

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1987**

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**WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1987**

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. K. R. Lingard, Fassifern) read prayers and took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

**PARLIAMENT HOUSE SECURITY**

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I wish to advise all honourable members that changes to security will occur in this building. During the day and during session, doors which are open are supervised by attendants. On non-sitting days at 4 p.m. the eastern and western doors on the George Street side are locked. At 5 p.m. the main doors are locked and at 6 p.m. the doors of the old tunnel are closed.

That means that out of session three doors to this building will always be open and will be monitored by closed-circuit television. Those doors are the southern veranda entrance to the Upper Chamber, the veranda door to the lobby and the veranda entrance to the Strangers' Dining Room. Therefore members will find that internal doors to the Strangers' Dining Room, doors to the Upper Chamber and doors to this Chamber will always be open for the convenience of honourable members. I trust that all honourable members will treat this privilege with respect.

**OBEISANCE TO CHAIR WHEN ENTERING OR LEAVING CHAMBER**

Mr SPEAKER: I am reluctant to interrupt a member's maiden speech. However, I have noticed that not all honourable members are acknowledging the Chair as they enter and leave the Chamber. At each of the three entrances it is necessary to pause and acknowledge the Chair by nodding.

**PETITIONS**

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

**Relocation of A. J. Bush and Company's Premises, Murarrie**

From Mr McLean (13 520 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take steps to relocate A. J. Bush and Company's premises at Murarrie to alleviate pollution in surrounding areas.

**Main Road, Sunnybank, Police Station**

From Mr Ardill (2 433 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take action to establish a police station near Mains Road, Sunnybank.

**Australia Acts (Request) Act**

From Mr Simpson (17 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will repeal the Australia Acts (Request) Act and allow a referendum in terms of the Queensland Constitution.

**Unregulated Hours for Flea Markets**

From Mr Lester (23 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will heed petitioners who want unregulated hours for flea markets.

**Food Irradiation**

From Mr Harper (263 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will ensure that no irradiation of food be permitted.

Petitions received.

### PAPERS

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

Reports—

Department of Mines for the year ended 30 June 1986

Griffith University for the year ended 31 December 1985

Research Report of the Griffith University for the year ended 31 December 1985.

The following papers were laid on the table—

Order in Council under—

Children's Services Act 1965-1982

Regulations under—

Children's Services Act 1965-1982

Reports—

Miners Pensions Tribunal for the year ended 30 June 1986

Queensland Coal Board for the year ended 30 June 1986.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Queensland's Public Sector Debt, Taxes and Employment

**Hon. Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier and Treasurer) (2.36 p.m.), by leave: Recently, some misleading and uninformed comments have appeared in the press about the performance of the Queensland Government, particularly regarding the level of public sector debt, taxes and employment. Those comments have sought to distort the Queensland Government's record of responsible economic and financial management that has led to unparalleled development and expansion of the Queensland economy over a long period of time.

To set the record straight, I have prepared a statement on these matters, which I propose to table. In summary, the statement presents the following facts—

#### Debt

Queensland's debt position compares more than favourably with that of other States and the Commonwealth. On a per capita basis—

- Queensland has the lowest level of public debt to the Commonwealth of all States. The figures are: Queensland, a mere \$949; New south Wales, \$1,082; Victoria, \$1,093; Western Australia, \$1,105; South Australia, \$1,444; and Tasmania, \$2,789. The average is \$1,146.
- Queensland has the lowest level of other State debt to the Commonwealth of all the States. The figures are: Queensland, \$333; New South Wales, \$391; Victoria, \$395; Western Australia, \$475; South Australia, \$795; and Tasmania, \$685. The average is \$434.
- Queensland has a level of total debt that is lower than that of all the other States except New South Wales, whose figures are artificially reduced because of its use of non-conventional forms of funding, which means that no debt has been created—for example, on the leasing of Eraring Power Station for about \$1.5 billion.
- In any case, much of Queensland's debt is self-financing and has been raised to fund development of our economic infrastructure and thereby boost Australia's export earnings. Without this capital investment in our future by Queensland, Australia's balance of payments would be in a more sorry state than it is now.

## Taxes

There can be no doubt about Queensland's status as a low-tax State. The facts show that—

- In 1984-85, State taxes, charges, fees and fines collected in Queensland were lower per capita than those collected in any other State except Tasmania, and significantly lower than those collected in the four Labor States. The figure for Queensland was \$539 per capita, which compares favourably with \$747 per capita for the rest of Australia.
- In the 12 months to December 1986, the State and Local Government charges component of the CPI increased by only 5.3 per cent for Brisbane, compared with a weighted average of 8.5 per cent for Australia's eight capital cities.
- Estimates made by the Commonwealth Grants Commission indicate that Queensland would have raised additional revenue of \$253m in 1983-84—the latest year for which figures are available—if it had increased tax rates and charges to the average rates of taxes applying in other States.

## Employment—

- Queensland's public sector employment growth has been moderate and responsible, and directed towards areas of most need.
- Overall employment in Queensland has for many years grown at a rate faster than that of other States, and less of the growth has been taken up by the public sector. In the three years to September 1986, total employment in Queensland increased by 10.4 per cent, compared with a national average of 10.2 per cent. In the same period, private sector employment increased by 11.8 per cent in Queensland, compared with a national average of 11.4 per cent.
- Queensland has fewer public sector employees per capita than the national average. The figure for Queensland is 71 employees per 1 000 population, compared with 73 per 1 000 for Australia as a whole.
- In other words, in comparison with other States, Queensland has been creating more jobs, and more of its employment growth has been in the private sector, where it is making the greatest contribution to our economic growth and development.

The facts that I have presented in my statement expose recent media comments as nothing but a fabrication of lies, deception and distortion. The real situation is that the Queensland Government has a proud record of prudential economic and financial management.

For the information of honourable members, I lay that statement upon the table of the House.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.*

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### KR Darling Downs Products, "Use by" Dates

**Hon. M. J. AHERN** (Landsborough—Minister for Health and Environment) (2.41 p.m.), by leave: Honourable members will recall the allegations made yesterday in this House by the honourable member for Lytton about a change of date on products manufactured by the Murarrie factory of KR Darling Downs.

Prior to the honourable member's comments, this matter already had been brought to the attention of food inspectors of my department. The results of their investigations will be known next week, and made public once the company has been notified. I do not intend to pre-empt the results of those investigations. However, Mr Burns' emotive outburst on this question has raised some public doubts about the use of "Use by" dates on perishable products, which I hope the following information will help dispel.

The Queensland Food Act is based on the expert advice of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The Act, similar to that of most other Australian States, enables the manufacturers of perishable goods to determine the "Use by" date for their products. The durable life of such products is, by law, the sole responsibility of the manufacturer. However, in the event that health authorities consider the manufacturer's date to be unrealistic, the Director-General of Health has the power to prescribe a "Use by" date that will ensure that the product is in a sound condition up to the expiry of that "Use by" date.

Therefore, a change made by a manufacturer to the "Use by" date of a product that remains in his controlled environment is not illegal, provided the goods are in a sound condition at the time of expiry of the "Use by" date. It is, of course, an offence to alter, remove, erase or obliterate a "Use by" date once the product passes from the manufacturer to the retailer.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Are there any other ministerial statements?

### PRIVILEGE

#### Auditor-General's Report on Department of Community Services

**Mr WARBURTON** (Sandgate—Leader of the Opposition) (2.44 p.m.): I rise on a matter of privilege. Mr Speaker, you called for any other ministerial statements. I notice that the Minister for Northern Development and Community Services, Mr Katter, has not risen to his feet. In view of the comments made yesterday in the Auditor-General's report about the problems within the Department of Community Services, I would have thought that the Minister would give an explanation to the House today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of privilege.

### COMMITTEE OF SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

#### Appointment

**Mr STEPHAN** (Gympie) (2.45 p.m.): I move—

- (1) That this House do appoint a Committee to be called the Committee of Subordinate Legislation.
- (2) That the Committee shall consist of seven members.
- (3) That the Committee consist of Mrs Nelson, Messrs Gygar, Hayward, Hinton, Sherrin and Wells and the mover.
- (4) That it shall be the duty of the Committee to consider all Regulations, Rules, By-laws, Ordinances, Orders in Council or Proclamations (hereinafter referred to as 'the Regulations') which under any Act are required to be laid on the Table of this House, and which are subject to disallowance by resolution.

If the Regulations are made whilst the House is sitting, the Committee shall consider the Regulations before the end of the period during which any motion for disallowance of those Regulations may be moved in the House.

If the Regulations are made whilst the House is not sitting the Committee shall consider the Regulations as soon as conveniently may be after the making thereof.

- (5) The Committee shall, with respect to the Regulations, consider—
  - (a) whether the Regulations are in accord with the general objects of the Act pursuant to which they are made;
  - (b) whether the Regulations trespass unduly on rights previously established by law;

- (c) whether the Regulations contain matter which in the opinion of the Committee should properly be dealt with in an Act of Parliament;
  - (d) whether for any special reason the form or purport of the Regulations calls for elucidation;
  - (e) whether the Regulations unduly make rights dependent upon administrative and not upon judicial decisions.
- (6) If the Committee is of the opinion that any of the Regulations ought to be disallowed—
- (a) it shall report that opinion and the grounds thereof to the House before the end of the period during which any motion for disallowance of those Regulations may be moved in the House;
  - (b) if the House is not sitting, it may report its opinion and the grounds thereof to the authority by which the Regulations were made.
- (7) If the Committee is of the opinion that any other matter relating to any of the Regulations should be brought to the notice of the House, it may report that opinion and matter to the House.
- (8) A report of the Committee shall be presented to the House in writing by a member of the Committee nominated for that purpose by the Committee.
- (9) The Permanent Head of the relevant Department shall forthwith upon any Regulation, which is required to be tabled in Parliament, being approved by the Governor in Council, forward sufficient copies to the Secretary of the Committee for the use of the members of the Committee.
- (10) The Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, provided that a Minister or members of the Public Service shall not be obliged to provide information, oral or written, which has been—
- (a) certified by a Crown Law Officer to be information which, if it were sought in a Court, would be a proper matter in respect of which to claim Crown privilege; or
  - (b) certified by the responsible Minister, with the approval of the Ministers of the Crown in Cabinet assembled, to be against the public interest to disclose.
- (11) The Committee shall have power to act and, subject to paragraph (10), to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses whether the House is sitting or not.
- (12) The proceedings of the Committee shall, except wherein otherwise ordered, be regulated by the Standing Orders and Rules of the Legislative Assembly relating to Select Committees.”

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

### 1. Western Freeway Accident; Court Proceedings against Miss L. E. Kowitz

Mr PREST asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing—

“With reference to the action by the Director of Prosecutions in not proceeding against Leslie Ellen Kowitz because members of the public and a member of the Queensland Road Safety Council had said they had been confused by a traffic sign near the accident situation on the Western Freeway—

(1) Did these people, who supposedly had been confused by this sign on the Western Freeway, report this fact to the Main Roads Department prior to 1 January 1986?

(2) If not, what was the reason or did it take a double fatality to motivate them?

(3) If these facts had been reported to the Main Roads Department prior to 1 January 1986, why had the sign not been removed or rectified to stop the said confusion?

(4) Does the Main Roads Department accept any contributory blame for the accident?"

**Mr HINZE:** (1) No record can be found of formal complaints, either oral or written, to the Main Roads Department from the opening of the road section in question on 19 December 1984 to the date of the accident on 1 January 1986.

(2) It is not possible to answer for others.

(3) The facts were not reported, and as the road was signed and marked in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Queensland), the matter of relocation of the sign did not arise.

(4) The Department of Main Roads accepts no blame for the accident.

## 2. **Western Freeway Accident; Court Proceedings against Miss L. E. Kowitz**

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

“With reference to the action by the Director of Prosecutions in not proceeding against Leslie Ellen Kowitz because members of the public and a member of the Queensland Road Safety Council had said they had been confused by a traffic sign near the accident situation on the Western Freeway and with reference to the related Question appearing at No. 1—

(1) How can Mr Sturgess, a Queen’s Counsel, rule in such a way in a case of this seriousness, after a magistrate in committal proceedings recommended charges be laid in a District Court to be heard by a judge and jury?

(2) Why does Mr Sturgess review facts which were obviously to be used as a defence to the charges, when Miss Kowitz had reserved her defence at the committal proceedings, a defence that may never be heard?

(3) Does Mr Sturgess not regard the facts that Miss Kowitz (a) crossed painted double white lines 150m in length, (b) crossed painted chevrons immediately prior to the traffic islands and (c) did not follow the traffic keep left sign on the traffic island, as sufficient reason for committal for trial on dangerous driving as the magistrate did at the committal proceedings?

(4) Is it normal practice for the Director of Prosecutions to rule in this way after the police of the traffic accident squad successfully had a person committed for trial?

(5) Are there any previous cases of this seriousness, where the Director of Prosecutions has intervened on behalf of the defendant, in not proceeding with charges of dangerous driving and, if so, what are these cases?

(6) Why, after a magistrate has given his recommendations at committal proceedings, has the Director of Prosecutions put the case back to another magistrate’s hearing, this time, a coronial inquest?

(7) Does the District Court Trial not normally take the place of a coronial inquest in a case such as this?

(8) Why were the family most tragically involved in this situation not paid the courtesy of being informed immediately that Mr Sturgess was not allowing the charges to be proceeded with?

(9) Why did the family have to wait to be informed by the media at 12.10 p.m. after the court proceedings had been completed?

(10) Why, as the family were informed by the media, was Miss Kowitz informed approximately two weeks previously of the Director of Prosecution's recommendations and the family were not?

(11) Is there something to hide in this case, a case in which objections could not be raised by the affected family against the decision and where they were merely presented with the result, namely, there would be no indictment?"

**Mr CLAUSON:** (1 and 2) It is the function of the Director of Prosecutions to reconsider the evidence upon which a committal order has been made and any further evidence that has become available, and to decide if the matter should be brought to trial. In this matter submissions were received from the legal advisers for the defendant, who provided a substantial amount of new evidence. It was on the basis of this new evidence together with the evidence given at the committal proceedings that the decision was made.

(3) The facts the Director of Prosecutions had regard to were much more complex than the facts set out in the question. He made his decision based on all the facts available.

(4) It is the practice of the Director of Prosecutions in this area to cause the evidence to be reviewed when performing the function referred to in (1 and 2).

(5) No. The facts in this case are quite unique. Fourteen statements from persons who responded to publicity about the accident were received.

(6) The Director of Prosecutions has not "put the case back to another magistrate's hearing". Because of the new evidence received, the Director of Prosecutions advised me that the matter should be reinvestigated publicly with a view to determining why the accident occurred. The appropriate procedure for doing this is by a coronial inquiry, and, acting on that advice, I directed the holding of such an inquiry.

(7) No. A trial would be limited to considering the allegation that a driver was driving dangerously.

(8 and 9) The usual practice is for the police to give this advice. The police were advised of the decision by the Director of Prosecutions by letter dated the 2 February 1987.

(10) The legal advisers of Miss Kowitz had made submissions to the Director of Prosecutions. The submissions were considered and a reply made. Presumably, Miss Kowitz was then advised by her legal representatives.

(11) There is nothing to hide in this case. The purpose of the inquiry that is soon to commence is to consider all the evidence now to hand and if such evidence reveals the commission of an offence by any person, that person will be proceeded against.

### 3. **Railway Department's Door-to-door Small-freight Service**

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Transport—

"(1) Over recent months, has the Railway Department placed advertisements in newspapers seeking expressions of interest from private carriers to conduct the Railway Department door-to-door operation?

(2) Have any enquiries been received from private contractors and, if so, from what location have the enquiries been received?

(3) Have any contracts with any private contractors been entered into to conduct the door-to-door service and, if so, what are the names of the contractors and within what location will they operate?

(4) What is the estimated number of private contractors who will be employed to conduct the door-to-door scheme and within what location will they operate?"

**Mr LANE:** (1 to 4) The Railway Department recently carried out an assessment of the feasibility and viability of undertaking a door-to-door service for small freight. As

part of that process of assessment, a number of advertisements were placed in various Queensland newspapers inviting expressions of interest by carriers in this type of service. However, as a result of that feasibility study, it has been decided not to proceed with such a service at this stage, and all respondents to the advertisements are being advised of this decision.

#### 4. State Government Taxes and Charges

Mr COOPER asked the Deputy Premier, Minister Assisting the Treasurer and Minister for Police—

“In view of misleading statements with respect to State taxes and charges, what is the true situation, particularly when comparing Queensland with other States?”

Mr GUNN: Latest figures produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics confirm Queensland's long-standing ranking as a low-tax State. In 1984-85, State taxes, charges, fees and fines collected in Queensland were lower per capita than in any other State except Tasmania, and significantly lower than in the four Labor States. In this regard, the figures for each State are as follows—

State	\$ per capita
New South Wales	782
Victoria	797
Queensland	539
Western Australia	664
South Australia	616
Tasmania	519

The average of the six States is \$713 per capita. I repeat that in Queensland, the per capita amount is only \$539. The six-State average excluding Queensland is \$747. And the Opposition wonders why people are rushing up to Queensland.

#### 5. Queensland's Inflation Rate

Mr COOPER asked the Deputy Premier, Minister Assisting the Treasurer and Minister for Police—

“With reference to recent publicity which has drawn attention to State and local government charges—

(1) Is Queensland's inflation rate lower than the weighted average of the other States?

(2) What is one of the main ingredients causing increases to this State's inflation rate?”

Mr GUNN: (1 and 2) Queensland's inflation rate remains favourable compared with that of Australia as a whole. In the 12 months to December 1986, the Consumer Price Index for Brisbane increased by 8.9 per cent, which was the lowest increase of the six State capitals. The weighted average increase for the six capitals was 9.8 per cent.

Inflation is affected by a number of factors, not the least of which are the Commonwealth Government's fiscal, monetary and wages policies. It is largely because of these factors that Australia's inflation rate is about three times that of its major trading partners.

Nevertheless, the Queensland Government is doing everything within its power to hold down the inflation rate. In this regard, one of the reasons why Brisbane recorded the lowest overall CPI increase of all State capitals in the last 12 months is that the increase in the State and local government taxes and charges component of the CPI was lower in Brisbane than in any other capital city, and was only about 60 per cent of the weighted average increase in the eight capital cities.

The figures are as follows—

Comparative increase in State and local government taxes and charges component of CPI for 12 months to December 1986

State Capital	Percentage increase
Sydney	8.1
Melbourne	8.4
Brisbane	5.3
Perth	10.2
Adelaide	10.6
Hobart	9.7
Canberra	9.6
Darwin	11.4
Weighted average (eight capitals)	8.5

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Design Fault, Valiant Cars

**Mr WARBURTON:** In directing a question to the Minister for Main Roads, I refer to the reported comments in this morning's press by the Minister for Transport, Mr Lane, in which he stated that the Main Roads Department could refuse to register Valiant cars which are suffering from a fault in the design of their seat slides. I ask: as the Minister for Main Roads, does he support such a proposition—

**Mr LANE:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable the Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House. I made no such statement to the press. He is correct in saying that it was reported that I had done so, but that is not the way that his question was phrased.

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

**Mr WARBURTON:** I simply want to know if the Minister for Main Roads supports that sort of a proposition, which obviously is going to cause financial hardship to the 21 000 average families who own such vehicles, or will he stand by his own suggestion of refusing to register new Mitsubishi cars in Queensland until the company accepts its responsibility?

**Mr HINZE:** I should clear up the confusion in relation to the discussions between the Honourable the Minister for Transport and myself. There was a misunderstanding. From what I can gather, the Minister did not make those statements.

The Government will not take action against those people who have purchased a Chrysler car and now find that it has a deficiency. It is not the intention of the Government to withdraw their registration. The Government has not indicated that it will not register and re-register those models. That tidies up the first part of the honourable member's question.

I will now deal with the second part of the question about the Mitsubishi company. When a company takes over another company, it takes over its assets and liabilities. In

this instance, I believe that the design fault is a liability that has to be considered by the company. I have written to Mitsubishi saying that I would like to discuss the problem. I have not threatened the company in any way. However, if the company does not recognise its responsibilities, then the Government may have to take some serious action. I think that tidies the matter up.

#### **Shelburne Bay Silica Reserves**

**Mr FITZGERALD:** In directing a question to the Minister for Northern Development and Community Services, I refer to the problem that the Federal Government is causing by its indecision on the Shelburne Bay silica reserves. I ask: because the Federal Government is trying to placate the conservationists and also is conscious of Australia's balance of payments problems, can he inform the House if the Federal Government's indecision is causing concern to him as the Minister for Northern Development and Community Services and to the people in that area?

**Mr KATTER:** An honourable member of another House, Mr Gayler, has very strongly committed himself to a policy of opposing the development of Shelburne Bay. That should make every single person in this House and this nation very, very sad. At the present moment Australia is receiving \$15 for every tonne of silica exported. My colleague the Minister for Transport buys it back as optical fibres at about \$3.9m per tonne. Anybody who wants to keep running this nation on the basis of exporting a raw material at \$15 per tonne and importing it back at \$3.9m per tonne is condemning it to a very sad future.

**Mr Scott:** The Minister thought silica was a jewel.

**Mr KATTER:** One would think that the honourable member for Cook would like to have his area developed.

**Mr Tenni** interjected.

**Mr KATTER:** Both of them opposed the Cape Tribulation road.

I shall now turn my attention to energy generation. At present the cost of producing electricity by photovoltaic cells is about 32c per unit. If my memory serves me correctly, the cost of production of grid system power is about 7c per unit. Every four years the cost of production of electricity by photovoltaics is decreasing by half. I leave it to the undoubtedly limited capabilities of the honourable member for Cook——

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw that comment.

**Mr KATTER:** I withdraw that comment.

The silicon chip industry is based entirely upon silicon. Information retrieval systems are based on silicon chips. Communication systems are now based on optical fibres made from silica. The aerospace industry is built almost exclusively on products from the silicon industry. For those reasons, it is enormously important to this nation that it mine that product.

Two companies are already involved in the production of silicon and they claim that they can use it for those purposes. Unfortunately their leases were taken out in days past when silica was used exclusively for the manufacture of glass. The contracts were drawn up on that basis. With the requirements of new technologies, I for one am very determined to upgrade the facilities in north Queensland for the production of silicon. That cannot happen from Cape Flattery. It will not happen from the Toyo Menka Kaisha site. However, if one of the Australian operators becomes involved, it can happen at Shelburne Bay. I applaud the statement of my colleague the Minister of Mines and Energy that the silica will be mined.

#### **Australian Labor Party, Queensland Branch; Visit by Mr Young**

**Mr FITZGERALD:** In directing a question to the Premier and Treasurer, I refer to the recent opinion polls that show that the Federal Government is on the down-slide and also to the fact that the former Federal Special Minister of State is coming to

Queensland to assist with the Queensland ALP salvage operation. I now ask: does he think that Mr Young would be better occupied in Canberra trying to salvage Australia from the mess that the Hawke Government has got the nation into?

