

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 1972**

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## WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 1972

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. W. H. Lonergan, Flinders) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

### ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL

#### JUDGE FOR 1973

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from the Honourable the Chief Justice intimating that the Honourable Mr. Justice W. B. Campbell would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for 1973.

### PAPERS

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

Report on Net Surplus Profits, State Government Insurance Office (Queensland) for the year 1971-72.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act of 1957.

The Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act of 1959.

The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

The Fish Supply Management Act of 1965.

The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1966.

Sugar Experiment Stations Act 1900-1971.

Regulations under—

Meat Industry Act 1965-1969.

The Poultry Industry Acts, 1946 to 1965.

The Stock Acts, 1915 to 1965.

### PRIVILEGE

#### SUSPENSION OF MEMBER FOR MERTHYR

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville West) (11.5 a.m.): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I refer to an article in today's "Courier-Mail" headed, "Suspended Lib. says Premier rushing Bills". The article reports what the honourable member for Merthyr (Mr. Lane) is alleged to have said outside the House after his suspension. The article states—

"Mr. Lane said outside the House he was suspended because Mr. Bjelke-Petersen wanted to rush the remaining 10 Bills through the House.

"The Premier indicated this when he spoke to me before I was suspended," Mr. Lane said."

I also draw attention to that portion of the article which says—

“Mr. Lane called to Mr. Tucker (A.L.P., Townsville West): ‘You are part of the gag over there, are you, Perc?’”

By the honourable member’s statement outside the House, which also was surely a gross reflection on you, Mr. Speaker, and his statement inside the House to which I have already referred, the honourable member implied that I was a party to some sort of gag, supposedly proposed to me by the Premier. That is completely untrue, and it is a reflection on my integrity and the integrity of my colleagues. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, as custodian of the rights and privileges of the House, whether I am to be protected from such slanderous implications.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** There is nothing that can be done about it now. Had the honourable member felt at the time that he was aggrieved, he could have risen to a point of order.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I rise to a point of order now. How could I have done it then? The report did not appear in “The Courier-Mail” until this morning. I was not to know that until this morning. That is the point I make today.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I presume that the honourable member was in the House at that time. I can do nothing more about it.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION OF  
QUESTION DIRECTED TO MINISTER FOR  
TRANSPORT

**Mr. R. JONES** (Cairns) (11.7 a.m.): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise on a question of privilege. It concerns a matter that arose only a few moments before I entered the Chamber.

I want to know, Mr. Speaker, whether you authorised a Mr. Hunter or a Mr. Taylor—I think those are the names—of the Postal Investigation Branch, to investigate the subject of a question I asked—it was vetted by you—on 7 December. At your request, I placed the question on notice. I had wished to ask the Minister for Transport the question without notice on 6 December. The gentlemen whom I have named presented to me a copy of the original text of the question before you had edited it to read as it appeared on the Business Paper on 7 December.

I consider this action to be in contempt of this Parliament. I understand that the Minister for Transport initiated the investigation and caused those gentlemen to come and interview me this morning. I seek your ruling and protection in this regard.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The honourable member should have seen me in my office, where we could have discussed this matter more

fully and at greater length. At this stage, knowing very little about the matter, I do not propose to express an opinion. If the honourable member cares to come and see me in my office later, I will be quite happy to discuss the matter with him. If he thinks he has been aggrieved in any way or that there is any reflection on him, he can rest assured that I will give him all the assistance I feel is necessary.

**Mr. R. JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is just one point I wish to clarify. I was attending an executive meeting this morning until quite late. It was just before the House resumed that this happened. The interview took place just prior to my entering the Chamber. There was not sufficient time for me to contact you before the House assembled.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I suggest that the honourable member call on me later.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

TEXTBOOKS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

**Mr. Jensen**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

What new books will be required for next year to replace those used by students this year in grades 9, 10 and 11 and what is the approximate price of each of these books?

*Answer:—*

“Neither my Department nor the Board of Secondary School Studies has prescribed books for use in secondary schools next year. Schools are permitted to choose the text books which in the opinion of their teachers best serve the requirements of syllabuses, the only restrictions being (i) they must be reasonably priced; and (ii) annual changes in text books should be avoided as far as possible.”

NEWSPAPER, “NATIONAL REVIEW”

**Mr. Jensen**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Has the distribution of the newspaper *National Review* been banned throughout Queensland? If so, when was it banned and for what reason?

