great benefit in both revenue and jobs. No industry is more labour intensive than tourism. It could be termed a clean industry. People do not need a great deal of training for it, and they do not need to be in boiler suits. High labour costs have forced the introduction of technological changes in industry, reducing the number of people in the work-force. Machines have taken over. However, in the tourist industry it is the other way round. It is labour intensive and expanding. The Government should look in that direction in its efforts to overcome unemployment.

The thing that really gets to me is Bob Hawke's coming out today and crying, "I couldn't possibly accept that people work a shorter week to save jobs for their mates." What hypocrisy from a person who, by his drive for overpayment in the labour market, has caused more people to be out of work in this country than anyone else! It is incredible. It is plain for all to see that he has promoted wages to the stage that people are now unemployed. Now he says, "No, you shouldn't work four days a week to save a job for your mate." That is ridiculous.

The only facet of this country's economy that does not meet the market-place is the wage structure. It annoys me to hear complaints when somebody goes to an employer and suggests work at a lesser rate—fewer hours or less pay—than is contained in the award. He meets the market in an endeavour to get employment. I see no reason why that should not apply as it does with the price of tomatoes, motor cars, timber or whatever it might be. However, in the field of employment, people do not meet the market.

In reflecting on Budgets at the Federal level, it is interesting to hear supporters of the Labor Party saying what Hayden would do. I need only refer honourable members to the dark days of Whitlam, who believed in deficit Budgets and bankrupted the country. The majority of the deficit at that time was created by Hayden. People continue to think that there is a white-haired boy leading the Labor Party federally, but Hayden has the shocking track record of spending more than he was earning. There cannot be good Treasurership in those circumstances.

Mr Lester: He has done nothing to prove that he is any better now, has he?

Mr SIMPSON: No. In fact, the member for Cook in this place is of the same ilk. He believes that Queensland should have a deficit Budget. That is the sort of irresponsibility that really concerns me.

Also on that side of the Chamber are those who think that the Budget is something to tax hell out of those who are productive so that help can be given to those who are unproductive, in the good Marxist tradition of levelling everybody to the lowest common denominator. The only chance that this nation has is to promote and encourage those who have the ability and get-up-and-go to produce. It is only through their endeavours that the nation will have the capacity to support those who are not so fortunate and those who fall on hard times.

I am pleased that the Minister for Primary Industries is in the Chamber. He knows full well that primary industry in much of the State has fallen on difficult times and requires positive support. I am greatly encouraged by the assistance that the Budget provides for it.

Recently somebody wrote to me stating that State members of Parliament are paid too much and do not produce anything. The latter, of course, is true. The only true production comes from the land—either produced from it or dug out of it. The cities have no productivity whatsoever. Without the rural base and the mining base, the cities would have nothing. That is a sobering thought which Treasurers should remember. Basically, in Australia, they do.

When one travels to other countries, one sees many monuments and statues that have been erected for some unknown reason. In many of those countries the poor are very poor. The monuments are a waste of the resources of those countries. When I was in Brazil, a very rich country, I passed masonry works that were producing massive stone statues, which were no doubt to be placed in some new square or another. Yet the Communist rule tells the people to flock to the cities to enjoy the electricity, the roads and motor cars instead of picking coffee in country areas.

I wish to bring to the attention of the Minister for Justice the need for a court-house in the Noosa area. Presently cases from that area are heard at the Pomona Court House. Those who commit offences in the Tewantin/Noosa area have to travel to Pomona for the hearing and then return. In some circumstances it is even more complicated; the person charged may have to be held overnight in the watch-house at Nambour.

The State must make the most efficient use of available funds. There should not be duplication of services by departments. A careful, businesslike assessment must be made of revenue and expenditure. Some persons who are employed in Government departments try to make their job more secure by getting more people under or around them.

The time has come for a reduction in the cost of government. Compared with other countries, our cost of administration is far too high. I do not believe that because a country has a population of 100 million or 200 million it has economies of scale that we cannot have. Even with a smaller population those economies can still be effected. It is a matter of planning, and removing unproductive people. From that point of view, I suggest bringing in properly trained people to assess departments, and doing it better than it is being done at the moment. I know that there is a committee looking into it now, but what is needed is a body that will examine each department and make recommendations that can then be put to Cabinet. If accepted, such recommendations could lead to the more efficient running of the Government. Businesses have to act in that manner, and they expect those who administer and spend their tax money to do likewise. It is about time that that sort of message got through to Cabinet. It has to find the most efficient way of using public money to run this State.

There are other Estimates which will be debated later, and I will speak to them at the appropriate time. I congratulate the Treasurer on bringing down this Budget in very difficult times. I believe it correctly reflects this State's confidence in its great resources, the most important of which are the people who live here, followed by the natural resources that we have. The Budget also reflects the clear direction that this Government gives. It does not waffle. It believes in progress, not the status quo of just surviving. The Government is committed to a path of positive progress for the good of the people of this State, and while we keep that clear image before us we cannot make any mistakes. Once again, I commend the Treasurer on a very good Budget.

Mr SMITH (Townsville West) (4.51 p.m.): The issue of pay-roll tax—or, as I prefer to call it, the job tax—has been around for many years. It is a very comfortable tax for the Government. It has a built-in growth factor which reduces the necessity for the Government to be innovative in the matter of raising revenue. Before anyone on the Government side gets excited, I say now that I don't excuse New South Wales or Victoria in that regard.

On each occasion that the suggestion is made that there ought to be some major reduction of or change to pay-roll tax, Government members invariably go on the defensive. Government members' catchcry is, "What is the alternative? Where is the money going to come from?" In other words, they are not prepared to consider or investigate alternatives to this particular tax, in spite of the fact that the great majority of the business community are totally opposed to that tax in its present form.

It is certainly a major contributor to unemployment. I will take this opportunity to cite the figures in my own area. There are 2 287 males, 978 females, 777 junior males and 762 junior females unemployed, compared with job vacancies of only 549 for males and 182 for juniors—compare that with the 1 500 junior unemployed—and the community still has to cope with those children who will leave school this year. Anything positive that can be done in that regard has to be considered very seriously.

The role of the State in the collection of pay-roll tax was debated fairly extensively about 11 years ago, when collection of the tax was to become the responsibility of the States rather than the Commonwealth. As far as I am aware, it has not been thoroughly discussed in the Parliament since that date. There have certainly been exchanges about it, but it has not been adequately considered.

It is interesting to look over the history of pay-roll tax, which resulted initially from the Payroll Tax Assessment Act of 1941 and the Payroll Tax Act of 1941, which imposed a pay-roll tax of 2.5 per cent on all wages in excess of £20 per week paid by employers after 30 June 1941.

The purpose of the tax at that time was to provide the revenue for a child endowment scheme. It is interesting to note the growth and the rate of collection of the tax from the financial year 1941-42. The collection for Australia initially amounted to almost £9m, but by the last year of the administration of that tax by the Commonwealth, that is 1970-71, it had grown to almost £248m, and if members like to double that figure it will give them the equivalent in dollars.

Through the 30 years that the Commonwealth administered the scheme continuous calls came from many quarters to abolish the tax, and businessmen, particularly through the boom years of the early 1960s, claimed that pay-roll tax abolition was necessary to enable Australia to compete on world export markets. Other arguments called for its abolition as a formula for easing unemployment by allowing employers to employ more people, particularly juniors.

The first Premier to really take the Commonwealth on over pay-roll tax was Sir Henry Bolte. In 1963, he called for a complete review by the Commonwealth of the pay-roll tax question. Predictably, no action was taken at the time. The Commonwealth, in fact, generally justified its collection by placating the Premiers by increasing the rebates of taxation to the States as exports of manufacturers and business firms increased.

In 1970, when the Victorian Government issued a High Court writ against the Federal Government challenging its right to levy pay-roll tax on the States, the Commonwealth Government responded by threatening to cut off Commonwealth grants to all States. That, of course, is still the way the Commonwealth acts, by wielding the big stick, particularly under Fraser federalism.

The Treasurer of Queensland, at that time (now Sir Gordon Chalk), was an advocate of reduction in pay-roll tax. He was also astute enough to realise that the transfer of the pay-roll tax collections to the State would not overcome Queensland's Budget problems. He correctly observed that because of the small wage factor associated with Queensland's industries—which, at the time, were predominantly associated with the primary industry area, plus the relatively few employees involved in Queensland mineral exports then and to a large extent now—the pay-roll tax in Queensland was not nearly as significant as it was in Victoria and New South Wales. These other States also had larger Public Services and higher employment in heavy industry.

We all know now that in September 1971, after agreement had been reached with, or forced onto, the States, following the Premiers conference the Commonwealth vacated the pay-roll tax field in favour of the States so that they could have a so-called growth tax.

At the same time the Federal Government also introduced an export-incentive grant scheme in respect of the 1971-72 and 1972-73 financial years, equal to the rebates that would have been payable for those years if the pay-roll tax rebate scheme which had operated from the 1960-61 financial year had continued in operation until it was due to expire on 30 June 1973.

The first growth that Queensland was to see in respect of the pay-roll tax was from the increase in rate from 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. Queensland picked up almost \$29.5m, which was almost \$2m greater than had been anticipated by way of receipts up to 30 June 1972.

In 1973, the tax received a further 1 per cent lift with the Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, typically and predictably blaming the Commonwealth Government for causing, or forcing, the State to increase the tax. Sir Gordon at that time appeared content to go along with the increased taxation on the basis that it was simpler to administer than to introduce a new or untried tax.

It is important to look at the role of the parliamentary ALP in Queensland. At that time, the Opposition called for a reduction or abolition of pay-roll tax in selected country areas as an incentive to decentralisation, correctly arguing that this would reduce production costs in those areas, make them more competitive and thereby increase employment opportunities. The ALP argued that the monetary loss to the State in pay-roll tax revenue would be more than offset by the increased revenue to the local authority concerned. That, of course, was an argument that Mr Bjelke-Petersen picked up some time later.

In October 1974 the tax rate was raised to 5 per cent, which meant that it had in fact doubled over a period of three years. Again the Queensland Opposition responded by calling for a review of the then current minimum limits for payment of pay-roll tax. The ALP also urged the appointment of a special tribunal to which small firms suffering business difficulties could appeal for temporary relief.

The Government was urged to investigate the possibility of a pay-roll tax loading on large, highly profitable companies, and was asked to look at the merit of making concessions available to firms willing to establish in areas outside the south-east corner, that is, those prepared to decentralise.

Mr FitzGerald: Does Queensland have the lowest pay-roll tax rate?

Mr SMITH: If the honourable member listens he will find out.

From 1975 most States moved to have pay-roll tax exemption levels increased, and I am the first to admit that Queensland has led the field in that regard. When Sir William Knox became Treasurer in 1976, he indicated that it was his intention that, in Queensland, small businesses in particular would have pay-roll tax advantages over other States as a measure of attracting business into the State.

The National Party had, by this time, at last woken up to the problem to some extent and advocated that exemption levels should be lifted to \$100,000 per year and that tax on the next \$100,000 be calculated on a sliding scale.

Mrs Nelson: By saying things like that, won't you get a shock in the ALP?

Mr SMITH: The honourable member should keep listening.

It also sought indexation to keep taxation in line with the wage spiral, as well as other systems of rebates to manufacturers prepared to decentralise. Predictably the Queensland Opposition was in the forefront of thinking on pay-roll tax reform and was calling for a 12-month pay-roll tax amnesty for firms taking on new staff. I understand that indexation of exemption levels was also proposed.

By 1979 bodies such as the Small Business and Self-employed Association were urging businesses to withhold part of their pay-roll taxes as a protest against the system. Dr Edwards responded by saying that the State Government could not afford to abolish pay-roll tax, which represented something in excess of 10 per cent of the income for the Queensland Budget.

About that time the Premier announced that the decision to proceed with what was thought to be mining boom projects—they were not—could speed up the abolition of the tax in Queensland. In fact, it had already been decided by his party's conference that the tax should disappear within three years of the Government's decision to act on the tax. We all know what happened. The Premier claimed that the revenue forgone could be made up from general taxes arising out of increased economic activity from the mining developments and from the stimulus of the pay-roll tax removal.

The honourable member for Aspley (Mrs Nelson) should listen carefully to this. Somewhat surprisingly, in June 1980, the Queensland Liberal Party formally knocked over the National Party election promise for the complete elimination of the pay-roll tax. At that time, of course, it thought that it might become the senior coalition partner. Surprisingly—although not really surprisingly when one realises that its opportunism has no limits—it advocated that pay-roll tax abolition should be attacked at a national level so that the States could then be compensated for the losses of the revenue that would follow. It is interesting that this is somewhat along the lines of the proposals put up by Whitlam and Hayden in the 1977 election campaign—they were denigrated a moment ago—but that proposal was deliberately distorted and decried by the Liberal Party throughout the campaign.

After the implementation, or partial implementation, of some of the Premier's 1980 election promises, the exemption level was raised from \$150,000 to \$180,000. That does not alter the fact, though, that pay-roll tax collections over the last few years in Queensland have increased dramatically. The election promises went out of the window.

Mrs Nelson: Why have they gone up?

Mr SMITH: The rates have doubled from 2½ per cent to 5 per cent in three years.

Mrs Nelson: I wonder why.

Mr SMITH: The Government increased them.

For example, in the 1979-80 period, the collections amounted to almost \$250m, whereas for the period 1980-81 the amount was almost \$290m. For 1981-82 they blew out to just on \$350m. In spite of some concessions being made available in 1981, by 1982 small business was vocal in expressing its point of view that it was increasingly susceptible to the effects of pay-roll tax. It correctly stated that, in practical application, the exempt portion of pay-roll tax was far too low. It pointed out also that the exemptions were available only to the smallest employers.

Mr Scassola: I take it that you agree with Mr Wran's proposal of a petrol tax?

Mr SMITH: I am not talking about a petrol tax.

Clearly, anyone in Queensland with more than 10 employees would be liable for that tax at present. That was a far cry from the Premier's election promises when he said that the tax would apply only to firms with more than 40 employees. Government members get excited every time pay-roll tax is mentioned. However, if they listen to me they may learn something yet. There is still hope for them.

Mrs Nelson: Are you in favour of abolishing it?

Mr SMITH: Yes, I am.

Mrs Nelson: Is your party in favour of abolishing it?

Mr SMITH: Yes, it is. As the honourable member is an astute politician, she would be aware of that.

It was correctly observed that pay-roll tax, in the hands of the State Government, had significantly increased, as I have just pointed out. Finally, it was observed that, in certain circumstances, the effective rate of pay-roll tax incurred was a significant percentage of the increased pay-roll.

Even prior to that there was a study by the Committee of Economic Development of Australia entitled "The effects of pay-roll tax on the Australian economy". The summary, conclusions and recommendations from that report were as follows—

"There is a trend towards increasing capital intensity within industry away from increased utilization of surplus labour resources."

In other words, pay-roll tax was contributing to increasing unemployment. The report continued—

“The primary incidence of the pay-roll tax falls on producers, therefore hindering growth and general welfare of the economy. Pay-roll tax has detrimental effects on employment due to increased costs of labour.”

Finally, the report stated—

“Pay-roll tax is a discriminating tax factor.”

I will expand on that at a later stage, although possibly not in this debate.

Its recommendations were that if the pay-roll tax was to be maintained it should be in the form of a special-purpose tax where there could be a direct relationship between those who pay the tax and those who receive the benefit from the levy. The study concluded that the pay-roll tax levied to raise general revenue was discriminatory and should be replaced by some revenue-equivalent non-discriminatory form of tax.

The Queensland Government frequently purports to be in step with the business community and to be the guardian of industry and commerce in the State. It is very constructive to read the report on the State of the industry and some policy recommendations submitted to the Queensland Government in June 1981 by the Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia, Queensland Branch, on pay-roll tax. It quoted the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Technological Change in Australia of 1980, which drew the following conclusion in relation to pay-roll tax—

“The committee supports the view that a direct tax on employment in circumstances of high unemployment is inappropriate and recommends further consideration by the Commonwealth and State Governments of alternative arrangements.”

In making that recommendations, the committee of inquiry was, of course, only adding its support to the overwhelming weight of argument against pay-roll tax and the urgent need for its replacement.

The metal trades' submission suggested that the case against pay-roll tax had been documented and presented to Governments, both State and Federal, by the Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia on many occasions. It was pointed out that no progress had been achieved towards its abolition. The submission stated that it appreciated that the abolition of pay-roll tax raised very difficult and complex issues, most significantly that of the Commonwealth/State financial arrangements and the finding of acceptable alternative sources for the very substantial amount of revenue involved. Quite correctly, though, it was pointed out that it was a problem that would not go away simply because it posed those difficulties.

The MTIA submitted that, as its first step to overcoming those difficulties, the Government should seek discussions, at least on an exploratory basis, with the Commonwealth and the States, so that a start could be made towards the abolition of a tax which did retard, and continues to retard, employment opportunities in all States including Queensland.

In the meanwhile, it was suggested that there should be no increase in the rate of the tax, and, in considering alterations to the exemption level, that care should be taken that the burden was not merely confined to fewer companies, thus increasing pressure for the tax to be increased on those remaining companies to maintain the level of revenue.

The only section of that report that the Government appears to have acted on is the proposal outlined in section 3, which pointed out the urgent need to encourage as many employers as possible to train apprentices, and the MTIA suggested then that, as an initial step, the Government should exempt apprentices' wages from the payment of pay-roll tax. That, of course, has been dealt with.

Members on the Government side are usually wailing in chorus when members of the Opposition appeal for relief from pay-roll tax. Government members always parrot the catchcry, “What is the proposal?” I would remind members that prior to the general election in November 1977, the Federal Labor Party put forward a proposal whereupon it would have sought agreement with the States to withdraw from pay-roll tax collection, and that revenue forgone would have been made good to the States

from Federal fund sources. There were other proposals put forward at that time, and I believe that one of those proposals was not to pass on a promised personal income tax cut as a means of generating revenue equivalent to pay-roll tax collections by all States.

The Labor Party proposal, an excellent proposal, was misrepresented when the public was deliberately misled by mischievous statements and advertising by the Liberal and National Parties. As a result, of course, there was no opportunity for that proposal to get off the ground. That opportunity was effectively denied by the Liberal and National Parties. It may well be that it is not within the range of options available solely to a single State Government, acting independently of the Commonwealth and other States, to eliminate pay-roll tax altogether, and I freely acknowledge that situation.

It would, however, be refreshing to know that there was an intention, or desire, to positively work towards an alternative. It would also be refreshing to think that the present State Government would be prepared to co-operate with an incoming Federal Government should that incoming Government decide to offer a proposal similar to that proposed in 1977. Again, I would be the first to acknowledge that I am not aware that the proposal is being put forward at present by the Federal ALP, although I hope that it is.

The fact remains, nevertheless, that thinking people in Government should realise that the pay-roll option is one that will have to be very substantially modified, or eliminated, within a comparatively short period, particularly in the present employment climate. It is clearly unacceptable to maintain what amounts to a disincentive on employment opportunities while each week thousands of people are losing their jobs.

We are for ever being urged by the relevant Ministers, both State and Federal, to maintain our markets, and there is certainly no argument against that statement. But there is no magic formula. Not only does a problem lie in the cost of wages paid to the employee; but also, where employers' costs are increased by the addition of tax on employment, this can only exacerbate the situation and reduce competitiveness.

The most recent estimates that I have seen indicate that pay-roll tax represents about 5 per cent of total costs. That, of course, could be critical in the export area and also on the domestic front against imports. The tax must also be regarded as inflationary, because clearly the costs would be passed on, imposing downstream cost increases on goods and services.

The Commonwealth Government and, I suppose, Mr Howard in particular have certainly been in a lot of trouble recently over bottom of the harbour schemes and other associated devices aimed at tax evasion. I say "evasion" deliberately, as I consider that the term "avoidance" would be a euphemism for what I believe was the clear criminal intent of the great majority of the people involved in those schemes. Today, I noticed in a newspaper that the conservative parties in this State do not want retrospective legislation in that area. They want people to get away with their ill-gotten gains.

Pay-roll tax has now been levied by the States for nine years and probably not administered as diligently as it could have been. The Commonwealth, of course, administered it for the preceding 30 years, but the tax was less critical to costs 10 or 20 years ago. Some of the present provisions of the collection of that tax are new, and it is surprising that certain matters relating to the application of the tax have not been tested more rigorously at law, considering the focus of attention on the legality of certain income tax provisions. I am sure that the Treasurer would be well aware of that.

There have been some interesting examples under Victorian law of avoidance of pay-roll tax by the use of exemption provisions within the terms of the Victorian legislation. Section 10 of the Victorian Pay-Roll Tax Act provided that the wages liable to attract pay-roll tax did not include wages paid or payable by employers who satisfied certain conditions or requirements, or by employers who paid wages for or in connection with certain purposes.

Before November 1981, that section provided, amongst other things, that wages paid by public benevolent institutions—I do not know whether the Bjelke-Petersen Foundation would qualify or not—would not be liable for pay-roll tax. It was discovered in the course of 1979 that that provision was being abused, in the sense that a scheme had been entered into. Although some moneys were being distributed for charitable purposes, large amounts of pay-roll tax were being avoided—or should I say again "evaded". Considerable publicity was given to this scheme late in 1980. Because there was uncertainty about the rights of the Government to collect the pay-roll tax under certain

circumstances, it was considered necessary to amend the Pay-roll Tax Act in Victoria to close the loophole, and this was achieved by amending section 10 of the Victorian legislation to provide that the wages paid by a public benevolent institution would only be exempt from the payment of pay-roll tax where they were paid to a person during a period in respect of which the institution satisfied the commissioner that the person was engaged exclusively in work for the institution—work of a public benevolent nature. I seek an assurance from the Treasurer that the provisions of Queensland laws are adequate in this regard, and I hope that he would reply to that in his reply. He is walking out of the Chamber now; so he cannot be very interested in it.

I seek also an assurance from the Treasurer about grouping provisions. I am certainly aware that, in an endeavour to minimise pay-roll tax liability, some corporate employers may have fragmented their operations to create multiple entities and in so doing distributed their employees amongst those entities so that very few employees were in fact actually employed by each corporate unit. The distribution would, of course, only be for book-keeping purposes. The corporation's operations would not be affected. By so doing, it would effectively be able to claim the exemption for each such supposedly separate entity. If, on the other hand, the legislation and the regulatory provisions applying to grouping are strong enough, each member is not entitled to claim a deduction in respect of a small number of employees.

It has also come to my notice that some less than honest accountants have advised their clients not to register, in the hope that they would not be detected, and therefore would not be required to pay pay-roll tax. There are plenty of lurks still about. It would certainly be interesting to know just how widespread that problem might be, and knowing Queensland, I suggest it would be very widespread.

It could well be that the Treasurer ought to look at the scale of penalties provided for employers who do not properly register. There are no valid reasons why heavy penalties should not be imposed on defaulters.

There is wide recognition that pay-roll tax is not necessarily based on the ability to pay. Many employers who have registered and do lodge returns correctly as required by the Act have great difficulty in meeting their commitments. I speak of those honest, battling companies. Because the honest companies have lost the use of some of their working capital, which at present interest rates is a significant factor, compared with their business competitors in the same field which do not pay pay-roll tax, those honest businesses are disadvantaged.

An important aspect is the role and comparative position of the tax evader or the tax evading firm. In terms of manufacturing, if a person or a firm is offering a service, that person or firm also gains a price advantage because a quote submitted for services could be below that of the competitor who pays pay-roll tax, which must add at least 5 per cent to the cost structure.

