

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 1970

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QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

RECONSTRUCTION OF QUEENSLAND
INDUSTRIES

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

Further to his Answer to my Question on September 16, what is wrong with Queensland industries that it was necessary to seek Commonwealth assistance?

Answer:—

"I fail to see the connection between the Honourable Member's Question and my Answer of September 16, which did not indicate that I had discussed Queensland industries on the occasion of my visit to Canberra on August 18. However, I have much pleasure in assuring the Honourable Member that there is nothing wrong with Queensland's industries. It is interesting to observe that the average annual total value of all primary and secondary industry production in the State during the three-year period to June 30, 1956, during most of which time the Australian Labor Party in Queensland was too busy with its domestic affairs to worry about the State's industries, was under \$630 million. For the three years ended June 30, 1968, the last triennium for which official statistics are available, the annual average value of such production was \$1,205 million. In fact, for the year ended June 30, 1968, the figure was \$1,284 million. While certain primary industries have suffered considerably as a result of drought, this upward trend continues under my Government's sympathetic and capable stewardship."

REMOVAL OF SAND, BRIBIE ISLAND

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

(1) Has Councillor Fluck or any other person or persons the legal right to take sand from Bribie Island? If so, for what purpose and under whose authority?

(2) Who owns and controls the land from which sand is being taken?

(3) If sand is being taken legally, under what terms and conditions and for how long has such removal taken place?

Answers:—

(1) "The Councillor referred to and two other purchasers hold legal rights to sales of sand on Bribie Island. No usage was stipulated in the Sale Agreements. Sales were made under the authority of the Conservator of Forests."

(2) "The Councillor's sale is on vacant Crown land adjoining Quarry Reserve 807, parish of Woorim on which the other two sales are located. The Vacant Crown

WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER, 1970

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

PAPERS

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

Report on Establishment of Stage I of Bundaberg Irrigation Undertaking.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Industrial Development Acts, 1963 to 1964.

Report of the National Trust of Queensland for the year 1969-70.

Land is vested in the Land Administration Commission and the Quarry Reserve is vested in the Conservator of Forests who administers sales of quarry materials on both areas."

(3) "Special conditions applying to the sale described in (2) require that the excavation area be drained to prevent accumulation of water and that the sides be battered to a safe gradient. In the other two sales an additional condition limits the excavation depth to a level of 6 feet above the adjoining swamp. Operations on the sale held by this Councillor began in January, 1970. Since then Statutory Declarations covering 915 cubic yards had been furnished for removals up to July 31, 1970. It is estimated that a further 600 cubic yards have been removed since that date. Sale quantity was 4,000 cubic yards and sale expiry date is December 20, 1970. One of the other sales for 4,000 cubic yards expires on June 18, 1971, and up to September 15 had not been operated. The other for 2,000 cubic yards expires on August 31, 1971, and up to September 15 there had been no removals of sand though the area has been cleared and some material stockpiled."

STAFF, MITCHELL RIVER HOSPITAL

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

As the new hospital is nearing completion at Mitchell River—

(1) What staffing arrangements have been made and have positions been advertised?

(2) Will any training scheme to include Aborigines be carried out?

(3) Has consideration been given to special provisions for leave, salary, etc., because of the isolation and demands of the area?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The Honourable Member is referred to the reply by the Honourable the Premier to him on Tuesday, November 19, 1968, relative to employment of nursing staff at Mitchell River and other Peninsula Aboriginal Communities. These conditions remain unchanged except of course, for the normal award rate increases and the fact that the hospital at Mitchell River is being replaced by a new and more modern type complex, which is not a training hospital. However, normal tuition of Aborigines, as assistants, will continue to apply."

T.A.B. INVESTMENTS

Mr. Hanlon, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

With regard to the Ninth Annual Report of the T.A.B.—

(1) Of the \$6,889,411 revenue from all sources, how much was received by way of (a) interest on investment and (b) any other income derived from investment?

(2) What was the amount of (a) investments as included in current assets at June 30, 1970, and (b) peak investment to June 30, 1970?

(3) Whilst he has declined to indicate individual investments, will he provide a schedule of categorised investment amounts?

(4) What was the amount of contingencies included in the expenditure of \$3,964,712 and what is the nature of the contingencies?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) \$326,396. (b) Nil."

(2) "(a) \$5,776,400. (b) \$5,776,400."

(3) "Categories of Investments are:— Government Guaranteed Inscribed Stock, \$454,700; Debentures in Public Companies, \$3,001,700; Banks (including Bank accepted Commercial Bills) \$620,000; Commercial Deposits and Notes, \$1,200,000; Short Term Money Market, \$500,000; Total, \$5,776,400."

(4) "Such contingencies include Employees' Retirement Fund Adjustment, Provisions for Staff Entitlements under Awards and Provision for the Board's share of any errors by on-course totalisators."

COUNTRY HOUSING RENTALS

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

(1) Was his attention drawn to a statement by Mr. F. Brown, Secretary of the Combined Industrial Unions' Committee, as reported in *The Courier-Mail* of September 21, that there is outrageous profiteering in country housing rents and that up to now the Government has recognised the committee's complaint that high rentals are being charged without taking action to ensure that accommodation justifies the rental?

(2) In view of repeated complaints of unfair rentals which have been put to both the Premier and himself by this union group committee and the many other complaints from the Trades and Labour Council, the Australian Labor Party, social workers and others aware of the position or suffering in this regard, will he review

the provisions of the Termination of Tenancies Act in abolishing rent control to become operative from 1971?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I am aware of Mr. Brown's statement. If premises are now subject to the application of the fair rent provisions of the existing Landlord and Tenant Acts, the lessees may make an application for a rental determination. However, most premises are not now subject to those Acts and in those cases the lessor and lessee may negotiate as to rentals of premises. In the quickly developing centres mentioned by Mr. Brown, many homes, new and old, are being rented for the first time. Bearing in mind that Parliament only this year enacted the Termination of Tenancies Act and that the Industrial Court takes rent into consideration in making its Awards, the Government does not propose to take action to have that Act reviewed."

INTEREST ON DROUGHT-RELIEF LOANS

Mr. O'Donnell, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) Why does the Government charge 3 per cent. interest on drought-relief money when it is claimed that administrative costs for the Agricultural Bank can be covered by $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.?

(2) Are dairy co-operatives reimbursed for their services in having to carry a large burden of responsibility in the administration of the scheme?

Answers:—

(1) "It is not correct to draw any analogy here and endeavour to relate one set of interest charges to another. In the case of drought relief loans, the 3 per cent. interest charged is designed not only to cover the Agricultural Bank's administration expenses incurred in handling the many and varied schemes but also to make very limited provision for possible losses associated with default in repayment. Under the Commonwealth-State agreement as to provision of drought relief funds, all reasonable losses are borne by the State. With regard to the additional interest rate of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. generally charged by the Bank in excess of that it has to pay for its lending funds, I would like to make it quite clear that this does not cover, nor is intended to cover, the Bank's full operational costs. Reference to the Bank's annual reports will show that part of its operational costs are also obtained by way of administration charges and commission etc., in respect of other agency business conducted by the Bank."

(2) "Dairy Co-operatives are not reimbursed for their services in the administration of drought relief assistance to their suppliers. Under the existing procedure

which has operated for some 30 years now, the Agricultural Bank provides the Co-operatives with the funds they require having regard, of course, to the conditions of the particular scheme and the maximum limits of assistance determined by Cabinet. Subject to these qualifications, the distribution of such funds to suppliers is at the sole discretion of the Co-operative management and the Bank does not intervene. My enquiries reveal that by far the majority of the Co-operatives favour this procedure."

MORATORIUM FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Mr. O'Donnell, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Has the State Government power to declare a period of legal authorisation to debtors to postpone payment in order to assist the primary producers of Queensland who are in serious financial straits because of the drought?

Answer:—

"The State has enacted moratoria legislation on several occasions in the past and the possibility of assisting drought-affected primary producers and others in this fashion has been examined on a number of occasions. However, it is considered that any possible benefits are far outweighed by the serious disadvantages and problems involved."

PUBLICATION OF LITERATURE AT QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

Mr. V. E. Jones for **Dr. Crawford**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Regarding the printing of voluminous quantities of non-authorised literature at the University—

(1) Has there been any progress in the investigation as to who is paying for the printing of this literature?

(2) Are University supplies of paper and printing equipment being used illegally?

(3) Is he aware that much of the literature is printed by the offset press method which is said to be the most expensive method available?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "As foreshadowed in my Answer to the Honourable Member's Question without Notice on September 16, I am having the matters he raised examined by the appropriate Authority. This examination will take into account the possibilities mentioned in parts (2) and (3) of this Question."

PROCESSING OF MINERAL SANDS

Mr. Sherrington, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Have any approaches been made to the Government, or has the Government initiated any moves, to confer with the companies exploiting mineral sands concentrates in this State on the setting-up of processing plants for the treatment of these concentrates within the State?