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** One wonders why anybody would even attempt to salvage Peter Beattie, who seems hell-bent on promoting an organisation, a party and a policy that have wrecked the nation. Who would want to talk about it? He should be so ashamed of himself, I thought he would want to keep quiet about it. Of course, the Left faction of the organisation, to which many honourable members opposite belong, seems to think there is some merit in what their colleagues in Canberra have done to this nation. Therefore, they want to speak out loud, take the running and try to tell the nation of the good state that it is in. However, we know, and people of Australia know, that that is not the case.

I know that the other day Mr Young said something about my son, John. Very properly, John replied. What can the people expect of a man who could not even fill in a form for the Customs officials? Therefore, I do not know what he can do to try to overcome the Labor Party's problems in Queensland.

Last night I saw the Leader of the Opposition looking very sad. I never thought he could look so forlorn. During the election campaign he had a smile all over his face. Last night, the Leader of the Opposition looked as if the world had come to an end over this issue. I can understand how he feels. He has tried to recruit——

**Mr Prest** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Port Curtis will withdraw that comment.

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** Neither Mr Young nor Mr Hawke nor the ACTU can rescue the Labor Party in Qld. The Federal ALP has had it; the Queensland ALP has had it. Everyone knows what will ultimately happen to the Federal Labor Government.

#### **Parliamentary Opposition**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** I ask the Premier and Treasurer: is he aware that the public of Queensland could be under the misapprehension that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Warburton, leads the largest united party in opposition? It would appear from reports in the newspapers that in fact the Leader of the Liberal Party, Sir William Knox, leads the largest cohesive group on the Opposition side.

**Sir JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN:** That is quite true. The Leader of the Opposition does not lead the largest united party in opposition in this State. That is quite clear. I suppose it would be impossible to work out to which group particular members belong. I have been a member of this Parliament for a long time, and I am sure that I do not know. I doubt whether many honourable members opposite would know to which group they belong because they shift and change from group to group. Sadly, whoever leads the Opposition, the fact is that it is completely off track. The Labor Party has very little support in this State and this nation.

#### **Overcrowding in Queensland Gaols**

**Mr D'ARCY:** My question is directed to the Minister for Corrective Services. Yesterday in this House I outlined problems within the gaol system. I pointed out that prisoners are being kept in watchhouses, which is not only overloading Police Department facilities but also resulting in prisoners not being given their usual rights. For periods of up to a month, both male and female prisoners have been detained in the Beenleigh and Brisbane watchhouses. What does the Minister plan to do about the overcrowding in Queensland gaols?

**Mr NEAL:** A tremendous increase has occurred in the number of persons receiving prison sentences and that, together with the longer sentences being imposed, has caused a degree of overcrowding in Queensland's prison system. As a result, it has been necessary

to hold some prisoners in police watchhouses for periods longer than one would like. The problem was made more acute by the December riots at the Brisbane gaol, in which a number of cells were destroyed.

Steps have been taken to overcome the position. The Government has introduced a very successful home detention program, which has eased the problem in south-east Queensland. I am hopeful that that program can be extended to other parts of the State in the not-too-distant future. I am sure that the honourable member for Woodridge is aware that funds have been provided for the establishment of three new gaols within Queensland—one in far north Queensland and two in south-east Queensland, particularly a new gaol at Wacol. The new gaols in north Queensland and at Wacol are scheduled for completion towards the end of 1988.

Currently the women's prison here in Brisbane, which was originally built to accommodate 72, holds in excess of 80 inmates. The women's annexe at the Townsville prison is due for completion in the not-too-distant future, and that annexe should assist in overcoming the problems there. It is my understanding that only four females are being held in police watchhouses in the State of Queensland. I hasten to emphasise that Queensland is still the only State, to my knowledge, that has predominantly single-cell accommodation in its prisons.

#### **Coconut Island Solar Electric Demonstration Project**

**Mr BURREKET:** I ask the Minister for Northern Development: will he advise the House of the current progress of the Coconut Island solar electric demonstration project? Is it true that the Hawke socialist Government reneged on an earlier commitment to provide funding towards the project? In view of this, will the initiative proceed, and what is its significance to Queensland's technological resource base?

**Mr KATTER:** Yes, an undertaking was given by the Federal Government that it would jointly fund the project. The Queensland Government waited for two years for funds from the Federal Government, but not one cent was forthcoming. Nothing has happened. Therefore, the Queensland Government has had to proceed on its own to provide the service entirely at its own expense. It is very regrettable that that undertaking was breached.

If the experimental project is successful, it will be carefully monitored and will be the program implemented on all of the Torres Strait islands and some of the peninsula communities as well. I am working very closely with my colleague the Minister for Mines and Energy and I hope that a program will be devised to enable the Queensland Government to provide the required services at a reasonable cost. Three studies have been carried out and each has indicated that the costs were in line with the cost of diesel generators. That does not take into account the enormous cost of repair work. Over the Christmas period one repair bill alone from Edward River amounted to \$30,000. That is the reason why the Queensland Government is proceeding with this particular technology, which does not involve that type of repair work.

The people have waited for a very long time for what is a fairly elementary service. The hold-up has been caused by the difficulty in securing an agreement from the Federal Government. Instead of spending \$90m on Aboriginal affairs in this State, the Federal Government is spending only \$30m. As far as I can see, it is not providing a single service.

#### **Refund of Fines Imposed for Failure to Wear Seat-belts in Motor Vehicles**

**Mr CASEY:** I ask the Minister for Police: is he aware that, on 1 February, the Minister for Transport—he will not be able to claim that he was wrongly reported on this occasion—issued a press release as part of a campaign to increase motor vehicle seat-belt usage in Queensland? Is he also aware that a part of Mr Lane's promotion included a declaration that "for the first week the police will be issuing warnings to unrestrained vehicle occupants and providing them with new brochures and dashboard stickers."?

Is the Minister also aware that either Mr Lane forgot to inform all police stations in Queensland or most of them took no notice of him?

In order that Mr Lane's publicly stated promise can be met, will the Minister take the necessary action to cancel all on-the-spot tickets issued throughout Queensland over the period from 2 February to 9 February for failure to wear seat-belts and grant a refund of fines already paid for such offences during that period?

**Mr GUNN:** The Minister for Transport, Mr Lane, acted correctly. If the honourable member can provide me personally with any instances of the matter to which he referred, I will be pleased to receive them. I repeat that the Minister for Transport was absolutely correct. I raised this matter in Cabinet. I am surprised that the police did not know about the matter, particularly the police in the honourable member's electorate. If the honourable member can provide me with any instances—

**Mr Casey:** You will refund the fines?

**Mr GUNN:** If he can provide me with any instances of the matter to which he referred, he should do so.

### Shelburne Bay Silica Project

**Mr BORBRIDGE:** I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: can he inform the House of the damage to Australia's international standing and credibility if the silica project at Shelburne Bay is not permitted to proceed? What economic benefits will the project bring to both Queensland and Australia?

**Mr AUSTIN:** Everybody in this State and country ought to view with some concern, as I do, the deliberations of the Federal Government on the Shelburne Bay project. Australia's credibility as a nation stands at risk with overseas investors who might want to invest or develop projects in this State. It appears that the Federal Government is in some disarray over this matter.

The Honourable the Federal Treasurer, Paul Keating, has written to the company stating—

“The Government has before it an application from ASP Resources (Qld) Pty Ltd seeking approval under foreign investment policy to develop a sand mining business at Shelburne Bay, Queensland. I regret that the Government will not be in a position to take a decision on the application until February or March 1987.

I believe you know that, under foreign investment policy, a proposal for a new mining business involving total investment of \$10 million or more will be allowed to proceed if it has a minimum 50 per cent Australian equity, together with 50 per cent of the voting strength on the controlling body of the project held by Australian interests, and provided that the proposal is not contrary to the national interest.

The proposed project at Shelburne Bay appears to meet the 50 per cent Australian equity guidelines and also the guideline for joint Australian/foreign control. It does, however, raise some matters that need careful consideration to ensure that the project is not contrary to the national interest. The Government will be considering a number of matters including issues affecting the environment, the national estate, aboriginal affairs and the report of a Senate Committee on the project prior to reaching a decision in the early months of next year as to whether the project will be permitted to proceed.

I shall let you know the outcome of the Government's deliberations.”

The company itself, Shelburne Bay Silica Joint Venture, has accepted all the conditions set out by the Queensland Government and those contained in the November 1986 report of the Commonwealth Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment on environmental considerations.

As to whether or not the project is in the national interest—I would have thought that in view of the present difficulties with unemployment and balance of payments

facing the Federal Government, and with the number of jobs that can be created on this \$30m project—2 600 man-weeks of work will be created on the construction site, employing approximately 80 men during the construction period—

**Mr Scott:** The gear will be made in Japan.

**Mr AUSTIN:** The project will involve approximately 2 000 off-site works in Australia—2 000 man-weeks. Approximately 30 full-time jobs will be created on the site. If creating jobs and foreign investment is not in the national interest, I am not sure what is.

A great deal has been said by honourable members, such as the honourable member for Cook, regarding environmental matters. In order to set the record straight, I point out that 0.22 per cent of the Olive River dune-fields will be affected by those mining operations.

Opposition members are claiming that they are opposed to the project. I believe that the Federal member for Leichhardt referred to Government members as environmental vandals.

What will people of the Cairns district say when they learn that their local parliamentary representative has lobbied against and opposed a development project that will employ people of the Cairns district? That is a disgrace.

If the Federal Government has any courage or decency, it will approve the project.

#### **Confederation of Industry Survey**

**Mr JENNINGS:** I direct a question to the Deputy Premier. I ask: is he aware of a survey, conducted by the Confederation of Industry, which indicates a lack of business confidence and poor employment opportunities for the March quarter? If he is aware of that survey, could he advise the House of the reasons for that lack of business confidence?

**Mr GUNN:** It is a well-worn tactic of the Commonwealth Government to blame the State Governments for its economic problems. That is nothing new at all.

The State Government recognises that there is a need for restraint. If Opposition members were to take note of what occurred at the recent Premiers Conference, they would find that the State Governments did act at that particular time.

Since 1982, the payment by the Commonwealth Government to the State Governments has been 39 per cent, whereas its own expenditure has increased to 62 per cent.

I have a table showing what the Commonwealth Government has done during that period in relation to restraints on its spending. I would like all honourable members to read that table.

If the Federal Government had imposed the same restraints upon its spending as it did upon the spending of the State Governments, it would now have a surplus of \$3.4 billion.

I seek leave to table that report.

Leave granted.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.*

#### **Loan Council Funding**

**Mr JENNINGS:** In directing a further question to the Deputy Premier, I ask: is he aware of recent statements in the press that the Commonwealth Government, through the Loan Council, should cut back funding to the State Governments in order to reduce the requirements of public sector borrowing?

If the Deputy Premier is aware of those statements, would he advise the House of the current state of affairs?

**Mr GUNN:** It is a pity that it could not cut them back any further than it has already.

For many years the Queensland Government has been short-changed by many millions of dollars not only by the present Federal Government but also by the previous Federal Government. For many years the Queensland Government has not received its due from the Loan Council. As a matter of fact, the Grants Commission discovered that, because of Queensland's geographical location and the services that are provided throughout this vast State, the Loan Council had awarded the Queensland Government \$200m more than the amount received by the other States.

At that time, an agreement was made with the Premier to repay that loan over three years. The Premier would be able to tell honourable members that, to date, none of that money has been repaid. That is an indication of how the Loan Council, the previous Federal Government—the Fraser Government—and the Hawke socialist Government regard Queensland.

#### **Distribution of Pornographic Literature to Pre-school Children**

**Mr SHERRIN:** In directing a question to the Minister for Education, I draw his attention to an article in the *Sunday Mail* of 15 February which described attempts by a number of Left Wing Labor Party councils in London to brainwash pre-school children into accepting homosexual and lesbian life-styles by the distribution of pornographic literature promoting those practices and ask: firstly, has he read the article and, secondly, will he give an assurance to the House that Queensland's pre-school children will be protected from that type of disgusting literature promoted by the loony Left?

**Mr POWELL:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Other members possibly saw that article in the *Sunday Mail* and would have been revulsed by its contents. I cannot conceive of any education authority wishing to promote homosexuality in any school, let alone a pre-school. It is clear that the education system of some parts of Great Britain has been certainly taken over by the loony Left.

Some members may have read about the inner London education authority. I have visited one of its schools. The socialist-type attitudes within that school are incredible.

The Queensland Government's attitude is very well known on issues of a moral nature. It believes that children should be protected from people who could be regarded as being a bit loony in their attitudes to morals and to children generally. The Government will certainly maintain that attitude.

I assure the House generally, and the honourable member for Mansfield particularly, that there is no chance that the sort of material that is being peddled in that school in England could possibly be used in Queensland's schools. The Government will do everything it can to make sure that that does not happen.

I thank the honourable member for drawing the matter to the attention of the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! As today is a day allotted for the debate on the Address in Reply, the time for questions has now expired.

At 3.30 p.m.,

In accordance with the Sessional Order, the House proceeded with the debate on the Address in Reply.

### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

#### **Third Allotted Day**

Debate resumed from 24 February (see p. 229) on Mr Sherrin's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, to which Mr Warburton had moved an amendment.

**Mrs McCAULEY** (Callide) (3.30 p.m.): I desire, on this occasion of my maiden speech in the House, to pledge my loyalty and that of the people of Callide to Her Most

Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I also pay tribute to His Excellency Sir Walter Campbell and Lady Campbell for their diligent service as representatives of Her Majesty.

I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to such a distinguished office, and I feel sure you will lend dignity and wisdom to the task ahead of you. I extend congratulations also to the Chairman of Committees, who brings a great deal of experience to that position.

As the member for Callide, I am honoured to be part of this Forty-fifth Parliament of Queensland, and I am deeply aware of my responsibilities to the people of the Callide electorate. I promise to work diligently in their interests and to give them an effective voice as part of the National Party team in Government.

Callide is a traditional National Party seat and it is indeed pleasing to see it back in the fold. In 1983, the National Party polled 39 per cent of the primary vote. The Independent candidate polled 35 per cent, and it is history now that he won on Labor preferences.

In 1986 I won the election in Callide against Labor, Liberal and Independent candidates, and I am proud to be the first woman to hold the seat. It is a credit to the National Party that I have at no time found any discrimination against me on the basis of gender; and it is typical of country people that judgements are made on the job that is being performed, not on whether a person is male or female. When I say that, I am thinking of the many capable women I know who run properties, farms and businesses, and do so very well.

I feel very strongly that women do not need equal opportunity legislation or affirmative action programs to make their way in the world. What they need to do is to ensure that young women take advantage of their educational opportunities. A woman cannot expect to leave school at 16 years of age and become the managing director of a company. Those days are gone. Equality exists for those who expect to receive it as a matter of course. To those who feel that they are being treated with discrimination, I say, "Look first to your own attitudes and the value you place on your contribution to society."

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the unwavering support and encouragement of my husband, Ian, and that of my three children during the whole of 1986. During the election period, Mrs Ruth Maynard and the Callide Valley women's section gave unstintingly of their time to organise functions and man the office, as well as helping me to door-knock. I acknowledge my indebtedness to them, and to central zone vice-president, Mr George Cowan, campaign manager, Les Williams, and all the other National Party people throughout the electorate whose loyalty to the party helped bring Callide back onto the Government benches.

Loyalty is a priceless attribute in politics, even though it may at times be under great pressure. As I look around the House, in which there is not one Independent member, I know that each and every member will understand when I say that it requires a certain discipline to be a member of a political party. It is not always easy—in fact, I suppose it is similar to being married. Party politics has to be worked at; but I believe it is the only effective vehicle for representation under our present political system.

The electorate of Callide stretches from Gracemere, Stanwell, Wycarbah and Gogango in the north to Miriam Vale, Bororen, Rosedale and Lowmead in the south. The two largest centres, Biloela and Boyne-Tannum, are approximately midway between the northern and southern boundaries.

The Callide electorate is extremely diverse in its industry. It has a rich grazing and agricultural base, coal-mining and power generation, aluminium-smelting and many potential tourist attractions. The cattle industry is spread extensively throughout Callide. Biloela has an abattoir. As well, the electorate has many stud properties. Agriculture is centred in the Callide Valley, which has access to irrigation. Produce from the area includes wheat, sorghum, lucerne, mung beans and cotton. A cotton ginnery in Biloela processes about 34 000 bales of cotton per year.

The family on the land is not having an easy time at present, with high interest rates and low commodity prices. Primary industry remains a major export-earner and is a major contributor to the prosperity of the nation. I know that the time is past when farming could be considered as anything other than a business venture. However, at present many efficient, hard-working farmers are, through no fault of their own, in financial trouble. I believe that the Government has a responsibility to those who have proven their viability in the past—those whose record shows them to be people of the type we want on the land—and we must endeavour to help these families stay on the land.

Family farm units have been proven to be the most efficient form of production and contribute directly to export earnings, which this country so desperately needs. However, the area of land needed today for a viable farm unit is much greater than it has ever been. Farmers must be realistic in their assessment of their prospects. It is sadly true that some will be forced off the land and will never return.

The Callide Coalfields mine, which is the only coal mine in the electorate, supplies 3½ million tonnes to the domestic market and employs approximately 400 people. Callide “B” Power Station is due to commence commissioning towards the end of this year and the 22-year-old Callide “A” will continue to operate until the end of 1988. It will then be kept in operational condition in case it is required in the 1990s.

Stanwell Power Station, which is 24 kilometres west of Rockhampton, is proceeding to a schedule which will see its first commercial electricity generated in 1993. Flexibility has been built into the timing of the project to allow for a general economic downturn in the nation’s economy. While the present Federal Labor Government is in office, such flexibility is necessary.

I fully support the State Government’s rationalisation and streamlining of the electricity industry, which by 1990 will result in the State’s having the lowest electricity costs on mainland Australia. That strategy will also see the industry in an excellent position to attract future bulk users of electricity.

I look forward to the expansion of the Boyne Island aluminium smelter, which is in the Callide electorate and is one of the largest single consumers of electricity in the State. The smelter employs approximately 990 men and has led to the development of Boyne Island/Tannum Sands into a modern seaside town which has excellent support facilities. Tannum Sands boasts the only surf life-saving club in the Callide electorate, and I have been particularly asked by those involved with the life-saving movement to acknowledge the continuing support this most worthy organisation receives from the State Government.

The new area in the Callide electorate stretches from just south of Gladstone to within 60 kilometres of Bundaberg. It contains some of the loveliest beach areas to be found along the Queensland coast. Unfortunately, Agnes Waters, Seventeen Seventy and Turkey Beach are renowned not only for their mud crabs but also for their difficulty of access. Agnes Waters and Round Hill have a unique charm, but their tourist potential will be fully realised only when roads to those resorts are upgraded to standards expected by the modern tourist.

In the Callide Valley, tourism is also an important emerging factor. The unique Mount Scoria at Thangool and the Callide Dam recreational facilities at Biloela, combined with the industries, provide an interesting and informative tourist base. I am supporting a proposal for the development of an historic agricultural and mining museum, which would significantly enhance the area’s tourist attractions. It would also improve employment opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

The Callide electorate covers four local authorities: the shires of Banana, of which I am a councillor and which has been in the very capable hands of Chairman Alf O’Rourke for over 30 years, Fitzroy, Calliope and Miriam Vale. I have received from each of those councils a friendly welcome and offers of assistance in the course of my duties, and I expect to enjoy a good working relationship with them all.

I have found local government to be an excellent training ground for the work I am now doing. I count myself privileged to have served my apprenticeship with Chairman O'Rourke, who has taught me a great deal about handling people and their problems.

Education throughout the Callide electorate is an area I am particularly interested in, and I am delighted to be part of the Minister's education committee. In Biloela, a TAFE college is needed to cater for more than 120 apprentices in the area, as well as providing business and technical studies for young people. This was a dream of the late councillor Joe Kooyman which I will strive to make a reality.

Population growth in the Boyne/Tannum area justifies the establishment of a junior high school. This will not only save a long bus journey each day for many children, but also will ease the pressure on the large Gladstone high schools. A high school will enhance the stability of, and provide a focal point for the community.

The Miriam Vale and Rosedale primary and secondary school complexes are outstanding examples of the very best our Government can offer in integrated educational facilities. These can be attributed in no small part to the vigorous representation of the previous member for this area, Mr Claude Wharton.

Gracemere also has a newly opened school, the Waraburra school, which is a credit to the Education Department. Gracemere is expanding as more and more people realise the benefits of the freedom of country living and smaller schools for their children. Gracemere is also home to the largest sale yards in Queensland. Each year, stud cattle and horse sales are held there, as well as the regular store and fat cattle sales. Road and rail transport is extensively used, and the whole complex generates income and employment for the area.

An accountant in Biloela suggested to me that I might talk about waste in my maiden speech. I did not get the chance to ask him what his thinking behind the topic was but I guess, being an accountant, that he would have been thinking of financial waste. When I think of financial waste, I immediately think of the Federal Labor Government. We all know the wastage there: the foolish minority group funding on which millions of tax-payers' money is squandered. I will not dwell on that depressing aspect of waste. Suffice to say that it is there that the example is set, and it is followed by many.

Waste in bureaucratic institutions is a difficult problem, but it is absolutely necessary for the Government to lead the way in its eradication. The tax-payer is demanding this and Ministers have a particular responsibility to implement streamlining of their departments to combat waste. One State Government department which impressed me greatly with its maximum usage of the private sector to avoid overlapping of services is the Department of Mapping and Surveying. This department, by careful teamwork with educators and businessmen, provides a role model of efficiency which other Government departments would do well to follow. There are also impressive initiatives that I am aware of being taken in the Queensland Electricity Commission and the Queensland Railways. I pledge my support to the Ministers who have the courage and tenacity to address and remedy this all-pervasive problem.

Duplication of departments in the State and Federal arena is a massive waste of money and manpower. Responsibilities such as education and health should rest solely with the States. The savings would ultimately be ours—we, the tax-payers.

It is a waste of life to have people killed on our roads. Roads are an important part of an electorate such as Callide. I travelled some 15 000 kilometres throughout the electorate in the weeks before the election, and I am familiar with the highways and by-ways. Maintenance of existing bitumen roads will be a major problem for future years. Upgrading secondary roads to bitumen standards is expensive and, of necessity, a slow process. I will endeavour to expedite the upgrading of all roads in Callide and, in particular, the Boyne Valley road, the Miriam Vale to Agnes Waters road, the southerly entrance into Tannum Sands and the Burnett Highway. It is important, too, that the bitumen edges on the State's highways are not allowed to deteriorate to a dangerous

condition. A recent fatal road accident in the Goovigen area, which claimed four lives, was attributed in part to very steep bitumen edges on the road which caused the car to get out of control.

It is a waste of our most important resource—people—if we do not encourage them to realise their potential in life. We can do this through education and through the general philosophy by which we live. I believe the family is the fundamental unit of Australian society. The family has a responsibility to provide for its young and aged members and is the base for those social and moral values which make for a civilised society.