*Answer:—*

“The *National Review* newspaper has not been banned by the Literature Board of Review.”

HOLIDAY MAGIC PTY. LTD.

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

In view of a statement made by Dr. Delamothe in September, 1971, that the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General

was considering having the promotion schemes of Holiday Magic Pty. Ltd. investigated and in view of the arrival back in Australia on December 1 of Mr. R. Nocera of Holiday Magic of the United States of America, which could herald a further boom in activity by this company, have investigations taken place and, if so, what were the results?

*Answer:—*

"No recent complaints have been received at the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs regarding Holiday Magic Pty. Ltd. and no formal investigation has been made into this company. Consideration is being given to the possibility of introducing legislation to control this type of trading or activity commonly referred to as pyramid selling. I repeat the warnings I have previously given that the public should approach schemes of this nature with the utmost caution. I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the statement made in the House by the Honourable the Minister for Justice on December 3, 1969, and replies to Questions directed to him by the Honourable the Member for Carnarvon on March 25, 1970 in relation to pyramid selling."

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT HOUSES,  
CLONCURRY

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

(1) With reference to his Answer on December 8 to my Question relating to the increase in rentals of departmental houses in Cloncurry and while there may be no shortage of applications for departmental houses as they become vacant, how does this excuse the action of the Department in raising rents on these houses by 37 per cent. at this time, especially having regard to advice furnished to the A.R.U., Cloncurry, by the General Manager, Northern Division, that contract repairs preparatory to painting, etc., may have to stand over until 1973-74?

(2) In view of the General Manager's reference to the present amount of contract work being investigated or approved at other stations, will he consider increasing the Department's trades staff so that repairs may be commenced without delay?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "I would refer the Honourable Member to my Answer of December 8, 1972, to a Question asked by him. The General Manager, Townsville, has been requested to take immediate action to carry out a survey and prepare details of the repairs required to individual buildings in order that tenders may be invited for the

carrying out of work by contract in conjunction with the structural alterations required for the installation of sewerage to the buildings at Cloncurry."

LOCALITY ALLOWANCES FOR TEACHERS,  
MOUNT ISA AND CLONCURRY

**Mr. Inch**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) With reference to the payment of locality allowances to members of the teaching profession, why was an allowance of \$5.20 per week, which was paid to married female teachers prior to the introduction of locality allowances, taken from these personnel?

(2) Will he have the allowance restored to these teachers and, if not, what is the reason?

(3) What is the difference between the allowance paid to teachers in Mount Isa and that paid to those stationed in Cloncurry?

(4) As both areas are similar in relation to the cost of living and other conditions, why is there is disparity in the allowance paid to Cloncurry teachers?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) "Prior to January 1, 1972, Public Service Regulation 78 prescribed allowances to meet increased cost of living upon the basis of certain amounts for male officers and three-quarters of such amounts for female officers irrespective of whether female officers were married or single. As from January 1, 1972, Regulation 78 was amended and locality allowances introduced by the amendment were on the basis of certain amounts for married male officers, half of the specified allowances for single officers and no allowance for married female officers. The Regulation provided that the Public Service Board might give consideration to the cases of (a) Single officers supporting dependants; (b) Married female officers having regard to—(i) Dependants, if any; (ii) Whether living with husband or not; (iii) Employment of husband. The amendment provided for substantial increases in allowances in certain localities and it was intended that the new allowances compensate officers in recognition of the extra costs involved in maintaining a wife and family."

(3) "Regulation 78 prescribes an allowance of \$26.50 per fortnight at Mount Isa and \$18.50 per fortnight at Cloncurry."

(4) "Regulation 78 was amended after consideration of a report of a committee of three officers who examined all aspects of locality allowances and who toured the State extensively."

REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS BY FOREIGN COMPANIES TO PURCHASE LAND

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

(1) How many foreign firms and companies have been refused permission to own land in Queensland in the last twelve months?

(2) What are the names of the companies and firms?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "From information available in the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, eight foreign companies have been refused permission to hold land in Queensland under section 345 of the *Companies Act* 1961-1971 during the last twelve months. They are—Marjon Agriculture Pty. Limited; Mayfair Realty Proprietary Limited; Syzygy Pty. Limited; Supo Pty. Ltd.; Colwatts Nominees Pty. Ltd.; Eastern Gem Co. Pty. Limited; Colwood Holdings Pty. Ltd.; and R. H. Craig Investments Pty. Ltd."