(2) Has any consideration been given to making the processing of such minerals within the State a condition of a mining lease, thus providing an additional avenue of employment for the people of Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) "Mineral sands concentrates are already processed within the State to separate the various mineral components as high-grade products. Considerable research is being undertaken into treatment of these minerals to produce products for local consumption."

(2) "No."

MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

Mr. F. P. Moore, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

What was the total amount spent on overseas and interstate tours and travel by Cabinet Ministers for the twelve months ended August 31, (a) 1969 and (b) 1970?

Answer:—

"In the near future I will be tabling, in response to an Order made by the House on July 23, a Return, in the usual form, of expenses of Ministers for the period July 1, 1969, to June 30, 1970, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail."

REMUNERATION OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF T.A.B.

Mr. Jensen, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) What are the salaries and/or allowances currently payable to (a) the Chairman and (b) members of the T.A.B.?

(2) Are the amounts included under contingencies in the T.A.B. annual report and, if not, where are they shown?

Answers:—

(1) "The fees are:—Chairman, \$6,000 per annum; Members of the Executive Sub-Committee, \$1,500 per annum; and

other Members, \$1,000 per annum. Members also receive out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Board."

(2) "The amounts are included with 'Employees' remuneration' and 'All other expenses' under the heading of 'Expenditure'."

DIMBULAH-NORMANTON DEVELOPMENTAL ROAD

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a photograph in the *Australasian Post* of September 3 showing a sign which states "Watch your Sump"?

(2) As the location of this sign is on the Petford-Almaden section of the Dimbulah-Normanton developmental road and as heavy tourist traffic uses this road to view the Chillagoe Caves, will he have early and permanent work carried out on this section?

Answers:—

(1) "No. This magazine is not on my reading list."

(2) "Enquiries reveal that the sign in question was located at Two Jacks Creek near Lappa Junction adjacent to a concrete creek crossing installed about 12 months ago. The homemade sign appears to have been erected by a practical joker as there is no hazard in the area, and the road generally is in quite reasonable condition. Action has been taken to remove the sign."

MR. JUICY "ORANGE DRINK"

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

(1) In view of statements in the Press and radio advertisements by the State manager of Mr. Juicy that the sale of fruit drinks in Queensland is policed strictly under the provisions of the Food and Drug Regulations, under what section is the Mr. Juicy product "Orange Drink" considered legal?

(2) How many tests have been carried out on this product by officers of his Department and how many times has it failed to conform to the standards required under the regulations?

Answers:—

(1) "The product 'Orange Drink' is currently required to conform to Regulation 61 (1) of the Food and Drug Regulations, 1964."

(2) "Mr. Juicy 'Orange Drink' has been tested on the following dates:—January 13, 1970, January 27, 1970, March 8, 1970, August 24, 1970. On each occasion the sample conformed with the standard required by the operative regulation."

RAIL FREIGHT CONCESSIONS, MOUNT
ISA MINES LIMITED

Mr. Marginson, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

Further to my Question of September 10 regarding freight concessions granted to Mount Isa Mines Limited, what is the freight rate per ton charged by the Railway Department for the transport of minerals from Mt. Isa to Townsville?

Answer:—

"I refer to my reply of September 10, 1970."

ENTRY OF QUEENSLAND CATTLE TO
VICTORIA

Mr. V. E. Jones for **Mr. Tomkins**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) May Queensland cattle now enter Victoria without having to spend six months in New South Wales? If so, what are the terms and conditions?

(2) Do the conditions apply only to cattle from certain sections of Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "On the authority of an inspector of stock appointed under the Victorian Stock Diseases Act, Queensland cattle may now enter Victoria without having to spend six months in New South Wales. Such authority is issued subject to conditions as set out in the Fifth Schedule to the Victorian Stock Diseases Regulations 1970. For full details I would refer the Honourable Member for Roma to officers of the Veterinary Services Branch of my Department. However, the main requirements are that the cattle, being stud cattle, derive from a protected area of Queensland, so declared under the Queensland Stock Acts, and have been resident therein for 180 days. If from a protected area other than the S.E. Queensland Protected Area, they must pass a complement fixation test for pleuropneumonia. All stud cattle must be free from cattle tick, tuberculosis and brucellosis. Store cattle are admitted into Victoria direct only from the S.E. Queensland Protected Area. All cattle from Queensland intended for introduction direct into Victoria must be consigned by road, rail, sea or air transport without being held or depastured in any other State or Territory."

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
OF SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. Hanson, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) On what boards or committees, either directly or indirectly concerned with Government activities, do Sir David Muir, Mr. B. E. Riding, Mr. C. N. Barton and Dr. J. M. Harvey now sit?

(2) How often does each of these boards or committees meet and what is the average time spent at each meeting?

Answer:—

"I lay upon the Table of the House a statement containing the information sought by the Honourable Member."

*Paper:—*Whereupon Mr. Bjelke-Petersen laid upon the Table of the House the statement referred to.

RESTRICTIONS ON DRIVING OF HIGH-
SPEED MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. Hanson, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) In view of recent statements that the Holden Monaro G.T.S. 350 and Falcon G.T. are capable of speeds of 134.4 m.p.h. and 137.2 m.p.h. respectively, is there any restriction on learner-drivers being permitted to handle such vehicles and, if not, is any restriction contemplated?

(2) Are special licences for vehicles of this type contemplated and the holders of such licences to be subject to regular, stringent health and eyesight tests?

Answers:—

(1) "The usual conditions apply."

(2) "No."

DOCTOR'S RESIDENCE, BAILLIE
HENDERSON HOSPITAL

Mr. Bromley for **Mr. Bousen**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) What was the cost of building the residence for a doctor attached to Baillie Henderson Hospital, Toowoomba?

(2) On what date was the residence completed and ready for occupation?

(3) Does the doctor occupy the residence? If not, what is the reason?

Answers:—

(1) "\$13,788."

(2) "February 26, 1970."

(3) "No. He has elected to live out."

POLICE INQUIRY, THARGOMINDAH

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

What is the result of the police inquiry following the recent Magistrates Court hearing in Thargomindah involving the Thompson brothers?

Answer:—

“Police enquiries into all aspects arising from the hearing mentioned have not yet been finalised.”

AVOIDANCE OF DROUGHT LOSSES BY GRAZIERS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the article in the *Telegraph* of August 17 setting out a claim by Dr. Graham Alexander, President of the Australian Society of Animal Protection, that too many graziers suffered financial losses because they adopted incorrect drought strategy?

(2) If so, have these financial losses been brought about by graziers' lack of knowledge and skill in regard to drought strategy?

(3) What instructions and/or advice have been given by his Department to graziers to preserve their assets during the drought?

(4) Will he arrange for a report to be compiled by Dr. Alexander setting out the technique that is desirable to preserve graziers from loss due to drought?

(5) Was a representative of the Government in attendance during the address and the conference in the Veterinary School at the University of Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) “As Dr. G. I. Alexander is an officer of the Department of Primary Industries, I suggest the Honourable Member redirect his Question to the Minister for Primary Industries.”

AUTHORITY TO PROSPECT, WATERANGA AREA

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

(1) Has his Department explored and tested a prospective mining area known on Mining Map 25,000 as Watuange?

(2) Is this area situated north-east of Mingo on the Gin Gin road near Mount Perry?

(3) Has it been discovered that there is a large amount of Cumberlandite ore body (magnetite-apatite-pyroxenite) in this area?

(4) Did the assayer's report show that the area is rich in the mineral commonly known as platinum?

(5) Has it been decided that there should be no further trenching or drilling in the area despite the recommendation of the departmental geologists?

(6) Does the geologists' report indicate that the area is strongly sheared and faulted?

(7) Who is the grazier who owns the property and has he been told how valuable the mineral assets on his property are?

(8) Is the authority to prospect in this area in the name of one of the Under Secretaries? If not, in whose name is it?

(9) Was this area at one time referred to as a reserve and has it now reverted to a non-reserve?

Answers:—

(1) “Presumably the area referred to is that known as the Wateranga area. This has been explored and drilled and a geological map on the scale 1 : 25000 is being prepared.”

(2) “The Gin Gin-Kalliwa road crosses the area concerned.”

(3) “The magnetite ore body is thought to be only of limited extent.”

(4) “No; trace amounts only.”

(5) “It has been so decided because it was considered the area did not warrant continuance of this work. However, no recommendation as suggested was made by the Geologist.”

(6) “A written report is being compiled; the area is locally sheared and faulted.”

(7) “Freeholders in the area are Messrs. Briggs, Fletcher Bros., Proctor, Harzer. No reports have been made to them. However, unless there is a mining lease over the area all such minerals are the property of the Crown.”