I am proud that my children know the value of a hard day's work. All of them have worked to help towards their education. My daughter cleaned houses to pay for her speech lessons. When she graduated with a Bachelor of Business Communication degree, she also graduated as a qualified speech-teacher. That is an achievement from which she can take immense satisfaction, as she alone was responsible for it.

My son worked as a brickie's labourer, and after his first day he commented that he had learnt that it was better to be the brickie than the brickie's labourer. However, at the end of the job his boss asked him to work again in the next holidays, saying that he was reliable and a good worker.

My other son spent his holidays chipping cotton, grading mung beans and bagging grass-seed. For the past few years, in his vacation, he has worked at the same factory and has earned a reputation as a conscientious and reliable lad.

Those achievements please me more than all the academic awards or sporting and cultural kudos they have won. I am immensely proud that my children can make their way in the real world. It is not the prerogative of the Labor Party to have as its supporters working people. In fact, that is just what is wrong with that party. Most of its supporters do not labour; they are too busy seeking better conditions and more pay for less work, and, at times, purposely inhibiting productivity. They have lost track of the realities.

I have taught my children that there is dignity in work, and that it does not matter at all whether one wears a Jackie Howe singlet or a pin-stripe suit; if one is contributing all one possibly can to one's job and to the community, one is on the right track. If a person is not, he is wasting himself.

Water conservation is important to husband our existing water supplies. Irrigation in the Callide Valley has had a chequered career, with some farms losing their source of supply altogether in the sixties. A recent report released by the Water Resources Commission states clearly that on present usage figures the reserves are inadequate. This problem will have to be faced and discussed fully by irrigators in the valley.

I intend to work towards the obtaining of further water storage areas so that fertile land tracts can be utilised fully.

Because Callide is a mainly rural electorate, I would be remiss if I did not comment on the Opposition's one vote, one value proposal. A one vote, one value system would see the country areas like mine severely disadvantaged in terms of parliamentary representation. The majority of the 89 seats would be within a 150 kilometre radius of Brisbane.

The weightage system is provided for in the Westminster form of government, and is widely used throughout the democratic world. We in Callide are the primary producers, employed in farming, grazing and mining, and we are the small-businesses that serve them. We are the income-earners of Queensland; we have no need to be apologetic about our electoral system.

Country living is wonderful but it is not always easy. Children with health or education problems often have to be taken to Brisbane for treatment and are sometimes separated from their parents for long periods. Any specialist medical service requires a long trek to a major centre, and people who live in the country do not have easy access

to the cultural facilities that city people take for granted. Today country people still have to have a certain amount of the pioneering spirit in order to make the life enjoyable.

In concluding, I pay tribute to the man who has been Premier of Queensland for the past 18½ years. Sir Joh became Premier on 8 August 1968, and I remember the day well because it was the day my first son was born in Mount Isa.

I little thought then that that baby would have the chance to cast his first vote for the man who was elected Premier that day.

I believe that Sir Joh's ability to decide a course of action and his strength to pursue that course, once decided, has kept him as leader of Queensland for all these years. On behalf of the people of Callide, I thank him for his leadership, and wish him well in his future challenges.

I join my colleague the member for Burnett in stating my desire to abide by the rules of debate in this Chamber. I intend to make my contribution meaningful, and in this I hope to be guided by integrity and a sense of fair play.

Debate interrupted.

## PRIVILEGE

### Questions by Member for Southport to Deputy Premier

**Mr BURNS** (Lytton—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.44 p.m.): I rise on a matter of privilege. This afternoon during question-time the member for Southport, Mr Jennings, asked a question of the Deputy Premier regarding a report of the Confederation of Industry. In answering that question, the Deputy Premier tabled a document in relation to Commonwealth payments to the State, and he blamed the Commonwealth Government for always cutting back on payments to the State. Immediately after that, the honourable member for Southport, Mr Jennings, rose and asked a question in regard to the cutting-back of Commonwealth payments to the State.

It is clear that the Minister and the member involved with the Dorothy Dixers got them mixed up and that the House was given the second answer to the first question and the first answer to the second question. I ask that an investigation be made, because it is a waste of the time of this House for Dorothy Dixers to be used in this manner. When the heir apparent to the premiership of this State is not even able to answer the questions in the the right order, it makes a complete and utter joke of this Parliament.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will realise that I will need to look at *Hansard* or listen to the recording. I will report back to the House on the matter.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

**Mr R. J. GIBBS** (Wolston) (3.50 p.m.): I rise to speak to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and take this opportunity, as I usually do on this kind of occasion, to thank most sincerely the electors of Wolston for re-electing me to this august place for a further term of three years. I pledge my loyalty and support to them over my next three years of office.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to the Chair. It is encouraging to see a Western Suburbs old boy elected to such an august position in this Parliament. Regrettably, one cannot be as enthused about some of the new faces in the House. I am certainly enthusiastic about the members on my side of the Chamber, and I take this opportunity to wish them all well and an extremely long and successful stay in this Parliament. As for the members on the other side of the House, I take this opportunity to wish them an enjoyable but very short stay.

One of the tragedies in seeing new members come into the House is having to witness the kind of gutter-sniping tactics that the Labor Party has come to expect from

some people in the National Party who take advantage of this Chamber during their maiden speech. Unfortunately, this comment applies to the new member for Mansfield, Mr Sherrin, who, during his maiden speech, chose to introduce certain allegations and comments into this Parliament. Today he has tried to cast aspersions on decent people in the Labor Party. I totally reject his comments.

It is obvious that the honourable member for Mansfield represents the extreme Right of the community. That assertion can be backed up by evidence that he comes from the Bible belt of Brisbane—I make no apology for saying that—which, regrettably, has produced such members as the honourable member for Mount Gravatt. There is no doubt in my mind that these members are in this House as little more than agents of people such as Pastor Claremont and the other fellow from the Christian Outreach Centre. I am pleased that the Attorney-General is present in the Chamber, because I believe it is high time that he investigated the activities of the people involved in that organisation.

I raise a number of matters that are important to many Queenslanders. Two incidents have taken place in my own electorate which reflect a great deal of the injustice suffered by other people throughout Queensland. Again I am pleased that the Attorney-General is present, and I hope that he will take notice and investigate the two cases that I raise this afternoon.

Firstly, I refer to a constituent of mine by the name of Mrs Carole Mackie, who suffered injuries in a serious accident on 12 January 1980 at a location named Centrecourt Units at Kirra on the Gold Coast. As a result of this very serious accident, she was taken to the Tweed Heads Hospital, where her leg was set by a Dr Sparling. The following day she was driven home to Brisbane. By Monday her leg was causing her great pain and she went to see a doctor in Ipswich. He did not like the way in which the leg had been set and sent her straight away to an orthopaedic specialist.

On Wednesday, 6 January the leg had to be reset and screws, wire and internal fixation was carried out on Mrs Mackie as a private patient in the Ipswich General Hospital. Mrs Mackie was in terrible pain following the surgery and had to have pain-killing injections. The cast had to be opened to relieve the swelling and stitches became infected. When she returned home, she had to remain in bed with her leg raised at all times, with only her two-year-old daughter to look after her.

By mid-May, two screws inserted during the operation on the leg had become so loose that she had to go into St Andrews Hospital to have them removed. When she was able to get around on crutches, she went to see an Ipswich firm of solicitors by the name of Dale and Fallu. During my nine years representing Wolston I have received numerous complaints about this legal firm in Ipswich.

It strikes me as being a group of people who are not professional in their work and who do not know the requirements of their legal practice. I believe that other matters in the letter I received prove that to be correct. When Mrs Mackie went to see Mr Paul Fallu, he first handed her case over to a Mr Cervetto, who said that he was looking at around about \$25,000 in damages for my constituent and that it was a shame that the accident had not happened over the border, because, if it had, she would receive an even greater settlement in New South Wales. However, the firm of solicitors, Dale and Fallu, at no time made any attempt to keep in touch with Mrs Mackie. It was only through constant insistence by her that she was able to find out what it was doing.

The case was to go to court by the end of 1983. It did not go to court, and Mrs Mackie had incurred further legal fees with that firm. When she heard nothing further from the firm, she contacted it and was told that Mr Mark Edwards, who was supposedly handling her case at that time, was no longer with the firm.

A few months later, Mrs Mackie received a call from Mrs Sue Duncan to say that the matter was going to court on 15 April 1985.

Again Mrs Mackie paid for medical reports and again she did not see them. When she went to see the barrister, before going into court she was told that the legal

representative for the firm involved in the matter, namely, Forecourt Investments, had been sacked. The case was drawn out for a long time.

Eventually, the case reached the courts. My constituent, Mrs Carole Mackie, was awarded \$16,881 for damages that she suffered. The firm that was responsible for paying her that money was a company named Forecourt Investments Pty Ltd. Following my representation to Dale and Fallu, I received the following letter—

“We refer to the above and to your letter dated 24th October, 1985.

We advise that since our last letter we have been trying to determine how we are to obtain the money for Mrs Mackie.

We have made certain investigations into the matter and have determined two things:—

1. That the Company Forecourt Investments Pty. Ltd. was not insured at the time of the accident; and
2. They do not appear to want to pay Mrs Mackie's claim.

Our Mrs Duncan has had lengthy discussions with the former Solicitors for Forecourt Investments who advise that the Company has no assets and in their words, winding the Company would be ‘throwing good money after bad.’

In view of the seriousness of Mrs Mackie's condition and the emotional strain under which we thought Mrs Mackie would be, we have not as yet advised the couple of our investigations.”

Dale and Fallu took the matter upon itself. I say that the reply to me was fraudulent and that the firm really was not concerned at all about its client.

The letter further states—

“There is unfortunately always the possibility when dealing with a Company that they will not have sufficient assets to meet any judgment debt. This had been explained to Mrs Mackie prior to the Trial as Mrs Mackie was most worried about costs in the event that she would not be able to recover.”

I have been dealing with Mrs Mackie for a period of between 2½ and 3 years. Before this Assembly I say unequivocally that I am convinced that Mrs Mackie is genuine; that she is an honest woman; and that at no time did she say the things alleged by the solicitors. She advised me that at no time did the firm of solicitors Dale and Fallu even comment to her that it was concerned that, should she be successful in court, the defendant company would not be able to pay the damages.

On 2 October 1986, I wrote to Forecourt Investments Pty Ltd of Sydney, New South Wales. I received a reply from Mr John Steele, of Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, who stated—

“I acknowledge your letters of 10 July 1986 and 24 September 1986 concerning the claim Mrs Mackie has against the abovementioned company.

I do not know the details of the accident nor the findings of the Supreme Court of Queensland in the matter.

I, through my firm, act as accountants for Forecourt Investments Pty Ltd and simply write up the company's books on an annual basis.

The company has no assets and has not operated for several years and in fact has accumulated shareholder losses as at 30 June 1985 of some \$50,000. This financial position has not changed, as far as I am aware, since that date. Also I do not believe that the company is in the course of being wound up as I would have been notified of this.

I am sorry I cannot be of any help in the matter.”

This is the crunch. That company was involved in unit developments on the Gold Coast. It had no compulsory insurance, which is required by law to cover accidents occurring to people coming onto the property. Not only was the company involved in

property development, it was also involved in the laying-down of small tennis courts, which, I believe, are known as quarter courts.

One of the directors of the company is a Keith Ernest Horton of 57 Headlands Road, Castle Cove, Sydney, who also happens to be the secretary of the company. Following further investigations, it was discovered that the second director of the company was none other than the little Aussie battler himself, the former tennis champion of Australia, Mr Kenneth Rosewall, of 111 Pentacost Avenue, Turramurra, Sydney.

That company has broken the law in all respects. It was taken to court, lost the case, and was directed to pay \$16,500 to Mrs Mackie, who suffered pain, trauma and drama for a period of almost seven years. The company claims that it cannot pay that amount.

If Mrs Mackie wishes to take the matter further, she must undertake civil proceedings. However, she does not have the funds to do that. In the meantime, a person such as Kenneth Rosewall—a multimillionaire and successful tennis-player—sits back as a partner of a company that is still ripping people off. It is still registered and operating.

I say to the Attorney-General that it is high time that the Queensland Government took some moral and legal steps to prevent that type of occurrence.

A number of years ago, in this House, a debate took place in relation to the National Companies and Securities Commission. At that time the Federal Attorney-General was asking for uniform company laws throughout Australia.

I notice that the honourable member for Moggill is nodding his head in agreement. At that time the Queensland Government was the rat in the woodpile. It refused to cooperate.

At that time, the Liberal Attorney-General, Mr Sam Doumany, who was then a member of the coalition, constantly visited Canberra in an endeavour to sabotage any moves to nationalise the NCSC as a body representing all the States. That is only one occasion on which this Government's action has backfired. It is time that the Attorney-General, as this Parliament's representative on the ministerial council, was prepared to attend a meeting of the National Companies and Securities Commission.

Once again, the present Federal Attorney-General and Deputy Prime Minister, Lionel Bowen, has opened up a debate as to the worth or otherwise of not only increasing funding but making the NCSC a truly national body.

That is the case of Mrs Carole Mackie. I turn now to an almost identical case. I refer to another constituent of mine by the name of Raymond Hill from Riverview. He is a young married man with two children. In August of 1981 he lost his job with Coles. After he had been unemployed for approximately two years he decided to enter the business world. He purchased a butcher shop in Price Street, Riverview. A few months prior to the purchase of that shop, he became friendly with its owner. He purchased the shop and equipment at Shop 4, Price Street, Riverview from a Mr M. B. Slevin of Kennedy Drive, Redbank Plains, for an amount of \$27,000. His payment to the bank was \$680 per month.

For the first few months—one of them covering Christmas—the business seemed reasonable. However, it soon became apparent that Mr Slevin from Redbank Plains had lied about the books. There is no doubt that that fellow did a superb job of cooking the books, bringing in a relatively young man who was inexperienced in business and ripping him off at that early stage.

After that person started in the butcher shop, the complex was sold to a company named Loada Pty Limited for several hundred thousand dollars. It is estimated that the shopping centre was leased for something between \$400,000 and \$650,000.

Regrettably, after a period, my constituent found himself somewhat financially embarrassed and had to leave the business. He had an incredibly large debt and enormous personal problems at home, so he decided to sell the equipment that he had in his butcher shop. That was in spite of the fact that after he closed the shop, because he was

not fulfilling the terms of the lease, representatives from Loada Pty Limited changed the locks on the doors and told him that he was unable to have access to his own butcher shop. He was in dire financial straits so, as I said, he decided to sell the equipment from the shop. He had to break and enter the premises to obtain the equipment that he owned.

He made arrangements for a truck to arrive at the shop during a certain week. He says—

“The Sunday before I and the truck were going to remove my gear, we received a pamphlet in our letter box, saying that my shop was reopening under new management on the same day.

On that day my father and I went into the shop and asked the person behind the counter if he owned the shop. The answered he gave was yes. My dad said to him ‘who did you buy the shop off’. He replied ‘I purchased the business from Ray Hill’. My dad said to him ‘this is Ray Hill here’. And the man got really angry and ordered us to get out of his shop.”

As a consequence, my constituent sought legal advice. A writ was issued so that Mr Hill could take Loada Pty Limited to court to recover damages. Mr Bradley, who was his solicitor, asked him to fill out another set of legal aid forms. My constituent did receive some legal aid, but it was only a small amount.

My constituent goes on further to say—

“I was informed Loada’s case was that they were claiming abandonment. And they were also claiming rent from May to August. They also had paid the sum of 3,500 dollars, approximately, into court as the sum total of my 27,000 dollar investment claiming that it was all they owed me. As my debts were and still are, in excess of this amount we refused to except the offer, and believing the Law was on our side took the matter to court.”

Later, he says—

“The case began at 10 o’clock on the thirteenth of February 1986. Loadas witnesses Mr.Harburg and Mr.Anderson, as far as I new, both lied under oath. The case claiming abandonment was over at the lunch break we recond. During the lunch break Loada offered us \$5,000 to settle out of court. I scoffed at that and we continued.”

My constituent goes on to talk about the fact that a valuer who was called to give evidence on his behalf in the case valued the equipment on the premises at \$25,000, which was the amount for which he was suing.

He continues—

“Upon questioning from the apposing barrister, it was revealed, that this price was arrived at and only a realistic figure if the business is or was sold as a going concern. After a short break, Mr. Kelley changed his estimated value to about \$14,000. This figure being arrived at by the prices you would get at an auction. Even though the opposition barrister was firing all sorts of questions at him about the market value and shackles and chattles for hours, his figures stood. The court was adjourned till tomorrow. Loadas offer was now \$7,000 to settle out of court. My solicitor and barrister, Said they wern’t shore if we would win or not and I should think over their offer. I was not sure myself. I asked my parents what they thought, and my father said we have the law on our side and also that \$7,000 would not pay off much of the loan. So we decided to go for it.”

They certainly went for it, and boy didn’t they get it!

The next day, in court, Loada had its own valuer give evidence. He was cross-examined and his professional skills were found wanting. Consequently, my constituent won the case and was awarded damages of \$14,652.38. He left the court in an extremely happy state and was relieved to have obtained a decision in his favour.

A number of days later in Ipswich, my constituent contacted his solicitor. He was advised that there were problems associated with the money's being paid. He approached the staff of the Ipswich Court House, only to find out that although he had won the case, the court had been advised that no money was available to pay him. That is the same shonky operation to which I referred previously.

The firm known as Loada Pty Limited is registered in Queensland as a foreign company. Its registered office is situated at 483 Adelaide Street, Brisbane in the State of Queensland. I have a copy of the judgment that was handed down by His Honour Judge Given on 13 February 1986. The judgment reads in part—

“It is this day adjudged that the plaintiff do recover against the defendant the sum of \$12,524.30 for damages with interest at the rate of 12 per cent per annum from the first day of August 1984 in the sum of \$2,128.08, amounting together to the sum of \$14,652.38 . . .”

In spite of the fact that my constituent won the case, the damages have not been paid.

I have made inquiries about the company, and I have discovered that the last time the company returned a balance sheet was June 1986. The balance sheet revealed that the company had liabilities amounting to \$167,250 and that its sole asset was \$10. The company is owned by the following directors: Peter Victor Francis Harburg of 101 Petersen Street, Wynnum, who is also a director of Harburg Holdings Pty Ltd; Brenda Joy Harburg, 101 Petersen Street, Wynnum, who is also a director of Harburg Holdings Pty Ltd; Jean Ula May Harburg, 44 Fanfare Street, Eight Mile Plains, who is also a director of Harburg Holdings Pty Limited.

The company known as Loada was formed on the basis of an issue of 13 \$1 shares. This is a similar instance of a fraudulent company operating in Queensland on the basis of limited liability. The company directors hold shares to the value of only \$1, yet the company is allowed to operate and incur liabilities to the extent of \$167,250 with asset capital of \$10. It is amazing that these companies are still operating and still able to rip people off. These companies are probably in the business of buying shopping centres. When I refer to people being ripped off, I refer to the kinds of practices that are engaged in by people such as Rosewall and his shonky mates in the Forecourt Investment scandal. Millions of dollars have been made during the course of bankrupting private companies. The directors have deposited the money into their private bank accounts. The result has been that two very fine people who live in my electorate have been left in dire financial straits.

The second example that I have cited concerns a young man and his wife, whom I have met. I am very worried about whether they have the capacity to handle the pressure that is being applied to them. They occupy a Housing Commission home. The young man's father obtained a second mortgage over his own home so that his son would have enough money to buy the business in the first place. The young man and his wife are trying to pay back the debt that is owed to the young man's father as well as pay off the mortgage on their own home.

In spite of the fact that the young man to whom I have referred won his case in court, is it any wonder that he is disenchanted with the end result? So many people in Queensland are disgusted and say, “How can anyone get a fair go in the law courts in Queensland?”

What is wrong with the legal system in Queensland? What is wrong with the succession of conservative Attorneys-General in this State who have been members of this Parliament for longer than I have been, and are constantly being presented with facts that I have outlined today, but are reluctant to take the bullet between their teeth, bite it and declare that enough is enough.

It is time that some of those financial crooks were pulled into line. As I said, I would welcome some intervention by the Attorney-General of Queensland. An immediate investigation should take place. Today I give notice to Mr Rosewall, Peter Victor Harburg, Brenda Harburg, Jean Harburg and Francis Harburg, who is also a director of

Loada Pty Limited, that at the moment I am doing everything that I possibly can to find out the extent of their personal assets. I would like to find out what they have got in the bank. I also invite any members of the public who read this speech, after it is reported in some places, to contact me and give me further information on those people. They are not fit human beings to live in a civilised society. They are vultures; they are financial swine and, quite frankly, they do not belong in a civilised community, especially when they rip people off and bleed them in the way that they have.

I now want to speak about a matter in my electorate which causes me some concern. I am talking about the total inflexibility of the Queensland Education Department in relation to the payment of schoolchildren's bus fares. Recently at Redbank Plains a new high school was opened. Because of the overcrowding at the Bundamba State High School, people who live at Riverview, Redbank and other areas in my electorate are sending their children to the new Redbank Plains High School.

However, because the Education Department says, firstly, that it is not the high school closest to where those children live and, secondly, the children are not travelling 4.8 kilometres or further to reach the school, it will not subsidise bus fares. The Queensland Government has a responsibility to examine those guide-lines. It is not a new matter. Every year I am required to write to the Minister for Education asking for his assistance in this regard. On past occasions I have had some success. At the present time it would appear that a losing battle is being fought. I am not defending people who want to send their children to a high school 20 kilometres away from their home. I think that they have to be responsible enough to realise that the Education Department has certain requirements and that people are required to comply with certain guide-lines. However, when a person travels 4.6 kilometres as opposed to 4.8 kilometres, surely a case has been made out for that person to receive a fully subsidised bus fare.

I will conclude by referring to some recent events. I am sure that some of the events that have occurred since the State election last year have amazed all members of this House. I refer to the brawling which is taking place on the back bench and the front bench of the National Party at the present time. I will concede that it has been well hidden, but when one speaks privately to some members on the other side, one realises the lobbying and the cutthroat tactics which have emerged as the positions of Speaker, Premier and Deputy Premier have become or will become vacant.

A week ago last Sunday I noticed a newspaper article wherein it was reported that the Premier's son, young John, at 30 years of age is still a virgin. If he is, I think it is quite extraordinary, to say the least. However, if it is true, it is obvious that the high ground and the fine line of morality which the Premier and his wife have preached for all these years is obviously being practised in the family home. That is not something to be scoffed at. I am a little worried if it is true that young John is still a virgin at 30 years of age, and if, as political pundits predict, he is to succeed his father as the next member for Barambah. I think that would cause everyone some concern because it would appear to me that on the day he is sworn in he will obviously need the services of a seeing-eye dog to find his way to the Speaker's dais.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the member for Nerang to make his maiden speech.

**Mr HYND (Nerang) (4.19 p.m.):** It is my great pleasure to associate myself and the people of the Nerang electorate with the message of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, as expressed in the motion so ably moved by my colleague the honourable member for Mansfield and seconded by my colleague the honourable member for Townsville.