Anybody who can be shown to have evaded his obligation should not receive very much sympathy if he is subsequently called upon to pay the penalty. I touch on these points because, as some of the loopholes in the income tax law are closed, clearly some entrepreneurial types will look for greener pastures—there are no greener pastures than Queensland with its availability of rorts and its lack of ability to police them—and if the State's laws are not tight, they will be quick to take advantage of the prevailing circumstances.

From the replies that I have received to questions asked of the Treasurer and the Minister for Justice, I have demonstrated on one or two occasions that the collection of stamp duty is an area of great concern. I am sure neither Minister would deny that. That has been brought about by the lack of uniform legislation throughout Australia and I would like to know who is doing something about it. Unless there is agreement and uniform legislation, stamp duty will also continue to be an area of green pastures for those disinclined to pay the going rate.

Once again I will return to the question of pay-roll tax and the implications of what I believe to be less than tight legislation. Perhaps in years gone by the legislation did not need to be so tight but, as I have already said, with people moving out of other areas of tax evasion they will be looking for greener pastures in this area.

In an article in "The Australian Financial Review" the Victorian Leader of the Opposition (Mr Thompson) warned—I am amused by the term "warned"—the Cain Government that the extension of pay-roll tax to cover employee benefits could drive investment away from the State by the millions—I assume he means millions of dollars. The remarkable aspect about that is that Mr Thompson was referring to amendments to the pay-roll tax regulations which were introduced by his Government only a few months ago when it was in power. He now says that it was never the intention that some of the benefits that some employees received from their employers, such as cars, loans and perhaps holiday concessions, would ever be considered as being liable to attract pay-roll tax.

The fact of the matter is, of course, that employers, rather than offering certain key employees—particularly senior executives—a straight-out salary, offer what is known as a package. Usually the actual salary component of the package varies between 70 and 80 per cent with the remainder made up of all sorts of perks. That is a very good arrangement for those who are lucky enough to be in receipt of those perks. On first examination, particularly with the tightening of the income tax laws, one could be excused for thinking that the package offers no real benefit to the employee as, supposedly, he has to pay income tax on that benefit. But in practical terms many are clearly able to avoid their rightful contribution for that service or benefit provided by their employer and there is a net gain that has to be picked up by the remainder of the taxpaying public. I suppose I have digressed into the Federal area a little.

Mr Lee: What about the bloke who is using a false name all the time?

Mr SMITH: It is on everywhere. Some are using three or four. I have no sympathy for any of them. I pay my way, and I expect everyone else to pay his way.

Mr Cain is reported to have replied to Mr Thompson that his Government was determined to collect all State taxes that were due and payable, and clearly it is Mr Cain's view that pay-roll taxes are payable by companies on those perks provided to their senior employees within their employment package.

Mr Scassola: Would you adopt Mr Cain's budgetary policy?

Mr SMITH: I am talking about a particular aspect at the moment, and confining myself to that. Unlike other members, I am talking about matters relevant to the Budget. Some members have waffled about all sorts of subjects which have no bearing on the Budget.

I have no doubt that the conservative Opposition in Victoria will be pointing to concessions such as car-parking for employees and other things that are worth perhaps \$5 or \$10 a week. I am sure that it is not the Victorian Government's intention to tax minor concessions of that sort, but it will certainly seize on them as an example.

Dr Edwards: They kept the 1 per cent surcharge on. In Victoria they are charging 6 per cent.

Mr SMITH: I have already said that I have no sympathy for any Government which is maintaining the principle of adhering to pay-roll tax. I am not apologising for that.

When full consideration is given to the position of senior company executives who might be earning \$50,000 or \$60,000 per annum as a cash salary, and also receiving a considerable number of additional perks, there is no reason why both the employee and the employer should not meet their full tax obligation—clearly they can afford to meet it—if that tax is to apply to the rest of the community. I include that qualification because I trust I have spelt out fairly clearly that I believe there is a clear alternative to the application of pay-roll tax. Again I look for a clear statement from the Treasurer setting out in detail the Queensland Government's attitude towards the payment of pay-roll tax on executive perks.

Dr Edwards: We would certainly not implement such a proposal.

Mr SMITH: The Treasurer can outline that later on. I would like to hear about it.

Last Tuesday I was very pleased to hear the leader of the parliamentary Labor Party in his speech on the Financial Statement draw attention to what he described as the appallingly low staff levels of the Corporate Affairs Office in Queensland. He said that this had undoubtedly contributed to its lack of performance in dealing with companies

which were ultimately consigned to the bottom of the harbour for tax evasion purposes. If ever there was a need for upgrading, both in the quality and number of staff, it lies in that area, and I intend to pursue that matter with the relevant Minister as time goes on.

In many corporate areas there are some matters that should not be dealt with by the police, but by highly trained and specialised officers with the intelligence and training to be able to detect the fraud and the white-collar crime which is undoubtedly rampant in this State. It may well be that because of the low level of scrutiny Queensland has become a haven for all forms of white-collar crime.

I would now like to comment on some of the attitudes that are frequently exhibited in this Chamber. I refer to the fact that Ministers, and a not inconsiderable number of Government back-bench members, attempt to continue the myth that we live in the greatest place in the world with respect to personal wealth, opportunity, and the quality of life.

Mr FitzGerald: What is wrong with that?

Mr SMITH: It would be fine if it were true, but it is not true.

It is clear that Queensland has some considerable advantages, and I am very proud of Queensland. I have always made that clear. However, if we take the attitude that Australia leads the world, I am afraid that we are sadly deluding ourselves.

Mr FitzGerald: Burns would not even go to the Games.

Mr SMITH: The honourable member had better say a lot now because he will not be here after the next election.

The facts are that in 1900 Australia had the world's highest per capita income, ranking something like 11 per cent above the United States and 17 per cent above Great Britain. Our expectation of life was, I understand, the world's longest. In 1982 Australia ranks No. 11 in per capita income of the industrial nations and No. 16 when all nations are considered. Sadly we now rank No. 27 in life expectancy.

In the years since the late 1950s, conservative Federal and State Governments seem to want to accept that our role in the global economy is that of providing naturally occurring commodities, that is, fibres, minerals and food. Our achievements in the areas of design, research and product innovation have certainly been anything but spectacular. In the late 1970s the Queensland and Federal Governments appeared to have a fixation that minerals would be the salvation of Queensland and, for that matter, Australia. Most observers considered we had something of a natural advantage. I suppose that is undeniable. It is very interesting to study the facts and note, in the past 25 years, the very great increase in the per capita growth of gross national product in nations with poor physical resources and an equally striking fall per capita in nations with a strong mineral base. That is surprising, but it is a fact.

Dr Edwards: They work harder.

Mr SMITH: I think they have a better education system.

A Government Member: Greater productivity.

Mr SMITH: Does the honourable member say that America does not have good productivity? I think it has.

This means that nations such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have fallen behind, relatively speaking, while Switzerland, Denmark, The Netherlands, and perhaps closer to home, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan have raced to the lead. In the very important area of export earnings, there is a very marked increase in the level from those natural-resource-poorer nations of the type of products that have been produced purely through the intellectual capacity of the people. Unfortunately in Australia, the export earnings related to areas of high technology, design, skills, books, films and royalty on patents are very low. I understand that the figure is as low as 1 per cent. That surprises and appals me. In contrast, Japan and Sweden are able to identify that the intellectual contribution to their export ability has been well over 50 per cent. These people do not run around with wheat hanging out of the corner of their mouth.

The difference in performance can be traced to the quality of education. Many Australians and Queenslanders delude themselves by thinking that their education standards rank highly. Unfortunately, they do not. The facts are that we have fallen behind. In Japan, over 80 per cent of the 17 year olds are still full-time students. Our figure is 31 per cent. No-one can deny that. In the United States, the number of young people, pro rata, who attempt science degrees, is three times that in Australia. That is a critical area in the development of technology. Most National Party members would not know what the word means. The Queensland figure is considerably lower than the Australian average.

Earlier I was comparing countries that rely on their natural resources with those that take advantage of their intellectual capacity. In Australia some sort of comparison can be drawn between the various States. Certainly Queensland, with its very small manufacturing base, could well be put into the category of the State with abundant natural resources that is very low in innovative performance. At the other end of the scale, of course, Victoria would come out much better, contrary to the uninformed criticism that has been levelled at that State since the Cain Government came to power. Although its resources are much more limited, its production, based on the level of technology, is infinitely greater. Victorian industries pay higher wages and the people enjoy a better standard of living.

I suggest that it would be very dangerous for Queensland to continue along the road that the Bjelke-Petersen Government has apparently chosen in recent years.

A very good example of what can happen to a country with very good natural resources is the recent happening in Britain. Britain was one of the first industrialised countries of the world and a major force in world industry through to the 1950s. In contrast, in the 1970s, it became a very rich nation in terms of natural resources because of the North Sea oil. Its discovery was supposed to end Britain's economic difficulties. In the same way, some people believe that uranium will end Australia's economic difficulties. That is utter nonsense.

Mr Lee: Without the Common Market and the unions, it will.

Mr SMITH: I did not intend to speak about uranium today, because I do not wish to become involved in the uranium debate. However, I attended a discussion with senior oil representatives recently and learned that the major oil companies are withdrawing from the uranium field because there is no indication that there will be markets for it in the foreseeable future. I do not want to go into that matter any further.

Dr Edwards: Which oil company was that?

Mr SMITH: Esso. I will talk to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer privately about it.

Unfortunately, the black gold in the North Sea does not seem to have done Britain much good, because the income that Britain earned from its oil exports caused a major shift in its international balance of payments and, in turn, caused tremendous inflation that overpriced the other industrial exports with which Britain might otherwise have been competitive in the world market. The overall result has been massive unemployment.

It demonstrates that having abundant natural resources such as those in Queensland—and nobody denies that it has them—is no guarantee that the economic performance of a State or nation is anyway assured. However, it is vitally important for education to be relative to the needs of the State and the nation and, unfortunately, I am not convinced that that is presently the situation or, what is more alarming, even the objective.

I turn now to a local matter that is of concern to me. A similar matter affects the southern area of the State. I refer to the fact that there seems to be in the community a great deal of speculation that the financing arrangements for the casinos to be constructed in Townsville and on the Gold Coast are not fully in place. If the newspaper reports are to be relied on—and I offer no comment on that—it would appear that there is now a frantic world search to find the funds to construct and operate these facilities.

Dr Edwards: That is not correct.

Mr SMITH: The Deputy Premier and Treasurer said that the other day.

Dr Edwards: The Townsville funding is in place and a decision on that will be made at the next committee meeting.

Mr SMITH: I hope that that proves to be correct.

I note the local selling off of some of the Thiess assets, and Jennings appear to be attempting to attract capital from a wide range of international sources. That has been reported in all the financial papers.

There is also concern that the legislation necessary to set the casinos up is not yet in place; neither has it been introduced to the House, in spite of the availability of model legislation from all over the world. Honourable members have been waiting months and months.

Dr Edwards: Legislation will be introduced in the last week in October. It will lie on the table for three weeks and will then be debated.

Mr SMITH: We should have had it three months ago and had the opportunity of looking at it.

As to the financing of the casinos—this may well offer an excellent example of the role that a State bank could play in the matter of financing a venture that may well be of long lasting benefit to the State of Queensland.

Mr Bertoni: But you do want casinos, don't you?

Mr SMITH: Angelo, you came into the Chamber too late. You should go back to sleep.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Powell): Order! The honourable member will refer to other honourable members by their correct titles.

Mr SMITH: I again ask the Treasurer to provide a full answer on the present progress in the financial arrangements of the casinos, particularly with respect to local equity.

What is unfolding before our eyes relative to the casinos is a further indication of the lack of co-ordinated planning in this State. It demonstrates, regrettably, a lack of sophistication in administration and control, which is vitally necessary in a modern State and in a modern economy. There seems to be a lack of appreciation for integrated planning, which would be necessary to derive the maximum benefits of some of the developmental proposals that have come forward, and I certainly include the casinos.

One would have thought that the lead time involved, the Government's indication prior to the last election of its intention to establish casinos in the North and the South of the State, and the expertise that is available on a world-wide basis, would have resulted in things being much more advanced than they would appear to be at the present time.

In the Townsville area, there has been a considerable improvement in the tourist-related economy, in spite of the general economic downturn, and there is every reason to expect that there will be an even greater acceleration once the casino becomes operational. Many projects will not be commenced until there is clear evidence of a commencement of the casino project. Investors want to see the earth turned before they invest their money. I do not suppose that any investor could be blamed for that.

Dr Edwards: Nobody has asked them to invest at this stage.

Mr SMITH: I know, but they are not going to invest that money until they can see the proof before their eyes.

I wish to cite a typical example of lack of co-ordinated planning. It is well recognised that the casino and supportive facilities that will be generated from its existence will need very large numbers of highly trained and specialised staff. I am sure that the Treasurer would agree with that statement. The only hope of training sufficient staff, and particularly young people, in North Queensland will be through the establishment of a TAFE school of hospitality. I am given to understand, and I hope that it is correct, that construction will start in March of next year, although there is no mention of that in the Budget capital works program.

An earlier start on the construction of the facility was originally proposed. By the time this school is constructed, equipped and trainers appointed, it will be necessary for very large numbers of people to be imported into the North Queensland area to fill positions for which North Queensland people will not have had the opportunity to be trained. I hope that something can still be done about that. It is a very sad reflection on the overall planning of the economy of this State.

I have raised the matter of inadequate housing in the Townsville area in correspondence to the Minister for Works and to the Treasurer. I have put forward some factual cases which were very serious and sad. I have frequently raised the matter in this Parliament. Clearly, when the construction of the casino gets under way, and one would hope that it is in the not too distant future, there will be tremendous demand placed on the city to provide housing for the specialist workers who will have to be imported to work on that project. Again, it seems to me that nothing has been done to provide additional housing. There will be ever increasing competition for a limited amount of accommodation, which in turn will have the effect of escalating prices beyond their present level, which unfortunately are already among the highest in the State.

The city has recently received the good news that a new industry to construct diesel electric locomotives will soon commence. Railway wagons of a modern type have been constructed in Townsville for some time. From the point of view of decentralisation and providing opportunities for local employment, this is certainly very good news.

Again, one of the difficulties that will immediately manifest itself is a shortage of housing. Mr Tony Rock, whose company has been active in the construction of railway wagons in recent years, has already drawn attention to the fact that his company's production has been inhibited and that he had difficulty meeting the time specification on a contract because he was unable to provide or obtain accommodation for the additional skilled workers he needed to bring to the city to carry out some of the work in connection with that contract. To the best of my knowledge, Mr Rock drew attention to that problem 12 months ago. I am sure that the situation has become worse.

It is more than time that a very serious effort was made to provide Townsville with something like its housing entitlement for a city with a population of over 100 000. The problem with housing in Townsville is that until the last year or so the Queensland Housing Commission had not built anything like the number of houses that should have been built for a city the size of Townsville. It relies greatly on the private sector. Of course, when things become tough, the private sector drops away, and the rate of building drops markedly.

Recently I was amused when the director of the Liberal Party visited Townsville. I think his name is Gary Neat. He is indeed a very neat little man. He appeared on television and told the people of North Queensland that the ratings for the Liberal Party were the highest that they had ever been. I do not think that anyone in the Townsville district would have believed that statement because the Liberal Party is non-existent in North Queensland.

Dr Edwards: Why were there 160 people at a meeting the other night?

Mr SMITH: When your mayoral candidate in Townsville lost his deposit.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Powell): Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr SMITH: Mr Powell, I think that I have made my point.

A couple of weeks ago we debated the Hospitals Act Amendment Bill. Some years ago, this Parliament found it necessary to pass retrospective legislation to cover a couple of members who received additional income from the Crown. There is an interesting position with the Townsville Hospitals Board. Now that that board is regarded as an instrument of the Crown for building and other purposes, I wonder about the position of the chairman of the board, Mr Marshall Davies, who is a magistrate and who also receives a salary and allowances as chairman of the board. In saying that, I am casting no aspersions on him as an individual, but I would seriously ask whether he holds a second office of profit under the Crown. I believe that two other people on the Townsville Hospitals Board could come into the same category.

Every time the members of the Liberal Party visit Townsville, they stay at the best hotels, throw their money around and tell the people how they will remove sales tax on freight. I have lived in North Queensland for a long time, and I cannot remember one conference at which the leader of the Liberal Party has not said that.

Mr Lee: I enjoyed your speech up till now.

Mr SMITH: I am talking only about the Liberal Party in North Queensland; I am not talking about its operations in Brisbane.

Mr Vaughan: They speak with a forked tongue.

Mr SMITH: The members of the Liberal Party have one policy for Brisbane and another policy when they get to Townsville. They propose another policy in Townsville and hope that the people in Brisbane will not hear about it.

I bear no ill will towards the members of the Liberal Party, but I am amused at their pathetic efforts to portray the Liberal Party as a major party outside the south-east corner of the State. If ever a party was kidding itself, it is the Liberal Party. It should save its money and try to hold its present seats in the south-east corner.

When Mr Neat appeared on television in Townsville he tried to make the point that the Federal member was solely responsible for the improvements at the airport and for the Burdekin Dam Scheme. A Labor Government started the Burdekin scheme more than 40 years ago, and probably it will not be complete until there is another Federal Labor Government. Mr Neat is a very young executive, and I suppose that he has a lot to learn.

Mr Vaughan: Does Mrs McComb live up there?

Mr SMITH: She flies up week after week, makes some very uninformed statements and returns to Brisbane.

Mr Vaughan: She does not live up there?

Mr SMITH: No.

The Federal Liberal Party supposedly thinks a great deal of country people. What did the Federal Liberal Party do with diesel upon which people in country areas and in the tourist industry depend so much? It whacked on an additional tax of 6c a litre. It told them it will give them a rebate under certain circumstances. Some people now find that they will have to wait for up to three months before they can collect their rebates. A fellow who is operating a trawler of a size that is economical to operate under present conditions—pays an additional \$700 every time he fills the tanks on his trawler to put to sea. That is the sort of incentive that the Liberal Party offers to country Queensland.

Mr Vaughan interjected.

Mr SMITH: I suppose they must have some skills. They seem to be concentrating on the short-term money market in particular.

One often hears talk of decentralisation. How long has North Queensland been waiting for Townsville to be declared a capital city for pricing purposes? It has been good enough for the Federal Government to arrange for places such as Launceston and Darwin to be so declared, but nothing has been done for North Queensland. Every time there is an election, the Liberal Party serves it up and says what it is going to do. I have been there for many years and the tune has not changed one bit.

Mr Casey: Norm Lee couldn't even find it.

Mr SMITH: That is quite true. Malcolm Fraser usually flies over it at 30 000 feet in his 707. That is the closest he has even been to the Burdekin Dam.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr SMITH: Yes, on one of his trips. I understand that it cost \$50m for his international travel—and he was the one who said that we didn't need a tourist for a Prime Minister!

(Time expired.)

Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (5.52 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I take part in the Budget debate. In common with other Government members, I am very proud of the achievements of the Government. It is common for the Opposition to say that Government members rise to their feet and support the Treasurer. We are very proud to be members of the Government because of its achievements over a long period. It is a Government that has provided the State with get up and go, unlike Opposition policies that have been espoused during the debate. Labor has been seen as a party of knockers. The people of Queensland will never accept its policies while Labor members continue in that vein. Queensland has a balanced, positive Budget, which will provide another 18 000 jobs before Christmas, of which only 3 000 will be with the Crown. That is a free enterprise Government at work. It is a stand of which Government members are very proud.

Statistics have been thrown about to show that Queensland's economy is in a bad way and it is this Government that is at fault. That argument needs to be refuted. It is undeniable that the Australian economy is very tight. However, figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that on a per capita basis the New South Wales Government has not done nearly as much as the Queensland Government.

Queensland has always been a low-tax State. I was very pleased to see minimal increases in tax in this Budget and a great number of concessions. They have been referred to by other honourable members. The member of the Opposition who preceded me in the debate declared—I believe that it was his policy alone, because I have not seen it published anywhere else—that it is Labor Party policy to completely abolish pay-roll tax. If he read through other party platforms, he might see that the gradual elimination of pay-roll tax is contained in many of them.

The National-Liberal Government has taken positive action. Pay-roll tax is gradually being eliminated. I was particularly pleased to note the concessions granted to the employers of apprentices. The rhetoric of honourable members opposite should be ignored.

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that by way of tax on a per capita basis New South Wales collects \$577.56; Victoria \$561.34; Queensland, \$406.97; South Australia, \$414.21; Western Australia, \$449.73 and Tasmania \$420.37. On those figures one cannot deny that Queensland has been a low-tax State, yet it has a balanced economy. Members opposite should also take into consideration that Queensland has maintained its free hospital system. Had that system not been maintained to the degree that it has, the tax on Queenslanders would have been much different. What must be taken into consideration is that Queensland has lower taxes as well as a free hospital system.

Other figures that should be noted from the Australian Bureau of Statistics are that in the 12-month period to June 1982 the following changes in Australian employment were recorded: Queensland had a 2.3 per cent increase; New South Wales, a .7 per cent reduction; and Victoria, a .3 per cent reduction. Queensland continues to experience a population migration of unprecedented proportions.

I point out some of the fallacies espoused by members of the Opposition. The honourable member for Cook stated that the majority of those migrating to Queensland are old people who come here to save all their money. He has not considered the current circumstances, because in 1981 two-thirds of the interstate arrivals were between the ages of 20 and 44. That is a most significant figure. So much for the statements of the member for Cook! If he was afflicted with the same problem as Pinocchio, he would not be able to see past the end of his nose. Many members of the Opposition may suffer from that problem.

These young people who migrate to Queensland can be presumed to be the most energetic part of the work-force. They are self-starters; they want to come to Queensland to get up and go. They have listened to some of the publicity about Queensland and want a piece of the action.

I know that it is no credit to the Government that Queensland is rich in natural resources, but it is to the Government's credit that it has been willing to develop the State. That has happened against the outcry of Opposition supporters who have claimed that the Government should not be digging up Queensland, should not be exporting yellowcake and should not be doing all sort of things. How often have Opposition supporters been seen in the streets suggesting that the Government should be conserving Queensland for the future and not developing for the present? I make it quite clear that the Government is developing the State for the present and the future. Last year 9 000 business opened in Queensland, 15 000 new companies were established, retail sales increased by 17 per cent, and building approvals increased by 24 per cent. The fact that Queensland attracted 40 per cent of the foreign investment into Australia is certainly an achievement.

I should make some comment on the speech made by the member who has just resumed his seat. I wonder whether his great dissertation on pay-roll tax has been adopted by Labor Parties throughout Australia and when will it be implemented. Or will it be another example of the Opposition crying in the wilderness? The Opposition is always putting forward a new policy simply because it thinks that it will

be popular with the people. In the past the people of Queensland have not been conned and they will not be conned on this one. The people want government by example and that is what this Government has given them.

The honourable member also cast aspersions on the quality of education in the State. He made the point quite well that some overseas developing countries have had a massive increase in their productivity and have achieved a very high standard of education. He pointed out that Australia is probably slipping behind. I point out to those who may have heard his speech that the quality of education in Queensland is amongst the highest in the world.

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

Mr FITZGERALD: Before the recess for dinner I was discussing the standard of education in Queensland and comparing it with that in the rest of the world. I referred to the findings of the Select Committee on Education set up by the National-Liberal Government and said that its findings showed that Queenslanders could hold their heads up in relation to the standard of education and the quality of the State's young people. The committee's findings showed that the standard here is as high as the standard anywhere in the world.