(8) “Preliminary testing indicated that the area was potentially metalliferous and in order to prevent anyone applying for a lease or taking up a claim until the Departmental investigation was completed an exempting Proclamation was issued over the area. Without the consent of the freeholder, Departmental geologists or drilling crews had no power to enter the private land. They, like any other person, must have the protection of a Permit to Enter

on private land. Such a Permit can only be issued in respect of a proclaimed area to the holder of an Authority to Prospect. An Authority to Prospect or Permit cannot be issued in the name of the Department as it is not a body corporate. In these circumstances I approved the grant of an Authority to Prospect to Mr. E. K. E. Healy, the Under Secretary of my Department. I can assure the Honourable Member no production title can flow to Mr. Healy from this arrangement."

(9) "The area was previously held as a Departmental Reserve. It is currently held as an Authority to Prospect."

INTERSTATE STUDENTS AT QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that the two students convicted of trespassing on the Queensland University Regiment building and destroying records and papers therein are interstate students?

(2) As James Barnard Prentice comes from Victoria and Michel Marcel Thompson comes from New South Wales, what are the circumstances under which these law-breakers entered the Queensland University?

(3) As there is a quota system on bona fide students desiring to enter the Queensland University whose parents contribute the tax for its upkeep, what is the financial system whereby interstate students of the calibre of Prentice and Thompson can crowd out the loyal sons of Queensland taxpayers?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland has advised that Mr. James Barnard Prentice matriculated in 1966 by passing the Senior Examination after studying in a Brisbane school. It is understood that he came to Queensland with his parents some twenty years ago. Mr. Michel Marcel Thompson matriculated in 1962 at another Brisbane school; his place of birth is not known."

(3) "No student who matriculated in Queensland by passing the Senior Examination has ever been refused admission to a first-year University course for which he was qualified for entry. Accordingly, to date, no student has kept any other student out of the University of Queensland."

HIGH SCHOOL AND OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL FOR WOODRIDGE

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

Will he consider, in conjunction with the Minister for Works, the establishment of a high school at Woodridge to serve the several schools of the district and an opportunity school at Woodridge to serve the growing number of children suffering from some form of retardation in their learning processes?

Answer:—

"An investigation will be made early in 1971 of the claims of several areas, including Woodridge, for the establishment of high schools. A site for an opportunity school at Woodridge was obtained towards the end of 1967. It is anticipated that a start will be made on the construction of a six-class opportunity school in this financial year and that the school will open in 1972."

IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF TEACHERS

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

What amount was expended on in-service education during 1969 for (a) principals of high schools, (b) deputy principals of high schools, (c) high school science teachers, (d) high school mathematics teachers, (e) other high school teachers, (f) head teachers of primary schools, (g) assistant head teachers of primary schools and (h) assistant teachers in primary schools?

Answer:—

"The costs for each of the categories named in the Honourable Member's Question are not readily available and, to obtain them would require an unwarranted diversion of officers from their normal duties. However, the charged expenditure on in-service training during the period for secondary and primary teachers respectively was as follows:—Secondary teachers, \$17,037, Primary teachers, \$18,653. This does not include the costs of salaries of officers involved in the organisation of in-service courses and other incidental costs."

TRAINING OF FEMALE DENTAL HYGIENISTS

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

What progress has been made with the proposal to train female dental hygienists for schools and dental services?"

Answer:—

“Representatives of the Department of Health attended a National Workshop on Dental Auxiliaries in Melbourne sponsored by the Australian Dental Association through its Federal Dental Auxiliaries Committee to discuss and assess those fields in which auxiliaries could be adequately trained to work, to delineate the types of auxiliaries needed to perform those duties and to draft a proposed system for the training and utilisation of such auxiliaries. I am informed that the State Branches of the Australian Dental Association are presently considering a draft report from their Federal Council on the results of the Workshop.”

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN AT WILSON
YOUTH HOSPITAL

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

How many children of school age are in Wilson Home and each of the other similar institutions controlled or assisted by the State?

Answer:—

“There are at present 34 children of school age resident at the Wilson Youth Hospital. The only other similar remand and assessment centre in the State is Karrala House, Ipswich, where four girls are of school age.”

TEACHING STAFF, WILSON YOUTH
HOSPITAL

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

(1) What is the numerical strength, etc., of the teaching staff at Wilson Home and at each of the other similar institutions controlled or assisted by the State?

(2) What type of educational training do the children at these institutions receive?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) “I refer the Honourable Member to my Answer of December 10 last, when I said that at the Wilson Youth Hospital the educational programme which forms an important part of the overall assessment and treatment is conducted by specially selected officers of the Division of Welfare and Guidance, Department of Health, known as Child Guidance Therapists who are the holders of appropriate University degrees. These officers work under the direct supervision of a psychiatrist, and undertake therapy and remedial teaching to suit the individual child. In certain cases formal schooling may be contra indicated, but those who

are considered suitable undertake correspondence courses, supervised by the Child Guidance Therapists. Consultative services regarding education are provided by officers of the Special Education Branch of the Education Department. The only other similar Remand and Assessment Centre in the State is at Karrala House, Ipswich, where, I am informed, similar arrangements for educational training exist.”

PLATFORM, BADDOW RAILWAY STATION

Mr. Bromley for **Mr. Davies**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Will he have the platform at Baddow, Maryborough, extended to the length of the “Sunshine” mail train?

(2) What is the estimated cost of such work?

(3) As travellers have the right to board trains at Baddow and as the only way to reach the island platform is by crossing the railway lines and climbing a high platform without steps, will he have an overhead bridge constructed?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) “I regret that finance is not available for these two projects having regard to the Railway Department’s other commitments.”

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

TAVERN LICENCES

Mr. AHERN: I ask the Minister for Justice: To his knowledge, have any tavern licences been issued in Queensland, and, if not, does he know why? Can a tavern licence be created per se, or must such a licence be transferred from another area?

Dr. DELAMOTHE: Applications for tavern licences have been lodged, but none have been granted up to the moment. An application can be made for a tavern licence in exactly the same way as application is made for a hotel licence. Similarly, application can be made to transfer a hotel licence from one location to another either for new hotel premises or new tavern premises.

DISCIPLINE AT QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

Mr. LONERGAN: I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Education. As it would appear that the university senate has lost control of a section of students at the university, and owing to the apparent reluctance on the part of the Vice-Chancellor to expel or discipline these irresponsible, scruffy hoodlums, will the Minister consider withdrawing the autonomy that the university now enjoys and bringing it under the direct control of the Education Department?

Mr. FLETCHER: In reply to this very simple question, I may say that I think the hon. member is voicing a disquiet that has already been voiced to me by many people in the community with regard to what seems to be, to put it in very mild terms, a most regrettable departure from standards of good manners and good taste in certain things that have taken place at the university.

Possibly the question has been triggered off by certain incidents that took place at the university yesterday, in which both the Premier and I were concerned. Speaking for myself—and, I think, for the Premier—the things that were said to us were said more or less in good humour. As a matter of fact, the students were reasonably friendly at our corner of the campus, and the things said were much more friendly than things sometimes said in this Chamber. There was no lack of reasonably good manners.

Immediately after, however, accounts of those who saw and heard what happened to our official visitor, the Governor-General, made me feel very disappointed that boys and girls in Queensland should have fallen so far from standards that I think we should be able to expect from people in their position. They should in fact be the standard-setters in matters of good manners and good taste. The things that were said—and I have no doubt at all that the things that I was told were true—made us, as Queenslanders, feel a bit ashamed of ourselves.

The question poses a problem that goes much deeper and wider than just what happened yesterday, and it is much more than a problem that can be dealt with simply by my exercising any authority that I have. Indeed, I might even go so far as to say that I think it is one of the things that is exercising the minds of communities and Governments throughout the entire civilised world. Anyone who thinks that merely doing this or that can solve the problem is kidding himself.

I am not lacking a sincere desire to do something about it, nor does the Government lack a sincere desire to do something in the interests of the higher echelons of education in Queensland. I can assure the hon. member, in terms of the answer that I gave to a question the other day, that the university authorities, too, are deeply concerned about this matter, and they are awaiting the report of the committee on the subject of possibly amending and strengthening the statutes that confer the university's authority. I also can assure the hon. member that my department and I, and the Government, are deeply concerned and in communication with university authorities on the whole matter. But we hope that in our reaction to what are very regrettable lapses from what I call good taste, we will not show a lack of reasonable restraint.

USE OF OBSCENE LANGUAGE BY UNIVERSITY STAFF AND STUDENTS

Mr. HINZE: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Is there any law that permits university students and staff members to yell foul obscenities in the streets and at the university? If so, will he consider amending or repealing such law to place these people on the same basis as all other Queensland citizens?

Mr. HODGES: The use of obscene language in any public place is a breach of the law. However, the campus of the Queensland University is under the control of the senate under the University of Queensland Act.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There are too many unofficial supplementary questions.

Mr. HODGES: To my knowledge, up to date no complaint has been lodged with the police by the senate of the University of Queensland relative to any obscene language used on the campus of the university, either yesterday or on any other day.

Mr. Houston: Couldn't they hear it?

Mr. HODGES: I said that no complaint had been lodged by the senate.

Mr. Houston: Didn't the senate members hear it?