I should like to assure you, Mr Speaker, of my acceptance with sincere appreciation of His Excellency the Honourable Sir Walter Campbell's message of good wishes to all new honourable members who have recently been elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly. I ask you to convey to him my sincere thanks for his good wishes. I also congratulate you on your election to your high and exalted position as Speaker. I assure you that I shall endeavour at all times to obey the rulings of the Chair without question

and I shall do my utmost to uphold with dignity and decorum the traditions of the House.

I have a feeling of great satisfaction when I compliment our leader, the Honourable Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, on his personal victory and for leading his team to victory. I have no doubt that all honourable members would agree that his forthright, honest approach to affairs of state played a very important part in the election of all Government members.

It has been said, and it is worth repeating, that frequently people wait until it is too late, until after an honourable member has passed on, to express appreciation of his qualities or to thank him for the good deeds and fine work he has done on behalf of the State and very often on behalf of other honourable members. Therefore, I propose to delay no longer in my words of thanks to various people outside the Chamber and to those honourable members who assisted me considerably during my election campaign and made it possible for me to be here today to speak on behalf of the people of the Nerang electorate. I should also like to place on record my sincere appreciation to the electors of Nerang for making it possible for me to win this seat and to serve as their representative in Parliament.

I sincerely thank the Ministers and members who assisted me in my campaign and who, since my election, have extended to me the hand of friendship and are assisting me to understand the various phases of parliamentary life. Although I was no less sincere in my previous remarks, I am most sincere when I place on record my personal thanks to my friends and colleagues the Honourable the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing, the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise and the honourable member for Southport. The new electorate of Nerang consists of constituents from parts of all four electorates previously represented by those honourable members. We have been friends for many years. During the election campaign they gave of their best and supported me unfailingly, without thought of reward for themselves, to make sure that the endorsed National Party candidate was elected for the newly formed seat of Nerang.

Many honourable members in the Chamber well know their ability as politicians, parliamentary representatives and very forthright debaters. They are keen representatives of the electors who placed them in office and, on behalf of those people they represented in their former parts of the Nerang electorate, I sincerely thank them. I know that those people would want me to add their thanks for the wonderful service that those honourable members have given to the community throughout their years as representatives of those areas. There are many monuments to the services they have rendered over that period.

I am very proud to be one of a six-man team representing the Gold Coast and its hinterland in this House and I believe that we, combining as a team, can do excellent work for the people in all of our areas. After all, the six electorates comprise the whole of the Gold Coast and the adjoining hinterland. I ask all honourable members to assist us in promoting the whole of Queensland through this, the tourist capital of the South Pacific.

The electorate of Nerang extends from the green of the hinterland to the gold of the foreshores. It is a truly magnificent area that must now be nurtured and developed with care and pride. The potential is limitless, with the ability for vast industrial development, yet retaining the rural beauty which abounds in the hinterland.

I wish to see the continued growth of secondary industry at a level which will keep pace with the tourist growth so that ultimately those two great industries will feed on each other's prosperity, and the Gold Coast and hinterland will be, to a large extent, self-sufficient. Industry should be developed in congenial surroundings with natural barriers of foliage and earth to eliminate noise pollution.

Industrial complex developers should be encouraged to design buildings that are aesthetically acceptable to the environment. All types of industry will achieve the highest

productivity in that style of setting. To this end, I hope to work closely with the Honourable the Minister for Industry and Technology. Residents should have the tranquility that they desire as society approaches the age of leisure through technology.

Many of the schools within my electorate now enjoy those types of rural surroundings. As the education curriculum is expanding into new fields, I will be making strong representations to the Honourable the Minister for Education to introduce forthwith marine studies into at least two schools within the Nerang electorate, namely, Southport State High School and Nerang State High School. Those schools have direct access to waterways, and such an extension to the school studies is essential if the youth of the future are to take their rightful place in the work-force. They will be the generation who will man the many tourist vessels which will ply the Broadwater, they will be the boat-builders of the future, and they will be our diesel engineers.

I foresee enormous employment opportunities for students as a result of the introduction of aluminium-welding and fibreglass technology to the school curriculum. Scuba diving training, and an understanding of the marine life which abounds beyond our foreshores, will become more important to our tourist industry. Those students will be responsible for our future fish and marine farming, thus ensuring that our restaurants will always be able to cater for the ever-growing tourist demand for seafood.

Housing has always been an issue of prime concern to me. All honourable members would support me when I say that all Queenslanders should be housed in their own homes, so that they may have pride of ownership and pride in standing on their own plot of ground. They should feel part of, and be proud to be part of, Queensland. Those people who do not enjoy high salaries or are disadvantaged through illness or misfortune must be assisted by the provision of realistically priced accommodation. I foresee the introduction of aesthetically acceptable low-cost housing units to fill the gap between the caravan and the Housing Commission home. Finally, as our residents reach retirement, we should be preparing for another type of realistically priced dwelling with a minimum of stairways and positioned close to shopping centres. I propose to strive towards those ends, with the assistance of the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing.

The Nerang electorate has several caravan parks and what are now known as mobile or transportable-home parks. The transportable or mobile home does not have the facility of wheels and, in most cases, is too wide to be transported by road.

It is for the people who have invested many thousands of dollars in such accommodation that I intend to work closely with the Honourable the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. Approximately 10 000 residents throughout Queensland are now housed in that manner. I feel that this issue will need close and careful resolve to ensure that no resident is at a disadvantage.

In recent years, no Address in Reply speech would have been made in this House without reference to the Honourable the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing. Although I appreciate the enormous job that he has done thus far with the South East Freeway and other roads of such magnitude within the State, I will be drawing to the Minister's attention the population growth rate of Nerang and its hinterland, which he knows only too well to be 17.5 per cent per annum. That level of growth has remained constant for the past 5 years.

It is for that reason that I will be making representations for the speedy completion of a four-lane highway from Southport to Nerang to afford faster, safer and better access between these two centres.

Two underground pedestrian ways should be provided for the convenience and safety of schoolchildren, one to be located at Cotlew Street intersection between Trinity College and Silver Bridle Estate and the other to be located at Nerang State School running north-west to the bus interchange. Both would provide safe crossings and speed traffic flow during peak hours.

The grade separation at Pindari Hills is of vital importance and the opening and construction of the new Neilsens Road access will ease traffic congestion at that section.

Early and close consultation with the Minister's engineers and local government will help the traffic to flow smoothly into the hinterland by the time the Ross Street bridge is completed.

The pattern has now been set for the future of the Broadwater with the opening of the seaway and the establishment of a radio tower. With continuous professional manning and radio-monitoring, our tourist vessels will increase and the future continued growth of water traffic is inevitable. A floating pontoon jetty on the inside of the southern training wall capable of tying up two rescue vessels at any one time should take high priority so that our rescue vessels may move around the Broadwater, and in fact out to sea, with the shortest possible time delay.

While our channels are exceptionally well beaconed, it will be essential to educate our new and old skippers alike with regard to elimination of vandalising of beacons, which are the traffic lights of the waterways.

Regular monitoring of the northerly sand drift will also be a necessity if our pleasure craft are to maximise the beauty of the Broadwater.

I would suggest that we should now introduce a training scheme to educate the newer boaties and re-educate the experienced skippers. The highest ratio of boats to population in Queensland is located between Brisbane and Southport and, so that we may enjoy our spectacular waterways, we must remind all skippers that, although the bar is stabilised, one must always treat the sea with respect and that no skipper should attempt a crossing unless he is fully aware of the conditions prevailing both inside and outside the bar.

Our air/sea rescue and coastguard are voluntary organisations and offer regular training courses, which could be extended for the benefit of all craft-owners. I will press for the location of two masts at the seaward and Broadwater approaches to the seaway. These masts will display international markers to indicate to all vessels whether in fact the seaway is closed or safe for navigation. The other masts will indicate to skippers the level and direction in which the tide is flowing at that point in time. When the observation tower is completed, the long-term problem for mariners will be solved. Because of my involvement on the water, I will continue my close relationship with the Minister and keep the boating public appropriately advised.

I envisage the Nerang electorate becoming the largest sporting electorate in Queensland, and community involvement in the Nerang electorate is the highest and most competitive to be found anywhere. A healthy competitive environment builds well-balanced Queenslanders. Within the Nerang electorate we have two international golf courses—one 18-hole golf course and one driving range—Croatian sports fields, pony clubs and many football clubs. The Carrara sports complex is soon to become the home of the Brisbane Bears Australian Football Club. This, of course, will be a continuing drawcard for tourism and, with the many thousands of football followers, we can anticipate continual support from this ever-increasing spectator sport.

Surfers Paradise raceway is already rising to international fame. Water-skiing, sailboard-riding, windsurfing—I could go on—Odyssey, trike and minibike racing and BMX tracks are just a few of the sports within the Nerang electorate.

Construction of the new trotting and showground complexes, upon completion and relocation, will be yet another major sporting complex within the Nerang electorate. In short, electors who can be involved in sport and teamship will have a healthy outlook on life and will work hard to build a better Australia.

This great State and country have been built by private-enterprise entrepreneurs and the inspiration of the small-businessman who has accepted his share of the responsibilities of our growth pattern in employing, developing and expanding this system that has become the backbone of this great nation of ours. It is my intention to work tirelessly through the Honourable the Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs to ensure that these electors are assisted to reap their just rewards so that they may take pride in the continuing development of this State.

Now is the time in Australian history when Queensland must continue to lead the way and foster and encourage research and development while planning for our future.

The building and construction industry has played more than its part in the growth and prosperity of the Gold Coast. I know that well, for it has been my life and livelihood from the age of 16 years until 1 November 1986, when I became the member for Nerang. Over the years this industry has been responsible for an enormous amount of employment.

The developers, who have carved their names across the Gold Coast skyline, have now gone to grass. Their initiatives have been bled because of Federal Government policies and propaganda implying that "profit" has now become a dirty word.

The introduction of capital gains tax and the outlawing of negative gearing have stripped every investor and developer of enthusiasm to put forward risk capital for his ventures. Greed from some of the extreme Left trade union organisers has further destroyed the incentive of our developmental growth pattern. Now is the time for tradesmen and proud Australians to go back to work. The majority of those within the building and construction industry do not support the extreme Left movement.

Responsible members of the work-force and Government must now be seen to assist the building industry to cast off the shackles of extremist trade-unionism and Leftist taxation burdens.

I will be supporting this Government and all its initiatives with its lower-taxation policies that will ultimately bring about single-rate taxation and will be an advantage to all people at every level of income. Our policies will revitalise the confidence of builders and developers alike, ensuring continued growth and improved employment prospects. People must take the initiative and create the incentive and rebuild the building industry so that it may have its rightful place as a major employer throughout the country. Let us once more see in excess of 60—up to 80—cranes on the Gold Coast skyline. Let us direct Australians back to work. If the development of industry on the Gold Coast and hinterland is continued, the population will increase automatically. This, in conjunction with the increase in population created by tourism, means that our local demand for locally manufactured goods must surely increase. I am sure that all honourable members will agree that the local market-place is always the most profitable, and it is to this end that the Gold Coast and hinterland must direct its developmental energies.

In short, the electorate of Nerang has become the linchpin of the Gold Coast and hinterland. Tourism will require industry; tourism will require recreation; tourism will require waterway development; industry, in turn, will require accommodation; industry will require special education; recreation will require access and better roadways; prosperity will require care for the aged; and, in time, with care, we will create even more employment.

I am most anxious that none of the points that I have raised today are lightly passed over, and I will continue to make representation to the various Ministers on behalf of the electorate of Nerang in order to foster its continued growth. Finally, I ask all honourable members to remember the words that I used at the beginning of my speech when I referred to the Gold Coast and hinterland as the tourist capital of the South Pacific. While it is the duty of all honourable members to represent their own electors, I suggest to all honourable members that if Queensland is to continue to prosper the Gold Coast and hinterland must be sold as the tourist capital of the South Pacific.

Debate interrupted.

#### RULE OF ANTICIPATION

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row):** Order! Yesterday, during the debate on Matters of Public Interest, the honourable member for Mount Gravatt rose to a point of order against the honourable member for Rockhampton on the rule of anticipation. I did not accept that point of order. However, I did undertake to investigate the question of the rule of anticipation relative to the context in which it was raised.

I have determined that, because the notice of motion given by the honourable member for Rockhampton was called "not formal", his reference to the matter of extended shopping hours during the debate on Matters of Public Interest was not in breach of the rule of anticipation.

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

Mr ARDILL (Salisbury) (4.40 p.m.): I congratulate the Speaker on his election to that high office and the manner in which he has discharged his duties since his election to that office. I also congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your appointment as Chairman of Committees.

Congratulations are also due to the new members on the Opposition side of the House, particularly the honourable members for Caboolture and Bowen, for their contributions to this debate.

However, I am appalled by the general standard of debate in this House. The contributions to the debate by the National Party and Liberal Party members left me almost speechless. Some of their contributions, particularly during the first two days, can only be compared with semolina porridge without sugar, salt or milk, while others simply knocked other forms of government and were irrelevant to the debate.

I repeat that I am appalled at the standard of debate in this Chamber. It is certainly not up to the standard of another place in which I spent many years. One honourable member went so far as to disparage the training of clowns. I found that quite ironic.

I believe that back-benchers have a very real role to play in all forms of government. The back-benchers on the Government side of the House should assist in improving the standards of the State Government. I spent three years as a back-bencher with the Brisbane City Council, and I believed that my role was to bring the council of the day up to date.

During the time that I have been in this House, the National Party and Liberal Party members have not fulfilled that role. They have carried on with self-praise and criticised other areas of government. I am disappointed that that seems to be their role in this House.

Of course, there were exceptions. The honourable member for Warwick spoke with feeling about his electorate and showed a great knowledge of it and country life. The contribution to the debate by the honourable member for Ashgrove was also relevant, but that is about the end of the matter.

Both "Warwick" and "Ashgrove" are solid English names that remind me of a person in history, or perhaps legend, by the name of Robin Hood. He was alleged to have robbed the rich to provide funds for the poor.

Honourable members would be aware of the person in New South Wales who was known as "Hood Robin". He robbed the hoods to provide himself with money which eventually, upon his death, was bequeathed to a dogs' home.

The funny thing is that in this Chamber is a "Mr 25 per cent", who wants to rob the poor to give to the rich. Talk of a 25 per cent tax, as honourable members have just heard from the previous speaker, is nothing but a thimble-and-pea trick. At present anyone in the community who receives an income of less than \$490 a week pays less than 25 per cent tax. When the new tax rates apply as from 1 July, anyone receiving less than \$511.29 a week will be paying less than 25 per cent tax. As I said, it is a thimble-and-pea trick.

I draw the attention of the previous speaker to the fact that, when he talks about there being approximately 60 cranes on the skyline of the Gold Coast, that area has more than reached saturation point. Does he not know that the Gold Coast City Council

is applying very severe water restrictions? The Government cannot provide the normal necessities of life in an area that is claimed to be Queensland's premier tourist resort.

The Gold Coast has reached saturation point. Its facilities need upgrading. During the Christmas holidays, it is so overcrowded that the roads cannot carry them and the shops cannot feed them. Now the ridiculous situation prevails in which the Gold Coast City Council and the Government cannot provide for the people who live on the Gold Coast the bare necessities of life in the form of water.

The previous speaker wanted to get cranes back on the skyline. That is the last thing that should be seen on the Gold Coast in view of the present state of its development. The facilities and infrastructure that should have been provided by the Government are lacking.

I have the honour to represent the 22 000 electors of Salisbury in this historic House of Assembly.

I am proud and awed to have been elected into the same Assembly that has seen so many famous Australians making history from the time of Robert Herbert, the first Colonial Secretary. They include MacAlister, the father of the first railway in Queensland, through to Jack Duggan, who restored the railways after the debilitating effect of the 1938-1945 war and commenced the electrification of the Brisbane system by quadruplication in the western suburbs. I note that the present Government is taking full credit for that. It was begun by Jack Duggan before 1957.

This Chamber has seen such people as McIllwraith, who annexed New Guinea against the wishes of the British and German Governments and, therefore, probably saved Australia from German attack during World War II.

This Chamber has seen Griffith, the great federationist—quite different from the members of this Government—who was damned by the planters for opposing blackbirding. It has seen Andrew Fisher, Anderson Dawson, T. J. Ryan and Forgan Smith, who built up the sugar industry to become the backbone of Queensland and who put Queenslanders to work on public projects during the great depression.

Unfortunately, Queensland and Queenslanders have lost their way. They no longer have a government which represents the wishes and aspirations of the majority of Queenslanders. That is a very sad situation.

The Australian way of life, that overworked phrase usually used by people who do not understand it, is directly related to the philosophies and actions of the unions which made this State a great place to live in; the unions which fought the privilege and power of the squatters, the land-owning companies and the merchants to ensure a suitable living standard for all Queenslanders.

Out of the early unions grew the great Australian Labor Party, of which I am proud to be a member. Queensland had the first Labor Government in the world in 1899 and the Labor Party put most, if not all, of the progressive legislation on the statutes of this State.

Some of the progressive Labor Party achievements were: the right of women to stand for election to Parliament; maternity allowance benefits, which were the forerunner to family allowances; the construction of women's hospitals; free public hospitals; sick leave as a right for all employees; workers' compensation in respect of injury or disability; the establishment of what was previously known as the State Government Insurance Office, now known as Suncorp; the establishment of the greater Brisbane council system; employment-generating schemes such as Somerset Dam, the Story Bridge, the University of Queensland at St Lucia, the north Queensland hydro-electric schemes, and the Kyogle interstate railway; in 1952 the first State-owned, overnight, air-conditioned trains; in 1924 the 44-hour week; in 1947 the 40-hour week; and in 1952, long-service leave entitlements.

In theory, in a constitutional monarchy, protection of the individual and protection of the public at large from individuals bearing ill-will is guaranteed by the Crown. In

1975 in Australia that theory was severely dented following intervention by a foreign agency, namely, the Central Intelligence Agency. The Governor-General refused to accept the advice of the elected Prime Minister who had the confidence of the House of Representatives. The Governor-General installed as Prime Minister a member who inevitably would be defeated on the floor of the House of Representatives.

However, even with its shortcomings, I know of no better system of responsible government than that which operates in Australia. I for one would vigorously oppose a system based on presidential executive power that is not fully accountable to an elected Parliament. I sometimes wonder what kind of system operates in Queensland.

For the reason I mentioned previously, I am pleased to pledge my loyalty to the Crown and to the Westminster system. Any shortcomings that exist in Queensland, and there are many, result not from the system itself but from the failure of parliamentarians to live up to their responsibilities. The shortcomings that are evident in Queensland flow from the gerrymander and the 30-seat advantage it ensures for one political party. Uninformed media gurus speak of the National Party's landslide victories without examining the figures. The National Party, from its base of 14 pocket boroughs and nine other safe seats, has a tremendous advantage that engenders a perception among people of that party's invincibility. However, let us examine the figures.

I represent the most marginal Labor electorate; yet on election night, I had obtained more votes than 14 National Party members—including the Premier and Treasurer, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen—who now hold 14 of the 23 entirely safe National Party seats. After preferences had been distributed, I had obtained more votes than all except 16 National Party members who are sitting in this Chamber, or should I say that they sit in this Chamber from time to time.

The point I make is that 33 National Party representatives were elected on fewer votes than the most marginal Labor representative. That is hardly a landslide. The gerrymander helped them to win those seats.

The greatest losers because of the gerrymander are members of the Liberal Party. Because the Liberals hold only 10 seats and the National Party holds a certain and definite advantage in 23 safe seats, no-one takes the Liberal Party seriously, except for a small section of the Brisbane media. Only two Liberal Party seats are rock-solid and can be placed into the same category as the 23 National Party seats. The Australian Labor Party holds nine such seats, which tends to bottle up Labor votes and makes the surrounding seats marginal. Until Liberal Party voters wake up and give temporary allegiance to the Labor Party—if only through the distribution of preferences—the Liberal Party will never amount to anything.

It is often claimed that a political party that governs for a long period offers stability to the State or the city that is governed. The city of Brisbane can be cited as an example. However, in the case of Queensland, what benefits have been derived over the last three decades? I am unable to think of any.

However, I certainly know about the problems, particularly those that exist in my electorate of Salisbury. They include the following—

- the total absence of confidence in the understaffed police force to protect residents from violence, damage to their personal treasures, and theft of their property;

- the hopeless shortage of rental housing in Brisbane;

- inadequate funding of important community buildings, particularly schools;

- no public hospital accommodation for children, except at distant inner-city hospitals;

- inadequate funding of council and private bus services by this Government, whose responsibility it is to provide public transport;

- disgraceful neglect in not providing in primary schools specialist teachers and back-up staff such as secretaries and sufficient teacher aides;

the dearest domestic electricity tariffs in any capital city, except Perth, which has coal-supply problems;

the fiasco of deregulated trading hours, particularly when it was done without warning, after Christmas stocks had been ordered, and in most cases received, by small traders;

neglect of our major national parks and lack of planning to redress the problem of only about 2 per cent of the Moreton region being included in national parks when 20 per cent of the Sydney region is so declared;

the lack of provision of a tourist service for lower income local residents such as the New South Wales Government provides with its "Day-Away" and "Stay-Away" tours which utilise the railways and provides desperately needed patronage on country lines;

the reliance on low-labour content primary and heavily-taxed mining industries to keep the State afloat instead of promoting sunrise industries and technology to employ our better-educated school-leavers;

the lack of community services for the increasing population of young Aboriginal people;

the general lack of community facilities for young people and the shortage of officers in the former Welfare Services Department to attend to counselling of young people and personal counselling of anyone unable to cope with our changing society;

the lack of an adequate interpreter service for migrants who have difficulty with English, particularly when dealing with State officials and health services;

the excessive valuations imposed on residential properties; and

the continuing rape of our environment by development and vandalism, both occasional and official.

All of these things are impressed upon me by the people of Salisbury. Although I will continue to deal with them at a personal level, I would like to make a plea for better government and a reallocation of funds for these purposes.

First and foremost, everyone in a civilised society is entitled to protection from violence and to security in their own homes. In the southern suburbs, that does not exist. Thousands of elderly people and most women live in fear of attack. And with good reason. Very few households in my electorate have not been burgled, lost property or suffered vandalism. At my home I have had four cars stolen and attempts made to steal others. I have also had cars damaged by fire, wilfully sabotaged and vandalised. Many residents have had their houses subjected to disgusting acts of barbarism, which leaves them emotionally drained. I ask: what is the Government doing about it?

The present philosophy of policing has been clearly demonstrated to be a total failure. It is totally unsatisfactory to catch the criminal after the event when the crime is a vicious assault which kills the victim or leaves her visually impaired, permanently disabled or mentally disturbed. Catching the criminal after shop-lifting or stealing other than personal property might be all very well, but that is not a suitable system for crimes against the person nor destruction of irreplaceable personal possessions such as photographs, books, letters and records.