The honourable member for Townsville West made quite a few comments about Queensland's education system and the standard of education in Australia. He said that the standard is not nearly as high as it is in many other countries. However, I should point out that many of the degrees obtained, for instance, in the United States of America—he referred to the United States in particular—are not recognised anywhere else in the world. So I question the statement that the number of degrees conferred in the United States of America means that the quality of education there is higher than it is here. Repeated tests have shown that in many cases the standard of Queensland children is higher than that of children in the United States.

The honourable member said also that Victoria, in spite of its lack of resources, was better off than Queensland. One should look at Australia as a completely balanced nation. With its many resources, Queensland is fortunate; but one must look also at the protected industries in Victoria and what they cost every taxpayer in Australia. One finds that most of the heavily protected industries are in the southern States. I am not saying that, from a national point of view, protection should not be provided; but if tariffs were not taken into account, it could easily be shown that the primary and mining industries in Queensland give Queenslanders a higher per capita income than people in southern States. That should be borne in mind when such matters are discussed.

To return to education—I think that the expenditure on education provided for in the Budget is fully justified. There is a desire to achieve a higher standard of education, and the Government should provide every genuine student with the opportunity to achieve as high a standard as he wishes. I agree that the length of time students spend at school and what they eventually achieve probably are lower than they are in many other countries. I often wonder why, particularly in some rural areas, a great number of students do not finish their secondary education with a view to continuing on to tertiary education. Although one cannot dictate to people and order them to go on to tertiary studies if they have the ability, I am aware that many schoolteachers are appalled when some children who are very high achievers have no desire to go on to tertiary education but decide to enter the work-force in a labouring capacity.

The attitudes of society to education must be changed. There is no doubt that the opportunities are there for young people to achieve a high standard of education. The Government has provided the opportunities, so it is up to members of this Assembly to go out into the community and encourage young people with ability to achieve the highest possible standard of education. It is very important that that be done.

I am pleased that the Minister for Education and the Treasurer have agreed on the need for a big increase in the number of teachers in Queensland. Honourable members were told that an additional 1350 State school teachers are provided for in the Budget. I congratulate both the Treasurer and the Minister for Education on their stand. I hope that they will be able to obtain the teachers when the positions become available. Several years ago, when teachers were in oversupply, many former teachers got in touch with me to see whether they could be re-employed. Some young women

who wanted to leave the Education Department for a time to have a family were fearful about giving up their jobs, knowing that it would be very difficult to get back in once they left the service. Other girls who wanted to go overseas—

Mr Davis: That is discrimination against the sexes.

Mr FITZGERALD: It is a fact of life. Women have the babies. Sometimes their working life is upset when they have children, but most men are not affected in their employment when a child is born.

When teachers realise that there is full employment, many of the women teachers who wish to devote five or 10 years to having a family will probably opt to leave the service. They will have to be replaced. Some of the young male teachers who decide to leave teaching for a couple of years to try something else will eventually come back to it. The ups and downs in the number of teachers available will continue. It is very hard to regulate the work-force. I am sure that the Minister will be employing teachers with the highest qualifications and that teachers from southern States who cannot find employment will be looking for jobs in Queensland. I ask the Minister to concentrate on finding jobs for well-qualified Queensland teachers.

This year expenditure on education is to increase by 19.4 per cent. That is a massive increase. Opportunities will be available for young people to gain the highest possible standard of education. I urge as many as possible to proceed to tertiary education. On the other hand, the Government should not support those who want to become professional students. It should encourage students to achieve, but not to become professional students.

Many students believe that society owes them an education. I do not believe that that is so. We all owe society what we get from it. I have no time for those who continually take while others go out into the work-force, earn money and pay taxes. In those circumstances, the workers look disdainfully at the academics. Those who are highly educated have a responsibility to plough back into society the benefits that they gained when they were being kept by the remainder of society.

Mr Milliner: What about your tax-avoiding mates?

Mr FITZGERALD: Some of the honourable member's mates in the Queensland Teachers Union tried to join the general strike in support of the railway workers and the Trades and Labour Council's campaign for a 35-hour week. It was absolutely despicable that teachers should go out on such an issue.

I was very pleased that so many teachers in my electorate turned up at school, despite the threat that they would have to pay their day's wages into union funds to keep a future strike going. The union must have learnt a lesson. When it comes to quality of education we respect the views of the teachers but, when it came to a political campaign with the stated view of bringing down the Government, the teachers did the right thing. They went back to work. They would not support the strikers and the people on the Opposition side of the Chamber who wanted to walk with the strikers. I do not cast aspersions on the honourable member for Brisbane Central on this occasion. However, some of his colleagues walked with the strikers, supporting them.

Politics have no place in our schools. In some areas the teachers who are members of the union sent notes home to parents to the effect that it was not much use sending their children to school the following day as there was no guarantee that they would be supervised. That was uncalled for, and it was shocking that the teachers tried to bring politics into the schools.

Whenever I visit a school I try to give a balanced view of things. When I go to a larger school, such as the Centenary Heights school in my electorate, and give a talk on government to the Year 10 students they video-record my talk as well as the questions and answers. That is an excellent idea. Some of the children come from families that support the ALP philosophy. It is right that they should be able to study what I said in front of the class and the teachers, some of whom support the ALP, and criticise what I have said. It is important that we do not leave ourselves open to accusations of political bias.

I shall now take the opportunity to say a few things about a number of matters that pertain to my electorate. In case time beats me I point out that, during the Estimates debate, I shall speak on the Vote for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs. Whenever I get the opportunity I become rapt in the subject of water in the Lockyer

Valley. If I did not remind the Chamber of the need for more water for the aquifer in that area I would be told that I was not doing my job. However, the Government Whip has told me that I will be given the opportunity to speak on those Estimates. I shall also speak to the Estimates for Transport and for Welfare. If I do not deal with those matters tonight, it is because I will speak on them later.

Last week legislation was passed in this Chamber to lower the blood alcohol limit from .08 per cent to .05 per cent. I should like to give my views on the matter. I have not been convinced that lowering the limit to .05 per cent will be a major factor in reducing the road toll. Many other aspects should be taken into consideration. When we are discussing the road toll and blood alcohol levels we should look at the statistics in the cold, hard light of day. It is traumatic for a person to become involved with a driver who has had too much drink. He tends to wish that alcohol was completely banned. I can understand the reaction of parents who have lost a child in tragic circumstances because someone had indulged too much and was virtually drunk behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. These matters must be looked at logically.

I do not think that prohibition will work. It has been tried overseas. The crime rate increased to such an extent that it dominated the whole of society. Instead of being a society that was pure, clean and sober, it became corrupt and evil.

We must also take into consideration the fact that we live in a mobile world. We move about freely, and the number of cars on our roads increases every day. The car-ownership rate is very high in Queensland. As a society we must mix the fact that we demand the right to drink, a society in which we are asked to have another drink for the road, with our high mobility. Of course, we end up with very unpalatable statistics. Has anybody ever been to a wedding or a party at which drinking has taken place? Cars are parked outside and it is obvious that at some stage all those people must go home. We have the onus of setting an example. People should certainly enjoy themselves, but they should make up their minds before they go to a party, a wedding or any other social event at which alcohol is available, to say, "No thank you, I am driving." If a person likes to have two or three beers, he should make that his limit. When I am the host, I often say to people with whom I am enjoying myself, "I will pour the first four beers for you. After that, if you are driving, I am afraid that you will have to pour your own because I do not want to be involved with liquor and driving." It is wrong that we should be associated with drink driving.

The attitude of the public needs to be changed. For a person to go out and consume six or seven beers and then drive home is intolerable. Pressure should be applied to drinkers to mend their ways. We should have civilised consumption of alcohol. The large public swill houses, which are called hotels, should not be located in the suburbs. People should be encouraged to drink socially in small groups.

I have researched the road toll and obtained some statistics. Every day we read in the media about "Campaign 550" and the number of people killed in the State. In our community we have a group of knockers. They say that the road toll is rising. How many people would believe that the road toll in Queensland is rising? How many people would believe that the road toll is actually decreasing? I would point out that the road toll in Queensland is decreasing at a very good rate. How would a person work out whether the road toll is increasing or decreasing? We should look at the population compared with the road toll, the number of vehicles compared with the road toll, and the number of passenger kilometres travelled. Unfortunately, those figures are not available.

The report of the Bureau of Statistics provides a summary of the number of traffic accidents in Queensland. In 1957-58, the number of persons killed was 342. There were 7 128 injuries reported. In other words, one person was killed per 1 000 vehicles registered. In 1966-67, 0.8 people were killed per 1 000 vehicles registered in Queensland. In 1973-74, it was still 0.8. The next year it decreased to 0.7. It kept dropping until, in 1977-78, it was 0.5. In 1957-58 one person was killed per 1 000 vehicles registered. In 1977-78 it was 0.5. In 1980-81 0.4 people were killed per 1 000 vehicles registered. In 1981-82 the figure remains at 0.4 of a person killed, if there is such a statistical possibility.

I now turn to the number of persons injured per 1 000 vehicles registered. In 1957-58, 20 persons were injured, and in 1966-67, 16.9 persons were injured. The figure continued to drop until in 1977-78, 9.5 persons were injured, in 1980-81, 7.6 persons were injured, and in 1981-82, 7.1 persons were injured. In other words, in 1957-58, 20 persons were

injured per 1 000 vehicles registered, and in 1981-82, the figure was 7.1. Some people are trying to convince us that the road toll is increasing. We should not be a society of knockers. We should get out and say that some improvements have been made.

I now deal with the number of persons killed per 10 000 of population. In 1957-58, 2.4 persons were killed. The figure dropped and then rose until, in 1970-71, it was 3.2. In 1972-73, the figure was 3.3, then there was a dramatic decline until 1981-82, when the figure was 2.6. In other words, in the last 10 years there has been a drop in the number of persons killed per 10 000 of population.

In 1970-71, 63.2 persons per 10 000 of population were injured. That figure has continued to decline, until in 1981-82, it was 48.1. Although I have no statistics on this point, I suggest that people are travelling greater distances each year. If that is correct, the road toll has dropped fairly dramatically. If people are told repeatedly that they are dumb, in the end they will believe it. It is time that the Press started to give some real statistics on the road toll and refer to the downturn in the road toll that has been evident for some time. However, I do not say that the statistics on the road toll are not alarming.

We all know that young people have a higher fatality rate on the roads than the older groups. Young people between the ages of 17 and 20 years have nearly twice the fatality and injury rate of people between the ages of 21 and 29 years. Young people between 17 and 20 years of age have a fatality and injury rate of about four to six times that of most other adult groups.

Figures from the Year Book that was recently issued to all of us indicate that persons under 17 years of age make up 37.1 per cent of all pedestrian casualties, and persons aged 60 years and over make up 19.4 per cent. Persons aged between 17 and 29 years constitute 53.4 per cent of all motor driver casualties.

The time and day of accidents are very important. In 1980-81, the greatest number of accidents in Queensland occurred on Fridays. There were 3 015 accidents on Fridays, 2 961 on Saturdays and 2 366 on Thursdays.

It is very important to ask ourselves why accidents happen. Is it that the roads suddenly become worse on Fridays, Saturdays and Thursdays? In thinking about why accidents occur, one has to consider the whole broad concept. My theory is that accidents are caused by the human element on most occasions. It may be that the driver has taken too much to drink—but that is a separate issue. Maybe the roads are bad. Under certain conditions they certainly cause accidents. However, if the driver is driving carefully, according to the conditions that exist, accidents do not happen.

Mr Moore: It's mechanical. It's the nut holding the steering wheel.

Mr FITZGERALD: I agree with the honourable member for Windsor. The nut holding the steering wheel causes a lot more accidents than the nut holding the driving wheels. Very few people are injured when a wheel falls off, as happens occasionally.

People driving cars must be responsible. On Friday afternoons most people are knocking off work for the week and thinking about what they will do for the week-end. Others may be thinking about what happened at work. They are not concentrating on their driving—and that is when accidents happen. They may be impatient, having finished the week's work and wanting to get home or wanting to get away for the week-end.

Mr Vaughan: Wouldn't there be more people on the road?

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes, that would have to be taken into consideration, too. Perhaps on the basis of kilometres travelled or on the basis of accidents per 100 vehicles the figures may not be as alarming as some of us think.

We must consider all of the statistical facts and try to ascertain the reasons for the road toll. I agree with members of the Opposition who spoke in this vein during the debate last week. They are my views and I express them on this occasion.

Occasionally on the roads we see an obvious death-trap or place where accidents will happen. We should remind the authorities in the Main Roads Department of places that we see as areas likely to give rise to accidents. I was very pleased at the recent announcement of the Minister for Main Roads that traffic lights would be installed at the intersection of Kitchener and James Streets in Toowoomba. Many accidents have occurred there, but there were many more near-misses.

Mr. Vaughan: Is James Street a main road?

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes. That is on the main Warrego Highway.

I would like to see traffic lights installed at the intersection of Railway Street and Spencer Street in Gatton. That, too, is on the Warrego Highway, and it is the point at which the Warrego Highway changes direction in the middle of Gatton. I have written to the Minister about the matter. Although the statistics on traffic flow through the intersection show that traffic lights are warranted under the criteria laid down by the Main Roads Department, as there have not been sufficient accidents at that corner lights have been fitted to other intersections first.

However, I point out that the town of Gatton is now divided into two main areas. The shopping centre, which is on one side of the highway, now has a major supermarket, but the older part of town does not have a supermarket at all. People need to be able to cross that four-lane highway without taking their lives in their hands. It is important that traffic lights be installed at the intersection, and a pedestrian crossing incorporated. It is all very well to say that a zebra crossing could be put there, but unless all motorists were paying close attention there would be fatalities. Pedestrians would tend to walk across that pedestrian crossing believing that they had the right of way, but an inattentive driver could cause a serious accident. A set of traffic lights would tend to stop all traffic.

Mr Vaughan: What about the stretch of road past Gatton college?

Mr FITZGERALD: That has been of major concern to a number of people. I have written to the Minister for Main Roads, who has advised me that a four-lane highway is being built to the Queensland Agricultural College. At present a new entrance to the college is being constructed. It will go round the college and link up with the Laidley road. I have been pressing for it for some time. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I see the job being done. The present access to the Queensland Agricultural College will not remain much longer. People will have safer access to the college.

Answers to questions that I asked on the issue were to the effect that not too many serious accidents had occurred near the entrance. However, it is in a frightful position. Visibility is very good and traffic tends to be travelling too fast. It is true that people tend to drive at the speed at which they feel safe, especially if they think they will not get caught. That is a fact of life. At times people tend to travel too fast, even though people who are familiar with a particular area know that it is dangerous.

I wish to bring up a monetary problem that has been caused by the recent imposition of the fuel tax on primary producers. Although I do not deny the Federal Government the right to collect taxes, I disagree with the implementation of this 6.155c a litre tax on primary producers and fishermen, who will have to pay it on purchase of the fuel and later claim a rebate on it. Originally the fuel tax on primary producers was deducted from the bill at the time of purchase, so that the primary producer paid only the net amount. Because some evasion may have been taking place—I do not condone evasion—since the last Federal Budget the new regulations provide that the amount be invoiced out, charged to the primary producer, who then sends the invoice to Australian Customs and, provided the amount is for at least 1 000 litres, which would be \$61.55 or at the end of a three-month period, a cheque is sent to the primary producer.

The problem is that the Budget was introduced some time ago but the forms are not yet available. Fuel agents have contacted me because they believe nobody is getting a fair go. They have had to charge out the full price for the fuel, including the 6.155c a litre tax; if the farmer pays the bill, because there are still no forms available, he cannot get a rebate; or he does not pay the bill and the fuel agent is short of cash. As has happened on one or two occasions, a primary producer has paid by cheque and, as times are fairly hard and the banks are fairly tight in certain quarters, the fuel agent has ended up with a bounced cheque in his hand.

Over a number of years a few companies have been very shrewd and have put most of their agents on a cash basis and increased their profit percentage, so that they have to pay for the fuel within seven days. However, when the fuel agent ends up with a cheque that will not be met by the bank, he has to pay for the fuel and the Government has received its tax, but the rebate will not be paid for some time.

I understand that the matter has to go through the Senate and probably within a week the forms will be available. As the member for Warwick has drawn to my attention, the forms are not yet available, but they cannot be made available until the legislation passes through both of the Federal Houses and receives Royal assent.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You are denouncing your own people.

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes, I am willing to criticise. I am not like Opposition members, I am willing to criticise when criticism is due and I am willing to give praise when praise is due.

I do not say that the rebate system will not work; I believe it will. The Government needs to be told that when it intends to introduce a tax in a Budget it should be geared up so that the legislation can be passed as quickly as possible so that things can function properly.

In the past few years several matters related to court proceedings have been brought to my attention, and I believe that one in particular should be rectified. I asked a question about the number of coronial inquiries conducted in Queensland and today I was told that 670 such inquiries were conducted in Queensland last year and that, of those, 253 were conducted in more than one place. For the benefit of those people who are not aware of it, perhaps I should explain that if a fatal motor accident occurs in, say, Gatton, and a coroner decides to hold an inquest into it, the court is usually set up in Gatton. But if a witness happens to live in Brisbane, the coroner might adjourn to Brisbane and hear evidence at, say, Wynnum. If a witness happens to live in Mt Isa, the coroner might just as easily decide to hear his evidence there.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order! I ask the honourable member for Wolston not to interject from other than his own seat.

Mr FITZGERALD: In the interests of fairness and justice, the coroner should sit in only one place. If a driver is involved in a fatal accident and he wishes to have legal representation, surely he is entitled to have that representation and not have to meet the huge expense of having his legal representative travel around the State. Although a person has every right to be protected by legal representation, he might not be able to afford it because of the costs that would be incurred by his legal representative in going from one hearing to another all over the State. That problem needs to be considered because, obviously, justice cannot be done in those circumstances.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Wolston will cease interjecting. I will hear the member for Lockyer in silence.

Mr FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr Akers—

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I have asked the honourable member for Wolston to be quiet.

Mr FITZGERALD: I believe that in the interests of justice—

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated. I will have to take action if the honourable member does not desist.

Mr FITZGERALD: In the interests of justice, the method of conducting coronial inquiries should move into the 20th century. Such inquiries should be held at an advertised time so that people who wish to be represented can ensure that their legal representatives are able to attend and observe the proceedings.

In the few moments remaining to me, I wish to refer to an article in the Toowoomba "Chronicle" of 14 October headed, "Deputy Mayor slams member". I do not believe that council chambers or this Parliament should be used for one's own political advantage and the telling of one side of a story. It is very much to be regretted that the deputy mayor of Toowoomba thought it was a politically opportune time to get stuck into me.

After reading that article, in which the deputy mayor accused me of hypocrisy, I formed the opinion that most of the people in Lockyer would have split their sides laughing at the hypocrisy of the deputy mayor. He obviously believes that the members of Parliament representing electorates encompassing Toowoomba are not doing their job. He has condemned them for his own political ends.

Some time ago I said in this Assembly that if over a number of years the Toowoomba City Council had decided to make Toowoomba the second lowest rated city in Queensland and wishes to continue that policy, the Government should not have to buy the Toowoomba showgrounds so that the council could build a cultural complex. I would dearly like to see a cultural complex in Toowoomba. In answer to a question that I asked the Treasurer about building a cultural centre in a local authority area, he told me that it was surely the province of the local authority.

This morning, I asked the Treasurer how many local government authorities in Queensland had received State Government subsidies for the construction of a cultural centre in the last 10 years, had the Government purchased land and/or donated land to any local authority in Queensland for the purpose of building a cultural centre, and was this the province of local authorities. He answered that the Major Cultural Complex Subsidy Scheme was introduced by the Government in 1976. Since that date, 25 local authorities have benefited from Government assistance under the scheme. He said that, to his knowledge, the Government had not provided land. He also said that the provision of cultural centres in local communities was a matter for each local authority to determine in the light of what it perceives as the needs of that community and its capital works priorities having regard to the available resources. That was very sound advice.

I pass on to the former member for Lockyer the advice that the leader of his political party gives him on this occasion when he is trying to wear two hats. I am sure that he will read "Hansard" and that, when he does so, he will take the advice on board.

Mr Milliner: Has he nominated against you?

Mr Booth: He will not waste his time; he has very little chance.

Mr FITZGERALD: In reply to the honourable member for Warwick, I point out that I believe in the democratic process. I believe that the people should have a choice of candidates. I am only too willing to face them at the proper time. Everybody has the right to choose his elected member of Parliament.

During this debate reference has been made to electricity charges in Queensland. Many statements have been made about electricity costs continuing to rise. The honourable member for Carnarvon, whose electorate adjoins the State border, has often spoken about comparative costs of electricity in Queensland and New South Wales.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: This is very parochial.

Mr FITZGERALD: I will present my argument. When I have done that, I challenge the honourable member to refute my figures. If the honourable member wants an argument on electricity tariffs—

Mr R. J. Gibbs: There are some marvellous points of argument on the popularity polls in New South Wales.

Mr FITZGERALD: If a domestic consumer uses a total of 2 436 units in a quarter, on the basis of 1 684 units at the ordinary domestic tariff, and 752 at the hot-water tariff, and he lives in the SEQEB or the SWQEB area, which is the Toowoomba area and below the Range area, he would be on H55 tariff for his hot-water system and his power bill for the 2 436 units would be \$149.95. Those are up-to-date figures, taking into account all recent increases.

Mr Vaughan: How many units are involved per quarter?

Mr FITZGERALD: In all, 2 436.

Mr Vaughan: That is the total?

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes.

Mr Vaughan: What were the units for power and light that were consumed? Over 1 600?

Mr FITZGERALD: That related to a bill for about \$150.

Mr Vaughan: This is for ordinary domestic use?

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes.

The account for \$150 may be for a large family. I am working on \$149.95 for 2 436 units, which includes 752 units at the hot-water tariff, that is, H55.

Mr Vaughan: How much a unit is that?

Mr FITZGERALD: It is impossible to work out the cost per unit because all tariffs vary and there are certain stages.

Mr Vaughan: Average?

Mr FITZGERALD: I have not averaged it.

Mr Vaughan: You could average it.

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes, but I am not a mathematical genius. I am not bad at maths but I am not that good.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Order! I should like the Chair to be acknowledged in this conversation.

Mr FITZGERALD: For the same number of units the bill in Sydney would be \$169.67; in the North West County Council area, which borders the Carnarvon electorate, \$233.01; in Victoria, \$186.65 and in South Australia, \$150.29. It is very similar to the Queensland figure. In Western Australia the cost would be \$186.31 and in Tasmania it would be only \$105.26. Tasmania is the only State that has cheaper power for that number of units.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr FITZGERALD: A lot of people in Queensland are saying, "What are we getting out of mining?" and everything else. I have pointed out to Opposition members that Queensland is the lowest-taxed State in the Commonwealth. I have pointed out that, except for Tasmania, Queensland has the cheapest electricity. That is what the people are getting. People are coming to Queensland and getting jobs. Over half the jobs created in Australia last year were created in Queensland. Opposition members ask what the people are getting out of the boom in Queensland. Of course we are part of the Commonwealth. We cannot put up a barrier and stop people coming to Queensland. The people of Queensland are benefiting because they have low electricity tariffs, free hospitals and the lowest taxation. I could go on and on about what the people are getting.

I should like to deal with some of the picturesque walks in my electorate. Visitors to the Lockyer electorate would be well advised to avail themselves of a very historic walk that was re-enacted last week-end. It was my pleasure to join the second Gorman's Gap walk up Toowoomba Range. In future, tourist maps will feature this walk and many people will find it rather challenging.