Mr. HODGES: I do not know whether they heard it or not. In my opinion, the lack of action by the senate of the University of Queensland is tantamount to condoning this very unhealthy and obscene practice of discrediting the Queen's representative on the university campus. That takes me back a little further and more or less confirms my previous attitude that the senate of the university needs a little starching up. If they cannot take some action, then the Act should be amended to enable them or some other authority to be given the strength to handle the situation and bring dignity back to the campus.

POLICE CONTROL OF DEMONSTRATIONS

Mr. LLOYD: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: In view of the strength, enthusiasm, courage and tenacity displayed last week-end by a large number of police officers who so forcefully prevented the entry into Toowoomba and later terminated a meeting at the Plainlands Hotel of members of four Brisbane and Gold Coast motorcycle clubs who had been invited to Toowoomba by a local club, will he advise Parliament whether it is the intention of the Police Department to display such admirable qualities against all classes of people, including university students, or is this latter class of people free to use violent and obscene language and actions publicly to convey

mysteriously vague and capricious messages on and off the university campus, as was the case yesterday and on other occasions?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question appears to be of a sarcastic nature, and questions of that nature are not in order.

Mr. LLOYD: I rise to a point of order. The question is not sarcastic.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I will be the judge of that. I will allow the Minister to answer it, and it will be the hon. member's own fault if he receives a similar answer.

Mr. HODGES: The incident involving the motor-cycle clubs referred to by the hon. member is under investigation at the moment. He must agree that the police of Queensland are doing an exceptionally good job in protecting the public of Queensland against any demonstrations, whether by "bikies" or otherwise. If the hon. member cares to place his question on the Business Paper, I shall be glad to give him a fuller answer when I receive a report from the police on the Toowoomba incident.

Mr. LLOYD: I do so accordingly.

PLAGUE PRECAUTIONS AT QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

Mr. HOUGHTON: I ask the Minister for Health: Further to my question on Thursday, 10 September, relative to the matter of the rat and plague regulations at the university, will he advise the House whether the promised investigation has yet been carried out?

Mr. TOOTH: Yes, and my inquiries indicate that the State health authorities have adequate powers to enforce the anti-plague regulations on the university campus, as elsewhere. I think I should comment in passing, however, that the university authorities make full and adequate provision for the removal of refuse and litter from the campus, irrespective of who is responsible for creating it.

RAIL-FREIGHT CONCESSIONS

Mr. MARGINSON: I ask the Minister for Transport the following question: Is it a fact that the procedure of publishing rail-freight concessions was discontinued in 1959 following discussions by the present Treasurer and Sir Thomas Hiley, who was then a member of this Parliament, with private companies concerning donations to Liberal Party funds?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question appears to be supplementary to one that was answered yesterday. If the hon. member is desirous of asking a supplementary question he must do so on the same day. The question is out of order.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. LEE: I direct a question without notice to the Treasurer. In view of the increases announced by the tariff insurance companies in comprehensive motor vehicle insurance premiums, can the Treasurer indicate what will be the position relative to State Government Insurance Office premiums?

Mr. CHALK: When I learned yesterday afternoon of the announcement made by the Insurance Commissioner I immediately communicated with the General Manager of the S.G.I.O., seeking certain information, which was in the course of preparation, on the financial position of the S.G.I.O. relative to this type of insurance. That information is being prepared. I have certain knowledge in relation to it and I believe it will be necessary for the S.G.I.O. to increase its premium rates but that such rates will be considerably lower than those of the tariff companies.

SENATORS KEEFFE AND GEORGES

Mr. LEE: I direct my next question to the Premier. Has his attention been drawn to the report in "The Courier-Mail" this morning to the effect that Commonwealth police intend interviewing the former A.L.P. president, Senator Keeffe, about a statement he allegedly made at a moratorium rally? Is the Premier also aware of recent newspaper reports relating to the part that A.L.P. Senator Georges played in last Friday's moratorium march and also his activities at the rally on The Spit at Southport last Sunday? Can the Premier tell this House if there is any action that the Government can take against these two men for their subversive activities?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am glad that the hon. member has raised this question. While matters relating to the Crimes Act and the National Service Act are essentially a Commonwealth responsibility, I must say that I am astonished that the A.L.P. should countenance in its ranks two senators who are paid by the Commonwealth to uphold our laws and our free way of life and who spend a great deal of their time promoting disloyalty to the ideals and laws of this country. It is revealing to see their association with organisations that are either infiltrated or dominated by Communist influence. To name but a few of them, I might mention that, in the last two years, Senator Georges has been an active participant in the Brisbane branch of the Australian-U.S.S.R. Society. Hon. members do not need to be reminded of the interests and activities of that society. He has also been closely associated with and active in the conference to end the Vietnam war, which is the front of another Communist body, the Peace Council. He has been actively associated, too, with the Brisbane Committee for Democracy in Greece, another Communist society. He has actively assisted in the organisation of two Vietnam

moratorium campaigns. These are just a few of the things with which Senator Georges, who has changed his name three times, has been associated.

A brief outline of Senator Keeffe's anti-democratic activities also must be of interest to the House. In 1967 he was a speaker at an all-night vigil outside the American Consulate in Melbourne, an anti-Vietnam demonstration. That is a very fine thing for a senator of the Commonwealth to be associated with! Hon. members will recall his attendance at an inter-racial seminar in Townsville and what he did there allegedly in the interests of peace, law and order. In the same year he participated in the Hiroshima rally, which was organised by the Queensland Peace Council. I have already indicated that that is a Communist body. In 1968 he was associated with the Civil Liberties March in Brisbane, which, of course, was infiltrated by Communists. Senator Keeffe has also been actively associated with two Vietnam moratorium demonstrations this year. As well, he has promised his wholehearted support for the "treason room" in Townsville.

Surely the foregoing is a sickening survey of the activities of two members of the Federal Parliament, who are supposed to have at heart in the Commonwealth sphere the welfare and interest of this State. I give the hon. member for Yeronga, the House, and the electors at large, an assurance that these subversive elements will be watched closely by my Government in the future and that their activities against decency and democracy will be exposed.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I direct a question without notice to the Treasurer. It is not similar to the Dorothy Dixier just addressed to the Premier. Will the Treasurer table in this Parliament the submissions presented by the insurance companies to the Insurance Commissioner to justify the 20 per cent. increase in comprehensive motor vehicle insurance rates announced yesterday? If not, why not?

Mr. CHALK: In reply to the hon. gentleman, I suggest that he get a new brief. The papers he refers to are not submitted to me.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: When the Treasurer finds out about this, I hope he will table the document.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Tablelands.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I direct the question to the Minister for Labour and Tourism.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! When I have called on another member to ask a question, will the hon. member for Mourilyan please refrain from interrupting.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I am sorry.

BOOKSTALLS, ROMA STREET RAILWAY STATION

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH: I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Transport. As three weeks have elapsed since the Minister said that he would expedite negotiations to have the bookstalls on the Roma Street railway station platform reopened, will he indicate what has been done and when it is expected that the stalls will be reopened?

Mr. KNOX: The negotiations have been completed, to my knowledge, and the stalls should be functioning normally in future.

BRISBANE MEAT DELIVERIES

Mr. HUGHES: I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: Since my requests dating back a few years for adequate hygienic methods of delivery of meat for human consumption in the metropolitan area, has the Minister checked allegations that meat-delivery trucks cause traffic hazards by double parking and off-loading uncovered meat which is subject to contamination by dust, fumes and flies, and will the Minister inform the House of any progress made in the promised investigation of this matter?

Mr. ROW: The question asked by the hon. member is becoming a hardy annual. I can assure him that I have had this matter investigated. The covering of meat by polythene, stockingette, or any other material would add to the cost of meat and would be paid for by the public. We are endeavouring to have a rear entrance provided at butcher shops so that there will be no congestion in public thoroughfares. The covering of meat and the opening and closing of truck doors are under consideration all the time, and, to date, no better method of delivery of meat has been evolved.

ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

Mr. TUCKER: I ask the Minister for Local Government: Has a price been negotiated with Utah Development Co. for the bulk supply of electricity to Goonyella? If so, will the rises in bulk tariffs applicable to people in the Northern Electric Authority area apply to that particular contract?

Mr. RAE: I thank the hon. member for his question. This matter is still under consideration. As soon as I am in a position to give a more detailed answer, I shall do so.

Mr. TUCKER: I ask the Minister a supplementary question: Are all intended electricity price rises referred to him for confirmation or otherwise?

Mr. RAE: Yes.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I ask the Minister for Labour and Tourism: Will he table in this Parliament the submissions presented by insurance companies to the Insurance Commissioner to justify the 20 per cent. increase in motor-vehicle comprehensive insurance rates announced yesterday, and will he table at the same time the statistics presented by insurance companies to the Insurance Commissioner to justify the loading on motorists under 25 years of age, and if not, why not?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There is no necessity for the final words of the question. I have ruled previously that they are out of order.

Mr. HERBERT: It is a confidential document, and the answer is "No."