The trouble is that our State Ministers are out of touch with the problems of ordinary people. One of them is in the House; where are the rest of them? They do not suffer this sort of outrage. If they need police protection, it is provided. A thousand extra police are needed, and needed urgently, and a police presence in our residential neighbourhoods must be provided. What more important work can the State do?

It is time that this Government made use of all the Federal funds that are available to State Governments as a subsidy to their own spending. Rental housing is one of these areas. Substandard housing seems so prevalent as to be commonplace. The Government owns hundreds of acres of land in the Salisbury electorate which could provide housing much closer to facilities, providing employment, than the satellite suburbs being developed

in Logan city, Moreton Shire and Ipswich. Such housing would satisfy the needs of many people, particularly when proximity to the railway and the central city is an advantage.

In this day and age when any employment must be grasped with both hands, it is quite wrong for this Government to direct the Housing Commission to refuse to allow tenants to transfer from one suburb to another when employment renders this not only desirable, but also imperative.

The proposal to route a coal railway line through residential areas is a much-discussed topic. I urge the Government to direct the Railway Department to find an alternative route to a northern port that could serve the mines of the Darling Downs when they are eventually developed. The line should not pass through residential areas. Because that is where the markets are, it makes good sense to direct the coal north and not to Moreton Bay, which would need perpetual dredging.

Many residents of my electorate have approached me about the proposal to settle 5 000 aged Japanese in a nearby bush area. They are all opposed to the proposal, for a variety of reasons, the most compelling of which is the undesirable feature of having what would be a foreign enclave in our midst, which would not be to the advantage of either the people cut off from their own culture and peoples or the local residents who would have to cope with them when sharing community facilities. I totally oppose this new transportation scheme, which is over a century out of date.

I have previously mentioned most of the major problems of my electorate, which flow from lack of activity by the Queensland Government or, in some cases, are caused by its actions, and these are the issues on which residents of my electorate have approached me. It should be made clear that many of these people are normally conservative voters.

However, there is one issue on which I feel strongly but about which most people feel hopelessly inadequate. I refer to the matter of road safety and the shocking carnage on our roads, which must be stopped. Expert traffic engineers confidently say that many improvements can be made by education, engineering and enforcement—the three Es. In the Brisbane City Council between 1975 and 1980, we proved this to be so. By using all the traffic engineer's techniques known and a few others devised by the expert engineers I had gathered together, the council attacked the serious accident rate and reduce it by half in the council area. This also required enforcement, which was provided by the police. If my memory is correct, that was under the ministerial control of this Government's most effective Minister, Mr Hinze.

The third arm of the trilogy, education, was the only area lacking. We did our best with the help of some of the newspapers and radio stations, but without any assistance from sensationalising TV channels and the Education Department. The first attack on the carnage on our roads must come from the Education Department. Driving philosophy and expertise must become part of the school curriculum, if we are to reduce casualties on our worst battle-field. It is also one of our most costly battle-fields. Any funding provided would be money well spent, and money that would be recouped.

Pedestrian behaviour and bicycle behaviour are good, or bad, indications that most people make appalling drivers. They will continue to be so, if they do not understand what is required of them. Frustration, arising from ignorance, bad engineering and other people's bad driving habits, is a major problem on our roads. This State needs a major upgrading of the standards of its traffic engineers and traffic engineering.

In the absence of a proper RBT program, I must support the RID program, but a major police presence is needed on our roads to remove drivers and parkers who impede the flow of traffic and those whose driving behaviour must result in accidents. Booking speedsters on a four-lane highway is not a major component in reducing accidents; booking them in residential areas is.

I would also make a plea to reduce the speed limit in residential streets from 60 to 50 km/h. This would considerably reduce the accidents involving elderly people and children, and would also encourage drivers to continue along major roads, which could

be signed for 60 km/h or even 70 km/h, in some cases, where adequate provision is made for pedestrians and cross traffic by a regulated system of traffic lights.

If the Government is serious about saving lives on the road, it will stop planting dead trees—power poles—and embark upon a vigorous policy of providing underground electricity, just as the Labor Brisbane City Council did. Emphasis should be placed not on advertisements by the Minister for Mines and Energy, but on underground electricity.

I turn now from the city to the country. I draw the attention of honourable members to the lack of maintenance in one of this State's major tourist attractions, Lamington National Park. Obviously, insufficient staff and funding are available, because in January even the main Border Track was severely overgrown, and other tracks often disappeared, with sign-posting almost totally absent. After visiting the well-cared-for national parks in northern New South Wales—even in the most remote areas—I was severely embarrassed to show interstate visitors through Queensland's national parks.

Moreton Island is under attack for the third time. It is time that it was made clear that in 1975 the council planning advisory committee of the day—not the aldermen—was given the task of devising a new town plan for Brisbane. Influenced by this State Government, it proposed that Moreton Island should be zoned for sand-mining. When that plan was presented to the council, almost all of the then aldermen were aghast at the prospect of such sacrilege against one of this earth's most beautiful, exquisite places.

I prepared an objection to that plan, which was adopted by aldermen and became the council's official attitude. In addition, more than 5 000 public objections to the plan were received. The objection of the aldermen was dealt with before those objections were received. That 1975 plan was aborted after the receipt of 29 000 objections to various aspects of it.

I believe that local authorities should be given the task of planning, as long as it is the responsibility of local representatives, not some outside body.

In 1976 the Sleeman council, of which I was planning chairman, was charged with the responsibility of bringing in a new plan. On that occasion the aldermen were given the task. Our leader, Nev Warburton, was one of those aldermen who clearly spelt out the attitude of the people of Brisbane: "Hands off Moreton Island." The council zoned the island as open space which, if endorsed by the coalition Government, would have protected it from mining. The Government did not give its endorsement, and the battle has raged ever since.

Federal Government intervention stopped this greedy Government from raping the island in 1981. Now it is under attack again. When will this Government learn that the people of Brisbane will not stand for mining of this magnificent jewel, which is far more valuable than any profit or asset that could be gained by its despoliation?

The Queensland Government does not own Moreton Island. The people do—the people of today and the people of tomorrow. I say to Government members: "keep your grubby hands off this pristine gem."

In our fast-changing society, many people have great difficulty coping with changing values, changing personal relations and the lack of security. Many people who are unable to cope approach me, but Queensland has no back-up service to which I can direct them for advice or assistance. The welfare services of this State are out of date and understaffed, with a Minister who, in my opinion, is more intent on a high public profile than on providing the funding necessary to guide people sympathetically, before they or their families go off the proverbial rails.

In addition, society is now facing the worst plague known to humanity—at least since the black death of the Middle Ages—but all that the out-of-date members of this State's Ministry can do is throw up their hands in horror at the thought of discussing sex. I am, of course, referring to AIDS, which is set to invade every section of the community unless steps are taken to identify the channels that it will follow and to educate everyone, particularly young people, accordingly.

Anyone who thinks that only deviates and promiscuous people are at risk should study the facts about the disease, which can have an incubation period of seven years. That is a very long time in the lives of young people. How many young people have exclusive relationships lasting seven years? Sex education for children younger than high school age is essential.

Certainly, I have suggested an increase in spending in some areas, but I am not suggesting that the Government should increase State charges. They are too high now. What I am suggesting is a reallocation of priorities and funding. Unnecessary duplication should be eliminated and this State and Government should stop acting as though Queensland is a separate nation. It is not. It is a creation of British colonial policy and, in many ways, an anachronism. If Queensland is to continue as a self-governing entity, it must sympathetically provide for the needs of its population and must serve the people.

Queensland has seen enough of confrontation; enough of victimisation of scapegoats such as the SEQEB workers who were sacked as an example to other unionists of what was in store for them. Those SEQEB workers, many of them who worked for the Brisbane City Council while I was an alderman, risked their lives in all weather to serve the people of Brisbane. They had an exemplary industrial record while they worked for the council.

That cannot be denied. They did not have control of the power houses—that fact cannot be denied either—or the switching system. Those who did are still working in their jobs. The linesmen had an excellent record of restoring power, not turning out the lights. Some of those linesmen and their families in Salisbury are still suffering and, although a misinformed public has forgotten them, I have not. I want to see an end to the bitterness and divisiveness in this State, but also I want to see justice done.

Despite the dire predictions of media experts——

Time expired.

**Mr ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (5.11 p.m.):** I take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker on his appointment to that office. Over the last two weeks all honourable members have seen that the right man has been picked for the job and it seems that things in this place will be done in the way in which all members would like to see things done. All honourable members must realise the importance of the roles of Speaker and Chairman of Committees in this place. All honourable members who have been in this House for a while realise the importance of those positions. At times in this Parliament, members have witnessed scenes that they would not like to see.

I would not congratulate to the same degree the member who has just resumed his seat. Traditionally, all honourable members sat in this House in silence or watched his maiden speech on the monitors, but I can assure him that the next time he makes a speech in this House, he may not have silence. If his speech is the kind of speech that is delivered, and indicates the way things are done in the City Council, one has little trouble realising why the Labor Party lost office in the council.

I pledge my loyalty and that of the people of my electorate to Her Majesty's representative. I noticed with great interest that a few honourable members in this House, when they were asked to take the oath, did not seem too keen to take the oath.

**Mr Vaughan:** Mind your own business.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** It is my business. All honourable members are in the business of representing and setting an example to the community, particularly children who come into the gallery to watch the proceedings. People throughout the whole of the community are looking on, and I do not believe that the honourable member for Nudgee would conduct himself in the same way as some of the other honourable members did. It is a great disappointment to think that standards are being allowed to drift away.

At present, the Labor Party has problems with its secretary.

**Mr Hamill** interjected.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** I will not worry about the walking walrus moustache opposite me. In the days when we had Marty Hanlon sitting on the Opposition benches—

**An Opposition member:** Who?

**Mr Burns:** Marty Hanson!

**Mr ELLIOTT:** Marty Hanson, and Brendan Hansen, who represented Maryborough, would leave for dead the attitude that is demonstrated by some of the people to whom I referred earlier.

Those two former members would certainly not have carried on in that way. They stood up for the more honourable traditions of this place. They believed in the family, and they demonstrated that belief. What has gone wrong with the Labor Party in this State is that it is allowing a different type of person to join its ranks. It seems to encourage pseudo-academics and many other unusual persons into its organisation.

**Mr Davis** interjected.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** I was misled by the babbling brook. As I sit so close to the honourable member for Brisbane Central, at times I find it very hard to ignore him.

All honourable members who represent country electorates realise that they have a very important job to do at the moment. Never has there been a greater need for stability and a need for all members to represent their electorates to ensure that the message is received loud and clear not only in Brisbane but more particularly in the cloud cuckooland that is called Canberra, where people get carried away, become Canberra-ised and do not seem to be interested in what is happening.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row):** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber, especially on my left. I ask the Chamber to come to order.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** It is most important that all honourable members apply as much pressure as possible to Canberra. Most of our present problems stem from that city. Contrary to what honourable members opposite might say, farmers and those persons dependent on the primary sector for their incomes are experiencing inordinate problems. I refer also to those people who manufacture goods—

**Mr Davis:** Farm machinery.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** Particularly farm machinery. For once, the honourable member is spot on in what he says.

The history of this nation shows that at present the rural sector—the farming sector—is depressed. Any real economic problems experienced by that sector will be passed on to the manufacturing sector. As a result, the cities will also be crippled to a great degree. The effect of the policies implemented in Canberra will be felt throughout this country. The full impact of the Federal Government's policies has not yet been felt.

Last night, during the Adjournment debate I referred to the increasing number of people who are seeking assistance and advice from the counsellors in the Department of Primary Industries, the QIDC and their own banks. Although those people have tremendous problems, it is significant that if, in the future, those persons are forced off their properties or must sell them, the problem will shift to the banks. At this stage, the banks have a tremendous amount to answer for.

The Federal Government's bond rates, to a large extent, are setting the interest rates for the market-place. Banks have been taking advantage of people by increasing interest rates by 2 per cent in order to cover themselves against bad debts.

I was interested in the recent statistics that were provided by the Agricultural Bank. During its years of lending, it has lost only \$100,000 through bad debts. When one

considers the amount of money that the Agricultural Bank has lent over that period, it is amazing that its level of bad debts has been so low. That bank's ability to keep bad debts so low demonstrates that, over the years, its managers have been able to correctly assess the ability of people to repay loans.

It is interesting that the Agricultural Bank has been able to lend money without problems for such a lengthy period. I am sure that all honourable members would be keen to see the QIDC continue in that same mould.

The Agricultural Bank has been the mainstay of, and a tremendous prop for, farming operations in Queensland. Farmers have borrowed money at rates which are not ridiculously high. It is difficult for farmers to obtain loans at 2, 3 or 4 per cent. It is not possible to borrow large amounts at interest rates such as that.

People can cope with repaying loans that are obtained at 13½ per cent. However, once those interest rates rise from approximately 16.75 per cent up to 20-odd per cent, people find it quite impossible to cope.

**Mr Lee:** A few years ago it was 9 per cent. Now it is 17 or 18 per cent.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** That is right. That is where it should be.

Australian banks must provide loans at interest rates that are comparable to those offered by overseas banks. The honourable member for Yeronga was quite correct. If Australian banks cannot compete with overseas banks, the Federal Government is putting shackles on the ankles of the Australian farmers.

The Federal Government claims that its Treasurer is doing marvellous things for our country. However, at the same time, it is putting a ball and chain and shackles on the legs of every Australian farmer and attempting to restrict his operations by imposing high interest rates.

**Mr De Lacy:** Not every farmer.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** The Federal Government imposes the highest excise duty—

**Mr De Lacy:** Farmers don't pay excise.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** The honourable member for Cairns should be ashamed to be an ALP member.

During the period that the Federal Labor Government has been in power, the excise on fuel has risen by 170 per cent. That is an absolute disgrace. The fuel excise is being passed on to all sectors, including users of fertilisers.

There is no point in the Federal Government's claiming that it does not pass on the excise. It is passed on indirectly. The costs of fuel in Australia are so much higher than those paid by its direct competitors.

**Mr De Lacy:** They are not.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** They are so. I challenge the honourable member for Cairns to bring into this House figures that prove his claims. The honourable member does not know what he is talking about. Last week, the Queensland Graingrowers Association published a survey that drew a comparison between fuel costs to grain-farmers in Canada and the United States and the costs borne by grain-growers in Queensland.

**Mr De Lacy:** Why don't you acknowledge the fact that they have removed excise from farmers' fuel?

**Mr ELLIOTT:** If it were not for problems that relate to markets and organisations such as the European Community, the other problems associated with primary industries would disappear. I believe that Australia is quite capable of competing in an open, international market that deals with primary products.

If I had to pay the same price for my fuel and the same rate of interest as my competitors, I would be happy to compete on an international market. In that case, I

could manage with low prices. Producers in Australia can compete on more than an equal footing with any overseas countries. I will not waste my time arguing with honourable members. I challenge the honourable member to bring the figures into the House. He does not know what he is talking about.

Other important aspects in my electorate relate to schools and roads. My electorate has problems similar to those faced by other members who represent western areas. The honourable member for Yeronga, who interjected earlier, has a feed-lot business operation near Roma to cater for the phenomenon of western people bringing cattle in and custom feeding them. They are not just feeding their own cattle on their own properties; they are bringing cattle in from western areas and putting them into places such as Beef City, which is in my area, and into other feed lots.

A heavy cost is incurred in transporting cattle by road train. If a grazier uses single transporters rather than road trains to transport cattle, his costs double. It is important for graziers to have economical access to feed lots, such as Beef City. Therefore, I am asking for the upgrading of the Oakey-Pittsworth road, which causes tremendous problems. At present, road trains sneak up the Mount Tyson-Jondaryan road, which is not suited to them. People are using that road against the regulations and damaging it.

At present, road trains are allowed through to Toowoomba. There is no problem in bringing them to Oakey and then travelling on the Oakey-Pittsworth road. If a few sections of that road were upgraded, it would be suitable for road trains to transport cattle to Beef City.

**Mr Davis:** What is your comment on today's *Telegraph* headline?

**Mr ELLIOTT:** Some members of the House have a one-track mind. The honourable member for Brisbane Central definitely has a one-track mind.

A road that is being used more and more by interstate transport operators going to Melbourne, in particular, is the Toowoomba-Millmerran-Goondiwindi road. In the old days, those trucks travelled via Cunningham's Gap down to the New England Highway, or through Toowoomba and out through Cambooya, along the Karara-Inglewood road and then down to Goondiwindi. Since the road from Toowoomba to Millmerran has been upgraded, a tremendous number of transport operators use it. It is a level road that requires much less gear-changing than the other roads I have spoken about. The traffic counts are building up to an astronomical level.

I ask the Minister to look into the matter, because a real safety problem exists. That road, where it crosses a creek called The Hermitage—it runs only in flood-time or during major storms—needs realignment. A silt cone that has developed prevents the water from running through under the old bridge. Instead, it flows to the west and crosses the road in a sheet. Vehicles come steaming up from Goondiwindi and all points south on a relatively dry day, when no storms are apparent, and suddenly they are confronted with a huge sheet of water.

Although a number of serious accidents have occurred, so far the area has been lucky and the accidents have not involved fatalities. The local soil conservation officer and members of the police force have taken up this matter, and on-site discussion has been held with officers of the Main Roads Department and the local shire council. It is important that that problem should be dealt with. I am certain that, if something is not done about it, a fatal accident will occur, which will be a tragedy and a disaster. The problems that I have outlined are probably two of the most important problems in the electorate at the moment.

Many people are concerned about the change in attitude and the approach adopted in the redesignation of some of the main roads in my electorate. Concern has been expressed by the Rosalie Shire Council about the number of people who travel to the Bunya Mountains on what might be termed the Brymaroo road and also on the road that passes through Kulpi. I ask the Minister for Main Roads to continue discussions

with the Rosalie Shire Council in an effort to resolve the problems associated with those roads.

I take this opportunity to examine some of the problems that are being experienced in the schools in my electorate. In spite of the fact that a good deal of Government money has been spent in recent times, a number of schools are still experiencing relatively serious problems. I thank the Minister for Education, Mr Powell, for the support that he has given me in trying to have the problems resolved over the last year or so.

In Millmerran, a tuck-shop and play area have been constructed in the local school. Those facilities were long overdue. I thank the Minister for Education also for the new library that is to be constructed in the schoolgrounds at Oakey. Because Oakey could be termed a growth area, a number of new buildings have been constructed in recent times.

Honourable members would be aware that the army has established an aviation centre at Oakey. The increased population has led to an increase in the number of pupils who attend the Oakey school. I am mindful of problems associated with acquisition of land next to the school. The proposal is to conduct a course on agriculture in that area. I ask the Minister for Education to look into the matter of having the area fenced as soon as practicable.

There are a number of other matters I wished to canvass, but I am short of time. Again, I take this opportunity to congratulate the honourable member for Fassifern upon his ascension to the high office of Speaker. He has demonstrated that he is more than capable of fulfilling the role. It is my opinion that, under the Speaker's administration, honourable members can look forward to a very orderly Parliament, but a Parliament that can accommodate humour and adopt a reasonable approach. I do not think that anyone would wish to see parliamentary procedures devoid of interjection, with the result that all the members sit in the House resembling cigar-store Indians, or the honourable member for Port Curtis, Mr Prest.

**Mr Lee:** We wouldn't want any more than one of his type.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** I agree. One is about all honourable members could handle.

I am pleased to observe parliamentary processes that are operating smoothly. I believe not only that Parliament will be a more orderly place of assembly but also that a much higher opinion of Parliament will be held by members of the public. I think also that Parliament will be a much happier place in the future.

I conclude my speech by pledging my loyalty and that of my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen and her representative in Queensland, the Governor, Sir Walter Campbell.

**Ms WARNER (South Brisbane) (5.34 p.m.):** It is important that honourable members respond to the Governor's Opening Speech and to the role of Government in this State by sounding a note of warning. The situation that confronts the people of Queensland is fairly grim, and I do not believe that there is any cause for rejoicing.

In fact, one of the duties of the Labor Party is to bring to public attention the fact that this Government has been elected by trickery. It is a trick that has been perpetrated by the Government on the Queensland people for a number of years. People in the southern States feel that it is so outrageous that the only way they can respond to it is with some mirth. They laugh at Queensland; they laugh at our Premier; they laugh at our Government and our electoral system; and even our bananas come into it.

The most obvious trick that this Government has played, and which is well known to everyone, is the gerrymander. The gerrymander is quite a complicated issue. Everybody knows that it exists. But if any person is asked what the gerrymander actually means, it is very difficult for him to explain it. The fact of life is that, under a fair electoral system, the National Party, with 38 per cent of the vote, could not have achieved Government. That is a simple fact of life. The Government does not accept the simplicity and accuracy of that statement. The Government shows no shame or embarrassment

for fixing the election. It governs under false pretences, pretending that it has a mandate when the truth is that it does not.

**Mr FitzGerald:** Who has got the mandate?

**Ms WARNER:** Nobody in Queensland, because the Government has fixed the system. If the Government introduced a fair and equitable electoral system, the people of Queensland would be able to choose a popular Government. Under the present system, they cannot.

The Premier, a master trickster if ever there was one, is now suggesting that, having fiddled the system in Queensland, he can somehow fiddle the system federally and in some miraculous way become Prime Minister of Australia. He espouses the aspirations of the New Right. He adopts its aims. Simultaneously, while he is unable to explain those policies, his knack of being able to sound profound, whereas in reality being exceedingly stupid, is not lost on a lot of people.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row):** Order!

**Ms WARNER:** I withdraw the remark.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I consider the word "stupid" to be unparliamentary.

**Ms WARNER:** I have withdrawn it.

As I was saying, the Premier sounds profound, whereas indeed he is not exactly deep.

His performance is not dissimilar to that of Ronald Reagan's. Nevertheless, in Queensland and throughout Australia the media and a number of political pundits do take him seriously and bow down to the juggernaut, which is the machine behind Bjelke-Petersen's image.

Society's concern is its ability to give its children a proper education, the ability to be able to provide health services, and proper housing—all things that millionaires take for granted but are denied ordinary people. In Queensland, under the Bjelke-Petersen Government, they are the things that will be extremely difficult to be provided. If the Premier and his policies were to be applied to the rest of Australia, such services would be even more difficult to provide.

Everyone knows that Queensland has the highest unemployment level in Australia, the most industrial disputes, and fewer services, lower wages, higher levels of hidden taxation—the list goes on—than any other State. Life in the sunshine State is not so sunny and no amount of saying that the people of Queensland are happy with it will make it so.

In the election last November, more than 60 per cent of the people in Queensland did not vote for the National Party as their first choice. One of the reasons that the other parties did not achieve a higher percentage of votes in the election was that people knew that the system was rigged. Queenslanders now have to live with the consequences of that, and they are grim in the extreme. However, having to suffer a National Party State Government is one thing; having to put up with that level of despotism in Australia as a whole is another.