I congratulate the Gorman's Gap Historical Committee on its efforts in reopening this walk. It follows the route that Lieutenant Owen Gorman discovered in 1840 to take the first supplies from the penal colony in Brisbane to the free settlers on the Darling Downs. He was in the Lockyer Valley at the time.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Lockyer has the floor.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I will not stand for that sort of treatment of the Chair. I ask the honourable member to contain himself.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: I will, Mr Akers.

Mr FITZGERALD: The Gatton Shire Council should receive congratulations, too, because it provided the cairns and graded the track so that four-wheel-drive vehicles can use it if necessary. It is now a lot different from the original ascent but it is a walk that is quite challenging. Anybody in reasonable physical condition can undertake it. About 350 people made the ascent last Sunday. If the walk were undertaken on a very hot day by a person who was not fit he would be well advised to make sure that he had—

Mr Moore: A good insurance policy.

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes, and somebody to go and get help if he got into strife. Had last Sunday been a hot day with the sun belting down, many people would have been sitting down waiting for a four-wheel-drive vehicle to pick them up.

Too few historic sites have been preserved over the years and I speak specifically of historic walks such as that one. It augers well for the future to have a historic walk such as that marked on a map so that people can enjoy the history of the area and go out into the bush and do something quite challenging. If the Gorman's Gap walk can be made an annual pilgrimage, parents will be able to determine how fit they are and, at the same time, find out how enjoyable a walk in the bush with young children can be.

I turn now to the Budget allocation to water resources.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: That shows how very important it is to your party. You are giving water resources only two minutes.

Mr FITZGERALD: I point out to honourable members opposite that if they did not spend so much time outside the Chamber, they would know that, when I began my speech, I said that I was going to speak on the Water Resources Estimates next week. If the honourable member is present in the Chamber, he will hear my speech on that topic. That is when all honourable members will hear the full story.

The provision of water resources is a very important facet of the Budget. I shall be approaching the Treasurer in the near future to ensure that in subsequent Budgets adequate funds are made available for the provision of adequate water for the whole of the Lockyer Valley. I sound a note of warning that some of the grandiose schemes that have been put forward need to be researched thoroughly before being implemented. The high-production areas of South-east Queensland, particularly the Lockyer Valley and to a lesser extent the Darling Downs, have not received as much attention from the Water Resources Commission as they should. Some people believe that the provision of water involves the spending of money on very large dams.

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr FITZGERALD: Money has to be—

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr FITZGERALD: Consideration has to be given—

(Time expired.)

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Akers): Before calling the honourable member for Gympie, I warn the honourable member for Wolston that, although I have never asked anybody to withdraw from the Chamber, if there is a repetition of the disrespect that he has shown tonight, he will be my first victim.

Mr STEPHAN (Gympie) (8.8 p.m.): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to take part in the Budget debate. In the last few weeks the Budget has proven to be one of the outstanding public relations exercises that we have experienced in this State.

I wish to comment on some of the other public relations exercises that have taken place, including the staging of the Commonwealth Games. I congratulate the State and Federal Governments and the Brisbane City Council for the way in which the Games were conducted. I congratulate the general public for the way in which it accepted its responsibility by attending the various Games events in such large numbers.

I attended the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony and one of the swimming events. When I applied for tickets, I forwarded payment for both events. Although tickets were issued for the opening ceremony, my money was returned for the swimming

event. I was told that bookings were not being accepted at that stage. By the time I realised that bookings were open for swimming events, it was too late. That is an indication of the enthusiasm for the swimming events at Chandler. However, when I attended the swimming event, a number of seats in the centre were unoccupied. I do not know whether some people had bought tickets and then decided not to attend, or whether tickets had been returned. It was disappointing that those seats could not be used.

There is no doubt that the opening and closing ceremonies will remain in people's minds for many years to come. It was certainly encouraging to find that Queenslanders attended those great events.

The key objectives of the Budget are to sustain the growth and development that people have come to expect in this State. The Budget is designed to ensure the continuation of all Government services, programs and projects at their current levels and to respond to the pressures of a 3.5 per cent population growth by providing infrastructure and additional police, hospital staff, railway employees and other employees where needed. The Government has not only to provide these staff but also to train them so that they can carry out their duties.

The Budget is designed to ensure that Queensland remains the lowest taxed State within the Commonwealth, and I cannot overemphasise that point. It is also designed to minimise the effects on Queensland of the general recession in Australia and overseas. Because Queensland is so well managed, one tends to overlook this matter and to say that the economy is not as bad as it might be.

About 1 000 people a month are coming to Queensland from the South. If so many people were not coming to this State each month, unemployment would not be as bad as it is. But those people are coming, and we are pleased to have them. They are bringing with them their money and their expertise, which must benefit all of us.

Much has been said about road safety and about the enormous number of deaths and injuries on the State's roads. If one looks at the number of deaths and injuries per 10 000 vehicles on the roads now compared with the number 10 years ago, one sees that the picture is not as bad as it has been painted. Certainly, the position in Queensland is not as bad as that in some of the other States. However, any loss of life on the road is to be regretted, and every possible step must be taken to overcome the problems on the roads.

Rotary and the other service clubs in Gympie have established a pre-driver-training complex in that city. I have spoken about that centre before, but I believe that it highlights what can be done to try to overcome the problems on the roads. At a young age, children should be taught what will be required of them on the open road. In order to do that, Rotary and the other service clubs have established a centre consisting of a sealed roadway and many of the hazards that a motorist encounters on the highway. The Holden motor dealer in Gympie has supplied cars, and instructors from one of the high schools provide tuition.

Each year, about 2 000 children are being instructed in road safety. At present, some facilities are lacking. For example, there is nowhere to store the smaller vehicles such as the "Mad Mate" and the "Careful Cobber". One of those vehicles has a motor; the other is powered by pedals. There is room in the grounds to set up an administration and instruction centre.

The clubs have been looking for assistance from the State Government, particularly from the funds accumulated from personalised number-plates. \$100,000 is required to construct the building. If the money were made available, it would give them a great deal of encouragement. It would give others throughout the State encouragement to undertake a similar program. There is no reason in the world why similar complexes could not be constructed in 8 or 10 centres of reasonable population.

If we were to look constructively at what has occurred in the road safety program in our State, we would be aware of much more than lowering the blood alcohol level from .08 to .05. Graded licences and the heavy vehicle road safety programs have helped enormously. They have been accepted as quite realistic in their approach. Community responsibility is always important in road safety. It should never be underestimated and it should always be drawn to the attention of those who are willing to listen.

The role of parents in the program of educating their children is equally important. That has often been emphasised. The volunteer defensive driving program is being expanded by the Minister. I thank him for planning a visit to Gympie in the near future.

He is hoping for an excellent response to the defensive driving courses that are being offered throughout the State. The Road Safety Council hopes to extend the course throughout Queensland with the help of volunteers. The defensive driving course is conducted by concerned members of the general public suitably trained to present the course to great effect. It is encouraging to note that throughout the State 75 000 people have so far completed the course.

Compulsory traffic education programs have been set up for convicted drink drivers. The courts can order them and those guilty of careless driving to complete a defensive driving course. That gives them some idea of what should be done and how to go about carrying out their responsibility.

In common with other old mining towns throughout the State, Gympie is being plagued by the inability to freehold miners homestead perpetual leases. I have mentioned this previously. I have been a little disappointed at the discrepancy I have encountered in my area over the land tenure granted by the Lands Department. I shall spend a moment or two highlighting this matter. I have pursued this with the Minister for Mines and Energy on a number of occasions. He has been most helpful and considerate. In a letter, he said—

“As previously advised, the matter of handing-over of the Miners’ Homestead Leases Act 1913-1979 and all tenures issued pursuant thereto, to the Land Administration Commission, is presently under consideration, but a number of matters still require clarification.

Pending a final decision on any handing-over, it is necessary that the existing provisions of the legislation be implemented.

Every endeavour is made . . . to expedite applications for freeholding. However, with staff ceilings and increased workload created by this . . . legislation, it is not always possible to meet time schedules required by all applicants.”

To refresh the minds of honourable members about the problems with perpetual leases, once again I will highlight some of them. It is well known that many lessees of miner’s homesteads have not applied because of the cost factor. The majority of those who have withdrawn their applications have done so because of the payment required from them for the survey of the land and preparation of survey plans or because of the high unimproved values placed on the land. Present trends indicate that very few of those who have applied for freeholding of MHPLs will follow their applications through to freeholding, principally because of the cost.

In the wording of the preamble to the Act, the Mining Titles Freeholding Act 1980 was introduced to make provision for the freeholding of miners’ homestead leases, miner’s homestead perpetual leases, residence areas and business areas, and for other purposes.

The legislation was introduced as a result of many years of requests by residents in mining areas, particularly in the Gympie area, so that lessees would have the right to freehold. In practice it has been found that very few of the holders of MHPLs will in fact freehold their land under the provisions of the Mining Titles Freeholding Act 1980. The reasons for that are, firstly, the requirement of survey, which involves lessees in survey costs and the cost of new survey plans and, secondly, the high unimproved value of the land determined in respect of miner’s homestead perpetual leases and like tenure. Many lessees in my electorate want to freehold their mining homestead perpetual leases, but they are deterred for those reasons.

Mr Hooper: Since I have entered this place, I have never made a parochial speech. Can’t you tell us about something else other than your damned electorate?

Mr STEPHAN: If the honourable member listens for a while he might find out what is going on in other parts of the State. It is a pity that more members of city electorates do not get into other parts of the State to find out what is happening. They might be surprised at how big Queensland is and what is involved in the running of the State. I suggest to the honourable member that he spends a day or two in seeing a little of Queensland, even if he travels only 100 miles from Brisbane.

Although some of the values may be properly determined by the land inspectors, there are some instances in which the unimproved value is more than the market value. For instance, that would apply where the unimproved value was assessed on the subdivisional possibilities of land when in fact the lessee has no intention to subdivide but

intends to always use the entire allotment for residential purposes. In many areas values have sky-rocketed. Of course, there is nothing new about that comment. This has very much disadvantaged leaseholders. Had the Mining Titles Freeholding Act been passed when it was first mooted several years earlier, freeholding could have been achieved at a fraction of the present cost. Hindsight makes that obvious, but it is a little late now.

No matter what value is placed upon land for freeholding purposes, it is more than the value presently determined. It will make freeholding, which has been the dream and desire of many, an impossibility. After a few people have tried out the practicalities, the Mining Titles Freeholding Act will become a piece of disused legislation.

I draw to the Minister's attention an anomaly that exists in the ability to freehold Crown land when a comparison is made between the freeholding provisions of the Mining Titles Freeholding Act 1980 and the provisions of the Land Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1981. The provisions of both Acts are reasonably similar, and that is where many of the problems arise. Some people own land under both tenures and, of course, compare the two. If the provisions of the Mining Titles Freeholding Act permitted freeholding on a basis similar to that permitted under the Land Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1981, many more lessees of miner's homesteads could freehold their leases, which was the intention of the 1980 legislation.

Under section 198 (2) of the Land Act, as amended by the Land Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1981, the leases under the Act remain auction perpetual leases and leases in perpetuity. But under subsection 3, the rental period of the leases is deemed to have been terminated on 31 December 1980. That means that, although they remain perpetual leases, the rental on the leases is payable for a period of 30 years from 1 January 1981. After 30 years, no further rent is payable.

Under subsection 6, the annual rent for the 30 years of the lease under the Land Act is determined at the rate of one-thirtieth of the unimproved capital value of the land as at 31 December 1980. That places lessees under the Land Act in a much more favourable position than lessees of land under the Mining Act and the Miners' Homestead Leases Act. Lessees of miner's homestead perpetual leases continue to have to pay 3 per cent or, in some cases, 1½ per cent of the unimproved capital value in perpetuity.

Holders of those leases under the Land Act are also more favourably treated than holders of miner's homestead perpetual leases when it comes to freeholding. Under subsections 11 and 12 of section 188 of the Land Act, which were inserted by the Land Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1981, a lessee may at any time after the payment of his rent commitment apply to the Minister for Lands for a grant in fee simple of the land. Those lessees are entitled to freehold their land by payment of the unimproved capital value, or such lesser amount as is the balance of the full amount calculated on the basis of interest earned at 5 per cent per annum, the relevant capital value being that which existed as at 31 December 1980.

There is a glaring inconsistency in the method of dealing with the two types of perpetual leases. The capital value of leases under the Land Act is determined on the value that existed as at 31 December 1980 and the rent period on those leases is limited to 30 years, whereas the unimproved capital value of leases under the Miners' Homestead Leases Act continues to be subject to redetermination every 10 years and subject to payment of rent in perpetuity. Further, upon freeholding of a lease on application under the Miners' Homestead Leases Act, the unimproved capital value to apply is determined at current unimproved value at the time application is made.

I submit that the unimproved value that should apply under the Mining Titles Freeholding Act 1980, to make it consistent with the Land Act and Another Act Amendment Act 1981, should contain wording similar to section 188 of the Land Act, and be "the unimproved capital value of the land notified or determined for the rental period current as at 31 December 1980". I suggest that miner's homestead perpetual leases be amended—

- (1) by terminating the rental period as at 31 December 1980;
- (2) by requiring the payment of rent on miner's homestead perpetual leases for a period of another 30 years only from 1 January 1981;
- (3) by specifying the annual rent for the next 30 years to be one-thirtieth of the unimproved capital value of the land determined for the rental period current as at 31 December 1980;

(4) by nominating for miner's homestead perpetual leases a minimum annual rent for future years of \$30 (for example, by reference to section 188 (7) of the Land Act);

(5) by permitting owners of miner's homestead leases, miner's homestead perpetual leases, residence areas and business areas to freehold now or at any time within the next 30 years;

(6) by permitting holders of miner's homestead leases, miner's homestead perpetual leases, residence areas and business areas to freehold at any time thereafter.

Those problems consist principally of the need to survey many lands that are the subject of freeholding applications, the need to meet the cost of survey, the cost to lessees of new survey plans where those are required, the substantial payment required of lessees of the unimproved capital value (or proportion thereof) determined as at the time the application is made.

I repeat that the legislation in its present form is not achieving what was intended, and some of my constituents, although relieved to know that the Government has introduced an Act to permit the freeholding of their lands, have found that they are frustrated when they try to use the Act.

Mr Vaughan: Can we expect an amendment to the Mining Titles Freeholding Act?

Mr STEPHAN: I hope that some of the problems I mentioned earlier can be overcome and that in some instances, in areas that are no longer being mined, perpetual leases can be transferred under the Land Act, which would overcome many anomalies. The anomalies are highlighted because freeholding procedures are provided under the two Acts. That is causing as much frustration as anything else.

Mr Vaughan: Do you propose that we should excise the areas that we consider are no longer potential mining fields?

Mr STEPHAN: Yes. A number of areas are no longer mining fields. In Gympie, exploration drilling for gold is taking place. Without doubt, gold is to be found in the area, but whether it will be found in sufficient quantities is another matter.

The honourable member for Caboolture referred to the ongoing problem of the pulp mill. I welcome the recent announcement about it. Although one company ran into financial problems the project will not lie in abeyance. A feasibility study it to be undertaken over 18 months by a Finnish consortium named Ekono Oy. Its processing method is thought to be different from that which APM had in mind. The thermo-mechanical process that the company envisages will not create as many pollution problems as the other process. The company is receiving the co-operation and support of the councils in the area. It is looking expectantly towards the day when the raw material grown in the area, which is taking up a large part of the Widgee and Tiaro Shires, will be used there. I was interested to note a recent comment that the paper and pulp from the kraft process are the only ones in demand on the world market. Although we may not hear about everything that is happening, that does not necessarily mean that nothing is being done. I look forward to the Finnish consortium coming to the Gympie area.

For a long time Gympie has been the centre of a big forestry area. The forestry complex to the north of the city, in the Widgee Shire, has been expanded. For a number of years it consisted of a training centre. Recently, an administration centre was added, and a museum is now under construction. The museum is receiving the support of many organisations. I look forward to examining the different methods used in forestry operations over the years in Queensland.

I note with interest that 488 new jobs are being created in the railway service. The increase in railway employment generally highlights what is happening to Gympie. Because of the effect of the CTC on the area, there has been a downturn in the number of employees. That, in turn, is affecting townships along the railway line which relied to a large extent on the railway personnel to support shops, hotels, and cafes. Unfortunately, those townships are losing their viability.

When labour-saving devices are introduced, more consideration should be given to their effect on various centres. However, all is not lost and all is not bad in the Railway Department. The area along the coastline relies on railway wagons for the carriage of fresh fruit and vegetables. The service is good and will improve.

Refrigerated containers are being used and the service that has been given has highlighted the fact that we have been waiting for some time for another 100 units to be brought into service. Fifty of them were expected to be brought into service about the middle of this year. The fellows who are a little north of my area are disappointed that not too many have been made available to the growers of fresh fruit and vegetables. Those commodities are being produced in increasing numbers. To be able to hold their good quality they must reach the market in a fresh condition, and the refrigerated containers have been doing a good job. Road transport has been filling the gap, particularly for the Melbourne market and slightly less for the Sydney market, but the growers look favourably at rail transport. Well over 50 per cent of the fruit and vegetables produced in the north coastal areas is carted by the Railway Department.

I am grateful for the promised covered loading area at the Gympie centre. It has been required for a long time and we hope that it will not be too much longer before it is provided. Loading has had to be done out in the wet weather, and it is frustrating to have to load wet cartons.

I compliment the Minister for Works and Housing and the Minister for Education for their support for education generally in Queensland and in particular in my area. The pre-schools and the early education centres that have been provided are meeting the need but some centres and schools do not have those facilities. The latest one is to be provided at Gympie Central State School early next year. It will meet a real need in Gympie.

I should like to point out the success of the introduction of instruction in the playing of musical instruments, so much so that the schools have been inundated by students wanting to learn to play musical instruments. Unfortunately, some students cannot be accommodated because the teachers do not have sufficient time to handle all of them. This type of instruction is given only in the city area. Unfortunately it is not given in the outlying areas surrounding Gympie. Unfortunately the amount of remedial teaching that can be provided is restricted. The need for it in that area is as great as it is in the areas with larger schools.

I am frequently told that country students are at a disadvantage because of that. Of course, a stage will never be reached at which all commitments are met. Because of the number of requests for smaller class sizes and an increase in the number of teachers, there is more than one area that needs consideration. When that is realised, the problems encountered by the Ministers will be appreciated.

I do not think that the electorate of Gympie has more welfare problems than any other electorate in Queensland. Deserted wives with children are looking for homes. From time to time, wives who have been bashed are looking for refuge. Both of those categories of women are receiving great support and encouragement.

Another welfare matter that needs to be highlighted and commended is the community service order. Although it was introduced only recently, it has been an outstanding success. It has proved that it is not only an alternative sentencing opinion but also a means of improving the offender's attitude to society. I am pleased to hear the complimentary remarks by judges and workers in the community who have been involved with the community service order scheme.

Since the introduction of community service orders in January 1981, over 1000 orders have been made against 911 offenders, with an average of 113 hours per order. A total of 280 orders have been successfully completed and only 50 persons have breached conditions of the order.

It is interesting to note that the offenders take a very keen interest in what they are doing. In some instances they have helped with painting and gardening. In one instance the Gympie Show Society used the services of some workers under the scheme. The local aged persons home also utilised the services. One person went out of his way not only to transport the offenders to work but also to take the necessary requirements that were needed, such as soil. Nobody was required to supervise them in some instances, although it is important that supervision be provided. The offenders should know that they are doing the right thing. They should gain confidence from what they are doing.

The Spring Valley Endeavour Foundation farm, which is federally funded, plays a very important role in the community. It fills a great vacuum in the community. Handicapped adults and children who work on the farm are growing small crops and looking after cattle. Recently some parents were frustrated in trying to keep their charges involved in

work. They were starting up motor mowers at 5 o'clock in the morning. Because the work was finished so quickly, a couple of hours later they went round with their mowers doing the same thing. After a few days one could imagine the frustration experienced by the parents in trying to keep the children out of trouble. There is work on the farm for them. They enjoy their work and it is a worthwhile enterprise within the community.

Problems have been experienced in the private sector because subdivisions are taking place at a very fast rate. It takes a long time to get titles through various departments and into the hands of the subdivider. Subdividers are frustrated when they realise that it will take longer than anticipated to come to the successful conclusion of what they thought would be a fairly easy exercise. I compliment the Minister for Justice for appointing extra staff in an endeavour to overcome some of the delays and problems that are being experienced. Unfortunately, although extra staff are being provided, the work-load is greater because of the increased number of subdivisions. Although it seems that the Minister is trying to overcome one problem, he still has others to solve.

I did not think that I would see the time when we needed to give encouragement to sport, but the Commonwealth Games have highlighted the fact that sporting organisations require assistance. Because of the assistance that has been provided for junior coaching and for improving facilities over the last few years, many Australians, including many Queenslanders, did very well at the Commonwealth Games. A great deal of credit must go to the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts and to his officers. The subsidies that have been provided for sport have given enormous encouragement.

I refer particularly to the subsidies that have been provided for junior coaching. The payment of the subsidies makes it easier for the parents of children to pay the coaches who, in many instances, give a great deal of their time to helping children. Without the assistance that is provided by the Education Department and the Department of Sport, it would be impossible for swimming-pools to be constructed in many schools.

Before I conclude, I refer to land tenure for Aborigines and to the deed of grant in trust. It is rather strange that so many people comment on this matter without saying just what a deed of grant in trust actually is. It is a deed of grant that is held in trust for Aborigines over the areas in which they have chosen to live. Previously, these areas were church settlements, but now they are administered by a State department.

Many Aborigines in these areas have stated that they do not want to be able to sell their land. They realise that if they were given freehold land they would be able to sell it for hard cash. In 10 years or so, they would be back to where they are at present. They would then have to come back to the Government and say, "We want some more land", and they would be looking for more land that they believe should be handed over to them.

In many instances, the land that they already hold has not been utilised to its full extent. The herds of cattle on some of these areas have not been mustered for three or four years. When it is said that there may be 3 000 or 4 000 head of cattle in these areas, it is only an estimate. The Aboriginal people say that they want inalienable land rights, but they have not proved that they are utilising, to the fullest extent, the land that they presently hold.

Again, I take the opportunity to congratulate the Treasurer on introducing a Budget that is the envy of every other State in Australia. I also congratulate the other Ministers on the way in which they have handled their portfolios, and have encouraged so many people from the other States to come to Queensland to take advantage of our sunshine, hospitality and good life.

Mr MILLINER (Everton) (8.50 p.m.): In opening my remarks in the Budget debate, I pay a tribute to a gentleman who passed away last week-end. I refer to the late J. C. Slaughter, commonly known as Jim Slaughter, who was Town Clerk for the city of Brisbane—and an exceptionally good one. He was in the Brisbane City Council during a very exciting time. He and the then Lord Mayor, Alderman Clem Jones, embarked on changing the image of Brisbane from one of a sleepy country town to that of a thriving metropolis. Jim Slaughter will be remembered for the work that he did. I remember him for his support of the grand game of Rugby League. He was a great supporter of the Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club. When I was playing for that great club in the 1960s, I remember seeing him quite often, particularly at the football on Saturdays and Sundays. It is fitting that the Brisbane City Council named

the J. C. Slaughter Falls at Mt Coot-tha in honour of him and the work that he did. It was significant that after he retired the Brisbane City Council retained him as a consultant.

I shall now touch on remarks made by some of the previous speakers in this debate. The member for Caboolture referred to the uranium enrichment plant that has been mooted for South-east Queensland. It has been suggested that it be built in the Beenleigh area or the Caboolture area. It was significant that the member for Caboolture voiced his objection in this Chamber to the construction of such an establishment in his area. I, too, share his concern about uranium and place on record my total opposition to uranium-mining, uranium enrichment and the use of nuclear warheads or nuclear power-stations. As has been pointed out, it is not the be-all and end-all that it was first thought to be. We have a moral obligation to future generations and we should not leave them with the problems of the uranium industry.