VIETNAM MORATORIUM DEMONSTRATION,
SOUTHPORT SPIT

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Premier a question without notice. In view of the Premier's statement last week that a moratorium meeting and a mock battle would not be held on the sand dunes at Southport last Sunday, where did his Government fail, as this moratorium function was allowed to proceed? Did the Minister for Lands become caught up in his own administration?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I do not want to go into lengthy details of the Government's activity in relation to the moratorium as a whole, and the very satisfactory arrangements that the Government made under which a very law-abiding march took place. In relation to the hon. member's question, I spoke in terms of the necessity for permission to be given by the Minister for Lands, and no permission was given by him.

BEAN PRICES

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Premier a further question without notice. Is the Premier aware of the fact that bean-growers in the Bundaberg area, who grow approximately half the frozen-pack beans consumed in Australia, receive 5c to 6c a lb., out of which they pay 2½c to 3c a lb. for picking? As the present retail price for frozen-pack beans is 15c a half-pound, not including the 30 per cent. to 100 per cent. intended price increase, will the Premier take cognisance of this fact in his endeavour to obtain a just price for growers?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question appears to be directed to the wrong Minister, but I shall allow the Premier to answer it.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: As far as I know, the answer is that the beans are grown under contract.

Mr. Jensen: Yes, but the growers want a fair price for them.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION, UNIVERSITY
FUNCTION

Mr. BALDWIN: I ask the Deputy Premier a question without notice. In view of the cordial reception, the attentive hearing and the intelligent questions and discussion that he and I experienced last Tuesday week at a university lunch-time forum, will he write a letter of appreciation, including my thanks, to the University of Queensland Students' Union?

Mr. CHALK: In reply to the hon. member, surely he can write his own letters. He was a school-teacher for a number of years, and I am certain that he can write his own letters. I agree with him that the university students were quite cordial, and if they asked me to go back again to speak to them, I would do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am afraid that, because of the number of questions asked, question time has expired.

Mr. R. Jones: It is not an allotted day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The allotted hour has concluded.

PREPARED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr. R. JONES: I seek your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on a matter of procedure. Is it permissible for Ministers to read from prepared notes when answering questions without notice?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The point raised by the hon. member refers to question time, and I am afraid that it, too, will have to be postponed till tomorrow morning.

FORM OF QUESTIONS

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question appears to be more of a speech than a question. I shall have a look at it. It appears to contain too much superfluous material.

Mr. Aikens: I shall be very happy to leave it to your judgment.

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) proceeding to give notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is repeating a question that he asked yesterday. If it is not the same question, it is very similar.

Mr. MELLOY: It is not the same.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will listen to the question. If it is of a similar nature it is out of order.

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. For the last two weeks we have heard a lot of tripe from the Government on the Vietnam moratorium and those interested in it.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I trust that the Leader of the Opposition is not alluding to the question as being tripe. The connection may be an unfortunate one.

Mr. MELLOY having completed notice of the question—

Mr. SPEAKER: There appears to be quite a deal of similarity in the question. I will have a good look at it.

Mr. HUGHES (Kurilpa) having given notice of a question—

Mr. Aikens: The answer is "No."

Mr. HUGHES: I know the answer, but I hoped I might get somewhere with this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member knows the answer to the question he should not ask it.

Mr. HUGHES: I want the public to be more fully informed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I point out to all hon. members that if a member is already aware of the answer to a question, it is completely out of order for him to pose the question in the House.

ADDITIONAL SITTING DAY

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

"That, during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Friday in each week, in addition to the days already provided by Sessional Orders, and that Government business do take precedence on that day."

Motion agreed to.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Dr. Delamothe, read a third time.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

MT. GRAVATT SHOWGROUND

Mr. CHINCHEN (Mt. Gravatt) (12.7 p.m.): The matter of public importance that I raise today is one that affects the people of Brisbane in particular. I refer to the eroding of public parks in this city.

This is a matter of concern to a great many people in Brisbane, and their concern has been increased by the proposed ordinance submitted to the Government by the Brisbane City Council. If that ordinance is approved by the Government or the Governor in Council, the Brisbane City Council will have enormous powers. It will be able to do whatever it wishes with the open spaces in the city.

I should like to raise now the question of the Mt. Gravatt Showground. I crave the understanding of the hon. member for Belmont in this regard, because I should say that an equal number of people from his electorate and from my electorate would use this open space. Although I know that, technically, the land is located within the hon. gentleman's electorate, I think this is a question on which he would not mind my speaking on this occasion.

To give the background of the Mt. Gravatt Show Society, I should like to quote from what probably would have been a Press statement written in 1963 by Mr. Sid Lanham, who is well known to the hon. member for Belmont and myself and who was an executive member of the Mt. Gravatt Agricultural, Industrial and Horticultural Society for, I think, over 40 years. It is of particular interest in view of the difficulties in which the society now finds itself as a result of the actions of the Brisbane City Council. The piece of paper that I have before me contains a copy, typed in 1963, of the Press statement to which I referred. It is headed "Mount Gravatt Show—1915 to 1963". It says—

"The first Show of the Mt. Gravatt Show Society was held on the 23rd October, 1915, by the pioneers of the Mt. Gravatt District."

Later it says—

"The Mt. Gravatt Show Society held the first show in the Mt. Gravatt State School and the ring events were held in the adjoining paddock owned by the late C. C. James and was opened by the late Hon. W. A. Tennon, then Minister for Agriculture in the Queensland Parliament. The credit balance from that show was £15. After the second show, which was held in the same location, the present Showgrounds of 20 acres were secured and ten acres were cleared and stumped and a proper show ring prepared. This work being carried out by the pioneers of the District, not with bulldozers and graders; but with picks and shovels and horses and ploughs and harrows. In 1918 the first Show was held in the present grounds, the exhibits being staged in a large marquee and the poultry and dogs out in the open. Unfortunately for the Society it rained on that day."

A little later—

"In February 1931, the old Mt. Gravatt School buildings were purchased; moved and rebuilt on the Show Grounds and was used as a Fine Arts, Cookery and Needlework Pavilion until it was made into the dining hall."

Again, and this is very important—

"In 1937 the Brisbane City Council took over the Show Ground at the Committee's request on the understanding that it should liquidate the bank overdraft of £450, make the necessary improvements to the grounds and buildings three weeks of the year for Show purposes, to ensure that the Show Society had a permanent home for the conduction of their Shows, and in 1940 we celebrated our Silver Jubilee with a two day Show."

The conclusion of the statement is—

"After 48 years the Mt. Gravatt Show Society has played a leading part in the advancement of the District, shows have been held every year with the exception of 1926 and the 5 years the grounds were occupied by the Allied Forces and we look forward to this 1963 Show, which is our 43rd Show with confidence."

My point is that the Brisbane City Council, in its wisdom, has decided to sell 12½ acres of this land, which, as may be seen from what I have said, was literally purchased by it for \$900. It is selling for over \$1,000,000 possibly less than half the land it bought in 1937 for \$900.

This ground used by the Agricultural Society also housed such organisations as the Caged Bird Society, the Lapidary Club, the Pony Club, Girl Guides, Marching Girls, the Mt. Gravatt Youth Club and so on. Organisations of this type used these facilities. It was a public area that could be used at the public's will and, unfortunately, the Brisbane City Council has decided to sell approximately half of it. This means that the show society must shift elsewhere.

I understand that legally the action of the city council is quite correct, but morally I think it is entirely wrong. It might be said that the showground is not of great aesthetic value, but it is open space for the people. And we must remember that this district could become a high-density residential area in the future when open space will be even more important than it is today.

The next question raised is, what happens to the show society? The Brisbane City Council decided that the society should move to what is known as Mt. Gravatt Park. It is an open, undeveloped area, but there is a beautiful subdivisional development on one or two sides of it. A showground there, with its enclosing fences, would be offensive to many of the residents, and this is understandable. Out of the \$1,000,000

the council is receiving for the portion to be sold, surely it could have provided suitable space, out on its own, for use by the Agricultural Society. However, it wants to thrust it into Mt. Gravatt Park, where, of course, it will create problems for people in the district.

My worry is that under the proposed ordinances of the Brisbane City Council the Lord Mayor can take unto himself enormous powers. At present, he cannot use open space at will.

Mr. Hughes: Is he working under these new ordinances?

Mr. CHINCHEN: Under the new ordinances, "Existing Open Space" is zoned for—

"(a) Any purpose for which any part of a park or recreation reserve is leased, let, licensed, or otherwise made available by the Council to any person."

Most people think that existing open space can only be used as parks and gardens because it is still the same on the Town Plan. These people, not having seen the proposed new ordinances, do not realise that almost overnight the Lord Mayor will be able to use these open-space areas almost at his discretion. He can use them for any purpose for which part of a park or recreation reserve is leased, let, licensed or otherwise made available by the council to any person. This matter is quite serious and should be brought to the public's attention.

I was pleased to learn that, in writing to a gentleman in my electorate, the Minister for Local Government said—

"It is acknowledged that I am not prepared to recommend to the Governor in Council that the Brisbane City Council be vested with power to use or permit the use of land zoned for Open Space purposes for a particular use at the discretion of the Council."