Many people have expressed a good deal of alarm at the thought that Bjelke-Petersen could, under some fanciful scheme that he has rigged up, actually be in charge of any army. It is a nightmare—an absolute nightmare. It is his dream, our nightmare. Fortunately, in other States electoral systems are equitable and fair. They are States which have a Labor Government. Those Australians who are blessed with a democratic system look upon Queensland as a remote joke that cannot be inflicted upon them. However, I would utter a few words of warning. Because of what has happened in Queensland, the Premier enjoys a cult status, which he is now trying to spread throughout the rest of Australia.

The Australian economy is going through hard times and people can be fooled and lulled into a false sense of security by propaganda. "Propaganda" is the key word in this State. A massive amount of propaganda is put out by the National Party and its mates, the large corporations. The Americans have been doing that sort of thing for years. In this century, the manipulation of the media and people's minds has escalated beyond compare.

That has led to the development of a new, sinister force in this society—the self-named New Right. There is nothing much new about it, but its supporters call themselves the New Right. They spread propaganda trying to persuade the country that they have new solutions. The Premier is trying to set himself up as the much-needed leader of those forces. He is trying to consolidate his own image as a Messiah—a voice crying in the wilderness, bringing new ideas and new direction to a people who have gone astray. But that is all he is—albeit an incoherent voice in a wilderness that is the Queensland he has created. Unfortunately, the incoherence of the Premier masks a dangerous coherence in the policies of the New Right. Whilst there might be nothing new about them, certainly the policies are coherent and everyone knows what they mean.

Let us discover just who are the real prophets of the New Right. They are not the Bjelke-Petersens. Here in Queensland it is Mike Gore, whose friend, the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Racing, Russ Hinze, pushed legislation through the House to allow the now failing Sanctuary Cove development to proceed. It seems that this is not the only instance of Mr Gore's flexible approach to the law. Recently he was fined \$3,000 for failure to lodge two taxation returns. There is some suggestion that, during the search of his premises by Federal authorities who were searching for sales tax records, other breaches of the law were discovered. I ask: is it true that Federal authorities reported to Queensland police that they had found unlicensed pistols and other guns on Mr Gore's premises? If that is so, why have Queensland police not investigated those matters? I call for a thorough investigation into those matters. I might be wrong, but I would like a clear and honest answer to that question. I simply do not know the truth of the matter, but the question has been asked and the Government should clear it up once and for all.

Other prophets of the New Right are Andrew Hay, the President of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, who is well known for his intervention in the Khemlani affair; John Stone, who is well known for his promotion of so-called free market forces; and Hugh Morgan, who is Western Mining Corporation's Bible-inspired executive director and close friend of Charles Copeman of Peko-Wallsend. Mr Hugh Morgan has suggested that there is actually some biblical justification for putting the interests of mining ahead of those of Aborigines. I would like to hear him quote chapter and verse on that, because apparently that is his claim.

They are just a few of the people associated with the New Right. Large corporations have set up numerous think tanks where intellectuals do the homework for the New Far Right—at the right price, of course. The atmosphere in Australia now is similar to that which existed in the United Kingdom in the mid to late 1970s when the Right Wing forces gained strength with the discovery of a new guru in Margeret Thatcher. The then British Labour Government, under James Callaghan, was unable to combat the pressure.

Australians should be able to learn from the British experience and not commit the same mistakes. The Right's message was the same then as it is now. There is nothing very new about it. Indeed, it could be said that the same message was found in liberal economic policies in Britain in the last century, when laissez-faire policies were the then new strategies for the development of manufacturing industries.

Clear examples of what those strategies mean do exist. One is the classic industrial situation of Great Britain in the nineteenth century when young children were forced to work for 16 hours a day on starvation wages, when there was no welfare and no health system and the poverty amongst workers was a moral outrage. That is one example to which no-one in his right mind would want to return.

Perhaps the present British experience is more pertinent to today's problems. The British New Right think tanks, such as the Institute of Economic Affairs and Sir Keith Joseph's Centre for Policy Studies, had very close associations with, and support of opinion from within the British Conservative Party. They cleverly backed and built the stature of Margaret Thatcher so that she could put over their ideas with some style and conviction.

Of course, the conservative forces in Australia have a problem. It seems that John Howard does not quite match up to the image of what the New Right sees as leadership material. So, after a brief flirtation with Howard, he was ditched and the New Right turned its sights to none other than the Queensland Premier. They thought that, if he could fool Queensland, perhaps he could fool the rest of Australia. However, there is argument amongst members of the New Right, as instanced in an article in yesterday's *Australian Financial Review*, that suggests that all business-leaders are not convinced that Bjelke-Petersen would be as dynamic in Canberra as he appears to be—

**Mr De Lacy:** He is a bit wet.

**Ms WARNER:** On a number of issues he could be seen to be a bit wet. I think it is more the case that he would be seen to be unable to do the job. In addition, he would not have a gerrymander to protect him, or a massive united group of compliant developers and industrialists as he has in Queensland.

The centres of excellence for the New Right in Australia, the Centre for Policy Studies at Monash University and the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney try to work with the coalition, but the coalition seems to have absolutely no control. The current argument down south about the collapse of the coalition is in fact caused by the New Right, which is saying that the coalition cannot provide the goods that it wants it to provide.

One of the major policies of the New Right—which is based outside Parliament—is wholesale deregulation. I notice that there are not many country or city members of the National Party present in the Chamber. However, even the most broad-minded of them must hear alarm bells ringing when deregulation is referred to.

Would the Queensland Government seriously consider the deregulation of rural industries? Do not Government members think that they might be selling their own constituents down the drain? The Government must own up to the fact that a huge inconsistency exists within the National Party, made up as it is of a peanut-farmer, an assortment of graziers, dairymen, beef-producers and cane-farmers, when the organisation is arguing for wholesale deregulation but in fact the Government is not. What the Government wants to do is have one rule for itself—and a very regulated system—and another cutthroat system of deregulation for the labour-market and for shop-keepers.

**Mr De Lacy:** Do you know that the regulations in the dairy industry cost Queensland consumers \$100m a year?

**Ms WARNER:** I would not be at all surprised. The Queensland Government does not flinch at spending Government money. The idea of the Government's cutting expenditure is simply a myth. The Queensland Government only wants to deregulate in certain ways. It wants to deregulate the labour-force and some shop-keepers.

The Queensland Government says that as soon as deregulation occurs paradise will emerge. Simultaneously, members of the Government expound views on so-called moral questions for which they claim biblical authority. The Government seeks to intervene directly in the private lives of ordinary people—mainly women and their children.

I am glad that the Minister for Family Services is present in the Chamber. The Minister would not disagree that she is one of the greatest exponents of the level of regulation to which I have referred. The Minister would not be asking for wholesale deregulation because she does think that people should be regulated and put into boxes.

I will not go to salacious extremes; I will leave that to the member for Sherwood. However, I will draw attention to the ill-founded and narrow-minded attitudes that have been expressed by the Minister for Family Services when speaking about child-abusers. She wants to hang them.

Does the Minister understand what that would do to the families concerned? Would the Minister care that children would be abused and that they would be too scared to mention it because, if they did, Daddy would just be hung? That would not help much, would it? That attitude is so narrow-minded and short-sighted that it is unbelievable, and it is certainly not worthy of being Government policy. It is an outrage.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row):** Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane will please address her remarks through the Chair rather than engage in personal conversation with other members.

**Ms WARNER:** I will do so, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Hanging may not be Government policy. However, it certainly tends to set a tone of fear and a lack of understanding about ordinary human activities like sex; ordinary human activities like having families—

**Mrs Chapman:** Not the way you describe sex.

**Ms WARNER:** I am not describing it at all. The Minister is the one who is describing it; I am not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I have just ruled that the debate must be conducted through the Chair. I insist that the member for South Brisbane address the Chair and that any honourable member who is interjecting do so through the Chair.

**Ms WARNER:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Minister's outburst contains no subtlety, no human feeling, no Christian outrage; it is simply moral outrage that will lead to the restriction of ordinary human behaviour. She is high-pitched, hypocritical and hysterical.

Society can and should be more tolerant and should support a wide range of lifestyles. People are not all the same. People cannot be put into the moral boxes constructed by the Minister for Family Services. It is claimed that those attitudes are God-given. They are not given by God at all. They are given by self-interest. It is convenient for the Government to regulate women's lives in order to save a bit on the welfare bill. The Government is authoritarian and inhumane and would regulate society so severely that all freedoms would disappear.

The whole rhetoric of deregulation is very shallow. The fact is that the so-called fresh approach of the New Right offers no new answers to the problems facing the Australian economy. Although the United Kingdom may be held up as an example of the New Right's experiment working under Thatcher—as it has been heralded by Petersen and others—as a courageous Government embarking upon a radical course that will improve living standards, the price of that kind of experiment is the misery of British life today. The British Government's heavy-handed monetarist policies have resulted in massive unemployment, a decline in manufacturing and enormously bitter and divisive strikes, such as the miners' strike and the printers' strike. Those strikes have been won by the employers but at a cost in human terms which any thinking and reasonable person would find unacceptably high. In spite of the rhetoric about cutting Government expenditure in Conservative Britain, the rate of public expenditure compared to gross domestic product is higher now than it was in 1979 before Thatcher. Welfare, health, housing, etc., have been cut, but in a society where people are placed in conflict with one another more Government money—and that means tax—is spent on defence and law and order—the police force. The tax bill, which is said to be cut by those policies, is now actually higher for most people. Everyone knows that a flat rate of tax would increase taxes for most people, but at the top end of the scale taxes would reduce. The

rich would pay less. In Britain today social, racial and territorial divisions are deeper and more bitter than they have been before.

Is that the kind of society that Australians want? I think not. There are dangers for all in believing that the arguments put forward by the so-called New Right would offer any kind of solution to these problems. When the New Right refer to liberty or freedom, they speak only of freedom for the wealthy. When they speak of cutting tax, they mean to cut only the tax paid by the wealthy. When they speak of deregulation, they are referring only to the labour market. Their policies are intensely sectional because they advance the interests of the few against the interests of the many.

This Parliament is responsible for the welfare of all citizens, and the measure of liberty that should be discussed is that of the poorest and most underprivileged in our society. The New Right judges freedom only in terms of how free the rich are to be able to make more money, not on how free the poor are to live in a basic human way. Freedom means different things to different people. The Labor Party is concerned that this system of government provides enough for everyone, not how much untrammelled privilege can be assured for those who already have enough. This is the basic difference between the Labor Party and the present Government; one which I am proud to support under any circumstances.

I do not want the women who live in my electorate to be unable to warm their baby's milk because they cannot afford to turn on the gas. Some of the poorest people in Queensland live in South Brisbane. It is an inner city area which is high on charm and community spirit, but low on Government support. The people who live there are the bench-mark by which the justice of the social system should be measured.

The division between rich and poor is already unacceptably high, and yet policies are being proposed by this Government which would make those divisions more stark and brutal. People need houses, jobs, health, food and education—the basic amenities of life. Until all citizens have those basic needs met, we as a society stand condemned. It is no use honourable members opposite attempting to assert that people are poor because they want to be, or they are poor because it is their own fault. If members opposite call themselves Christians, they cannot blame the poor for being poor.

The Government's policies will snatch rights and freedoms from those who are fortunate enough to have employment. The policies that were so proudly developed by this Government during the SEQEB dispute have no doubt caused the prophets of the New Right to embrace Bjelke-Petersenism. He won on their terms, but he lost on any terms of human compassion or sensitivity. The most significant aspect of that particular dispute was the destruction of the role of law and order. The Industrial Commission was removed from having any say in the electricity industry. The law of the jungle has been imposed on that industry and is being presided over by none other than the guru of the New Right, one of the founders of the H. R. Nicholls Society, Wayne Gilbert.

The role of arbitration was replaced by a system of contracts—a gross reduction of conditions that was sold off for three-year contracts, with a salary increase of 7.5 per cent.

I was interested to note that the Governor's Opening Speech contained no mention of the introduction of legislation to provide for contracts. I thought that the Swan committee had firmly recommended it and that the Government was committed to the introduction of legislation to provide for contracts. The introduction of contracts will result in a period of industrial upheaval that Queensland's economy can scarcely afford. It will mean that workers will be competing with one another. The bosses will have all the rights and the workers will have none. That will eventually lead to what has been described broadly as a master/servant relationship, where workers are forced to accept conditions and wages because they do not have any rights, any unions to protect them or a leg to stand on.

I have already stated that the New Right wishes to pick up Bjelke-Petersen as its leader because he showed some early promise as a result of the victory he claimed in

the SEQEB dispute. He received full marks from the Right Wing gurus for his unreasonableness and savagery in that dispute. However, I issue a word of caution to the New Right in its euphoria over the SEQEB dispute. It was extremely expensive for the Government and for the whole community. If similar action has to be repeated in industry after industry, I do not think that the New Right can do it. Thatcher could not do it; I do not believe that it can be done in Australia. Therefore, I think that the policies of the New Right are essentially wrong-headed and will be exposed for how wrong-headed they are.

I return now to the new legislation on employment contracts. The Opposition understands from a leak from the Swan committee—I think it was an advised leak—that the agreements under the new system would contain minimum conditions covering issues such as rates of pay, reduction of annual leave to two weeks, reduction of sick leave, reduction or abolition of penalty rates and, in general, a diminution of those conditions presently found in State awards. But there is a further trick, and that is that employers and/or employees can negotiate the removal of even that basic minimum. They can come to an arrangement with the boss to sell sick leave and holiday pay. If the boss is sufficiently powerful, that is exactly what employees will be forced to do.

These proposals are a deliberate attempt to destroy the role of trade unions in our society. Before you all get carried away and rejoice at the notion that you will get rid of the trade unions, I say to you that if you really want your kids, or your neighbours' kids or other—

**Mr Powell:** Children.

**Ms WARNER:** You don't believe in colloquialisms?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row):** Order! I ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

**Ms WARNER:** If Government members believe that their kids should be facing ruthless employers, be at their mercy and at the mercy of the law of the jungle and living in a society in which the basic standards of living and rights have been destroyed, that is fine; they are on the right track and they can go ahead. I do not believe that they seriously believe that.

Previous generations of Australians have fought their battles with land-owners, the captains of industry and even, in some cases, with soldiers or the police. Gradually, yet tangibly, the Labor movement has won.

The New Right still has not got it right. Look at Britain! Labour unions are adapting to new demands with new strategies. The fact is that despotism is unstable——

**Government members interjected.**

**Ms WARNER:** Government members should look at the facts of what is happening in Britain.

**An honourable member:** What about Peter Beattie?

**Ms WARNER:** The honourable member should stick to the subject.

The fact is that despotism is unstable and does not work for long. Workers representing the majority in a society will find ways of opposing the Government's legislation, just as, despite careful drafting and redrafting of section 5 of the Electricity (Continuity of Supply) Act, the Government was not able to make it stick.

In 1985 I was on the picket lines challenging that section of the Act.

**Opposition members interjected.**

**Ms WARNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am finding it difficult to make myself heard.

I am proud to announce that, despite the dire threats issued in this House by the Premier that the full weight of the law would be brought down against me, both charges

upon which I went to court were dismissed. I fought the first charge and the magistrate dismissed the charge. He said that there was no charge to answer. Following a ruling by the High Court, the law was seen to be inoperable and the police dropped the second charge.

Despite all attempts by the Government's legislation to stifle basic human freedoms, the legislation still does not work. The Government cannot put people down that much.

Unlike the New Right, the ALP is the oldest and most united political force in this country. It exists not only in Australia but also in many other countries. A united labour force will continue to exist after Government members and I have gone. Government members should not worry about that. We can have our arguments and we can get over them very successfully.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

**Mr SCHUNTNER (Mount Coot-tha) (7.30 p.m.):** At the outset, I express loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and to her representatives in this country at both Commonwealth and State levels. This expression of loyalty comes not only from me but also from the great majority of people in the Mount Coot-tha electorate.

Traditionally, Parliament consists of the Queen, or her representative, the Upper House and the Lower House. As a newly elected member, I am a little surprised that, while there have been many assurances of support for the traditions that so many honourable members cherish and wish to maintain, there has been little or no comment in this Address in Reply debate on the absence of an Upper House in Queensland.

The honourable members of this Assembly are also members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. They will notice that on the association's badge the Black Rod and the Mace are symbols representing, respectively, the Upper House and the Lower House of a Parliament based on the Westminster tradition. I believe that honourable members should pause to ponder the fact that, in practice, one of the proper components of Parliament does not exist in Queensland.

I do not propose to develop the issue further on this occasion, but I believe there is a case for reviewing Queensland's unicameral system. Any review should be in the context of refraining from increasing the total number of parliamentarians. One thing Queensland does not need is the cost of additional State parliamentarians.

I record my appreciation to the electors of Mount Coot-tha for their support. I give my assurance that I will represent them with commitment, vigour and fairness. As I see it, I have the duty and the responsibility to represent people regardless of their political allegiances. I do not subscribe to the view that only those who supported me have access to me.

The election campaign was long and arduous and, I am pleased to say, very successful for the Liberal Party in Mount Coot-tha. I believe that that success was due to a combination of many factors. The constant support from my wife and children during the whole campaign is greatly appreciated. There are scores of others whose help was invaluable. I thank my campaign committee, several of whom are here to-night, the members of the Liberal Party branches within the electorate, my Liberal Party parliamentary colleagues and my friends within the education world. To all of them I express sincere thanks. I am sure that, for many years to come, Val and I will continue to enjoy friendships with our closest supporters.

The Mount Coot-tha electorate is rather oddly shaped and does not really have a definable community of interest. One could almost conclude that the determination of boundaries in the last electoral redistribution was influenced more by extraneous considerations than by genuine logic. Generally speaking, the electorate extends westwards from Milton State School to The Gap reservoir, taking in Rosalie, parts of Paddington and Torwood, Rainworth, Bardon, part of Ashgrove and part of The Gap. The major northern boundary is Waterworks Road which, as the honourable member for Ashgrove pointed out, divides the natural entity of The Gap into two parts, one in the Mount

Coot-tha electorate and the other in the Ashgrove electorate. The Mount Coot-tha electorate extends southward to include a major portion of Chapel Hill.

Within the various parts of the electorate there is a fine sense of local pride, and there are dozens of thriving local organisations. Although there are always improvements to be made, the overall atmosphere is one of vitality, initiative and civic-mindedness. In short, most people want efficient, sensitive, free enterprise Government which generates the climate in which they can work and shape their own lives without the deadening effect of too much Government intrusion.

Specific matters of concern in my electorate include the following—

- a thoughtful, effective resolution of traffic-flow problems on route 20 through Bardon;
- the provision of a pre-school facility at Milton State School;
- the need for greater flexibility in maintaining the provision of services to schools such as Payne Road State School, where enrolments have dropped to slightly under 300;
- more child care facilities;
- careful consideration of how best to overcome the lack of sport and parkland areas in Chapel Hill;
- a way of improving the security of private property against theft;
- the provision of fire-fighting and several other essential facilities to The Gap; and
- handling land revaluations and the subsequent calculation of rates in such a way that elderly, long-term residents of areas such as Paddington are not burdened with heavily increased costs just to live in the home they have had for decades and want to remain in for the rest of their days.

I refer to two recent events that were of particular significance in Mount Coot-tha. First, I refer to the trading hours trial. Scores of people operate small businesses in the electorate, and overwhelmingly they were bitterly opposed to the trial. The State Government dealt those people a cruel blow. Many businesses have still not recovered. On their behalf, I protest strongly against the Government's actions and I request that careful note be taken of the views forwarded to the committee established to review the results of the trial.

Next I refer to an event that occurred at the Rosalie RSL hall last year when many carloads of police arrived, ostensibly to quell misbehaviour and noise allegedly associated with the Aboriginal people who were using the hall at the time. Television crews happened to be there to film and report the incident, which occurred not long before the State election. There appear to be many unanswered questions, and I believe that a full, independent inquiry should be held so that local people can have their questions answered and their views considered. Only a truly independent investigation would ensure that a just inquiry is seen to have occurred.

Most of the area now in the Mount Coot-tha electorate used to be in the previous Ithaca electorate, whose member for about 20 years was Mr Col Miller. I acknowledge Mr Miller's long service as the State member and recognise that he worked effectively in maintaining good grassroots contact with many of the electors of Ithaca. Although Mr Miller campaigned against the Liberal Party and me in Mount Coot-tha, I nevertheless wish him well in retirement.

As a new member, I should probably provide the House with some information on my own background and experience. After completing my secondary schooling, I trained and graduated as a primary teacher. Most of my teaching, however, has been in secondary schools, where I have been an English subject master, a deputy principal and, on several occasions, acting principal.

For nearly all of the 18 years from 1968 to 1986, I was involved with the Queensland Teachers Union as executive member, vice-president or President. It is, I think, appropriate that I say a few words about unions and my time as President of the Queensland Teachers Union.

I deplore that brand of unionism in which emphasis is on the use of power either for its own sake or to achieve unjustifiable goals. I deplore unionism that seems intent on polarising the members and unionism that has a pre-occupation with pursuing political goals. Those brands of unionism are irresponsible and are not conducive to productive industrial relations. However, it must be said that unions do not have a monopoly on greed, power craziness and desires to destabilise our society. Some employers and, dare I say it, some politicians would also have to be judged guilty of the same offences.

There is a place for responsible unionism. The vast majority of union members are ordinary, decent, working people. I would like to see and hear their views coming through more effectively for the benefit of their own unions and for the good of society, too. People working in large, impersonal and often inefficient bureaucracies and those working for exploitative employers, in particular, need the support of competent and responsible unions.

I look back on my eight years as President of the Queensland Teachers Union with pride and I have been particularly encouraged by the supporting comments I have received in recent months from many people in education and unions.

Of the really important aspects of education that could well be addressed on an occasion such as this, perhaps the most pressing issues are the shortage of tertiary places and the need for making decisions about the tertiary entrance score. It is difficult to estimate accurately the shortage of tertiary places. On the evidence available to me, I would say that Queensland needs at least 3 500 tertiary places for those students who desire a tertiary place and are qualified.

Although the problem is a national one, its degree of intensity varies considerably across the States. Queensland suffers badly. 16.7 per cent of the 15 to 19-years-of-age group in Australia lives in Queensland, but only 14.3 per cent of Australian tertiary places exist in Queensland. If Queensland had a share of tertiary places consistent with its share of 15 to 19-year-olds, in 1986 the State would have had 3 565 extra tertiary places.

The onset of this shortage could have been foreseen by anyone observing enrolment trends and the economic climate. It is quite predictable that in an environment of chronic unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, more and more youngsters will try to improve their employment prospects by staying longer at school, university or college to acquire additional educational qualifications.

Since 1982, there has been a dramatic change in retention rates in Government secondary schools. In 1986, enrolments in Years 11 and 12 in Government schools were about 15 000 higher than they were in 1982. In percentage terms, this represents a growth of about 65 per cent over the four years.