As the member for Brisbane Central pointed out earlier today, this is the same old Budget. The only difference this year is the colour photographs that replace the old black-and-white photographs of the past. I am concerned about the way in which the Budget is presented and the lack of information contained in it. One only needs to look at the Budget and the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means and Expenditure to establish that. Many things cause me great concern.

I refer firstly to the Premier's Department. For the Queensland Government representative office in Tokyo there is an item "Contingencies—Wages, Printing, Stationery and Incidentals", for which \$312,399 is required in the coming year. In the Chief Office, for "Incidental and Miscellaneous Expenses" \$930,492 is required.

Mr Vaughan: That's incidentals?

Mr MILLINER: Yes. That's the petty cash tin.

In the State Public Relations Bureau, again for "Incidental and Miscellaneous Expenses", \$436,059 is required. We continually come across the word "incidentals". For the Agent-General's Office in London we have "Contingencies—Printing, Stationery and Incidentals", \$468,000. I repeat that that is just in the Premier's Department.

Next, in the Co-ordinator-General's Department "Printing, Stationery, Postage and Incidentals", \$221,100. In the Department of the Public Service Board we find "Fares, Travelling Expenses, Printing, Stationery and Incidentals", \$1,032,800. It is not a bad petty cash tin. The Budget should spell out in detail where that money is being spent. Under the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations, "Contingencies—Printing, Stationery, Travelling Expenses and Incidentals", \$127,000.

Mr FitzGerald: It's a Budget, not a balance sheet.

Mr MILLINER: Of course it is a Budget. The Budget should spell out where the money is being spent. The Federal Budget consists of something like seven documents, which spell out fairly clearly and precisely where the money is being spent.

Part of Appendix A to the Treasurer's Financial Statement, which deals with capital works, states—

"An allocation of \$80.4 million has been made for capital works at State Schools and Colleges of Technical and Further Education in 1982-83. . . .

The following work is programmed for 1982-83:—

Primary Schools—Expenditure of \$33.7 million is programmed for primary schools including \$7.2 million for new schools to be provided at Browns Plains, Bundall, Golden Beach, Mistake Creek, Palm Beach South, Springwood South, Tannum Sands and Tieri."

That is \$7.2m out of \$33.7m. Where will the rest of the money be spent? Obviously members would like that money spent in their own electorates. The Financial Statement does not spell out where the rest of the money will be spent.

Some 12 months ago, in the electorate of Everton, there was an unfortunate fire at the Grovely State School. The parents and citizens' association and the principal of that school (Mr Lindsay Barton) have acted very responsibly in regard to the fire. The p. and c. association set up a fire subcommittee and elected a chairman to it, and the subcommittee then set about the specific task of having rebuilt the wing of the school damaged by fire. The fire extensively damaged the wing, and the remainder of the building had to be demolished.

The chairman of the subcommittee was led to believe that the new wing would be constructed within 12 months. Reams of correspondence have been exchanged between the fire subcommittee, the department and the Minister, but I want to know whether or not that school wing will be rebuilt in this financial year. As I said, I am led to believe that that commitment was given to the fire subcommittee. I hope that the Government honours that commitment and replaces that school building.

Also under Appendix A of the Financial Statement appears the following—

"High Schools—\$22.9 million has been programmed for high school capital works including \$5.3 million for new schools to be constructed at Lowood, Middlemount, Rochedale, and Smithfield. Additional major accommodation will be constructed at Albany Creek, Benowa, Caloundra, Loganlea and Morayfield."

That is only \$5.3m out of \$22.9m. Where will the rest of the money be spent?

All members wish to raise matters that concern their own electorates, and I am no different. The Ferny Grove State High School, which is actually in the Ashgrove electorate, needs certain works to be carried out during this financial year. That high school was constructed some two or three years ago for the population of an expanding area. As yet, the high school does not have a sports oval. I am led to believe that sports ovals are usually provided in the second stage of high school construction. The Ferny Grove State High School is in the third stage of development, but no provision has been made for the construction of sports facilities.

As I am now speaking about sporting facilities and sport, I join with other members in paying tribute to those associated with the Commonwealth Games. It was a tremendous event and a credit to all those involved. I go right back to the time when the then Lord Mayor of Brisbane (Alderman Clem Jones) first suggested that Brisbane bid to stage the Commonwealth Games. A subsequent Lord Mayor (Mr Bryan Walsh) carried on the work to secure the staging of the Commonwealth Games for Brisbane. Under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Williams, the Commonwealth Games Foundation functioned very well and I am sure all would agree that it was a very successful event. The Commonwealth Games will be of lasting benefit because some excellent facilities are now available for the sports people of Brisbane and the State of Queensland.

I pay particular tribute to Mrs Heather Barralet, a high school teacher who lives at Ferny Hills and is employed at the Pine Rivers High School, for her efforts in the Commonwealth Games. I thank the Minister for Education for allowing Mrs Barralet to have extended time off without pay to train for the Games. That training was successful because in the 800 metres Mrs Barralet won a bronze medal for her country.

But what will happen to those fine people employed by the Commonwealth Games Foundation now that the Games have been and gone? I became concerned about what will happen to them after I read an article in "The Courier-Mail" which said—

"Some of the behind-the-scenes workers at foundation level—the 'small fry' who did not receive or expect recognition for their efforts—actually gave up steady, secure jobs to be part of the greatest show in Brisbane history. They must now start looking for new jobs. In the current atmosphere of unemployment that may not be easy."

I agree that it may not be easy for those people to gain employment, and I would like to see the State Government liaise with the Federal Government and the Brisbane City Council to ensure that those people who did give up good jobs to participate in the Games are not disadvantaged and that wherever possible they are employed by one of those three levels of government. I honestly believe that we have a responsibility to those fine people for the work they put into the Games, and I would hate to see the situation arise in which they were disadvantaged because of what they did.

Prior to the Commonwealth Games a brew of beer appeared on the market called "Games Special". It was produced by Castlemaine Tooheys Limited and was supposed to be brewed only for the duration of the Commonwealth Games. However, I was gravely concerned to read in "The Sunday-Mail" last Sunday "New high alcohol beer replacing Games ale". The article went on to say—

"A high alcohol premium beer will go on sale in Queensland soon as a permanent replacement for Castlemaine Tooheys' Games Special.

The flavour characteristics will be almost the same as the Games Special, which proved extremely popular until it was taken off the market last week.

However, alcohol content will be slightly lower—somewhere between the Special's six percent and standard beer content of 4.8 percent.

Castlemaine Tooheys managing director, Mr Frank Burnett, said yesterday research over the last 16 months had led the company to the concept of brewing a premium beer, Australia's first.

He said the premium beer was more difficult to brew and more costly and would therefore cost more.

Castlemaine will announce the name of the new brew at a special launching soon.

Mr Burnett said public response to the Games Special had been four times greater than expected.

'The public were delighted with it. It was a pity we had to take it off,' he said.

'It would be fair to say that the new beer will have very similar flavour characteristics—it will be almost the same.'

Although it would be Australia's first premium beer, the idea operated in the United States where Budweiser put out a premium beer called Michelob.

The Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petseren, told Parliament last week he would discuss with Cabinet any moves to continue high alcohol beer.

Both Castlemaine and Carlton breweries are known to be disappointed at the public response to the low alcohol light beers introduced about two years ago."

That statement by Castlemaine Tooheys causes me grave concern at a time when, every time we pick up a newspaper, we read about the carnage on our roads. I believe we should be going the other way and encouraging people to drink lower alcohol beer. Last week the Minister for Transport introduced a Bill reducing the blood alcohol limit from .08 to .05. I support that move but with reservations. It needs to be a package deal if we are going to get fair dinkum about the road toll.

Mr Mackenroth: Lower the excise on low alcohol beer.

Mr MILLINER: That is right. The honourable member has hit the nail on the head.

Low alcohol beer is selling at the same price as normal beer. If the Federal Government bit the bullet and lowered the excise on low alcohol beer, I am sure that the public would take to it. Although Castlemaine Tooheys and Carlton United Breweries have indicated disappointment with the response to the low alcohol beer, I am sure that if the excise was reduced and the price was lowered correspondingly, more people would drink it.

I, and most other honourable members, enjoy a social beer. However, we must always remember that a social beer can lead to one too many and that, in turn, can lead to a road statistic. I am disappointed in the public apathy towards the mounting road toll. If a Boeing 747 jet crashed at Eagle Farm and 400 people were killed that would be a matter of news throughout the nation for weeks. However, when 500 to 600 people a year are killed on our roads, the public seem to accept it. As legislators, we have a responsibility to do something about the road toll. The Government has several options open to it. The legislation lowering the blood alcohol level from .08 to .05 was a step in the right direction. I support the introduction of random breath-testing. If we are to do anything we must become fair dinkum. Although random breath-testing is carried out in Queensland, it is not formalised. The breath-testing being undertaken in Queensland should follow the Victorian pattern. In Victoria the police set up a breath-testing unit at the roadside, stop as many vehicles as possible, and give every driver a breath test.

The honourable member for Lytton pointed out that when he and other members of his committee went to Victoria they saw the breathalyser units in action. He told us that they were not catching many people and that the incidence of drink driving had decreased. Drink driving is a problem that will not be solved easily.

The town planning regulations that require new hotels to have massive car-parks are of grave concern. When a hotel is built, a car-park for 400 to 500 cars is provided. People are encouraged to go to the hotels and to drive their cars. The Government should consider issuing more hotel licences. Taverns should be cited in every suburb. People who want to take alcohol home should be able to purchase it more easily. The Government should consider licensing shops and supermarkets to sell take-away alcohol rather than have people going to hotels to drink.

It is ridiculous that bowls clubs and golf clubs cannot sell take-away liquor. Rugby League clubs and other licensed clubs can sell take-away liquor, but bowls clubs and golf clubs cannot do so.

The Government should overhaul the State's drinking laws. During the Commonwealth Games the liquor laws were relaxed to allow flexible drinking hours. That was great for Queensland and the tourist trade. On several occasions I went out quite late at night during the Games. I found that the hotels which were trading were well patronised. I did not detect any drunkenness, I have probably seen more drunks at three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon than I did at some of the hotels at three in the morning. I emphasise that the Government should seriously consider overhauling the liquor laws to bring them to 1980 standards. Queensland is a tourist State. If people are to be attracted to the State, the facilities needed to enable them to enjoy their stay must be provided.

The other matter that I should like to raise is the upgrading of the Maroochydore Airport to jet standard. The honourable member for Cooroora has raised this matter previously and has indicated his support for the proposal. I have read the report produced by Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey, the consulting engineers, and I am concerned about some aspects of the upgrading.

The North Coast is an expanding area and many people are moving into it. It does not have an adequate airport. It has airports at Caloundra and Maroochy and a privately owned airstrip at Noosa. The Maroochy Shire Council owns the Maroochydore Airport, and it requires it to be upgraded to jet-aircraft standard. The biggest aircraft using that airport at present is the F-27 Fokker Friendship. Two of them arrive each day from Sydney.

I am concerned about the way in which the report has been written. It is not a feasibility study to determine whether the Maroochydore Airport should be upgraded; it is a report that justifies the upgrading of the airport.

A number of matters concern me. The first is the summary regarding passenger movements. According to the report, the passenger movements for the existing F-27 Fokker Friendship services for 1982 number 57 430. A Fokker Friendship carries 50 people. If 57 430 is divided by 50 and the result is divided by 365 it becomes clear that 2.3 Friendships land each day at the Maroochydore Airport. Anybody who has been in the area for a considerable period knows that only two Friendships arrive from Sydney each day. During the winter months, the airlines rationalise the services and fly only one Friendship each per day on an alternate basis.

Mr Lee: Are you saying that the figures are wrong?

Mr MILLINER: I am questioning the figures. The engineers do not say how they arrived at them.

Mr Lee: They tell me you have a house there; is that right?

Mr MILLINER: I have a house in that area and it would be affected; but it is a holiday house and I am rarely living in it, so it does not really affect me.

The projected passenger figures for the jet aircraft are 105 400 this year and 357 400 in 1992, 10 years hence. Again I do not know how the engineers arrived at those figures.

Another aspect of the report causes me great concern. The section on noise on page 19 of the report, which recommends the upgrading of the airport, reads—

"Noise Exposure Forecasts (NEF) are not yet available from the Department of Aviation, however some general comments are applicable.

Marcoola and Mudjimba will be the most seriously affected. In particular the presently undeveloped Portions 459 and 460 to the south would also be seriously affected and should be preserved undeveloped as noise corridors.

It is not anticipated that the residential areas of Maroochydore would be seriously affected, however this opinion would be subject to completion of the NEF.

Buderim township would be affected by noise as the landing approach from the south for the 36/18 runway shows that the altitude of an aircraft on final approach will be 405 metres as it passes over the northern edge of the plateau. This gives a ground clearance of 274 metres or 900 feet. This approach would generally be made in the summer months with prevailing north easterly breezes which would exacerbate the noise effect.

Also because of the level of traffic predicted it is anticipated night operations would be required.

Regardless of conclusions drawn from NEF forecasts there will be a noise problem for approaches over Buderim. Sustained community complaints cannot be overlooked and the possibility would exist of a public campaign to impose a curfew on night operations."

I am concerned that a local authority would make a decision on such an important matter as upgrading an airport without an effective noise exposure forecast being available to it. I am also concerned about the safety aspect. The report devotes three paragraphs to safety. It states—

"In regard to general safety, take offs and landings would occur over residential areas. A possibility exists to negotiate a curved take off path out to sea for the southerly direction to avoid the residential area of Maroochydoore, however the airlines may generally be reluctant to agree to this.

It should be noted that several multi storey buildings of approximate height 50 metres exist in Maroochydoore and that the closest building to the airport 'Banyandah' has a top level of RL 50.8 (AHD) which protrudes through the horizontal clearance surface of RL 48.5.

Although ILS systems are not proposed in this report for Maroochy Airport, it should be noted that clearance requirements prohibit ultimate development of the necessary 300 m wide strip on the 36/18 runway."

That causes me grave concern about the safety aspects of departing aircraft from Maroochy Airport. The report recommends a two-phase proposal for upgrading the airport.

A Government Member: What is the report?

Mr MILLINER: The report has been prepared by Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd, consulting engineers. It is a report to the Maroochy Shire Council on the upgrading of the Maroochy Airport. The two proposals that have been put forward are the upgrading of the existing north-south runway, which would cost approximately \$9m, and ultimately extending the east-west runway, which would cost approximately \$11m. The problems associated with upgrading the north-south runway are immense. As is pointed out in the report, although Maroochy, the area in which I have an interest, will be affected, it also affects Buderim and Maroochydoore. When airports are being planned everything possible should be done to protect the environment and to limit environmental problems.

Proposal A to upgrade the existing north-south runway will cost approximately \$9m. I am concerned about what might happen. If proposal B, which is the upgrading of the east-west runway, cannot proceed, the north-south runway will be upgraded to take Boeing 707s and the Airbus aircraft. Under certain conditions passengers and freight will have to be offloaded. I have been reliably informed by persons in the airline industry in New Guinea that that causes tremendous problems with passengers and that it does not give a very good reputation to the place of departure. I would not like to see the Sunshine Coast suffer from that.

The report also deals with the funding and operations of the airport. The report states that the council would be able to fund the operation of the airport by leasing out the facilities at the airport. That could not be done until the airport reached its full potential. Full utilisation would mean using the new east-west runway, if it can be constructed.

Problems are being experienced with the east-west runway. A flood plain study for the Maroochy River is being undertaken, and the Maroochy Airport will be included in that study. It is not certain whether the east-west runway will be able to be used.

The other matter that I wish to mention is employment. In his Budget Speech, the Treasurer indicated that more jobs would be created in teaching, police and other Government areas. We hear the Government, particularly its Ministers, continually say what a great State Queensland is. There is no doubt that it is a great State. However, the additional workers in Government employment only service those people who are coming here from the other States.

It is interesting to look at the indicators of business activities from the Queensland office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. They show that there has been an increase of 1.7 per cent in the labour force in Queensland. However, they also show that over the same period the unemployment rate in Queensland increased by 15.4 per cent. I am

gravely concerned about that figure because at the end of the year many young people will be leaving our educational institutions and looking for employment. The Budget has not done enough to provide job opportunities for those people.

It is not my intention to take my full hour, because I would like some of my colleagues to participate in the debate and to raise some matters of concern to them. I conclude by saying that it is about time that the Government realised that it has an obligation to the young people leaving school. If it does not, society in this State will finish up in all sorts of trouble.

Mr MENZEL (Mulgrave) (9.22 p.m.): First of all, I congratulate the Treasurer on the excellent Budget that he has introduced. It is a credit to this State and to the Government that the Treasurer has been able to hand down such a responsible Budget.

Before going into much detail about the Budget, I wish to follow up the remarks of previous speakers and comment on the participants in, and the voluntary workers at, the Commonwealth Games. The Games have really put Queensland on the map. They are something of which every Queenslander and, for that matter, every Australian should be proud. They were a credit to all concerned. For two years prior to the Games, all sorts of knockers, including Opposition members, were saying that Queensland could not stage the Games, that they would be disrupted by land rights demonstrations and that they had better be shifted. Those people have been proved wrong.

Most of the so-called black land rights demonstrators were white. Aborigines were not interested in demonstrating; they were interested in being good Queenslanders and Australians and in going to the Games and enjoying themselves like every other Australian. As I say, it was said that the Games would be disrupted because of land rights demonstrations. All the demonstrators were imported from the southern States, and I hope that they have returned home as we do not want that type of import in Queensland.

Mr Lee: They spent all their money on bail.

Mr MENZEL: That is right.

The Commonwealth Government has given \$51m to Charles Perkins. If Queensland could have received a share of the \$51m that has been provided for so-called Aboriginal development, it would have been even better off.

In my opinion, the Federal Government should sack Perkins. He is a disgrace and an embarrassment to the Federal Government and should not be employed by any Government for any reason. The statements he makes as a public servant are a disgrace. They are untrue and unfounded. His campaign to rubbish the Queensland Government should be stopped by Malcolm Fraser.

Mr Prest: You are talking against your own Government.

Mr MENZEL: I speak the truth.

It is very unfortunate that the Governor-General's daughter was mixed up with the demonstrators. I understand that she is a Communist. If I were the Governor-General and had a daughter who was a Communist, I would resign. The same thing should happen to him. He should consider resigning instead of trying to defend his daughter, who is making a show in Queensland, disgracing herself, and trying to disgrace Australia in the eyes of the world.

Mr Prest interjected.

Mr MENZEL: I do not defend Communists, and I hope that the member for Port Curtis would not, either.

Mr Prest: No, but I would defend my daughter.

Mr MENZEL: I would not defend someone who was a Communist and broke the law of the land.

Mr Prest: That's the type of father you would be. You'd be a great one.

Mr MENZEL: I thank the member for Port Curtis for saying that I would be a great father. I appreciate that comment.

Mr Katter: He is prattling on without his brain being in gear.

Mr MENZEL: He has probably been mixed up in all of the plots in the Labor caucus.

Mr Katter: Probably worried about tomorrow.

Mr MENZEL: Yes, Opposition members are certainly worried about tomorrow, and that is understandable. I sympathise with the honourable member.

Mr Randell: Is he a contender?

Mr MENZEL: I do not know, but I have been told that some deals are being worked out.

Mr Prest: To be truthful, I have been approached.

Mr MENZEL: Good on him. I thought he was worthy.

Mr Prest: I have the ability, too.

Mr MENZEL: That is true.

I am concerned for the tin producers—and the small ones in particular—on the Atherton Tableland who either started a mine or had just bought into a mine with a very small quota and had their quota removed. The State and Federal Governments must get together to give the small tin producer a quota. Many thousands of dollars have been invested in capital improvements to tin mines. Disaster struck overnight when the quotas were removed from the small producers in particular. Something will have to be done to remedy the position.

Of concern to me also is the lack of allocation in the Budget for water resources in Far North Queensland, especially for drainage and flood mitigation. I have heard a couple of speakers in this debate complain that not enough is being spent on water resources. I heard similar comments in the debate on last year's Budget, too. It concerns me very much. I realise that the Treasurer is a busy man and probably cannot be blamed if no money has been allocated in the Budget for flood mitigation and drainage in the Far North. That is unfortunate. I lay the blame on the Water Resources Commissioner. If he is not prepared to put up a submission and do the right thing by Far North Queensland, he should resign. I have had enough of it. Very important projects have been proposed but they have been totally ignored.

They would mean millions of dollars of revenue to the Government by way of taxation and would create a more viable and stable economy for the sugar industry. Year after year the Commissioner for Water Resources totally overlooks that. If the present commissioner is not prepared to do something about it, he should move over and let somebody else in the Water Resources Commission who is prepared to do something take charge and make a submission to the responsible Minister who in turn would present it to the Treasurer. That that has not been done is an indictment against the present commissioner. I have made many representations and, before me, the previous member for Mulgrave, Mr Roy Armstrong, made many representations. Nothing has been done, and every time there is a major flood millions of dollars go down the drain—millions of dollars of losses to the primary producers. Something must be done; it cannot be allowed to continue.

The total allocation for water resources is \$114.15m, which includes \$59.7m for electricity generation works. Far North Queensland has tremendous potential for hydroelectricity projects, and in the near future the Government should try to do something about them. I am a great believer in hydroelectricity projects as against coal-burning plants, because it is one way to avoid some union problems. Unions involved in electricity generation from the burning of coal can hold the community to ransom whereas hydroelectricity plants can keep generating. I am sure everyone agrees that unions have far too much control over the work-force and hold the general community to ransom over silly little issues. If the State had more hydroelectricity plants, the public would not be disadvantaged.

Because of low world sugar prices the sugar industry is currently suffering a serious economic decline. The State and Federal Governments must get together as soon as possible on this matter. I commend the Minister for Primary Industries (Mr Mike Ahern), who has made representations for assistance on behalf of the industry to the Federal Government, but he has not been successful. As soon as possible a Federal

Government loan must be made available to the sugar industry to supplement the No. 1 pool price for the present year. I have spoken to representatives of different areas throughout the State, not only from Far North Queensland, who have informed me that growers are finding it difficult to buy fertiliser. I know that some of them are using only nitrogen on their sugar-cane. They are not using potash or superphosphate. Because so little fertiliser was used this year, next year Queensland will have a very poor sugar crop, and certainly there will not be any over-production.

Rural reconstruction assistance is not the complete answer, although I believe that the limit of rural reconstruction must be greatly increased to assist growers to get out of high interest borrowings. Some growers have borrowed money on bills or term loans at fairly high rates of interest. If the State Government could increase the allocation of rural reconstruction from the \$30,000 limit up to even \$100,000, that would assist greatly.

Mr Randell: It has to be done quickly, too.

Mr MENZEL: That is so, because the demands and the cries from the growers are getting louder and louder. The cane growers are in a desperate plight and need immediate assistance.

I do not know whether that assistance should be combined with assistance from the Agricultural Bank, but I know that that bank will have to consider taking second mortgages.

Mr Davis: Are you in favour of a State bank or not?

Mr MENZEL: Yes, I am in favour of a State bank, and I said that earlier. As the honourable member has just entered the Chamber, he would not have heard me.