That is very reassuring, but in "The Courier-Mail" of 15 September it is reported that some arrangements have been made that will allow a reversion to the suggestions made in the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Porter: Has the Minister switched his ground?

Mr. CHINCHEN: I do not think for a moment that he has. I hope that the Press report is incorrect. People must be able to control their own destiny. The situation could be met by having open space zoned in four ways, to let the public know where they stand. The four zones that I suggest are—

1. Parks and gardens, which should be sacrosanct;
2. Open recreational areas;
3. Closed recreational areas; and

4. Small community areas for the use of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, pensioners, kindergartens, bowling clubs and so on.

Nobody objects to an open space being created, but nobody likes to think that he has closed ground in an area where he expects parks and gardens. Of paramount importance is the interest of the people, not the machinery of the City Hall. It is all very well for the Council to have these discretionary powers, but the public should be able to object when rezoning occurs. We realise that rezoning is necessary and that a certain amount of both open recreational area and closed recreational area is required; however, the residents of the district in which the rezoning is to occur must have the right to object. Finally, of course, the Governor in Council must approve.

If my suggestion is implemented, the residents of my area will have security. If the suggested ordinance becomes law nobody will know from one moment to the next whether or not he will have a park, a garden, an open recreational area, a closed recreational area, or a Scout hut or Guide hut next door to him. Undoubtedly all those areas and amenities are necessary, but people should be allowed to express their wishes on the matter. I have raised it this afternoon because I consider it to be of such great importance.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) (12.18 p.m.): I rise to speak on a matter that is obviously one of public interest to Queenslanders, namely, the increase of up to 20 per cent. in car insurance premiums, which will apply from 1 November. It is symptomatic of the uncontrolled inflation and profiteering that is occurring in the community under this Government that above the headline in to-day's issue of "The Courier-Mail" stating that car insurance rates would rise, there appear the words "Today's 'Ups'", as if it is commonplace that under this Government the public will be touched in one direction or another, whether on frozen foods, car insurance or something else.

Let us consider what the Queensland motorist must feel in the light of the proposed increases. We know that Ronald Biggs, one of the Great Train robbers, is still free. Whether or not he is still in this country we do not know, but surely the motorist must feel that he is master-minding motor vehicle insurance in this State and that this Government is happy to let him do so. Some people might even think he is a bit of an amateur when compared with the insurance companies.

I wish to deal with the history of motor vehicle insurance since 1964. On 1 November of that year, a 15 per cent. over-all increase applied to motor vehicle insurance. On 1 September, 1966, the Government

approved increases of 25 per cent. in the comprehensive rates on wholly-owned vehicles and of 10 per cent. on vehicles under hire-purchase. The insurance companies had scarcely finished printing their new tables when the Government was "at it" again with them. On 1 February, 1967, the Government introduced the new sliding-scale system, and, no matter what the Government might say, that scheme meant higher premiums for most Queensland motorists. Then in May, 1968, the Government gave its blessing to a 25 per cent. increase on certain high-powered models of motor vehicles. On top of this, of course, a discriminatory loading is placed on all motorists under 25 years of age. It is accentuated by little addendums that are circulated every now and again by motor vehicle insurance companies.

Today the Insurance Commissioner announced that car insurance premiums for most Queensland owners will increase by 20 per cent. over all for private cars and 8 per cent. for business cars. The increase will hit owners of sports cars the hardest, which indicates once again what a shemuzzle the insurance system is in.

In 1967 the Insurance Commissioner approved new categories under the safety record plan, yet "Sunday Truth" of 20 September, 1970, carried a headline "Confusion over Car Insurance". We have all heard of the traditional, little old lady who drives her car at no more than 35 miles an hour, and does not leave the bitumen, but this article refers to a mild-mannered, middle-aged lady—her daughter complained that she drove too slowly—whose eye was taken by a nice little Japanese car. It went on—

"The new car was a delight—until the insurance man stepped in and declared it a sports car.

"Category 4 for insurance, he said.

"This meant her comprehensive car insurance rose from \$33 a year to \$75 . . .

"The \$75 was with a lengthy no-claim bonus."

The lady jumped away from that insurance company and tried another, which said that the car definitely came in Category 2. That put the insurance premium at about \$75, without no-claim bonuses. Heartened somewhat, she tried a third company and, believe it or not, she was told it came in Category 1, which brought the premium back to \$33 a year. That is what is happening in Queensland, under this Government, with the well-organised insurance companies. The confusion leaves a motorist without knowledge of whether he is being touched or not. And we are not given any effective statistics, although the Leader of the Opposition has repeatedly sought an all-party parliamentary select committee, with the powers of Parliament, to call evidence and request papers and statistics from insurance companies in

order to determine whether a valid case exists for increasing motor vehicle insurance premiums.

This morning, the member for Mourilyan asked the Minister for Labour and Tourism to table the information placed before the Insurance Commissioner that led him to approve of the new increases, but he was told it was confidential. It does not seem to matter that it is of vital importance to the people who are paying, that is, the motorists and others who insure. The only things that are not secret or confidential to this Government are the family budget and the wallets of ordinary Queenslanders who are called upon continually to pay increased prices for this, that and the other.

I repeat that the public is not given any facts and is being left with confusing announcements by the Insurance Commissioner. On this occasion I hope that he will do what he did in 1967—perhaps a little belatedly—and present more detailed explanations relative to the background of these increased rates, and how they are to apply, because they are shrouded in confusion.

Some insurance companies, including the S.G.I.O., make quite a point of advertising that a motorist who is involved in an accident that is not his fault, will not be penalised by being put into a higher category. I have not sufficient time to outline the case put before me by a Crown servant who was insured with the S.G.I.O., whose car was hit by another that came through a give-way sign. When he made a claim, he was quite content because he felt sure that he was covered by an assurance from the S.G.I.O. that he would not be penalised. However, the reply he received pointed out to him—

“In your case your vehicle was damaged in a two moving vehicle collision and it is admitted that the other driver apparently did not heed the give way sign and would be held mostly at fault.

“However, for insurance purposes in collisions of this nature it is not possible that all the fault rests on the other driver and that you were entirely blameless. As the driver with the right-of-way you are required to have your vehicle under control at all times and be able to avoid emergencies.

“Under the circumstances your claim has received the partial blame category . . . ”

He was put into a higher category although he took out insurance on the understanding that, in a clear-cut case of someone coming through a give-way sign and bashing into him, he would be held to be blameless on a reasonable assessment of the situation. I say, in all fairness, that the S.G.I.O. operates as efficiently as any other office in the State in determining whether motorists are to blame, but it has made a feature of blame-free motoring relative to insurance claims and the

motorist is without recourse and cannot appeal to anyone. If he approaches the Insurance Commissioner he is told that the matter does not come under his authority; that he does not stipulate the details of concessions that are made; that his authority extends only to approvals such as he has announced today.

Then we come to the cost of repairs. It is claimed that insurance rates are being increased because repair costs are rising and that, therefore, the car repairers are to blame. Yet we find in this morning's “Courier-Mail”—

“However, a leading Brisbane car repairman said, ‘Don't believe the insurance companies when they try to tell you these increased premiums are caused by the high cost of repairs. My wages bill has gone up five per cent. in the last year. My returns have increased only two per cent.’”

The following appears in “The Sunday Mail”, dated 20 September—

“Car smash repairs will cost you more if you pay for the damage yourself instead of claiming on an insurance policy.

“And estimates for exactly the same job on a damaged car can vary between \$255 and \$401.”

Mr. Pillsworth, general manager of the R.A.C.Q., in today's “Courier-Mail” rightly expressed concern because, as a result of the run-on of increasing insurance costs to motorists, who have been hit by the Federal Government in every direction, such as increased petrol tax, many people are not covering themselves by taking out comprehensive motor vehicle insurance. This applies particularly to those who have older vehicles. They say, “My car is not worth very much.” They do not bother insuring themselves. They overlook the possibility that they could cause extensive damage to a Mercedes Benz or another expensive car and be liable for that damage. This is a very unhealthy situation, to say the least. And what is the Government doing about it? Absolutely nothing!

I do not want to reflect on the Insurance Commissioner in any way. Whenever we complain about matters that come within the administrative responsibility of appointed public servants, the Government tries to shake off its responsibility by saying that it is purely a matter for a certain public servant, in this case the Insurance Commissioner. I think that we have gone past that stage and that the Government must appoint a parliamentary select committee which would be able to have all the information presented to it.

On 23 July I asked the Treasurer the position in the State Government Insurance Office. I was grateful to receive, at least, an open admission from him that he would not approve an increase in the premiums charged by the S.G.I.O. if a satisfactory

profit was being recorded by that office. I hope to have an opportunity, in the Budget debate, to deal in more detail with the profit recorded by that office on comprehensive motor vehicle insurance. I do not accept the figure given to me. I asked the Treasurer for a break-down of the under-writing surplus on comprehensive motor vehicle insurance written by the S.G.I.O. and he gave me the figure of \$48,713 for 1969. I point out that, because of certain difficulties, the Auditor-General has not yet been able to give us a report on the S.G.I.O., so how can the Insurance Commissioner get any reasonable information?