The change in pattern in non-Government schools is not so marked, probably because, for many years, a high proportion of Year 10 students in those schools have gone on to Year 12. I realise that many of the extra Year 12 students have no desire to undertake tertiary studies. However, many of them do have tertiary aspirations, and they work very hard to try to achieve their goals.

The system has reached breaking-point for students, parents, teachers, schools and tertiary institutions. I am severely critical of the Commonwealth Government for failing to tackle this problem earlier. The Commonwealth Government is still not doing anything effective about it. The answer will not lie in the imposition of an education tax, such as the recently announced \$250 higher education charge. That piece of half-baked Commonwealth Government nonsense is so fraught with problems and inconsistency that even the State Labor parliamentarians want to dissociate themselves from it.

A workable, comprehensive, fair plan for funding tertiary education can be devised and implemented. Such a plan needs to make less, rather than more, demand on the public purse. It needs to ensure that tertiary education is available to the nation's very best students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

I realise that considerable work was done last year in examining submissions about the tertiary entrance score. The extraordinary competition for the severely limited number of tertiary places has placed enormous strains on the instrument that is used almost totally to select students for tertiary entrance, that is, the TE score. I dare say that, if there were enough places available in the courses chosen by students, very little would be heard about TE score problems. Nevertheless, and regardless of the shortage of tertiary places, there are some refinements to the TE score system which I believe should be implemented immediately. People want action on TE scores, and they want it now.

Students should be advised of their TE scores before finalising their applications for tertiary places. At present, more than 34 000 students apply for tertiary places, but all of those who are Year 12 students have to apply before they know what their TE scores are. Fewer than 15 000 places are available. When the TE scores are provided to students, thousands of applicants find that their scores are not high enough for them to be eligible for their preferred tertiary course or, in many cases, for entrance to any tertiary institution. In sheer administrative terms, the work and cost associated with processing thousands of unsuccessful applications could be eliminated if students knew their TE scores before finalising their applications.

In more important human terms, students and parents could finalise applications with a much more realistic awareness of where they stood in relation to the application. At present, there is too much flying blind for students and parents trying to make the wisest choices on the application form.

Another change which could and should be effected promptly is to reduce drastically the number of bands of TE scores. By a band of scores, I mean that 990 constitutes one band, 985 another band, 980 another one, and so on, to the bands in the 500s.

At present there are about 100 different bands. It is ridiculous to suggest that the academic performances of the students can be measured and compared with such a fine degree of precision. A fairly general education view is that differentiation of students' work into six or seven categories is about as far as one can go, if the exercise is to be done with reasonable validity.

It will be argued that one of the reasons for having so many bands of TE scores is to assist tertiary institutions in selecting students. In fact, the current selection practice goes further than ranking one band ahead of another one. Minute dissection within bands occurs to make tertiary selection administratively easy for the institutions. For instance, the University of Queensland can say that, while 985 is the cut-off for medicine, it wants only 17 students from that band. The scaled aggregate scores from which the students' TE scores are derived are then used to differentiate within the 985 band. This use of the assessment data from a school may well make things administratively easy for tertiary institutions, but I believe it is grossly unsound educationally and unfair on students, parents and teachers. Secondary school education should not be so heavily dominated by the administrative demands of tertiary institutions.

My suggestion of reducing the number of bands would mean that the students currently with a score of, say, 960 or higher, would all be in one band. This would have several benefits. Educationally, it would be more valid. The difference in academic achievement between students with 980 and 975 is really so small that it is misleading to pretend that the differentiation can be accurately made.

The most significant effect would be that tertiary selection criteria would involve the tertiary institution in the process as well as the school. For instance, students in the top band—say, over the present 960—would be assessed by their schools as being first-rate in academic achievement. On their school record, it would be reasonable to conclude

that these students had the academic ability to undertake any course in any institution. In providing this assessment information, the schools have done their part.

Of course, what will then happen is that the faculties or institutions will have to make choices from within that top band. That is not an impossible task. For instance, the medicine faculty may decide to give applicants psychological tests or interview the applicants or look at the students' other achievements or study the schools' comments about the attitudes, strengths and weaknesses of the applicants. After all, a brilliant academic performer may not necessarily become the best doctor.

In 1979, the Select Committee on Education chaired by the honourable member for Landsborough presented its second interim report and recommended—

“That the Parliament set out in the Education Act a general statement of the aims of education . . .”

As far as I am aware, Parliament has not debated a statement of aims. Certainly there has been no legislation to incorporate a statement of aims into the Education Act.

In 1985, the Education Minister issued a document titled *Education 2000: Issues and Options for the Future of Education in Queensland*. Subsequently, 987 submissions were received by the Minister in response to the document and a committee chaired by Professor G. W. Bassett reviewed the submissions and made recommendations to the Minister.

One of the Bassett report's earliest recommendations was—

“That, in view of the queries raised in many of the submissions as to the rationale for the proposals made in Education 2000, the Minister for Education consider publishing a statement of the educational aims and general philosophy underlying the Queensland education system.”

I think it is not only appropriate but also absolutely essential that aims of education are debated and that, hopefully, a statement can be adopted and incorporated into the Education Act. This House is the place where such a debate should occur, and I urge the Minister to place before the House a paper which could appropriately serve as the basis for this debate. I regard this as having a high priority, as the establishment of a sound philosophy of education should precede any consideration of other major education issues.

The apparent lack of follow-up with nearly all the Bassett report is extremely disappointing. The fact that 987 submissions were received by the review committee bears eloquent testimony to the enormous interest in education.

Overwhelmingly, the submissions urged the Government not to rush headlong into some grand plan like Education 2000. People want to be informed; they want to be consulted; and they want to be able to put their views. In view of the way the submissions so forcefully emphasised the general desire for more discussion before options are closed off, it is not surprising that at least half the recommendations in the Bassett report suggest caution, clarification or further exploration regarding various proposals to restructure education.

The recommendations speak for themselves. I quote recommendations 40 and 42, as follows—

“(40) That, having studied the great volume of opinion expressed in the submissions about the options and issues raised in Education 2000, and noted the diversity, uncertainty, questioning, approval and disapproval on matters touching almost all facets of education in Queensland, the Committee is of the opinion that any attempt to implement fully the broad range of ideas discussed in the Discussion Paper would have an undesirable destabilising impact on the system.

(42) That a program of priorities, to chart a suitable development plan for the educational system in Queensland, be established through an appropriate consultative procedure.”

But what has happened? This excellent report has apparently been shelved. The Government is ignoring the thrust of the recommendations and is running off in a totally different direction.

Queensland education desperately needs a period of stability, but widespread debate and discussion continue throughout the State on many important aspects of education.

Rather than allow some stability in education, the Government has now embarked on yet another destabilising venture. This time the plan is to sack the Board of Advanced Education, the Board of Teacher Education and the Board of Secondary School Studies.

Destabilising education and defying the will of the people are characteristic of totalitarian regimes, whether of the Left or the Right. The objective is to ensure that the State can enforce an oppressive and biased control over the young.

I quote the words of Aristotle—

“All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.”

It reflects no credit on the Government of this State that it seems to be obsessed with the desire to destabilise education, and its motives have to be questioned.

I urge the Government to desist from its foreshadowed plans. The will of the people is as clear as crystal. Instead of embarking on another grandiose scheme to disrupt the delicate balance in the control of education, the Government should promote genuine discussion and practise real consultation.

I am proud to represent the Mount Coot-tha electorate in this Assembly. My links with the western suburbs go back over 100 years to the time when my grandfather settled in the district. As I see it, an effective member of Parliament has responsibilities in several key areas. He must help his constituents, either as groups or as individuals, with their particular needs; he must represent their views in appropriate forums; and, in addition, he must, on their behalf, make a vigorous and responsible contribution to the business of this House on matters of Statewide importance.

These are the ideals which will guide me in my role as a member of this House.

**Mr MENZEL (Mulgrave) (7.55 p.m.):** I pledge my allegiance and that of the constituents of Mulgrave to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Government has pledged to continue its policy of promoting private enterprise and small business and of placing top priority on education, roads and health.

On behalf of my electorate, I thank the Government for the new tuck-shop and covered play area at the Hambledon school. When I visited the school recently, the work was not complete, but my visit was indeed a pleasure. It is certainly a big step forward for that school. I know that the parents and teachers are proud to be associated with Hambledon school and are proud of the renovations that have been carried out. I thank the Government also for the improvement to the Woree primary and high schools.

The schools that I have mentioned are very important to the Mulgrave electorate. It is an expanding area. A great deal is being done, but much more needs to be done. Obviously, the Government is taking a constructive approach to those matters.

I turn to the tourist industry in Cairns, which is continuing to make Cairns and the surrounding districts a very exciting place. Cairns is truly the gateway to Australia. It is a beautiful city. Since the Cairns International Airport was constructed, the city has certainly gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

**Mr Lee:** It is a pity that it is represented by the ALP. It would do much better if that were not the case.

**Mr MENZEL:** That is probably right. However, it does have good representation, as I represent a big chunk of Cairns. Another big chunk of Cairns is represented by the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services, Mr Tenni.

**Mr Casey:** The Liberal Party is not doing very well up there, is it?

**Mr MENZEL:** No, it is not. No-one in Cairns knows anything about the Liberal Party.

As I said, quite a large part of Cairns is represented by two members of the National Party. Of course, a Labor member represents the rest of Cairns.

In spite of the policies of the Federal Labor Government, Cairns is continuing to expand and prosper. However, I have no doubt that when the Honourable the Premier becomes the Prime Minister, interest rates and taxes will be reduced, as he has promised, and once again this country will have a high rate of employment and offer a better life for all. That does not apply to Cairns exclusively, but it will certainly help Cairns a great deal when Sir Joh becomes Prime Minister, as I have no doubt he will.

**Opposition members interjected.**

**Mr MENZEL:** It appears to me that the members of the Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party are very pleased that the Premier is going to sort out the mess in Canberra. They are laughing.

**Mr Casey:** I think you had better stick to being a straight man; comedy doesn't suit you.

**Mr MENZEL:** The member for Mackay is the only comedian in this place.

Yesterday, in this Parliament, I asked a question in which I sought additional staff for the Babinda Police Station. I raise that matter again. I call upon the Minister for Police to give urgent consideration to appointing another staff member, be it another policeman or an addition to the secretarial staff.

Some years ago Babinda did have four policemen. That number was reduced by the police needs tribunal because it felt that four policemen could not be justified. I feel that that tribunal made a mistake. There is no doubt that Babinda Police Station needs extra staff.

The police at Babinda do an excellent job, a job which goes far beyond the call of duty. The wives of the policemen at Babinda also assist their husbands. Those people must be commended. I repeat that I feel that additional staff for Babinda Police Station are justified.

I am led to believe that the Police Department is endeavouring to take away the secretary of the Gordonvale Police Station. I again appeal to the Minister to retain the services of a secretary at the Gordonvale Police Station. There is no doubt that a secretary who can man the office fills a very important role whilst the police are out on patrol and radar work controlling the traffic.

**Mr Casey:** Why didn't you go to the Supreme Court instead of sticking with the central board?

**Mr MENZEL:** In actual fact, the mill did not, and CSR went there. The honourable member for Mackay is a bit behind the times.

**Mr Casey interjected.**

**Mr MENZEL:** I do not know what they want to do. I have not had time to follow it.

**Mr Casey:** Wouldn't you rather it was the central board?

**Mr MENZEL:** It really has nothing to do with me. It is not my personal business. I have many things that are important to me. The honourable member for Mackay should be a bit concerned about the turmoil in the Mackay sugar industry as well. The people in it do not seem to be able to agree, either. There are problems everywhere. They occur even in the Mackay area, and the honourable member cannot solve them.

**Mr Casey:** You talk to Mr Randell. It was his growers who did not vote for the merger up there.

**Mr MENZEL:** They did. It was some other people who were probably influenced by the honourable member for Mackay. I am not sure.

The Government should look seriously at significantly increasing the numbers of police in Queensland. Crime is on the increase right throughout Australia—a situation that is probably due to drugs and other things—and the Queensland Government must consider a greater increase in the number of police in Queensland.

I want to comment briefly on the trial period of unlimited trading hours. As the Government no doubt realises, this trial period was a rather unfortunate experience. I strongly urge the Minister for Small Business and Cabinet not to rush in and make such hasty decisions in the future. In addition, I ask that no major changes be contemplated in trading hours. I am quite in favour of the tourist shops and other associated businesses having unrestricted trading hours, but in the main I believe that small business should be protected. I believe this Government has learned a lot through the trial. An overwhelming number of small businesses in my electorate lost a lot of money because of the trial, and I hope that that will not be repeated.

**Mr Davis:** You can't have it both ways. You either believe in free enterprise, or you don't.

**Mr MENZEL:** The honourable member for Brisbane Central, Mr Davis, does not believe in freedom of speech. His faction is attempting to gag poor old Peter Beattie, yet he wants to talk about freedom.

**Mr Randell:** You don't want to gag Peter Beattie; you ought to guillotine him and cut his head off.

**Mr MENZEL:** Yes.

I will not say much more on the subject of small business, but, just for the record, I will comment on newspaper reports. The media are not always accurate, but these reports are attributed to the Honourable Vince Lester, Minister for Employment, Small Business and Industrial Affairs, and are to the effect that he is alleged to have claimed in the media that the Cairns district wanted unlimited trading hours. I do not believe that he would have said that. For the record all I can say is that this is not true and in fact only a small number of traders in Cairns supported the trial. Not one trader in Cairns has not told me that he or she wanted unlimited trading hours. I have received dozens of letters and telephones calls and have spoken to dozens of traders in north Queensland both inside and outside my electorate, and all have expressed strong opposition to unlimited trading hours and to the trial period.

**Mr Casey:** What about Babinda and Gordonvale? They would not support it, would they?

**Mr MENZEL:** That is what I am trying to tell the honourable member for Mackay. There is no doubt that there is a strong feeling against deregulation of trading hours by small business. By and large, the employees are not happy about it, either, because they have to work unreasonable hours. Although they may have gained monetarily through extra overtime payments, they want their recreation time. This aspect has to be looked at.

Another matter I want to comment briefly on is the structuring of the rural section of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation. It has been in existence for some time. There is no doubt that it has some problems.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Because of the noise that is emanating from behind the honourable member, he must be finding it hard to speak.

**Mr MENZEL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As to the QIDC—I believe that the Rural Reconstruction Board and the Agricultural Bank should be taken out of the control of Treasury and placed again under the control of the Minister for Primary Industries. Those sections seem to be snowed under by the other part of the QIDC. Overall, there is probably insufficient understanding of the needs of rural industries. It would be more satisfactory for those sections to be controlled by the Department of Primary Industries.

**Mr De Lacy:** You should be a Labor bloke, Max. You are always getting stuck into the Government.

**Mr MENZEL:** I am not getting stuck into the Government; I am only putting forward constructive ideas.

Later I will get stuck into the Federal Government. People try things in good faith. If they do not work, a person has to be big enough to say, "That did not work that way; we will try another method." That is the policy that I am advocating.

**Mr Casey:** You are saying that the Premier is not controlling it properly.

**Mr MENZEL:** I am not saying that at all. I am saying that under the present legislation the system is inadequate and that things could be sorted out in a different manner.

If primary producers do not receive special consideration, there will be no primary industries and the whole economy will collapse. Whether the rest of the people in the community like it or not, primary industries throughout the world must receive some sort of subsidy or assistance from the public or the Government. Overall, that assistance helps the community and the general economy. If primary producers are destroyed, the economy will be destroyed. Many of Australia's balance of payments problems have resulted from the down-turn in commodity prices for primary products. Apart from the mismanagement of the socialists in Canberra, primary producers must also bear the added burden of lower prices for their products. Low prices are having a detrimental effect on Australia's balance of payments. If Australia's primary industries are not propped up from the public purse from time to time—

**Mr Davis:** More subsidies?

**Mr MENZEL:** More subsidies.

**Mr Casey:** That is not going to increase export prices one cent. Subsidisation will not increase export prices.

**Mr MENZEL:** It is obvious that many members in this Chamber do not understand primary industries. When a person or an industry is in crisis, legislators have a responsibility to keep that person or industry propped up until better times arrive. It is no reason to scrap primary industries.

I hope that some changes are contemplated for the QIDC. The legislation should give the Minister power to intervene and to have the ultimate say over the QIDC board. That is something that is lacking at present. Public servants are probably being given too much of a free hand in what is happening. Although those public servants might be competent and mean well, I do not think that they have a full understanding of the matter. Primary industries are very complicated and complex. Because of the ups and downs that occur in those industries from time to time, the people in them need to understand how they work.

The Minister for Corrective Services, Administrative Services and Valuation was in the Chamber earlier. I congratulate him on his appointment to the Ministry. He has certainly taken up his new challenge.

**Mr Milliner:** You are jealous.

**Mr MENZEL:** I am just congratulating the Minister; I am not jealous. I am very pleased that he was appointed to that position. I think that he is doing an excellent job.

Soon after his appointment, riots occurred at the Brisbane prison. He handled that situation extremely well and placated the prisoners. He really did the right thing and pulled them into line.

A couple of weeks ago the Minister visited Cairns.

**Mr Casey:** What about Mr Clauson? Do you agree with his appointment, too?

**Mr MENZEL:** I will speak later about the honourable member for Redlands. As I was saying, during his recent tour of the north, Mr Neal visited Cairns. I thank him for visiting my electorate. He is the type of Minister who is prepared to accept the responsibilities of his portfolio. The only way that a Minister can become aware of what is occurring throughout the State is to get out and see for himself. The Minister is certainly doing that.

I turn now to those people who form part of the State Emergency Service. They are the men and women who are often forgotten and are taken for granted by the community. Those people give up their spare time and risk their lives to help the community in times of crisis. There is no doubt that they have proven their worth on many occasions.

Although more than 12 months have elapsed since cyclone Winifred struck, I commend the volunteer workers of the State Emergency Service for the part that they played. Day and night, they sacrificed their lives to help others.

On the occasion of the Gillies Highway bus tragedy, the State Emergency Service once again played its part. Of course, the police and ambulance services also played an important part.

I also commend the linesmen of the Far North Queensland Electricity Board. Following cyclone Winifred, they worked day and night, no doubt under difficult conditions, to repair fallen electricity lines.

**Mr Casey:** They are the fellows your Government wants to sack.

**Mr MENZEL:** No, the Government does not want to sack those people.

Those linesmen worked day and night to restore the supply of electricity and to help out wherever they were needed. Whereas many people became impatient and said, "My electricity supply should be restored", many of those linesmen and their families had no electricity supply. Many people did not understand that.

On many occasions I have advocated a tourist feasibility study in my electorate.

**Mr Casey:** Hang on. You have not told me about Mr Clauson.

**Mr MENZEL:** I have another 30 minutes during which to speak. I remind the honourable member for Mackay that I am making the speech, not him.

As I was saying, on a number of occasions I have advocated a tourist feasibility study in my electorate. I am pleased to announce that I was informed recently by the Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport, the Honourable Geoff Muntz, that a tourist feasibility study will commence next week. I believe that, as a tourist venture, a chair-lift should be built on the Pyramid at Gordonvale. I have advocated that on many occasions. I believe that many people are interested in such a venture.

My electorate contains a beautiful beach, namely Bramston Beach near Babinda, together with the Atherton Tablelands. Some parts of north Queensland are waiting for people to take advantage of their untapped tourist potential. In one way or another, everyone, and particularly north Queenslanders, will benefit from that tourist feasibility study.

I turn now to the so-called gerrymander. During the last State election, the Labor Party had a lot to say about it. All honourable members are aware that the Labor Party failed dismally in that election. The Federal Government has a gerrymander. The Federal

seat of Leichhardt is an excellent example of a Labor Party gerrymander. Ever since I can remember, the tableland area was in the Leichhardt electoral division. Knowing that the tableland area includes Atherton and all those strong National Party towns, when the Labor Government was elected it gerrymandered the area and included it in the Kennedy electoral division. I do not know what community of interests Mount Isa would have with Atherton, but in the Federal sphere I am sure that Atherton would have a community of interests similar to that of Cairns. Obviously, Cairns should have been the so-called capital for that seat; but Cairns was taken away from Atherton, Mareeba, Malanda, Millaa Millaa, Herberton and Ravenshoe to make Leichhardt a safer seat for the Labor Party. I would like that example to go on record.

That is a typical example of the Labor Party's gerrymander. Throughout Australia, the Labor Party has attempted a gerrymander to keep itself in power.

There is no doubt that the Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, will be the next Prime Minister of Australia. I applaud him for suggesting that the coalition should no longer exist. For many years, I have said that federally the Liberal Party has been the lame duck party. The Liberal Party has not degenerated into a rabble, but it seems to be pleased to just be in power if the people put it there. It does not try to stay there. It just follows along on the socialist policies. Malcolm Fraser was given a mandate, but he did not do what the people expected of him. When he was first elected, I had a lot of faith in Malcolm Fraser, but he seemed to continue the socialist policies.

**Mr Davis:** John Stone in the Treasury was advising him.

**Mr MENZEL:** It is a pity that John Stone is not still in Treasury. If he were still there, Australia's economy might not be down the track that it is.

Opinion polls in New South Wales reveal that the Treasurer will probably lose his seat in the next election, because he does not visit his electorate and look after it.

**Mr Randell:** He does not have time to fill in his income tax return.

**Mr MENZEL:** That is right. They call him Paul "Cheating". Perhaps I should not be disrespectful.

It is okay for a Treasurer to tell everyone else to fill in his income tax return and to pay tax. However, he thinks that he is above the law and should not have to pay tax. He is arrogant about it. He is probably the conservatives' greatest asset. He will ensure the defeat of the Hawke Government.

Finally, I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on being appointed to the position of Speaker of the House.

**Mr CAMPBELL (Bundaberg) (8.18 p.m.):** In speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I congratulate Sir Walter and Lady Campbell on the credit that they have brought to the position of Governor. I congratulate Sir Walter for a job well done, and also for being the first Queenslander to hold the position.

I congratulate the Speaker, Mr Lingard, on his appointment. I also congratulate all members who were elected to the House. I would like to have seen more members on this side of the House.

I turn to the Governor's Opening Speech. On the first page, he remarked on the developments that have occurred in Queensland, especially the development of better tourist facilities, and referred to what they have done for the Queensland economy.

A report was released and commented on by the honourable member for Whitsunday, Mr Muntz. The report stated that between 1979 and 1985, the number of overseas visitors to Queensland increased by almost 73 per cent. That is a remarkably large increase. Over the seven years, the Rockhampton/Gladstone region experienced the greatest increase in the number of nights that overseas visitors spent in an area. The figure was 87 per cent. Some excellent Labor Party members represent that region. The Cairns/Tableland region followed with an increase of 72.9 per cent, and then the Mackay/Whitsunday region with an increase of 71.6 per cent.

The most discouraging feature of the report is that the figures show that the regions that have achieved the lowest rate of growth are the Mackay, Maryborough and Bundaberg regions. Although tourism had increased in some of those areas by 87.4 per cent or more, visits by overseas tourists had increased by only 19.3 per cent.