It is unfortunate that an offer was made to the unions of a 38-hour week next year. Even to talk about reducing working hours in the sugar industry when sugar mills and the growers are completely broke is ridiculous. They do not have money to carry on even now, let alone pay more money for shorter working hours. I have already called for those talks to be cut off immediately. I have been present when union officials have expressed doubts about the continued credibility of a campaign for a 38-hour week. It is absolute nonsense to say that it will be paid for by so-called trade-offs and minimal cost increases. To get down to basics, how can a harvester crew work two or four hours a week fewer and cut the same amount of cane? It is impossible.

Although there are problems throughout the State, the Budget undoubtedly benefits the ordinary man in the street. Queensland is still the lowest-taxed State in the Commonwealth. Because there is a need for more housing construction, the great increase in spending on housing is to be commended, as is the interest subsidy to be given to first home buyers by the State Government. That scheme was announced prior to the Budget, and was long overdue. It is an example that the Commonwealth Government should follow in trying to reduce high interest rates, because they are the greatest killer of business and employment. They also assist to increase inflation.

Finally, I hope that the State Government will give financial assistance to co-operative sugar mills, which have no backstop in mining, oil, cattle, and so on, as do other industries. Their income is derived solely from sugar, and in times such as we are presently experiencing co-operative mills need financial assistance. I call on the Government to provide assistance similar to that which growers are receiving at rural reconstruction interest rates.

Mr EATON (Mourilyan) (9.38 p.m.): I wish to make a few points that I think are relevant not only to my electorate but also to Queensland generally.

In his Budget Speech, the Treasurer referred to revenue. It was one of the few subjects about which he was really honest. He said—

“Revenue estimates have been very strongly influenced by the static state of the economy which has meant little or no real growth in some significant revenue areas.”

That is a true statement, and its truth will become even more apparent each month until the Treasurer brings down next year's Budget. The Treasurer should take particular note of it, because he will find that, although he budgeted for a small deficit, by the time he brings down his next Budget the deficit will be larger than he expected.

I fully agree with the honourable member for Mulgrave that we need a State bank and the Agricultural Bank. Queensland is a primary industry State. The old saying that Australia rode on the sheep's back is still true.

The Treasurer paid tribute to people in rural communities. Since the Government came to power it has been at fault in neglecting the banking system, rural industries and small country communities. As I said on another occasion, the Government has let the Agricultural Bank run down. Through collusion with the private banks, Government areas of responsibility have been taken over by the private banks.

In the early days, when Queensland was going through the so-called boom period and money was fairly readily available from the private banks, the Government backed off and let the banks enter areas that belonged traditionally to the Agricultural Bank. I have in mind the establishment of various rural industries by Queenslanders. In the past, the Agricultural Bank played a very important role in developing the agricultural, dairying and beef industries. If the Government had expanded the Agricultural Bank in the years of plenty, it would now be a very strong, expanded agricultural banking system. However, the private banks took over much of the business covered by the Agricultural Bank, especially in brigalow development. When the private banks said, "We can finance the brigalow expansion", the Government handed it over to them.

Society has been sold down the drain by the private banks. I point out to the Treasurer that the private banking system throughout the world is creating the economic crisis that is starting to affect Queensland, Australia and the world. That was admitted by the Treasurer in his Budget Speech. We must consider the overall effect on rural industry, small businesses and big businesses. Naturally big business can take a bigger kick than small businesses and private income earners.

Queensland needs a solid banking system because rural industries have been hit very hard. The honourable member for Mulgrave referred to the plight of the sugar industry, but people in small business in the rural areas who approach a bank manager for a loan to expand their business, or extend their premises, are told by him, "I am sorry, I cannot finance a loan because your business will not service the debt."

After telling the small businessman that he cannot service the debt, the banker takes him to another table and says that he can lend him the money through Custom Credit or the Australian Guarantee Corporation at an interest rate of 3 per cent, 4 per cent or 5 per cent higher than the bank interest rate.

The crux of the argument is this: if banks cannot finance a business at the normal business rate they should not be able to finance the same business proposition at a higher interest rate. It has been proved over and over again that that practice is causing the collapse of our nation. Governments are too weak-kneed to act or to introduce controls and restrictions over the banking system.

In Australia, Westpac is now the biggest bank in Australia. Last year, the Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank (Mr Rockefeller) and Henry Kissinger flew out to Australia. Before long the American banking system will break into the Australian scene. The banks have gone overboard to put all their eggs into one basket. They want to lend \$100m to Utah and \$150m to Broken Hill Pty Ltd. While doing that, they forget the men who keep the community going—the small businessman and the working man.

If a family man wants to borrow \$4,000 or \$5,000 to extend his house because his family is getting bigger or because he wants to give his family benefits that he was unable to provide in the early stages of raising them, the bankers will chase him out with a walking-stick. If a big national company wants to borrow \$100m, the bankers fall down on their knees and welcome it. That is ruining the country. That point has to be made clear to the State Government and to the Federal Government. Society will split and people will turn on one another. To ensure that that does not happen, some very strong laws should be introduced to regulate banking and overcome the problems that will be faced in the future.

The Government has failed to initiate proposals that could save industry from total collapse. I refer particularly to the mining industry in my area. During the recent mining crisis, particularly in the tin industry, a lot of buck-passing has been going on. All other mining activities, such as copper-mining and coal-mining, are copping a bit of a belting. Queensland does not have the mineral boom that the Government has been claiming for a long period that it has.

The decline in the mining industry is having a bad effect on small communities. Two tin dredges were working 24 hours a day in Mt Garnet and were supporting Mt Garnet and the nearby towns of Ravenshoe and Hot Springs. Many people in the area

held miner's homestead leases and had small grazing properties. They were able to obtain work by taking out leases and claims. But, after declaring that the Herberton mineral field would be free from ATPs, the Government approved ATPs for several outside companies.

The Herberton mineral field has fostered many small miners. Over the years they have worked there and reared families. Some of them have retired. That field has carried the small miner from the inception of the original mining plants on the Herberton field, which includes Mt Garnet, Ravenshoe and north into the Georgetown field.

If, because of the quota system, the small miner cannot sell his tin to allow him to continue working his mine, the tin industry will face a bigger crisis. The Minister has agreed that, in those circumstances, he will grant an extension to the miners so that they do not have to work the mines to retain their leases or claims. They are afraid that if they are put off their leases with the effluxion of time—no man can carry on for ever under those conditions—the claims will be forfeited to the Mines Department and, because of the ATPs in that area, individuals will not be allowed to take up the claims as small miners. Under the present system, the leases would be covered by the ATPs.

The Government has issued the biggest authority to prospect in Australia. It should never have been issued, particularly when the whole of the mining industry is in such a bad state. It will retard development because the big companies will tie up that land. They will spend a little money to hold the ATPs and those ATPs will keep the little miners out. It is the preservation of the rich mineral areas for the large companies until the day arrives when it will be convenient, for tax purposes or other purposes, to exploit the minerals in the ground.

There is not much need to point out to the Treasurer the plight of the fishing industry. That has been a problem for well over 12 months. The Budget allocates \$750,000 to make up the shortfall of the Queensland Fish Board. I remember quite clearly the Minister for Primary Industries saying last year that the Fish Board would be sold. He issued a statement that the Fish Board would not be allowed to operate any longer because of a \$650,000 debt which was increasing each day. To solve that problem he announced a sale of certain fish board depots along the Queensland coastline. Some fish board depots were sold. \$750,000 has been provided from Treasury funds to meet the deficit created through the sale of the depots. I would like to know what happened to the money that was received following the sale of the various depots.

At the time of the Minister's announcement he said that large debts were being incurred and that when the sale was completed there would be no fish board and that there would be no debt. There is now a debt of \$750,000. The Treasury has had to meet that deficiency. A lot of book-balancing needs to be done. Perhaps we have not been told about the decisions that have been made.

A matter that is dear to all the people in North Queensland and me is northern development. The 1982 Estimates for Northern Development are tied in with expenditure by the Department of Harbours and Marine. The total expenditure for those two areas of responsibility will be less than \$21m. I fail to see why a Minister is required for a portfolio that is so small. If the Government keeps contributing to unemployment and welfare associations at its present rate, within a few years the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Salvation Army will have a larger budget than that portfolio. The Northern Development and Maritime Services portfolio could be abolished if it is not going to improve. Apart from the Minister's salary and the wages of the director and the administration division, no money is spent on northern development. That is exactly what the Budget says. In North Queensland one cannot find anything that was started by the present Government in the area of northern development.

Mr Warburton: The Minister does not live there.

Mr EATON: That is right. The Minister pays us a visit now and again. The situation in North Queensland is something that must be examined very closely by the Government if it wishes to stay in office. In the past the people in the North have shown their dissatisfaction with the Government's efforts in North Queensland. The theme of the Government is that it wants to develop the far-flung regions. The Government claims that it is a decentralised Government. However, all the money is spent in the southern part of the State.

Government members have referred to the Burdekin. That area has not improved very much in the last 20 years. Some money is being spent on a road. The Government had to borrow the money to build the road. The contractor who built the road had to wait until the next financial year so that the Government could pay him. He did not want to pay off his workers. That is the system under which the Government works. Because the road was needed and the contractor did not wish to pay his men off, he agreed that he would pay the men and construct the road and that at the end of the financial year he would be paid by the Government. The truth of that statement can be checked out in statements made by other members.

That is the full extent of northern development in Queensland. I am sure that there is not one new project in North Queensland that the Minister can claim was commenced since his appointment. There is nothing that could not have been started by some other department. If that had occurred it would have saved the cost of operating a Northern Development portfolio and the expense of keeping the directors and others in office. A lot more could be said about that; however, I have agreed not to talk for too long tonight.

Much has been said about the great potential of tourism in North Queensland. Those members who live in the North know that. For many years prior to my election to this Parliament, the Opposition tried to convince the Government of the need to start ventures and to promote tourism in North Queensland. I know that the member for Cairns (Mr Jones) and the member for Cook (Mr Scott) have been active in that area. They have continually asked the Government to promote tourism in North Queensland. Since the present Government came to power, the tourism industry in North Queensland has gone backwards.

At the Tully Falls the amenities included a shed and a fireplace. Two families kept the tracks clean and provided firewood for the use of people on picnics. They have now gone. A family at Lake Barrine now sells ice cream, lollies and chocolates from a caravan which houses a portable freezer. The area has now deteriorated. The Government should examine that situation closely. I have only a short time available to me.

Mr Moore: You have 45 minutes.

Mr EATON: I made an agreement, and I will honour my word.

I level some criticism at the Education Department. I know that the Vote for the department has been increased this year, and I compliment the Minister for Education most sincerely for that. But as the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing know, a lot needs to be done in North Queensland, and I am hopeful that it will be done. I will not be too hard at this time because the decisions have not been made yet.

I refer to the need for an improvement in the education system in North Queensland. I cannot think of a word severe enough to criticise the Government for not doing more in the specialist field of speech therapy and remedial teaching. Last year, the Government said that 1100 additional teachers were being employed in the Queensland education system. We have to accept that figure, but I suggest that a big percentage of those teachers were replacement teachers. They were not actually additional teachers. This year, the Government has announced that an additional 1500 teachers will be appointed.

The point that I wish to make—and I am sure that it will be supported by my colleagues from the North, including the honourable member for Cairns (Mr Jones), the honourable member for Cook (Mr Scott), the honourable member for Hinchinbrook (Mr Row) and the honourable member for Mulgrave (Mr Menzel)—is that two speech therapists based in Cairns have to cover an area from Cardwell through to Normanton and the whole of Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait. The Minister has said in writing that those two people visit that area regularly. I have said before that for those two people to do that, they would do nothing more than open and close car and aeroplane doors. It is such a big area that there would be no time for them to do anything else. This matter has to be considered by the Government because the people up there are coming to the end of their tether. I am receiving many telephone calls and people are coming to my house, complaining about the situation in the North. I have a newspaper photograph, which I will be bringing down to show the Minister, of the former member for Mourilyan and the Minister. The article accompanying the photograph states that they expect to spend \$240,000 at the Innisfail High School. That

appeared in the Press in 1979. Not a thing has been done at that school since then, but at present I am negotiating with two Ministers, and I hope that something will be done about it.

Other members have complimented the Government for the effort that it put into the Commonwealth Games, and I also wish to compliment it. The Government, the Brisbane City Council and everyone involved in the Commonwealth Games did an excellent job. My main criticism of the Government is that prior to and shortly after the Games, many people decided to go north to visit relatives, but they were unable to get seats or sleepers on the "Sunlander". In answer to a question, the Minister for Transport said that three or four extra "Sunlanders" and three or four extra "Westlanders" were scheduled. They were booked out, too, but the Government did not schedule additional trains. People were trying to book in advance. Of course, there are always those people who wait until the last minute before deciding to travel on the "Sunlander".

People were complaining to me that they were unable to get a seat from Innisfail to Townsville on the Pioneer or Greyhound coaches or on the "Sunlander". They had to remain in Innisfail overnight. That is a regular occurrence during the tourist season. The Government complains that the railways do not pay, that it has to prop up the railway system, and that the system is losing millions of dollars a year, but what does the Government do to try to recoup the losses? It gives the profitable side of the railways to private enterprise, such as QRX. The Government continues to maintain the railway lines. Why doesn't it get private enterprise to do that work? Because private enterprise will not touch it.

I doubt that many unions in Australia would continue to allow their members to work under the conditions presently obtaining in the Railway Department in Queensland. I have had a lot to do with railway workers, from those in the lizard-catching gang—the fellows who go out in the heat—right up to the station-masters who have to work under hot and trying conditions at small stations and get out of bed at all hours of the night. Their families are deprived of the social benefits available in the larger towns, where children are able to have music lessons and attend ballet classes. Railway families suffer a great many privations, and it is about time that the Government considered them.

Many facets of the railways could be improved. At the same time, the department's income could be improved. The main cry of the Railway Department is that it is running at a loss. However, many of its systems could be improved. Income could be improved by the provision of cold wagons and freezer wagons for the transport of bananas from Far North Queensland to Brisbane, where they are off-loaded and sent on to Sydney and Melbourne. I am not sure whether they go through to Adelaide. However, wherever Queensland bananas are freighted, they need special wagons in which they can be kept without any deterioration. When farmers want the wagons, the department is unable to supply them because the Government does not have sufficient wagons. Sometimes it is necessary to spend money to make money.

I have pointed out already that there is a large scope for improvement in passenger rail. Honourable members have a letter from the Minister for Transport about an inquiry being conducted into the railway system. I hope that that considers all the matters that I have mentioned and arrives at a conclusion satisfactory not only to the railway workers but also to members of the paying public, who will take advantage of the facilities offered.

Progress reported.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September (see p. 1018) on Mr Elliott's motion—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr WARBURTON (Sandgate) (10.3 p.m.): The Minister indicated that the object of the Bill is to provide for the transfer to the National Parks and Wildlife Act of those provisions of the Forestry Act that relate specifically to national parks and to achieve a

clear separation of the two Acts. He said that it could be argued that the Bill should provide for the Director of National Parks and Wildlife to be a corporation sole, but he claimed that the matter was not entirely clear and that, therefore, no such provision is made in the Bill.

It is my opinion that the position is very clear. Even under the Forestry Act, the Director of National Parks and Wildlife is not a corporation sole by virtue of the provisions of the 1975 enabling Act, that is, the National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975, which provided, amongst other things, for the appointment of a Director of National Parks and Wildlife. If some person seeks, or some persons seek, to proceed against the National Parks and Wildlife Service for some reason or another, it is my understanding that a nominal defendant can be appointed by the Governor in Council. That, of course, will also hold in reverse. Perhaps the Minister can explain why he made such comments, which only tend, in my opinion, to throw some doubt upon what is obviously a very straightforward matter.

I cannot help feeling that, in the relatively simple exercise of transferring relevant provisions from one Act to another, honourable members are being subjected to an extremely superficial, even cosmetic, exercise by a Government that has a very dismal record in relation to legislation for the environment and conservation.

What is being done on this occasion may give some administrative advantages to the departments, but, if so, why have we had to wait for seven years, since 1975, for the provisions to be moved from one Act to another? The Government has not been able or, more appropriately, has not been interested in coming to grips with a much needed revision of legislation pertaining to the safeguarding and preservation of the State's heritage.

All that a long string of Ministers of the present Government have contributed over a long period of many years are promises upon promises but not follow-up action of any consequence. For example, on 6 October 1981 the present Minister introduced the Native Plants Protection Bill with some gusto. That Bill stayed well down the list on the Business Paper with no attempt made to bring it on for debate. Presumably that was because of the strong criticisms aimed at many of its provisions. Now, we find, without any explanation, that the Bill is no longer listed for debate. For reasons known only to the Minister and the Government, the Bill is now well out of sight and consequently, they would seem to hope, well out of mind.

It needs to be realised that the first of the Queensland Government's broken promises following the establishment of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1975 and 1976 related to a completely revised and updated nature conservation Act. The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975 merely provided for the appointment of a director and empowered him, subject to the Minister, to administer the service in accordance with the provisions of other relevant Acts, namely, the Forestry Act in part, the Fauna Conservation Act in toto, the Land Act in part and the Native Plants Protection Act of 1930 in toto.

In July 1976 members were advised that legislation to be introduced by the then Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service (Mr Tomkins) would consolidate the fragmented legislation into a single, comprehensive Act covering the whole of nature conservation in Queensland. If there is any doubt about the veracity of that statement, I refer interested persons to the July 1976 State Public Relations Bureau publication titled "National Parks and Wildlife" in which those comments can be well substantiated. So it can be seen that as far back as 1976 promises have been made and, subsequently, promises broken in respect of this area of very important legislation.

Instead of the relevant sections of the Forestry Act becoming part of a new, comprehensive nature conservation Act, as promised, the Parliament is asked to be satisfied with this very cosmetic exercise, which does nothing to resolve or get at the roots of the real problem of nature conservation in the State. The Native Plants Protection Act of 1930 was to be part of the new, single comprehensive Act, but, as I reminded honourable members earlier, the present Minister for National Parks saw fit to introduce amendments to a 51-year old Act which has been altered once in its lifetime. That was when the penalties set down in pounds, shillings and pence were converted to decimal currency. Over the whole of the 51 years of the Act's operation, the National-Liberal Government of Queensland has never seen fit to effectively amend the Native Plants Protection Act of 1930, even to the extent of upwardly adjusting penalties. That in itself shows how unconcerned the procession of Ministers for National Parks and their

Government colleagues have been about the protection of the State's native plants, particularly when honourable members know how our national parks and forests have been ravaged and continue to be ravaged by thieves of native plants.

Over the years, any prosecutions that have taken place have been mainly under section 43 of the Forestry Act, which states—

“Any person guilty of an offence against this section shall be deemed to have committed a forest offence.”

That section of the Forestry Act deals with the interference with forest products in national parks, etc., and is one of the sections which, with slight amendments, are proposed to become part of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and another Act Amendment Bill 1982.

The Forestry Act also provides in section 88—

“Provided that in the case of an offence deemed by this Act to be a forest offence, the person guilty of that offence shall be liable, if no specific penalty is provided for the offence, to a penalty of not less than \$200 and not exceeding \$1,000.”

That section of the Forestry Act, with the words “forest offence” becoming “park offence”, is also contained in the Bill presently before the House. The minimum and maximum penalties mentioned were lifted from \$20 and \$400 respectively by an amendment to the Forestry Act in April 1976, over six years ago. I can well recall the Minister's admission, when he spoke to the Native Plants Protection Bill in October 1981, that maximum penalties under the 1930 Act still ranged from £5 to £20, whereas the amended Act would provide for a penalty of a \$5,000 fine or 12 months' imprisonment, or both the fine and imprisonment if a person was found guilty of taking a protected native plant in Queensland.

Here we are going through the process of dealing with parts of the Forestry Act that pertain directly to penalty provisions for the sale of native plants. Although it was good enough for the Minister to extol the virtues of harsher penalties in the now defunct Native Plants Protection Bill, that is, a \$5,000 fine and imprisonment, he is content to stick with Forestry Act penalties that have not been adjusted since 1976. The Minister is on this occasion guilty of gross inconsistency. He had the opportunity in this Bill to back up his support for penalty provisions in the Native Plants Protection Bill that he introduced to Parliament last October, but he has failed to meet that commitment. In other words, the Bill does nothing to provide better control and protection of our native plants, particularly the ferns and orchids that disappear daily from our national parks and forests.

It is obvious why, in the past, prosecutions for offences mainly have been taken under the relevant provisions of the Forestry Act when we see that persons convicted of offences under the Native Plants Protection Act are liable for fines from \$10 to \$140 for a third offence. In 1976-77 there were only two prosecutions for the theft of native plants in Queensland, with the total value of fines being \$235. In 1977-78 there were three prosecutions with a total value of fines of \$360; in 1978-79 there was only one prosecution with a fine of \$200; in 1979-80 there were five prosecutions bringing total fines of \$925, and in 1980-81 there were three prosecutions with the total value of fines being \$1,000. I suggest that the guilty ones would be laughing all the way to the bank. They paid a small price for the thousands upon thousands of dollars worth of native plants that are deliberately stolen and then sold inside and outside Australia. Those plants are taken from our Queensland rain forests and national parks.

I mentioned earlier the long list of broken promises by Ministers of the Queensland Government who previously held responsibility for national parks and wildlife. In 1976 we were promised a single comprehensive Act covering the whole of nature conservation in Queensland by the then Minister, Mr Ken Tomkins. Mr Newbery took over as Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation in 1978. In February 1979 he said publicly that the Government was determined to clamp down on the illegal trade in Queensland's native plants. Mr Newbery said that the Native Plants Protection Act needed more teeth, and even then he was talking about increasing penalties for offences to \$5,000 or 12 months' gaol. He said that he wanted to change the name of the Act to the Flora Conservation Act and to introduce a Bill in the session starting in March 1979. Needless to say, Parliament saw neither hide nor hair of the proposed Bill. That was yet another broken promise relating to this matter that we are concerned about tonight.

In 1979, Mr I. J. Gibbs became the Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation. He was quick to state publicly that the State Government's planned legislation providing much heavier penalties for stealing or trafficking in protected native plants must be presented to Parliament as soon as possible. He said that every week of delay in providing penalties which acted as a deterrent to plant plunderers lead to further destruction of forest environment that takes years, and sometimes centuries, to regenerate.

In his October 1979 media release, Mr Gibbs said that he planned to have draft amendments to the Act ready within a month and that the legislation needed to be passed before Parliament rose for the Christmas recess at the end of 1979. He was certainly spot on about the effect of delaying the much-vaunted and much-needed legislation but, in line with his predecessors, he broke his promise. He failed to meet his commitment to the people of this State.

The subject was reintroduced by the same Minister (Mr Gibbs) in March 1980. We had a rehash of his earlier efforts to convince the public that Government action was imminent. He announced that he would outline amendments to the Act to his parliamentary committee and to the joint Government parties during the week commencing 31 March 1980. He said that State Cabinet had already approved draft legislation to revise the Native Plants Protection Act. Again, he was proclaiming the urgent need to put teeth into the flora protection laws of Queensland but, again, it was a case of talk, and no action. He was another Minister who failed dismally to deliver the goods.

In October 1981, the Minister responsible for the introduction of this Bill, finally brought the Native Plants Protection Bill to the House, only for us to see it wither on the vine and eventually disappear into obscurity.

The Opposition has no reason to oppose this somewhat nebulous, harmless exercise of transferring from the Forestry Act to the proposed Act those provisions relating to national parks. However, I want to express our extreme disappointment in that the Minister has not seen fit to take this opportunity to revise a number of the provisions, particularly those relating to the theft of native plants.