(Time expired.)

MINING PERMITS

Mr. MULLER (Fassifern) (12.28 p.m.): I rise to bring to public notice some of the unfortunate experiences of people in obtaining permits to enter land for mining purposes.

Last Friday morning one of my constituents—a very disillusioned, frustrated and irate gentleman—appeared at my desk in this House. He said, "I have tremendous problems this morning." I said, "What are they?" He put the matter right on the line immediately. He said, "My permit to enter private land has been declared invalid." I shall relate as quickly as possible the story he told me. He advised me that the permit to enter was being granted to a new applicant, namely, New Resources Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Murphysores. This permit was to cover the 585 acres 10 perches of land which was initially covered by his permit.

During the past six to eight months I had been in contact with this gentleman on many occasions. He assumed he had mineral on his property that could be of some commercial value, and appealed to me for advice. I say quite sincerely that he is a very honest gentleman. I have known him for a number of years, and I am quite convinced that his story will stand up to any investigation. He said, "What have I got to do?" I came out into the open and said, "I don't know. I shall contact the Department of Mines and I will then be in a position to advise you." He was advised that he must apply for a permit to enter private land—his own land. His initial application was made on 24 December, 1969. It was granted for 30 days, which carried him through to 22 January, 1970.

To cut a long story short, we are not concerned about what happened between that period and when he appeared at my office last week. I have with me evidence indicating that he has at all times kept his permits current. He did not run into any bother until last week, when he appeared in my office and said to me, "My permit has been declared invalid." I said, "Have you observed the regulations?" He said, "Yes,

I have at all times kept my permit current. Here is the evidence." I have that document with me, and it is available for perusal by any member. The permit is dated 4 September, and it expires on 8 October. It is signed by K. L. Hall, Mining Warden at Ipswich, which is the district in which the mining lease in question is situated. I said, "What's wrong with it?" He said, "My claim has been 'jumped', and my permit has been cancelled."

I felt obliged to obtain information on this matter, so I contacted the Department of Mines. I was informed by that department that a technicality was involved, of which neither this gentleman nor I had been previously advised. I was informed that if this man's permit expired on 8 September, the date shown on the previous permit, this man's only sin was applying for the new permit on 4 September, four days ahead of time. Had the position been reversed and the application made two days late, and a submission had been made by one of the companies, I would have said, "That is plain bad luck." However, here is the evidence, signed by K. L. Hall, Mining Warden, Ipswich.

On 20 July, as a result of attempts to conduct investigations on the property over which he held the lease, this gentleman became rather concerned and appealed to me for assistance. He asked me if I felt he was completely covered. Once again I came out in the open with him; I feel that there is nothing wrong in anyone saying he does not know the answers if he is not in a position to supply the information required. He asked me to make an appointment for him with the Under Secretary of the Department of Mines. I did so, and during the interview he submitted through the Under Secretary an application for a permit to prospect. No opposition was raised to the application at the time, but he did not receive the permit.

I raised the matter with the Minister for Mines, who told me that a considerable amount of work is involved in the processing of these applications and there was a distinct possibility that the permit would not be issued for six months.

This has been the experience of this man, and I can assure the House he is most disturbed and unhappy. I have followed his case right through, and I am right on his side. It has been suggested that perhaps he should have taken out a mining lease. Here again a considerable sum of money is involved. He is a man with no previous knowledge of minerals or mining, and when he sought my advice I said to him, "This is an entirely new venture. My advice, if it is worth anything, is not to rush in until you are satisfied of the potential of the locality." That is what he has done, and this is the cause of the delay.

I have a sheaf of documents concerning this case with me, and they are available for perusal by any members on both sides of the House who may be prepared to promote the cause of this honest gentleman. I will not let the documents go out of my possession, but that is the position. He made representations to many mining companies, and the very mining company that made application for a permit for the land that it now holds, which by right is his land, is one to which he sent a sample of ore. He wanted to get some indication of the value of the material.

Mr. Casey: Has this mining company any other leases in the area, or is it just picking this one out?

Mr. MULLER: I am not aware of the leases that it has. There are very few mining leases in my locality. As far as I know, this is the first interest the company has shown in the locality. It was attracted to this territory when the gentleman concerned sent it a sample of ore for assessment.

This is iniquitous and completely wrong. It certainly is not in accord with my interpretation of British justice, and I believe that I am under an obligation to request on behalf of this man that the Minister take action to review the Mining Act and see that justice is done.

PRICE INCREASES

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) (12.37 p.m.): It must be a matter for some concern that today the Opposition is called upon to raise two matters of public importance, each of which is an attack on the already eroded pay-packets of the people of Queensland.

I support the submission relative to car insurance made by my colleague the hon. member for Baroona by bringing to the attention of the House the commercial banditry that is occurring as a result of the decision of the Commonwealth Quick Frozen Fruit and Vegetables Association to increase out of all proportion the cost to the public of its products. There is no doubt that the actions of that association quite clearly involve the principle of a private price-fixing arrangement, and I wonder just how long this pilfering and plundering of the public purse will continue before the Government does anything positive about it.

We have had in office for about 13 years a Government which very early in its career abandoned the principle of price control in this State. As a sop to its conscience, it set up the Prices Advisory Board, but when that board recommended the retention of price control on certain commodities, the Government immediately cut its head off and it has not met since then. The whole process has gone on under Country-Liberal Governments

for 13 or 14 years, and this week has possibly been the bleakest week in the whole era of Country-Liberal Governments in this State.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: What about South Australia?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I will deal with South Australia. There has been talk of anarchy and the subversive activities of unionists who are forced by sheer necessity to approach the arbitration courts for increases in wages; yet we have not heard anything from the very hysterical, McCarthy-like members such as the hon. member for Yeronga about the subversive element in the community that pilfers and plunders the public purse without reference to any tribunal, which meets in secret, makes decisions, and then imposes on the long-suffering public its will in regard to prices. Organisations such as these are holding the public to ransom, and there is no-one to whom the long-suffering public can appeal for assistance.

All that has come out of the present dispute is the promise that the Premier will investigate the matter. I remember quite clearly when the Liberal Party Convention was held at the university that the Liberals themselves were concerned at what was happening with prices in this State. The Deputy Premier promised to investigate the whole matter, but nothing whatever has been heard of that investigation. I want to know how much longer this is to continue. There is no doubt, as indicated in "The Courier-Mail" of a couple of days ago, that there is collusion on the question of frozen-food prices.

Over the years, this Government has harped about the need to preserve healthy competition. This myth has been exploded from time to time when certain organisations have acted in collusion on the prices of various commodities. In "The Courier-Mail" of 8 August, 1970, there was a substantial list—I am not going to waste the time of the House by going through it—of grocery prices that "reflected one of the greatest jumps for some weeks", according to retail and wholesale circles. The list contained such things as Kelloggs' Corn Flakes, Rice Bubbles, Puffed Wheat and so on down a list of commodities essential to a growing family. Now, on top of that, come these increases in the prices of frozen foods.

At the present time, Opposition to such a move can come only through buyer resistance. Already various organisations are advising housewives that the only way to combat these increases is by refusing to buy the commodities. Quite frankly, I do not think that is the answer although no frozen vegetables will come into my home in future even if I have to peel the beans myself. Whilst this might be said in a spirit of levity, I nevertheless ask the Government what it is prepared to do about the matter.

Let us look at what happened at the last State election. The Government plucked out of the air a promise to set up a consumers' protection council in Queensland. Hon. members opposite waved the banner and promised that if the Government was re-elected it would institute a consumers' protection council. It is strange that after 12 years of Government hon. members should suddenly find that, having abandoned price control and because of a situation brought on by pegged wages and uncontrolled living costs, it was necessary to set up a consumers' protection council. Of course, this was purely kite-flying. It is obvious that the promise was plucked out of the air on the eve of an election, because 18 months after that election this House has still not seen any legislation for setting up a consumers' protection council. After the election, the Government itself had to set up a committee to see what was wrong with a system with which it should have been *au fait* because it was of its own making.

Let us now look at some of the comments that have been made since the Commonwealth Quick Frozen Fruit and Vegetables Association made its decision. Mr. Henderson, manager of Nifty Thrifty Stores, said that the only people to suffer from the orderly marketing plan would be the public. I could not agree with him more. Mr. Black, of the Queensland Food Retailers' Consultative Council, said that the price increase was not a result of anything the retailers had done. Mr. Barry, managing director of Barry & Roberts Ltd. and Retailers' Association president, said that the increase was a "bit steep". That, of course, would be the understatement of the year.

Surely it must be obvious that this is commercial banditry in its worst form. The hon. member for Chatsworth asked, "What about South Australia?" The Commonwealth Restrictive Trade Practices Commissioner investigated this matter and said that only South Australia and Tasmania had complementary legislation to make control effective.