It is interesting to note what the Minister for Tourism, National Parks and Sport, Mr Muntz, had to say about the reason why these areas have gone ahead. He said—

“... the work of the regional tourist associations with Tourism Queensland had brought big names in tourism to Queensland, including Hilton, Sheraton, Hyatt Regency and Four Seasons, Holiday Inn and Tradewinds.

‘With international-name hotels being established throughout the State and increasingly high standards of infrastructure and airline access, Queensland is experiencing an impressive increase in international tourist visitation.’”

My comments on the effect of the report on the region were reported in the *News-Mail* in Bundaberg on 21 February 1987, and are as follows—

“The ALP Member for Bundaberg, Mr Clem Campbell, has called for a development plan for international tourist promotion after a report showed Wide Bay to have the lowest growth in Queensland.

Mr Campbell said on Thursday Bundaberg did not have international standard hotels nor an airport to take jet aircraft.

‘I think we have to accept we are not getting international tourists, but why?’ he said.

‘Is it the thrust of our tourist promotion which is not aimed at the international market? Or is it that we do not have the facilities?’

He said if Bundaberg had the facilities it could be a catalyst to increase international tourism into the region.

Tourists flew to spots in Queensland from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, but could not come direct to Bundaberg.

‘We need some planning, a development plan for our tourist promotion,’ he said.

It needed to show the type of destination Bundaberg would become and how to do it.

‘We are not getting our share of the international tourist dollar,’ he said.

While promotion in Australia had been successful, it was not showing up in international tourism, he said.”

I mention that report because it was followed by comments made by the Federal member for Hinkler, Mr Bryan Conquest.

**Mr Hamill:** Is he standing aside?

**Mr CAMPBELL:** He does not know. I am fairly sure, though, that he will stand aside.

Two days after my comments appeared in the Bundaberg *News-Mail*, the following report of the comments of the National Party member for Hinkler was published—

“Bundaberg’s future as a tourist destination would be better served by economy class motels, rather than developing international standard hotels, according to the Member for Hinkler, Mr. Bryan Conquest, MHR.

Mr. Conquest’s stand clashes with that taken by the Member for Bundaberg, Mr. Clem Campbell, MLA, who has urged a development plan on international tourist promotion.

‘Mr. Campbell was mistaken if he thought international tourists were necessary for a viable tourist industry in the Bundaberg region,’ Mr. Conquest said yesterday.”

What a negative attitude for a Federal parliamentarian to adopt! It displays a lack of foresight to state that Queensland does not need an international tourist industry and that the tourism industry would still be viable without international tourists. Although it could be said that some centres of tourism in Queensland would still be viable without international tourists—and I believe that the Gold Coast area would be a good example—the point I make is that the National Party's Federal member for Hinkler is obviously prepared to allow the Bundaberg region to run last in the tourism industry stakes, and is also prepared to accept that state of affairs as being satisfactory. He conveys an attitude of, "Oh well, we didn't want to win anyway." In contrast to that, I want to be known as a winner; I want the Bundaberg region to keep up with leading tourism centres.

It is also interesting to note that Mr Conquest is a member of the Federal coalition's tourism committee that has looked into the development of economy-limited services accommodation, which has been predicted as a success story that will be written in Queensland over the next few years.

The National Party ought to get its act together. The Minister for Tourism, Mr Muntz, has attributed the availability of international-standard hotels and airline facilities as the reasons for Queensland's boom in tourism. In contrast to the statement made by the State Minister for Tourism, members of the Federal coalition's tourism committee have adopted the attitude that development of tourism is not necessary.

If the National Party is serious about getting its act together, it should direct its attention to the Bundaberg region and make an effort to ensure that the area progresses.

I am aware that other Federal members of the National Party have expressed different views, and that the views of the Federal member for Hinkler on tourism are not shared by his colleagues, especially Mr Ian Cameron. Mr Cameron is a very enthusiastic supporter of tourism development. It is also interesting to note that he is a very enthusiastic supporter of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's push to become the Prime Minister of Australia.

I wonder why a Federal member, who one would normally expect to be a loyal supporter of Mr Sinclair, would now give such avid support to Sir Joh. I believe that it has something to do with the saga that is occurring in Noosa concerning the proposed development of a \$485m tourist resort. Three key ingredients are involved. They are personal gain for a Federal member of Parliament, an association with an international conman and State Government interference and manipulation for financial gain. The proposed development is a \$485m tourist resort on the unspoiled north shore of the Noosa River.

An article in the *National Times* states—

"Ian Cameron, the Member for Maranoa, says he is 'buying back the farm' from Arab land-owners to allow the huge project to proceed."

The article continues—

"Cameron says he has discussed the Northshore Noosa Resort plans with all councillors, the Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the Local Government Minister, Russ Hinze, and the Lands Minister, Mr Glasson."

So there was a combined effort from all of those people in looking at the development of the Noosa resort.

Some further aspects of the proposal can be found when one reads an article in the *National Times on Sunday*, which states—

"The Queensland Government plans to pass special legislation to allow a proposal involving a Federal National Party MP for a \$485 million tourist resort project on the environmentally important north shore of the Noosa River. The proposal, however, is being resisted by the conservationist movement.

The MP is Ian Cameron—a key landholder in the area—who is tying up hundreds of hectares of surrounding land with options to purchase.

According to the local State MP, Gordon Simpson (also a National), the Queensland Minister for Local Government, Russ Hinze, is preparing a bill to take major development proposals out of the hands of local authorities."

It is interesting to see who is involved in the proposal. Not only has a National Party member tied up the land involved—he could profit to the tune of millions of dollars from its rezoning—but also a man by the name of Barrie Loiterton is involved. An article in the *National Times on Sunday* of 28 December 1986 states—

"Sydney businessman Barry Loiterton has been named by the local National Party MP, Gordon Simpson, as a principal of the company behind the scheme, Resort Management Services Ltd.

Other Loiterton companies marketed the Soqulu plantation estate in Fiji and the Tiari resort in New Caledonia, both of which turned into investment nightmares for scores of Australians and overseas investors."

The article further states—

"Tiari auditors, Cooper and Lybrand, have estimated that Loiterton paid himself, through a Hong Kong-based company, Leisuremark Limited, \$US1.3 million more than was allowed to him."

That is the same man who is behind the proposed Noosa development. It is interesting to look at Mr Loiterton's background, because he does have a good front. The brochure which I have here looks good. The front page states "Tiari New Caledonia The Facts". It is a glossy brochure that contains some great proposals for villas. People pay thousands and thousands of dollars to participate in their development.

I will refer to what has happened to the people who invested in this development and how they were gypped by this Loiterton, who has now teamed up with a Federal National Party member to participate in the Noosa development. Mr Allen G. Scott of the Harbour Centre, Kowloon, Hong Kong wrote to Barrie Loiterton, Chairman, Liesuremark Australia Pty Ltd, the same company involved with the proposed Noosa development. The letter referred to the Tiari resort and it states—

"The above noted units were purchased by myself and my sons in December 1982.

. . .

During the past 2 years we have made payments totalling 99,000.00 USD in cash to Leisuremark in respect to the purchase and I am now led to believe that I may never see either the units, or get my money back.

. . .

As my wife spent most of 1984 in Sydney Australia, she was in contact with your office, and was consistently assured work was progressing, and was on schedule. As a result of these blatant lies I had her revisit New Caledonia in late 1984 to verify the progress. None had been made."

That is an example of the activities of the very man who is coming to Queensland with the support of a National Party Federal member and, seemingly, of State Cabinet. The letter continues—

". . . to advise that, I now do not want an agreement to sell our units at the prices agreed on, but to return my investment in full, 99,000.00 USD. I feel the interest you have earned on this money, approximately 25,000.00 USD would more than compensate Leisuremark for any expenses relative to work etc.

. . .

I wish to advise, that this letter be taken very seriously, and should I not have received a satisfactory reply within 21 days from the date of posting, I will once again contact all people known to me to have purchased units in this development, with a view to full prosecution of the Companies and the Principals. All those contacted have agreed to contribute to a fund for such purpose."

That is a letter from one person who has been duped by Barrie Loiterton.

I have other letters from people in south-east Asia who have also been caught. A letter from Tan Lay Keng and Co., advocates and solicitors, whose client was duped to the tune of \$US35,979.09, involved the same units. In this case the client approached the Consumers Association of Singapore for assistance in getting Leisuremark to honour the said guarantees. However, on 27 January 1984 Leisuremark wrote to say that Tiare had opted to terminate the contracts and undertook to refund all moneys together with interest to the client within 90 days thereof. That money has not been forthcoming. Again, legal action is being taken against Leisuremark Ltd, a company that is associated with Leisuremark Australia Pty Ltd, which is involved in the development I am discussing.

I have other letters from south-east Asia, including one from Chor Pee and Company on behalf of a person claiming \$2,030 from Leisuremark Australia Pty Ltd.

Those letters prove what has happened to investors in south-east Asia who have been involved in developments by Loiterton.

That is only one example of this man's activities. I now turn to his involvement in a development in New Caledonia. For the second time he has caught ordinary little investors. I wish to quote from the *National Times on Sunday* of 16 November 1986. An article by Wendy Bacon on Loiterton states—

“The man contracted to market Ansett's huge expansion into hotels and resorts has a string of failed companies behind him.

. . .

His record includes a string of failed companies with hundreds of thousands dollars of unpaid debts; his land dealings have been blocked by the Fiji Land Titles Office until he pays stamp duty; his land sales are being investigated by US authorities; his financial affairs in Hong Kong were recommended for investigation by the Costigan Royal Commission; his sales were barred by the real estate institutes in Oregon, Hawaii and California.

. . .

One recent land-marketing venture in the Pacific has contributed towards the severe financial difficulties of Fiji's biggest private company.

Back in the late 1970s, Loiterton's Hong Kong company Trois Investments decided Fiji was a new Hawaii. Based on his gloomy prediction that there would be no more Australian land booms until the end of the century, he urged investors to buy a slice of the island nation's scarce freehold land before it was too late.

In 1977, the Stinson Pearce group gave Loiterton's company Trois Investments the exclusive right to market its Soqulu Plantation development.

The Stinson group was not only the country's biggest private company, it is also the family company of the Alliance Party Government's Minister for Economic Development, Peter Stinson.

One of only two freehold sub-divisions approved by the Government, the development was situated on the beautiful island of Taveuni. Trois purchased the land wholesale and proceeded to sell it to purchasers who were promised an opportunity for profitable resales—

and this is the important point—

“The investment turned out to be anything but safe. Today, scores of investors from Australia, Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Malaysia, far from making a quick profit, have all but given up hope of rescuing their investment in Soqulu.

Alan Ridge, the then West Australian Minister for Lands, was one disappointed customer whose name was used in 1979 to boost sales. He told the *National Times on Sunday* this week, ‘Soqulu was indeed a sorry episode . . . the whole deal stank as far as I am concerned.’ ”

This man, who is now in the throes of making a preferential deal with the Queensland Government, has caught many investors not only in Australia but also in south-east Asia.

The Queensland Government has changed its stance from protection of the area to which I have referred, through the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, to the introduction of special legislation to cover the \$485m tourist development.

This man has a shocking record in tourist development proposals. He is nothing more than a conman. I refer to page 70 of the Cooloola national park management plan, dated September 1979 and prepared by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. Under the heading "Teewah" appears the following—

"The possible need for an airport in the Tewantin area may frustrate the proposed acquisition of Landing Ground Reserve R967. It is recommended that alternative and more conveniently located sites be investigated for airport purposes. Failing the selection of an alternative site, as a minimum the forested portion of the landing ground reserve bordering the Noosa River should be protected by national park reservation.

The availability of freehold portions IV, 5, 1728, 391 and 17 for future subdivision and development will be a continuing threat to the strategies proposed above. Two alternative courses of action are recommended:

- (a) acquisition of these portions and their inclusion within the national park;
- (b) implementation of town planning provisions which would hold the land in its rural condition."

It is interesting that that land, which is proposed to be redeveloped for tourism purposes, is owned by Ian Cameron. He also has options over other land, which, if exercised, would take his total holdings in that area to more than 500 hectares.

I can understand why Ian Cameron would be a very ardent supporter of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. He has to be, because it will be the Premier who will allow this development to take place. Without the full support of the Queensland Cabinet, that development cannot proceed, and he will not stand to make what can only be regarded as thousands and thousands of dollars profit.

I will deal with some other aspects of the Governor's Speech having detailed conflicting views of Federal members of the National Party towards tourism development.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is the major works to be completed, with \$60m to be spent on additional hospital facilities. I welcome the expenditure of money on hospital facilities. I understand that some of that money is to be used for the construction of new wards at the Bundaberg Hospital. That is very important, because some of the present facilities at the Bundaberg Hospital could only be regarded as being out of the nineteenth century.

Although this proposed additional expenditure should be reflected in employment growth in Queensland, the Governor's Speech makes no mention anywhere of the word "unemployment". It is a very sad occasion when no member of the National Party Government has any consideration for the problems associated with unemployment and when it has no positive proposals to put forward to attack the unemployment problem in Queensland. Will the National Party Government acknowledge that unemployment is a problem of enormous proportions in Queensland?

When the matter is raised again, the Government should have a look at the expenditure. If a line is drawn from the Sunshine Coast out to Toowoomba and down to the Gold Coast, it will be seen that most of the money is spent in that "golden triangle". When one looks at the problems associated with it, one sees that in the last few years over 50 per cent of shires in Queensland have lost population. As can be read in the Governor's Speech, all the major developments are occurring and all the money is spent in that "golden triangle". It is a pity that the National Party has forgotten its

roots in the country areas. For more than two years Queensland has had either the highest or the second-highest rate of unemployment in Australia.

**Mr Stoneman:** What about migration?

**Mr CAMPBELL:** I will come to migration in a moment.

The latest figures illustrate that Queensland's unemployment rate stands at 10.3 per cent of the State's work-force. Only Tasmania, another conservative State, with an unemployment rate of 10.4 per cent, is higher than Queensland. Currently there are 125 000 Queenslanders out of work. Compared with January of last year, in January this year unemployment in Queensland has climbed by more than 14 per cent. Out of those 125 000 unemployed, 28 900 are young Queenslanders aged between 15 and 19 years. This is a savage and horrific unemployment rate of 27 per cent. More than one in four of Queensland's youth are in the jobless queues.

The most disturbing fact of all is that the worst is yet to come. It is expected that February's unemployment figures will reveal even higher jobless levels. The Queensland Government cannot possibly confront and tackle the immense problem of unemployment in Queensland until it, the Minister for Employment and the Premier admit that the problem exists. The Government must admit that it exists, especially in the country areas, and take positive steps to do something about it. The State Government blames the influx of jobless southerners and holds them responsible for artificially inflating Queensland's unemployment figures.

These are the latest figures available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the month ended 31 May last year and they tell the true story. Whereas 3 200 people entered Queensland to look for work, 3 000 job-seekers left Queensland. That represents a net gain of 200 people, which is a minuscule proportion of Queensland's unemployed. Not only that; unemployment has increased in some areas—not in areas such as the Sunshine Coast or places where thousands of supposed bludgers from the south come to stay, but in areas such as Toowoomba and Ipswich. They are not the tourist areas where people come to from interstate. Queensland's workers and their children are suffering in these areas from unemployment. A total of 15 200 people moved to Queensland for employment reasons generally, and 14 700 left the State.

**Mr De Lacy:** Do you think a change of Government in Queensland would do any good?

**Mr CAMPBELL:** I think that would be a great help. Members on this side of the House are more attuned to younger people than are the 76-year-old geriatrics who are behaving like juveniles. I can see from here that there are several members on the other side who are going very grey.

Although 2 300 people moved to Queensland to begin new jobs, a total of 6 700 people left the State to begin new jobs elsewhere, representing a net loss of 4 400 people.

Turning now to the statement made by the honourable member for Burdekin—one of the most disturbing features of those unemployment figures is that the youth of Queensland are frustrated with employment conditions and are leaving this State en masse.

Queensland is losing its life-blood. In the 15 to 24 age group, 12 400 people moved into the State and 15 800 left, representing a net loss to Queensland of 3 400 people. Government members have said that the Australian Bureau of Statistics produces rubbish. That is what Opposition members must face when they try to put forward the facts.

People should forget the rhetoric of the National Party and look at the record. The number of young people leaving Queensland is greater than the number coming to Queensland and looking for work.

The people of Queensland are fed up with the Government's hollow excuses, its lack of initiative and its failure to take action to counter the tremendous economic and social problem of unemployment.

The final issue to which I refer relates to the portfolio of the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services, who is in the Chamber. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority reports to the Minister and to Parliament. I refer to the annual reports of that authority for the last two years, and particularly to the report on the financial aspects of it. For the year ended June 1986, the general fund income was \$1,811,257. Expenditure for that period was \$914,620, resulting in an operating surplus of \$896,637. It is all right to have a surplus, but that operating surplus must now be used to repay loans of \$49.5m. Included in that figure were loans by the Queensland Government totalling \$41.6m and \$6.1m of capitalised interest that could not be repaid in previous years. I ask: how is the Gold Coast Waterways Authority going to repay loans totalling \$49m?

**Mr Powell:** Don't you worry about that.

**Mr CAMPBELL:** It is very important to worry about that matter, because the tax-payers of Queensland, particularly those in the electorates of Isis and Bundaberg, will have to pay for it. Because the authority cannot repay the loans, the tax-payers will have to pick up the tab. Instead, I would like to see that money spent on Urangan Harbour and on dredging the Burnett River. That is where the money should be spent. The money should be taken out of the "golden triangle" and spent in country areas in which it can do some good and overcome the major problem of unemployment.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

#### **HAY POINT HARBOUR (RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS) BILL**

**Hon. M. J. TENNI** (Barron River—Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services) (8.48 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to ratify and confirm certain agreements made by The Harbours Corporation of Queensland with respect to the Harbour of Hay Point and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

#### **First Reading**

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

#### **Second Reading**

**Hon. M. J. TENNI** (Barron River—Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services) (8.49 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Bill has been introduced to effect ratification of certain agreements, repeated as schedules to the Bill, entered into between the Harbours Corporation of Queensland, the Central Queensland Coal Associates and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd, the operating company for that terminal. Those agreements set down the manner of providing finance for the capital construction and ongoing maintenance of a tug harbour for the tugs and other commercial craft servicing the coal export port of Hay Point.

The construction of a tug harbour at Hay Point was first mooted in 1975 during discussions held by Central Queensland Coal Associates—who operate the Utah mines and export from Hay Point—as a facility to bring the tugs, which were then based at Mackay Harbour, closer to the offshore berth at Hay Point. That would increase the safety of the port as well as reduce the operating costs of the tugs. Agreement was reached between the Harbours Corporation of Queensland and Utah Development Company, who are the managers for the CQCA, for moneys to be reserved from harbour dues towards a tug harbour account for construction in due course of that tug harbour.

With the effluxion of time, the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal was constructed, thereby bringing further users into the harbour of Hay Point and emphasising the need for tugs based in the harbour.

In 1985, following the approval of the Governor in Council pursuant to the Harbours Act, four agreements were entered into for the purpose of formalising the arrangements for construction of the tug harbour. Under the agreements, the users of Hay Point harbour, namely the Central Queensland Coal Associates and Dalrymple Bay coal terminal, were to form a consortium to construct the tug harbour using the funds built up in the tug harbour account and funds which would be contributed by the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal users. As the Central Queensland Coal Associates had already contributed a large part of the required funds, their contributions into the tug harbour account were to cease. The users of the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal were to contribute at a rate which would ensure adequate funding for the project.

The account will continue to be built up with those contributions from the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal users until a balance of \$2.5m is held towards future maintenance or restoration of storm damage which will be required from time to time, with insurance cover to be taken out by the Harbours Corporation until this figure is reached.

A deed of novation became necessary in 1986 varying the tug harbour account—CQCA Agreement to give effect to the change in benefits and obligations as between two of the parties, UMAL Consolidated Limited and QCT Mining Pty Ltd.

At that time it was considered that the agreements could be validly entered into by the Harbours Corporation with approval by the Governor in Council under section 136A of the Harbours Act, which deals with agreements relating to payment of harbour charges in lieu of dues specified in the by-laws.

However, advice from the Solicitor-General is that three of the agreements, namely—

- (i) tug harbour account—CQCA agreement,
- (ii) tug harbour account—DBCT agreement, and
- (iii) Hay Point tug harbour lease and berthing agreement

are not authorised by the Harbours Act, in that the agreements stipulate that the Harbours Corporation will exercise its by-law making powers, etc., in certain nominated ways, rather than merely providing for agreed contractual payments to be made in lieu of harbour dues.

Furthermore, the conditions of the three agreements are considered to be in conflict with the provision of Part V of the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act of 1968, which sets out CQCA's entitlements in respect of the users of the harbour and, although the agreements are strongly advocated by CQCA, legislation is required to override the existing provisions.

In order to ensure that the four agreements relating to the tug harbour at Hay Point be effectual in law and enforceable by all parties thereto, it is considered that an Act of Parliament is required to ratify the agreements already executed between the Harbours Corporation and the joint venture companies.

Construction of the tug harbour is nearing completion with the breakwaters completed and construction work progressing in respect of the tug berths, office workshop, amenities and roadworks. The project is estimated to cost \$20.3m, all of such funds being to hand from the aforementioned reserve of harbour dues invested cumulatively since 1975. This project has not and will not make any demands upon the Government for public financing. The project is expected to be completed in mid-1987.

Stone and like materials for the construction of the breakwaters were drawn, in the main, from the Harbours Corporation quarry at Mount Griffiths. That quarry produced a surplus of overburden material, some of which has been utilised to fill and level a low section of Harbours Corporation land which will be made available as a playing field for the people of the adjacent township of Half Tide and for ships' crews.

A bund of stone and overburden was constructed to accommodate dredge spoil, which will be levelled to provide parking for car/trailer units using the public boat-launching ramp constructed as part of the breakwaters. That ramp is accessible at all stages of the tide.

The tugs require, as a minimum, approximately 7 metres of water in which to operate. The need to provide breakwater shelter to that depth of water at low tide has caused further shallower waters to be sheltered by the breakwaters. It would be expected that the private craft of nearby residents will enjoy such facility. Navigation markers will be installed and positioned so that private craft can find a sheltered anchorage.

The tug harbour will improve the efficiency of operation of the harbour, and the ready accessibility of tugs will improve the safety-rating of the harbour on the international scene and for the purpose of insurance underwriting.

It is necessary that parties becoming involved in the use and operation of the two coal export terminals in the future be incorporated into the ongoing financial agreements. The addition of such further parties may be effected through deeds of novation empowered by the proposed Bill.

The Bill is brief, containing only three clauses. Clause 2 provides the authorisation of the agreements previously approved by the Governor in Council. Clause 3 provides the Governor in Council with the power to approve novations and amendments to the agreements where such may become necessary as a consequence of changing partners within the respective groups of coal-exporters using the harbour or where new users may be introduced and require to be bound by the agreement.

The Bill is commended to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr D'Arcy, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 8.57 p.m.