At a time when the people of our State are virtually screaming for heritage and other forms of acceptable environment legislation, the Minister and his National and Liberal Party colleagues are content to retain the status quo which the Minister, and Ministers before him, have publicly stated to be contrary to the public interest.

In recent times, many concerned people have made a concerted effort to preserve what is left of our rain forests. The obvious means by which that can be done is by placing rain forest areas under the protective umbrella of National Parks and Wildlife Services in the various States.

Labor senators are ready to support a suitably amended Rain Forest Preservation Agreement Bill of 1982, which is about to proceed to the Australian Senate. The purpose of that Bill is to provide for voluntary agreement between the Commonwealth and a State, the State being required to preserve all rain forests on Crown land within a period of five years. Under the proposed agreement, money from matching funds provided by the Commonwealth for State expenditure can be spent to include rain forests in national parks, to encourage the re-equipment of sawmills to handle non-rain forest timber, to promote reforestation and the transport of non-rain forest timber to sawmills.

If the Bill is eventually successful, all States, particularly Queensland, will have to apply themselves much better than they have in the past to the problem of rain forest survival.

As I have indicated, rain forests are foremost in the minds of many people at the moment, particularly in Queensland. Rain forests of the world are important for a variety of reasons. They harbour almost half the world's terrestrial species. They are a source of drugs. They provide tannins, resins, gums, dyes, etc., to industry and are a genetic resource of increasing food and fibre production.

Rain forests may also play a crucial role in maintaining climatic stability, contribute to regional rainfall and reduce world CO₂ build-up. These are possibilities. In spite of this, rain forests are under threat in all countries in which they are found. They are being cleared at the rate of 20 million hectares a year, which is contributing to massive erosion of the thin soils and loss of nutrients. Current deforestation could lead to 15

to 20 per cent of the species on earth becoming extinct by the end of the century. This wanton destruction must be stopped and Australia, particularly Queensland, can play a key role by setting an example.

Australia is a developed country with relic rain forests containing important primitive species, a high proportion of which are found only in Australia. We have cleared or degraded nearly three-quarters of our original rain forests. Our tropical lowland rain forests, the most biologically diverse, and described as the most valued by the world conservation strategy, have been almost totally cleared for cane fields, grazing, real estate, etc. We do not need to exploit our rain forests in the manner of developing countries. It must be remembered that forests cover only 5.8 per cent of Australia and that rain forests cover only 4 per cent of total forest area. We can afford to preserve them, yet to date Governments, particularly the Queensland Government, have been very hesitant to act.

The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service estimates that only 7 per cent of its remaining rain forests are protected in national parks. Part of the 400 000 ha of temperate rain forest in Tasmania could end up as wood pulp. A Queensland White Paper on North Queensland rain forests stated that 10 per cent of rain forests between Townsville and Cooktown are protected or could, in the near future, be protected in national parks.

An IUCN bulletin in 1980 suggested that at least 10 per cent of the world's humid tropical forests may need to be protected in order to protect genetic diversity in a network of strategically sited reserves to cover all representative ecosystems. Just to preserve genetic diversity we have to do more than we are doing in Australia, particularly in Queensland. There is a lack of representative forest ecosystems in reserves, and some reserves are of insufficient size to properly protect an ecosystem.

Logging is definitely not the only threat to rain forests. Clearing for agriculture—for instance sugar-cane and dairying—for highways and for real estate have been and still are major factors in the destruction of Australian rain forests. However, logging has provoked the most public controversy and debate. The forestry lobby claims that rain forests can be selectively logged with the removal of up to 60 per cent of the canopy and still regenerate in possibly 40 or 60 years' time. Conservationists, on the other hand, strongly disagree, asserting that such canopy reduction and logging tracts cause invasion of weeds, dieback of rain forest species not cut down and loss of forest character. They claim that regeneration to mature forest takes hundreds of years. It should be remembered that foresters see forests for the wood that can be produced and view non-commercial tree species as undesirable, to be removed to make way for preferred species. Both loggers and conservationists would agree that if a rain forest is totally cleared it will take hundreds of years to again reach maturity. That assumes that rain forest species are found nearby to recolonise the area. If they are not the rain forest would not regenerate at all.

There has been severe overcutting in rain forests in all States. That will undoubtedly lead to a drastic reduction in timber yield in the next few years. That is an obvious conclusion. Logging in New South Wales rain forests is predicted to close down by 1992 owing to lack of suitable trees.

The Queensland Forestry White Paper admits that there has been overcutting of rain forests and that production will need to be cut by 45 per cent by 1986 to achieve sustainable yield from North Queensland rain forests. The question that must be answered is: What will happen to the work-force employed in the rain-forest logging industry? Many employees will lose their jobs irrespective of the activity of conservationists. That is a point that ought to be remembered.

Till now, the logging and sawmilling companies have called on governments to open up more forests to enable them to keep going for a couple more years, knowing full well that eventually they will have to lay off workers. Recently, sawmillers and loggers have been more receptive to alternatives presented by conservationists but still see those alternatives in the context of maximum utilisation of the forest.

The North Queensland rain forests are the main area of tropical rain forest in Australia. Inaccessible areas of Cape York still retain sizeable tracts of virgin rain forest, but rain forests in the humid tropics between Townsville and Cooktown have been heavily exploited and cleared.

There are presently 600 people employed directly in the North Queensland rain-forest logging industry and another 1 400 are employed indirectly. According to the Queensland White Paper on North Queensland rain forests, North Queensland rain-forest logging contributes annually to the economy. With the expected 45 per cent drop in production by 1986, there must be at least a corresponding drop in employment. The White Paper states that only one-third of the North Queensland State forests can be logged owing to inaccessibility, catchment protection, steep slopes and unproductive areas.

As at October 1980, there were 22 sawmills with a capacity of 390 480 cubic metres of saw-logs but only a Crown land allocation of 145 460 cubic metres. In spite of the over-utilisation of rain forests and over-capacity of the sawmills, the White Paper mentions only briefly possible alternatives for employment. It does not discuss them to any extent, and it indicates that the Queensland Government is doing nothing to provide alternatives for the industry or employment. The White Paper states—

“The suggestion to convert any degraded farmland to higher productivity is a commendable objective and reforestation of such areas is commonly advanced as an alternative to natural forest logging.

Certainly there are substantial areas of the Atherton and Evelyn Tablelands which are capable of growing high quality stands of Caribbean Pine if some means can be found to further stimulate private owned reforestation, or to acquire additional suitably located and compact areas of land to extend the State planting programme.

It would be many years however before any such programme would begin to affect the timber supply position.”

Conservationists have suggested alternative employment and alternative sources of supply for the sawmills. They have suggested reforestation of cleared land, but they indicate that this would have to be a private forestry scheme because of the cost of the land. Trees would be a variety of conifers, eucalypts and rain-forest species. Soil conservation works are another suggestion, because of the problems of degraded land. They suggest establishing a highly skilled craft industry, including furniture manufacture, to use wood fully. That was being investigated by the Tasmanian Government. Funds necessary for some of those programs that are not self-supporting could be obtained from forest royalties. In the past, such royalties have been held at artificially low levels.

An alternative to using rain-forest timber could be to use timbers, softwood or eucalypts brought in from outside the region. In 1978, a price comparison from a CSIRO study indicated that structural timber brought from the south to Townsville was cheaper than local timber. The rain-forest timber can be replaced with alternatives for nearly all uses.

Some of the alternatives may be financially viable; others may, of course, require Government funding. The Queensland Government has shown little interest in facilitating the structural change that will be necessary for the industry in the next few years to ensure that hundreds of workers are not forced into the unemployment lines. If the Queensland Government is not doing anything to help loggers, it is highly unlikely that it will assist the conservation of rain forests.

Rain forests must be protected, and at the same time the present work-force dependent on their exploitation must not be unduly disadvantaged. Therefore, the Commonwealth Government must encourage the conservation of rain forests and the phasing out of rain-forest logging by providing funds to the States to establish new employment opportunities in regions dependent on rain-forest logging and extend or establish national parks and nature reserves to include substantive important areas of all categories of rain forests. State Governments must be convinced of the necessity to conserve and preserve rain forests.

Whilst on the subject of employment opportunities and the urgent need for the Queensland Government to play a more positive role in relieving our State's tragic unemployment level—I assure you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that this has a lot to do with this Bill—I wish to put forward a proposal that involves the development of our State's national parks. Keeping in mind that tourism is being promoted as one of Queensland's largest income earners, it would seem logical to me that proper and speedy development of all of our State's national parks, backed up by sound management arrangements, is in the best interests of the tourist industry and of Queensland's economy.

Our country is currently in the throes of battling a recession, and unemployment is obviously growing. An identical but admittedly more serious situation faced Roosevelt as a result of America's Great Depression, which spread over the years 1933 to 1940. I am not one who goes back too far in time to find analogies, but I think that what I am about to say is very relevant, and I hope that the Government will heed my comments.

The Roosevelt Plan, as it became known, provided useful and exhilarating work in national parks and forests for 300 000 young, previously unemployed, people. The contribution made by those young people was such that today North America's national parks system is generally acknowledged as the world's best, with the numbers of visitors being reckoned in millions. Even as far back as 1972, records show that the number of visitors to the North American national parks system was estimated as being the staggering figure of 212 million people.

The development of Roosevelt's national parks system required a great diversity of skills. As one would expect, there was some opposition to the Roosevelt Plan, but his decision was clear, and he was successful in achieving a number of objectives. His actions ensured the preservation of a major part of his country's heritage and tourism received a massive boost, but, above all, he put unemployed people to work, which they enjoyed and appreciated. He restored their pride and gained the nation's respect.

Mr Scott: He also found money for that program.

Mr WARBURTON: I am about to mention that. There is a definite lesson to be learnt in this matter, and I would hope that I can get through the thick armoury of the members of the National and Liberal Parties in this House. Perhaps they may be prepared at least to consider a suggestion of some merit from a member of the Opposition.

Many of the emergency relief programs that Roosevelt implemented at that time were in fact conservation oriented. Within three months of the implementation of the Roosevelt Plan, the 300 000 workers were housed in 1 000 camps in national forests and parks, helping to develop camp grounds, buildings, trails and bridges. They installed utility systems and visitor-use facilities. They constructed and improved road networks. They restored historic buildings and monuments. Roosevelt found \$220m to inject into his project in that drastic period between 1933 and 1940. He showed the initiative and the enterprise expected and needed in troubled times. He accepted his Government's responsibility to its people when unemployment was the worst in that nation's history.

Any scheme designed to put our unemployed citizens to work should, if at all possible, give an eventual return to the State. In that way the State recoups the initial capital investment. Roosevelt succeeded in doing just that. In fact, his original investment has in the long term resulted in a bonanza for that North American country. It would seem to me that we have all of the necessary ingredients essential for the promulgation of a plan similar to the Roosevelt Plan. All that is needed is initiative, enterprise and a realisation of the need by the present Queensland Government.

Another matter concerning national parks and wildlife that is presently in the minds of Queenslanders is the Queensland Liberal-National Government support for sand-mining on Moreton Island. In a valiant but unsuccessful attempt to turn the tide of unfavourable opinion away from the Government, Cabinet decided on 24 August 1982 that the existing national park area on Moreton Island would be increased from 16 per cent to 54 per cent. We were told that Mineral Deposits Ltd was prepared to relinquish some 3 330 ha, I think it was, over which the company had authority to prospect. It is widely known that the Australian Labor Party is totally—and I mean totally—opposed to any sand-mining taking place on Moreton Island. For that reason, we are now appearing before the mining warden as a formal objector to the applications which, if successful, would result in sand miners carrying out their activities on an island which is listed on the Australian heritage register—an island hitherto devoid of the ravages of sand-mining.

I am aware that federally—and it is, one of the reasons why I raise this matter for the interest of members—it is proposed to proceed with a private senator's Bill, being a Bill to amend the Customs Act of 1901 to provide for approval by Parliament of the export of minerals extracted from sand from a prescribed place. The effect of that Bill's being successful would be to ensure that export permits could not be issued without

approval of both Houses of Parliament. I would certainly hope, as do all other members of the Opposition, that the Bill has a successful passage and that the Commonwealth Parliament moves quickly to put an effective stop to what is yet another act of wanton destruction of our State's heritage.

This is a very wide-ranging Bill and I am sure that numerous members from both sides of the House will want to discuss many aspects of it. In his second-reading speech the Minister stated that it was a simple exercise, that all that was happening was the transfer of provisions concerning national parks that presently exist in the Forestry Act to the Bill now before the House, the National Parks and Wildlife and Another Act Amendment Bill, which the Minister hopes will become an Act. For that reason, as I indicated, numerous matters must be discussed and should be canvassed widely.

I simply repeat that the Opposition has no basic objection to what is happening, but I also repeat that it is bitterly disappointed that this is such a superficial exercise. The Minister had the opportunity to do something constructive. On this occasion he had the opportunity to introduce a Bill to make further amendments to support his previous comments when he introduced the Native Plants Protection Bill last year, but he has not taken that opportunity. I reiterate the Opposition's bitter disappointment, and I hope that if the Minister has seen that he has not done something on this occasion, he will move quickly when the Bill finally becomes part of the statutes of the State to introduce further amendments so that the native plants and the fauna of the State can be properly protected.

Mr INNES (Sherwood) (10.41 p.m.): The first thing I wish to do in discussing a Bill that clearly brings the whole ambit of national parks into focus is to reiterate and underline the absolute importance to a modern, enlightened community of a system of national parks. It is a truism to say that as our population increases and as we develop, the national parks that we now have will become more important and the national parks that we do not declare, or the land over which we allow alienation and development to take place when we had a chance to make it a part of the national parks system, become a tragedy that cannot be repaired.

The reality is that other countries in the world—the United States led the world by declaring the first national park—are already suffering from the problems of development impinging upon and degrading even their existing national parks system. The United States has a multiple-tiered approach, in some ways not dissimilar to our own, that of a national parks system, a State forests system, which is very extensive and allows multiple use, as well as other land uses.

I recently heard Professor Arthur Wilcox, who is an authority on national parks and a professor specialising in that subject at the University of Colorado, describe how in a river that flows through a national park in the United States the pollution was so great that it spontaneously ignited. That river was so polluted with metals and petroleum products that it took fire. Because of industrial development and effluent pouring into that river at a place upstream and then flowing through the national park, it combusted.

Already in the United States they are finding both from the internal pressures created by the over-use of existing national parks and the development of extensive facilities within national parks, as in earlier years was the vogue in the United States, their national parks are being degraded. In the early days the United States took a different tack from ourselves. We have taken a better planning option generally because we have come later into the field of ensuring that development is on the periphery of a national park. In the United States some parks have very considerable development within the body or the heart of the park itself. Yosemite National Park in California is an outstanding example.

It is being found there that the pressures created by the extent of the use, by the services that have to be provided for the number of persons who are found within the park and by the range of services demanded are degrading and alienating the park. It is no longer looked on as the sort of experience that took people there in their millions over previous decades. Pressure is being exerted from outside the park.

In the United States there are national parks upon which acid rain falls; there are national parks with highly polluted rivers flowing through them and there are national parks that suffer from extensive air pollution.

The Grand Canyon National Park suffers from extensive air pollution, fog and clouds of noxious air created by the proximity to one side of the canyon of certain coal-fired generating plants. So even in a country that has been a pioneer, as the United States was, in setting up a national parks system and recognising the demand early, the pressure of population both within and outside the parks is creating problems in hanging on to what people in earlier generations had the foresight to declare for the people for all time.

One hundred years ago—I think it was 1880 that the first national park was declared in the United States—people probably never envisaged the extent of development in and even the population of the present-day United States. I suspect that we are now gaining some realisation of, some insight into, the population that Queensland will have over the next 100, 200 and 300 years, and it is likely to be enormous.

It falls to us and our generation—our time—to do something about the preservation of sufficient natural lands to provide for a range of values, some of which have been outlined tonight by the Opposition spokesman and earlier by the Minister and his predecessors. Those values range from the satisfaction of the increasing number of people who are likely to do nothing more than walk or camp in natural areas to things which are a little more esoteric, perhaps more for the purist—the preservation of gene banks or the range of living materials in numbers capable of reproduction, which themselves are not merely valuable from the point of view of scientific production but valuable also as being the life source of the complex of species which have evolved over the ages. We certainly do not know—we are still discovering—the value of materials that emanate from natural plants and trees, apart from the intrinsic value of the tannins, the quinines, the barks and the timbers we all know about. There is still a scientific investigative process going on and revealing new secrets and new values which can be absorbed from old materials. It is still valuable to have a complex of seeds, of species types from which hybridisation can result. Many of the plants, the more spectacular flowering Australian native plants which we all buy so readily in any corner store, have themselves been the result of hybridising from perhaps slightly less spectacular natural species which have formed part of the fabric of the forests and the bush of this State over the millenium.

In this State we have made an excellent start and the detractors of this Government do not like to recognise the extent of the declarations of national parks which have taken place over the last several years. It has been vast. It has certainly outpaced the financial resources allocated to the management of the parks. A problem arises there for the parks service or any person who presides over the parks portfolio, because the parks system is not without its detractors. Those detractors are vociferous, and at times they attempt to be well organised.

In a modern world, no-one can manage without adequate resources. When priorities are being allocated, it is important that a piece of land with a feature or a tract of country that is of real national park value be reserved. If the land is alienated, cleared or altered, in future, when money might be available, it can never be recovered within any appreciable management period. The responsibility falls on us. As every year goes by it becomes so much more important because a critical level is being reached in relation to examples of certain tracts of natural land.

A bold and visionary declaration of parks has been announced for Cape York. I predict that within 50 years the national parks system of Cape York, which is spectacular for the range and completeness of the areas selected or included in the national parks system and for the size of the areas set aside, will become as famous throughout the world as the great national parks system of East Africa. There may not be the spectacular herds of antelope and other animals that abound in Africa; but, increasingly, people are beginning to see the fascination and magic of diversity of vegetation. In fact, wild life and unique Australian species are abundant in those areas, which are themselves an increasing source of attraction.

Mr Scott: How much of it does your Land Rover run over when you are driving round?

Mr INNES: My vehicle, like most other vehicles, usually runs on established tracks. As the honourable member well knows, even on the formed roads in Cape York, a four-wheel-drive vehicle is needed to get through at many times of the year.

The point is that what has been done on Cape York is visionary. It will be met with the thanks of the people who like nothing more than the fact that it is there. It will also be the focus of international travellers in the years to come.

Mr Scott: If you were the leader on that side, would you back it up with some solid money?

Mr INNES: If the honourable member had been listening carefully, he would have heard me say that the important thing is the declaration. The money can follow. If an area that is not declared is alienated, the country cannot be recovered.

In terms of pure priorities, I do not say that I would not like to see more money spent on the National Parks and Wildlife Service. However, there are priorities. I am not the Treasurer. He is the man who has to say money shall come from here and go to there. Those are the hard decisions that most of us try to avoid. The declaration is very important. The detractors must realise that if a declaration is not attended by sufficient money in any year, they cannot, with force, condemn the actions of the parks service if it cannot keep up with the estate that it has been given.

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr INNES: I have been on the Lakefield National Park. Although I said earlier that the Government has adopted the device of peripheral development, Lakefield is so vast that the logical development should be on a properly sited area within the park. The park should not be shut so that nobody gets the benefit of seeing it. It is a magnificent tract of country. Utilisation of the existing homestead and airstrip is obviously the right course. I would not exclude the use of the present roads into the park. However, that is a matter of management and control. In many ways the parks must be looked at individually. No hard and fast rules can be established for any entire system. Generally speaking development on the edge of parks, particularly smaller parks, is desirable.

Two nights ago I spoke with one of the proprietors of a very well known tourist resort on the Lamington Plateau, Mr Peter O'Reilly. I think everybody knows the fame of Binna-Burra Lodge and the number of people who visit it. A little to the west on that plateau is O'Reilly's Lodge. At a time when international or internal travel in Australia is experiencing a slack period, O'Reilly's Lodge is booked out by bird-watchers from Victoria. They move out this week-end and will be replaced by another full house of bird-watchers. Another full house of American bird-watchers will be there later this month.

An Opposition Member: The honourable member for Windsor is a bird-watcher.

Mr INNES: Probably we are all bird-watchers.

Three years ago at a travel conference I learnt of a club that is based on Chicago in the United States of America. It is called either the Adventurers Club or the Explorers Club. It operates about four 707s that intentionally take people on specialised tours. They go to a place they have not seen or a place that gives them an outdoor, wilderness, away-from-it-all experience.

Mr Scott: They would not be anxious to take their members to Lakefield National Park.

Mr INNES: I do not think it could cope with the 707s. Perhaps they could be taken to Townsville and guided north.

The honourable member for Sandgate referred to rain forests. I, too, have some misgivings about what is happening to the remaining rain forests. The timber work in this building is really a tribute to the richness of our rain forests in a bygone time. The red cedar around the windows and doorways delights us all. It is the red gold of the early explorers. The work is a tribute to the Minister for Works and Housing and his departmental staff. The red gold is no more. It was called "red gold" when it was abundant. It is no longer abundant. It has almost disappeared. There are still odd trees here and there. Nowadays people go round the town trying to buy red cedar from houses that are being wrecked. Such is its scarcity.

The yellow tulip in this Chamber is another of our rain forest species. Throughout the building there are examples of maple, tulip, cedar and other timbers which once grew in abundance in this State. They no longer grow in abundance in this State. Only 20 or 30 years ago it was believed that rain forest species could be taken on a renewable basis of 50 or 60 years. Until people such as Dr Len Webb conducted tests recently, using carbon-dating and other sophisticated devices, it was not known that the timbers that were

prized 100 years ago took 800, 1 000, 1 200 or 1 400 years to reach maturity. They were there before parliamentary democracy was born. They were there hundreds of years before this country was discovered. Therefore we cannot work on a renewable basis. Trees of smaller diameter have been culled and, as some of the massive trees were taken, the type of forest was changed, the canopy was changed, the cover was changed. The quicker growing species underneath took off and changed the complex of the forest.

Mr Scott: The logging roads themselves helped in that regard.

Mr INNES: That is right—the disturbance created by logging and other activities.

Earlier this year I visited Western Australia and inspected the jarrah forests. The destruction by die back of tens of thousands of square miles of forests is absolutely appalling. The most significant cause of die back in certain areas is a matter of conjecture. There is no doubt that die back in Western Australia is caused by phytophthora which is stimulated by land-clearing processes. Where land-clearing takes place downstream or downhill of the forest and water flows through it, the jarrah dies back, and the banksias, which were the tell-tale before the jarrah, dies. A whole region and a whole type of botany of forests in this country are being destroyed on an unbelievable scale. The smaller the stands of original native timbers that remain, whatever they are, the more susceptible they will be to destruction.

I understand that there are probably between 30 and 40 persons still employed in taking hardwood in Queensland. Upon their culling is dependent, perhaps, 500 or 600 jobs in the milling industry, such as timber veneering and other industries. I am not saying that that is not important. From a primary industry that existed at the turn of the century and way into this century, which employed hundreds of men in the Forestry Department and private employment, there are probably only 70 men actually employed in the forests of South-east Queensland taking hardwood timbers. That is the extent of the work-force engaged in the removal of commercial timbers. We need to take stock. We must take a hard look at the situation to ensure the preservation of sufficient native forest to allow us to see the species which we now revere and treasure in buildings such as this.

The rain forests create a particular problem. I believe that the Government has a great responsibility in looking very carefully at that. Rain forests cannot and should not be preserved only in national parks. It must be more extensive than that. Everything cannot be put into national parks. Our State forests must remain an important reservoir of timber and important habitat for wildlife. Within the forest system steps must be taken to preserve representative systems and representative areas of species to allow them to be sustained for all time.