An Opposition Member: Both Labour Governments.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: That is quite true. The sad feature is that although the Commonwealth Government has been prepared to introduce legislation it will prove to be completely futile unless the States follow that example. Owing to this Government's anti-trade union attitude and anti-people complex, it is not prepared to act in a statesmanlike manner and give to the people of this State a just return for the wealth that they produce. Certainly the price increase is not to the consumers' benefit.

In this Chamber we have heard the Premier say that he has a very poor opinion of trade unions that seek increases in wages, and we have heard him condemn the unions for going on strike, and, as he claims, holding

the public to ransom. We have heard that expression a thousand times in this Chamber. Is not this organisation holding the public to ransom? It is thumbing its nose at authority.

(Time expired.)

LAND RESUMPTIONS, BRISBANE

Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (12.46 p.m.): The question mark in the minds of the people of Brisbane about the new Town Plan has not been erased by the headline that appeared in this morning's issue of "The Courier-Mail", namely, "Agreement is 'likely soon' on Town Plan".

Mr. Hughes: A lot of problems still have to be worked out.

Mr. MILLER: There are a lot of problems. The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt has brought before the Chamber a very important matter that needs careful consideration by the Government before it can reach agreement with the city council on the new Town Plan.

Tremendous pressure will be brought to bear upon open space in Brisbane in years to come. It has been estimated that before 1980 the population of Brisbane will reach 1,000,000, and that before the year 2000 it will rise to 2,000,000. It has been claimed that Brisbane has large areas of land reserved for open spaces. What must concern us is not so much the area of land but its situation. Large areas of land have been set aside in the outer suburbs, but very little has been set aside in the inner suburbs. At present the Brisbane City Council is closing showgrounds and selling land at a high figure. To satisfy people who have lost the Mt. Gravatt showground the council is considering fencing in open spaces for the showground organisers. This will cause a severe shortage of open space in Mt. Gravatt. I understand that the Lord Mayor is considering similar action in the Kalinga and Shaw Park area. This matter is very serious and warrants the support of keen conservationists, like the hon. member for Salisbury. No-one doubts his sincerity in the matter of conservation, but I have not heard him state exactly where he and the A.L.P. stand on the matter of closing open spaces in Brisbane.

Mr. Lee: He would not be prepared to buck the party machine.

Mr. MILLER: I hope that he is prepared to do so and that he will say where he stands on this important matter. I do not doubt his sincerity as a conservationist. He has worked very hard to help preserve Cooloola. However, the people of Brisbane are as concerned about open spaces in their city as they are about Cooloola. We must preserve Cooloola, and we must preserve open spaces in Brisbane, particularly

those in the outer suburbs. I hope that the A.L.P., and particularly the hon. member for Salisbury, will say where they stand on this matter.

Another matter that comes to mind is the charge of \$40 that the Brisbane City Council imposes on a subdivider for each building block. A huge amount of money is collected by the Brisbane City Council for open spaces. The council is destroying open spaces, but it is still taking money from the subdividers. I should like the Minister for Local Government to ask the council what it is doing with the money. I should also like the Wildlife and Preservation Society to declare itself very much on side with the people of Mt. Gravatt and Kalinga and other people in Brisbane who look like losing their open spaces. That society can play a very important part in the development of Brisbane. We should be increasing the area of land and the number of open spaces where our children can play. We certainly should not be reducing the number or area.

The Brisbane City Council is considering resuming land from 17 people in the Paddington zone of my electorate. The area to be resumed is big enough for a small park, and it is in a district totally without parks.

Mr. Davis: Why don't you wake up to yourself about the city council? You have had enough to say about it.

Mr. MILLER: If the hon. member for Brisbane thinks that open spaces in inner suburbs, such as Paddington and other old areas, are not required, I suggest that he examine statistics relative to Brisbane in the year 2000.

Much more money will be required to purchase this land when buildings are erected on it. It could make a beautiful park but the council has announced that it intends to resume the land for redevelopment for residential and roadway purposes. The council intends to build more houses in this densely populated area. I should like this land to be resumed from these people, who are quite happy to sell it, for use as open space in this densely populated area.

I am very concerned about the council's attitude when resuming land. The Department of Main Roads negotiates with Brisbane people before resuming their land, but the city council does not. On 16 July this year the council wrote to all the owners of this land in Paddington, pointing out that the council desired to acquire it for redevelopment for residential and roadway purposes. The last paragraph of the letter states—

"A Council officer will call on you at an early date to discuss the matter, and it would be appreciated if you would advise, as soon as possible of details of the compensation which you propose to claim in this matter."

But an officer of the council has not called on these people. Instead, on 31 July, they received notice of resumption from the Brisbane City Council. As the people were told on 16 July that an officer of the council would call to discuss the matter—they own the land—surely the land should not be confiscated by the city council. Is this Brisbane, or is it the Soviet?

Mr. Hughes: They are riding roughshod over the rights of the people.

Mr. MILLER: They are riding roughshod, indeed. It is a very serious matter.

Before the Minister for Local Government agrees to the new Town Plan submitted by the Brisbane City Council, he will have to give this matter very serious consideration. I doubt that any member of this Assembly would agree to the Brisbane City Council saying to him, "I am going to resume your land".

Mr. Hanson: The Railway Department does it.

Mr. MILLER: The Railway Department negotiates, as does the Government, when it wishes to resume land. It does not adopt the shocking attitude of the Brisbane City Council.

I now wish to bring to the attention of hon. members a resumption of land in the Milton area. This land has been resumed by the Brisbane City Council to widen a roadway in Milton. Nobody objects to its doing that. But again there has been no talk of compensation.

Mr. Bromley interjected.

Mr. MILLER: If the hon. member for Norman thinks that the people of Brisbane are receiving unfair compensation from the Main Roads Department, I invite him to come and talk to the people in Milton, because they cannot get any satisfaction whatsoever from the Brisbane City Council in this matter.

I think the Government must consider the revaluing of land when portion of it has been resumed. The valuation of one particular allotment, which has had 10 feet resumed from the front of it, has been reduced from \$4,700 to \$4,480, a reduction of \$220. The owner of the block of flats on it is faced with the problem of whether or not he can let the front flats because they are now so close to the road that it is almost impossible to live in them. I consider that this land has been reduced in value considerably, yet the Valuer-General's Department assesses that it has decreased by only \$220.

(Time expired.)

LAND RESUMPTIONS, GLADSTONE DISTRICT

Mr. HANSON (Port Curtis) (12.57 p.m.): I, too, wish to mention certain matters applicable to land resumptions, and I inform the hon. member for Ithaca that not every fault lies at the altar of the Brisbane City Council.

Some time ago in this Chamber we were told that the Acquisition of Land Act would not only consolidate the law governing the taking of freehold land for public purposes but would also provide a uniform procedure under which land could be taken by the authorities vested with this power. The Opposition agreed that it would be a good idea to have this uniform procedure so that we could get away from the treacherous resumption Acts inflicted on the people by this Government.

One of them is the recent amendment to the Thiess Peabody Mitsui Coal Pty. Ltd. Agreements Act. The resumptions under that legislation for the short Gladstone-Moura railway line were atrocious and scandalous, despite the assurances given by members of the Cabinet, including the present Minister for Transport and his predecessor, who is now Treasurer. They said they would come to the party and assist people in the compilation of compensation claims and that they would even provide officers to assist in that regard. They carried out no promises whatsoever. They let the people down. They even contested most bitterly in the Land Appeal Court every resumption along the line. The valuations placed by the Valuer-General on many of the properties were absolutely scandalous. The court upheld practically every objection lodged with it in this instance.

We were told that, under the Acquisition of Land Act, constructing authorities were being encouraged to acquire land required for their function and purposes, not compulsorily, but by negotiating for it on a voluntary basis. In this way, we were told, the department would have the benefit of quick acquisition and the people could get their money, and everything in the garden would be nice and rosy. Unfortunately, it is not working that way, and many of my electors are being scandalously and bitterly kicked in the stomach by the Railway Department and the Valuer-General's Department in the valuations placed on their properties.

The amounts offered to people at the Auckland Street crossing by the Railway Department in the recent resumptions are irrational, unrealistic, and blatantly dishonest. In the Gladstone "Observer" dated 9 July, 1970, there is a big headline reading, "Hanson Bitter at Railways Attitude". I'll say I am! Many of the people I am fighting for are bitter too. The department displayed a scandalous indifference to the realities of life. I shall give some examples of what

the department offered to people in this area. It offered Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morris \$6,715 for their home and land. Mr. and Mrs. John Mijatovic were offered \$7,000. No estate agent in town could obtain houses for these people for those sums. The departmental officer was blatantly dishonest, and I go so far as to say that he would have to be corrupt to offer, in the interests of his department, such miserable sums for the land and the life's savings of these people.

At 1 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with the Sessional Order, the discussion on matters of public interest is now terminated for this week.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.