The form that the Bill takes of transposing an existing Act, removing particular parts and making a new Act, separating the national parks and wildlife functions, is not a happy exercise. I understand the purpose of the exercise. For some time we have had a separate Government department. It is reasonable for that department to desire to have an Act that governs it so that there is no confusion. There is a vast difference between the source of activities and steps that are taken in relation to national parks and activities taken upon them and those activities that are used in relation to State forests and the utilisation of their resources. Some of the difficulties are demonstrated in the transportation exercise. It is not altogether a happy exercise, and it will undoubtedly require some refinement in the future.

I wish to refer to a couple of areas on which the Minister might like to address some remarks in the next stage of proceedings. It concerns a matter on which I have done some recent reading.

I refer to the functions of the director under the proposed new section 10. There is a transposition of something that we find in the Forestry Act, and which more happily sits with forests. The new section states that the functions and duties of the director shall be—

“ . . . (h) the determination of the areas of National Parks from time to time existing which may be leased consistent with the objects of this Act . . . ”

I know that there is some leasing of national parks, but it is a somewhat rare occurrence. There is no worry about parts of State forests being leased, but leasing sits a little more unhappily with national parks. The new section continues—

“ . . . the utilisation of the grazing thereon by such means as the Director may deem desirable . . . ”

I know that grazing took place in Lakefield for some time. The new section continues—

“ . . . and the carrying out and control of any works for the improvement of the grazing or productive capacity . . . ”

Pasture improvement in national parks is a fairly mind-boggling concept. I think it merely demonstrates the difficulty of taking clauses, which were directed to one function, and transposing them to another function.

Mr Scott: You are being far too charitable. It is there for a purpose.

Mr INNES: That provision is in the legislation that governs national parks at present, so one cannot say that the Government is beefing anything up. I personally believe that it is an oversight. That is one of the difficulties of taking a piece of legislation, putting it through the sieve, finding out what has got a national parks label and then putting it in a special Act.

Moving away from that topic of an unhappy transposition—in the same new section there is a provision that allows for charging. Just to digress for a moment and to return to the question of providing funds to operate national parks—I personally am totally in favour of national parks being able to charge for some of their services. I am also totally in favour of those charges being earmarked for national park purposes because we know that there is a strain on funds for those purposes.

We all know that the calendars and posters of the National Parks Service in New South Wales are very popular. The National Parks Foundation, which is an organisation that exists to endow the National Parks Service in New South Wales, makes vast amounts of money. I think that its greatest single source of funds is the sale of national parks publications. I strongly believe that those services which can be charged without a prohibitive administrative cost being incurred should be available for charging, and that the money should be earmarked to help the beleaguered funds and the stretched resources of the department.

Mr Warburton: Don't you think that there would then be a reduced amount coming from consolidated revenue? Isn't that the way the Government works?

Mr INNES: Provided that there was a continual adjustment for inflation and a little bit extra—if this was on top of that again, that is the result that I would like to see.

I turn to the question of annual camping permits. I am not with the National Parks Association in its total rejection of fees for camping. I would never keep anybody out of a park. I would not keep a backpacker out of a park; but there is the provision of wood. Tonnes and tonnes of wood are provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The more wood it provides, the bigger the fires that people light. To levy a charge for wood would be a reasonable way of ensuring a bit of conservation. If hot showers are provided, as is done at Girraween, again I would totally support charges. The alternative for visitors would be to have a cold shower. I would think that such charges are totally justified and should be used to defray the cost of the service.

In the transposition that I referred to earlier there is a definition of “forest products”, and it does create problems when it is transposed to national parks, because “forest products” include quarry products. Whereas quarries are well recognised on State forests—there is no problem about that—it is a little unhappy to have a definition which appears to suggest that one could have quarry material taken from a national park. It sits a little unhappily there—it sits very unhappily. I do not want to see national parks used for quarries.

There is a definition of “wildlife”, which in itself seems to be quite reasonable. It is flora and fauna defined within the other Acts. However, apart from that, wildlife is not mentioned throughout the whole Bill. The National Parks and Wildlife Act has a definition of “wildlife”, without its having a focus or giving rise to any particular head of power.

As I understand it, in environmental parks there is a problem. Environmental parks find their source in the Land Act.

(Time expired.)

Debate, on motion of Mr Wharton, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House): I move—
“That the House do now adjourn.”

Missing Light Aircraft; Northern Coastal Surveillance

Mr JONES (Cairns) (11.13 p.m.): I feel compelled to comment on the answer by the Minister for Transport to my question in the House this morning, if only to reinforce the need for answers to questions that are asked in the public interest. In any future inquiry into the recent incident held by the Department of Aviation, or as the Commonwealth may direct or decree, cognisance must be accorded to urgent matters so that correct responses are given to alleviate public disquiet. I am now bound to seek through other sources and from another place the information I require. However, because of the importance of the issue, I wish to expand on the detail sought in my question in the House today.

I refer to the Cessna 205 aircraft that went missing on the Commonwealth Games gazetted holiday, Thursday, 30 September 1982. After leaving Mt Isa at approximately 0430 GMT—1430 hours, or 2.30 p.m., local time—after a 785 km (411 nautical miles) flight—at a speed of approximately 120 or 130 knots (a flying time of about 3½ hours), the aircraft had an estimated time of arrival of 6.25 p.m., allowing only a 15-minute margin of error, on an unlit strip at Atherton, which is also without track guidance systems—15 minutes before last light, which on that day was determined to be approximately 6.40 p.m.

If the flight had commenced an hour earlier, there obviously would have been no missing plane and no lives lost. No weather radar staff was on duty at the Cairns Airport on that day. It is to be granted that, in operation, that radar equipment has an elevation of only 60° and operates on a continuous rotating movement, which may not be completely effective for aircraft location. However, had the staff not been cut back to three men from the former five-man station through the actions of the Fraser razor gang, that technical equipment may have been resourcefully utilised and might have saved the aircraft and the five souls aboard.

The aircraft was lost from approximately 6.20 p.m. to 8.40 p.m.—two hours and 20 minutes. Most of that time it was in radio contact. The initial radio contact was by a ham radio operator, yet the authorities could not locate a friendly aircraft during those fateful two hours. What would have happened if it was an unfriendly aircraft or a drug runner? Where is the coastal surveillance? What price do we pay for the coastal surveillance based in Canberra that is supposed to provide security in the North? Was it shades of Pearl Harbour? Was it a holiday? Why was a naval base, with patrol boats at hand, not called in? If the Cairns airport is not equipped with aircraft radar and the defence forces are, why was not the Navy despatched to Feather Reef, if that was the aircraft's location, to locate it and perform a rescue mission immediately? Could a patrol boat, while in harbour or at sea, have located the plane? If so, why was that avenue not utilised? Every resource available may not have been used and, as a consequence, lives may have been lost. Was the Navy alerted and made aware of the problem? What time-lag existed?

An inquiry ought to investigate all those aspects, and a shake-up in the Department of Transport may be required. That may result in an even more extensive inquiry being mounted into any shortcomings that may have been unfolded by this tragedy.

Why is not every aircraft in Australia fitted with radio-controlled crash-location beacons. I understand that such equipment is mandatory in North America and elsewhere, and it could well be incorporated into Australian aviation without extravagant expenditure. If Australia is to maintain its reputation for the safest skyways in the world, an overall investigation ought to be instituted to cover the coastal surveillance radar capabilities. If the co-ordination, co-operation and interlocking of civil and defence services and instrumentalities is not already a reality, it ought to be practised in such emergencies.

I conclude by emphasising that these tragic circumstances allowed a missing aircraft to fly for two hours as lost without all existing facilities being made available, or those available not being utilised, to prevent the calamity and the resultant loss of aircraft and the five lives of those on board. The aircraft was not located. The incident ought not to have been allowed to happen.

Russian Imperialism

Mr GYGAR (Stafford) (11.18 p.m.): People who leave Parliament House and walk past the Queensland Club will see that the control pillar for the traffic lights is disfigured by a tattered remnant of vandalism, which used to be a poster advertising a public meeting that was to be addressed by the State President of the Australian Labor Party (Dr Denis Murphy).

The subject of the meeting and rally was "U.S. Hands Off El Salvador". Needless to say, Dr Murphy and the other socialist heroes of the ALP have not distinguished themselves by organising and speaking to other rallies to call for Russian hands off Afghanistan, or Poland, or Czechoslovakia, or Hungary, or Latvia, or Lithuania, or Estonia. It is remarkable how selective some people can be about expressing their outrage or seeking a target for their demonstrations in support of so-called world peace.

Lenin himself had a name for such people; he called them "useful fools". The Communists still find them helpful for their purposes, and in free and generous societies they flourish in abundance. One sees the proliferation of such groups as the World Peace Council and other manifestations that are discreetly directed from Moscow and generously financed through the so-called "Peace Fund". It is not surprising that the principal target of all these "peace" offensives is the United States of America, especially when one remembers that Lenin also said, "Peace, as an ultimate objective, simply means Communist world control."

It is hard to believe that today, in 1982, when so much is known of the regime under which the people of the Soviet Union have suffered for more than half a century, people who are not under its tyranny could be so stupid. Since the end of World War II, the Soviet Union has annexed and enslaved three free nations on the Baltic Coast—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia—bound two other nations in unwilling bondage—Belorussia and the Ukraine—continued to massacre its own people at a rate unprecedented in history and with a savagery that defies description, and built a wall across Europe with guns, dogs and mines, not to keep criminals and spies out but to keep its own unwilling citizens in. The repression of Bolshevism has created the greatest mass migration in history as ordinary people still flee to preserve their human dignity and escape the gulags and the firing squads. Yet the Dr Murphys of this world would have us rise up in anger against the United States, whose leaders are elected by choice of the people and which has no history of the massacre of millions behind it, still less the enslavement of nations. Certainly there are great weaknesses in the United States of America and in all the western nations, but it is the height of absurdity to suggest that, whatever these weaknesses, the grim, implacable, repressive incompetence of a Marxist tyranny would be preferable. Yet that is the message put across by Soviet propaganda and spread by the Dr Murphys of this world.

Certainly the promises of Bolshevik socialism were wonderful when, at gunpoint, its minority seized power in Russia in 1917. Besides equality, liberty and fraternity, they guaranteed power to the workers, land to the peasants and peace to the world. Every one of those promises was broken. Real power was soon taken over by the Communist Party, and any show of opposition was brutally crushed.

In the early stages, land was given to the peasants, but was soon taken back. Most peasants were forced onto collective farms, and huge numbers were physically eliminated—murdered. Solzhenitsyn's researches show that 15 million peasants were exterminated in the years 1929 and 1930 alone, and Vladimir Bukovsky has estimated the total number of internal victims of the Bolsheviks at over 50 million. Even though the Czars executed 17 people a year in their last eight years in power, the Bolsheviks were executing 1 000 a month, without trial, all through 1918 and 1919. What a wonderful joy of "liberation" the Russian people must have felt.

As for peace, quite apart from the more famous rebellions such as those in Murom, Yaroslavl, Rybin, and Arzamas, the Communist Party embarked on a civil war against its own population—a war in which the dead outnumbered those of any other war in the entire history of mankind. But Dr Murphy and his "useful fools" have nothing to say about these blood-stained monsters who can still control their gulags from the Kremlin, who still direct their puppets in Vietnam, where over 200 000 people are being "re-educated" in concentration camps. Vietnam also is exporting its own citizens for slave labour for its masters in Moscow.

When will we see Dr Murphy demonstrating in favour of "Vietnamese hands off Kampuchea"? Or perhaps Dr Murphy and other "useful fools" have a blind eye—a blind Left eye—and choose to see only those things that fit in with the bankrupt socialist ideology they espouse. To do otherwise would force them to face the truth, a truth written in the pages of history with the blood of the millions who heard the lies and suffered the brutal truth. Fifty million men, women and children have already died. How many more lives will be lost before Dr Murphy and the other "useful fools" in the ALP open both eyes and have the courage to see the truth?

School Bus Services

Mr McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (11.23 p.m.): I rise tonight to make a plea on behalf of parents of children living some distance from school bus routes. It is well known that compared with some other Governments the Queensland Government is very generous as far as the distances over which it runs buses are concerned. Wherever possible this Government maintains a bus service even though it becomes, as the Department of Education says, uneconomic. But the simple fact is that in my electorate a situation has arisen in which a bus run is considered at present to be uneconomic. I am grateful that the department has agreed to continue that service, and I thank it for that consideration.

Thirteen children are eligible to catch that bus at the terminus and another eight board it between the terminus and the school. Some parents have to drive great distances to the bus terminus. Two children are driven only 2 km; one child is driven 4.7 km, another 14.5 km, another two 16.4 km, another two 20.3 km, another three 20.6 km and the last two have to be driven 35 km. I realise that there is a limit to the extent to which we can expect taxpayers to subsidise transport over the terrific distances that the children have to travel, but there is nothing more unpleasant for a woman than having to teach her children by correspondence when she finds that teaching correspondence is something she cannot handle.

I experienced such a problem personally when we lived 72 miles from a town in North Queensland and we had to educate our children. When a mother has to do her household duties and help with the outside work in bad economic times, it is very difficult for her to be a mother to the children and a schoolteacher as well. Problems are created between the mother and the children. Unfortunately, I do not think we can do very much to alleviate these difficulties.

I recognise that the taxpayers will be forced to carry an extra load if the Government tries to do more for the people who live in isolated areas. One way to help them is to provide more school buses, thereby relieving parents of the task of teaching their children by correspondence or of driving 35 km to and from the school bus, which means that a total of 140 km a day is involved.

Mr Davis: What is the answer?

Mr McKECHNIE: As I have already pointed out, if we want decentralisation, with people living happily in the bush, it is not too much to expect the taxpayers to put some more money into our school bus services.

Mr Turner: What do they do in New South Wales in relation to school buses?

Mr McKECHNIE: I intended to please the Opposition by not mentioning New South Wales. However, as the honourable member has asked the question, I point out that some children in my electorate attended a New South Wales school. Unfortunately, a bridge was washed away. By the time it was rebuilt, the bus service was no longer running. That is typical of what is happening over the border. I do not want to be unduly critical of the Wran Government, but the simple fact remains that we on this side of the Chamber have feelings for country people. Our record shows that even when school bus services become uneconomic in departmental terms, the Government stands by the parents and maintains the services.

My plea tonight is for more to be done to recognise and relieve the trauma in households where women have to be mothers, teachers and outside workers. It is too much to expect that of any woman in this modern day and age.

(Time expired.)

Dental Charges

Mr PREST (Port Curtis) (11.28 p.m.): I have been concerned for some time about the prices charged by dentists in Queensland and in other States. On 17 September, I wrote to the secretary of the Australian Dental Association concerning an inquiry I had received about obtaining a list of the schedule fees for dentists in Queensland. In reply, I received a letter from the Australian Dental Association dated 28 September 1982.

When I received the letter, I was very surprised to note that it was somewhat indignant, and was to the effect that the members of the Australian Dental Association were at liberty to charge whatever they considered appropriate. No reference was made by the Australian Dental Association to the recommended fees, but it was pointed out that my constituent might care to address a letter to the secretary or contact the association by way of telephone. The letter then indicated that by this means my constituent would obtain a satisfactory answer.

I took that letter to mean that if I were to relay to my constituent the information supplied to me by the Australian Dental Association, the results would be satisfactory. I do not think that that is so. I believe that the Queensland branch of the Australian Dental Association believes that because its members have graduated from the university and hold a certificate that allows them to practise in the State, they have a right to rob or fleece the public of the State.

Because the Australian Dental Association, Queensland Branch, did not supply the information I asked for, I was very pleased to read in the October 1980 issue of "Choice", the following article—

"There's a staggering variation in the fees charged for dental treatments: An ACA survey has revealed that an amalgam filling with two surfaces can cost anywhere between \$15 and \$45, while a porcelain jacket crown can cost from \$200 to \$500.

Unlike doctors' fees, dentists' fees are completely uncontrolled. Guidelines for the fees doctors charge are set each year by an Arbitration Commission judge sitting as the Medical Fees Inquiry. This Inquiry sets the schedule fee on which 85 per cent basic medical benefit is paid. (Of course, doctors can—and often do—charge more.)

Dentists' fees are set solely by dentists themselves, taking into account such factors as overhead costs, geographic location, the relative affluence of the area, and the supply of and demand for dentists.

The federal ADA produces a suggested fee schedule for members, as do State branches, although their methods of doing so differ.

But all branches stress that any lists they provide contain only suggested fees: Dentists are free to charge whatever they wish and, as one honorary secretary of a State branch of the ADA said, the fees charged often bear no resemblance to the ADA recommendations."

The dentists are a select group who can charge what they like, depending on the location and many other factors. Evidently the main consideration is filling their pockets.

An article in "The Gladstone Observer" of 15 October reads—

"In a survey of fees charged by dentists in all Australian capital cities, it found differences of up to 300 per cent for identical work:

Results of the survey are in the October issue of 'Choice', journal of the Australian Consumers' Association.

The magazine says an amalgam filling with two surfaces can cost anywhere between \$15 and \$45, while a porcelain jacket crown—a capping for badly worn or damaged teeth—can cost between \$200 and \$500.

The survey team found a Hobart dentist who charged only \$200 for this job, a dentist in the classy Sydney suburb of Double Bay quoted \$500 for the same work—against a fee of \$373 recommended by the NSW branch of the Australian Dental Association.

The fee for a single x-ray could vary by as much as 200 per cent: from \$7 to \$15."

I am concerned for the people who cannot obtain dental treatment under our free hospital scheme and have to go to a dentist. Out of their low income they have to pay the exorbitant fees charged by dentists. The Minister for Health should be able to do something about it.

(Time expired.)

Life Assurance Policies

Mrs NELSON (Aspley) (11.33 p.m.): I should like to speak on the subject of glib socialist politics. "The Courier-Mail" yesterday carried an article by one of the contenders for the leadership of the Labor Party. It attempted to attack the insurance industry. I am not defending the insurance industry but I object to the superficial and glib statement that life policies and investment policies can be equated and that the benefits of those policies can be equated.

Most people take out life assurance, not as an investment but as protection for either their company, their partner in business or their family. I object strongly to any member, regardless of his politics, telling people that, in effect, they would be far better to surrender those policies and put the money into a building society or bank.

Let me outline what happens. Take family A, with a married man 25 years of age and two children. He decides not to take out life assurance or cancels his policy.

Mr Fouras: Whole of life?

Mrs NELSON: That is what was spoken about yesterday.

He puts \$500 a year into a building society account and earns 12 or 14 per cent interest. Over a 10-year period he may have a net gain of approximately \$5,000 after taxation. If he dropped dead the day after that, that is exactly what his wife would have to protect herself and her family in the ensuing years.

If that same man, at the age of 25 years, took out life cover and spent \$500 a year on it the protection he would afford his family if he died at the age of 35 years would be approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 with bonuses.

I would suggest that there is a considerable difference between a wife and children left with \$5,000 and a wife and children left with between \$50,000 and \$60,000. It was a glib attempt to gain a certain amount of publicity at a time when a certain individual was seeking promotion within his own party. I regret and sincerely hope that no family man acts on that advice and cancels his policies.

I agree that in some instances insurance companies have not been fair in their approach when people have surrendered policies. However, one thing that people always overlook when they complain about the amounts of money that insurance companies pay out on surrender of a policy is that the object of the cover was protection, not profit, and that they have had that protection for the period during which they have held the policy. The same thing applies to every member of Parliament who is involved in the superannuation scheme. We certainly do not get any money back if we leave within a certain period; we certainly gain no interest on our money. But what we have had every day we have been a member of Parliament is protection on our lives and protection against disability. It is a shame that those facts were not elucidated in the Press yesterday.

To continue further with some of the glib socialist statements that have appeared in the media in the last few weeks, let me look at the famous Mr Casey and Mr Hayden. Mr Casey has promised us 35 000 new jobs if he becomes Premier of Queensland. Mr Hayden has promised only 22 000 new jobs if he becomes Prime Minister of Australia. Do we subtract 22 000 from 35 000? Do we add 22 000 to 35 000 to obtain a Queensland plus an Australian total? Or is it the usual situation of the Right-wing Queensland ALP not knowing what the Left-wing Federal ALP is talking about? We can safely assume that that statement is correct. Neither Mr Hayden nor Mr Casey could produce 2 000 jobs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! I ask the honourable member to refer to the Leader of the Opposition by his correct title.

Mrs NELSON: Neither the Leader of the Opposition nor the Federal Opposition Leader could produce 2 000 jobs for Australian workers under the policies they intend to adopt in the unlikely event of either of them being elected. It is time that they stopped using outdated, nonsensical, rhetorical statements and superficial and glib comments to the

Press in the hope of winning little people over to them; it is time they stopped telling stories that do not contain any substance in an attempt to woo the voters. I regret sincerely that people who ought to know better make such statements in public.

High Alcohol Beer

Mr LESTER (Peak Downs) (11.38 p.m.): I was astounded to read in "The Sunday Mail" on 17 October that Castlemaine Tooheys intends to produce a beer with a higher than normal alcohol content. The "Games Special" beer contained 6 per cent alcohol. I said that that would lead to something more definite, but I was howled down. Unfortunately, I have been proven correct. I call upon everybody in this House to do everything that is humanly possible to make sure that we do not allow high alcohol beer to be produced.

At the moment the Government is legislating to lower the blood alcohol limit for breathalyser testing. Television advertisements have indicated what the Government is doing about road safety. Stickers have been distributed to schoolchildren emphasising that they should be careful on their bicycles.

There have been advertisements on television showing people wearing seat-belts. As far as I am concerned, those advertisements are not worth two bob unless we put our money where our mouth is and legislate to limit the alcohol content of beer to the normal 4.48 per cent.

We have to ensure that this higher alcohol beer is not produced in the future. I am absolutely astounded that Castlemaine Tooheys, which received permission to produce the Games Special, intends to produce a higher alcohol beer. We were told in this Chamber that the Games Special brew would not be continued after the Games were over, yet a move is being made to continue its production. If we want to allow people to smash themselves up in motor cars, that is okay, but let us make up our minds about what we are going to do. Let us not say that we will do one thing and then do the opposite.

Mr Vaughan: What about spirits?

Mr LESTER: Here is a member of the Labor Party trying to argue with me again. Opposition members always try to find an argument. I am talking about beer, and if we make a start on reducing the alcohol content in beer, we will do something about reducing the road toll. All that the member for Nudgee is concerned about is picking an argument—and to hell with saving people's lives. I am trying to stop people from being mangled in motor cars.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Miller): Order! I warn the honourable member for Everton under Standing Order 123A.

Mr LESTER: This is a very important subject and I will endeavour to lower the tone of my voice with a view to trying to introduce some common sense into the debate. It is a fact that the consumption of excessive amounts of beer is the cause of road accidents, bashings, suicides and rapes. Let us not forget that last week one of our swimming gold medallists at the Games, Neil Brooks, was accosted by a pack of drunken men who normally would have been quite sensible, decent citizens. With a bellyful of grog, they tried to accost one of our gold medallists.

Mr Wright interjected.

Mr LESTER: When the member for Rockhampton next attends church, I ask him to pray about this matter because it is very serious. All I want Opposition members to do is get out in their electorates and try to stop people from consuming excessive amounts of alcohol. I believe that in some ways we are winning the battle in Queensland. The other night I attended a function, and for the first time ever, at the conclusion of the function I saw a number of half-empty jugs of beer on the table. If ever there was a good sign that we are achieving something, that was it.

(Time expired.)

Motion (Mr Wharton) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.43 p.m.