SUBSIDIES, QUEENSLAND THEATRE COMPANY, QUEENSLAND OPERA COMPANY AND QUEENSLAND BALLET COMPANY

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

(1) What was the total subsidy, Commonwealth and State, which was paid in 1970-71 to (a) the Queensland Theatre Company, (b) the Queensland Opera Company and (c) the Queensland Ballet Company?

(2) What was the total number of adults who attended performances of each of the companies in 1970-71?

Answers:—

(1) "The total subsidy, Federal and State, paid in 1970-71 to (a) The Queensland Theatre Company: \$48,500 State; \$50,110 Federal: Total, \$98,610. (b) The Queensland Opera Company: \$11,500 State; \$17,306 Federal: Total, \$28,806. (c) The Queensland Ballet Company: \$39,000 State; \$7,000 Federal: Total, \$46,000."

(2) "The total number of adults to attend performances of those three companies in 1970-71 was: (a) The Queensland Theatre Company: 59,471, being the

total audience attendance at adult performances. No separate figures are available for children's attendances at adult performances. (b) The Queensland Opera Company: No separate adult figures available. (c) The Queensland Ballet Company: 14,603."

DRINK DRIVING OFFENCES, CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR PERIOD

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

(1) In view of the rapid increase in the number of drink-drivers on the road and, based on past experience, the likelihood of a further increase in this offence over the Christmas-New Year period, does he propose more stringent and stiffer action?

(2) If sterner measures are contemplated, will he indicate some of the measures to serve as a warning to irresponsible motorists?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Members of the Police Department operate within the framework of the law. When offences are detected appropriate action is taken and will continue to be taken. Publicity has been given to the fact that all available police will be performing duty over the Christmas-New Year period. The matter of more stringent penalties is one for the Minister for Justice."

PROPERTY PURCHASE APPLICATION APPROVALS, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Ahern for Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) As the sale must be subject to Brisbane City Council approval when a company wishes to purchase an industrial building in Brisbane, and the vendor must either grant an option to purchase or retain the opportunity to sell to others, can the council legally fail to respond to the application within 60 days when there is no time available for an appeal to the Local Government Court?

(2) Is the prescribed period referred to in section 21, as it applies to the City Council, six months?

(3) Would it be necessary to obtain an option for nine months, viz., six months for the council's prescribed period and three months to obtain a Local Government Court appearance?

(4) Do vendors accept a nine months' option either with the usual contract mechanism or by means of conditional contract?

(5) Should not an application for upgrading premises to a more favourable category in accordance with descriptions within the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act be capable of an almost immediate approval by the council?

(6) Why has the council via the State Government not implemented gazettal of the zoning map and related amendments to the Act, including floor space indices?

(7) While new building ordinances and the Town Plan are in print and set out what can be done in each zone by right of use, is he aware that because of the lack of gazettal site applications have to accompany each application for development in a provisional residential "B" Zone through the scale to development in a provisional general industry zone and can this anomalous situation be corrected?

(8) As the council, by withholding gazettal, retains the power to force those seeking site approvals to perform drainage, road widening, etc., would it not be more efficient if a right of use was set out in a gazetted ordinance or statute?

*Answers:—*

(1) "It is assumed that the application referred to by the Honourable member is an application for rezoning or for site approval under the Brisbane Town Plan. In such circumstances, the applicant would have a right of appeal to the Local Government Court under the *City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1971* if the Brisbane City Council or its delegate fails to decide the application within the time prescribed by the Act. In such a case, the Act provides that the applicant may appeal at any time after the expiration of the prescribed period as if the council or its delegate had refused the application."

(2) "I assume that the Honourable Member is referring to section 21 of the *City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1971*. If such is the case, then the Answer to this portion of the Question is 'No'. The section mentioned provides briefly that the council or its delegate has to process the application within 40 days of its receipt by the council or such longer period as may be approved by the Minister."

(3 and 4) "These matters are outside my Department's jurisdiction but, appear to be ones between the purchaser and vendor of the subject land. No doubt they would be guided by their legal advisers on the matters in question."

(5) "Any application submitted to the Brisbane City Council for approval under the Town Plan for the City of Brisbane has to be dealt with by the council or its delegate in accordance with the provisions

of the *City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1971*. The time required to process an application depends on the circumstances of the particular case and the Honourable Member will appreciate that certain applications would take longer to process than others. As previously mentioned, however, the Act requires the council or its delegate to process such an application within the prescribed time and provides a right of appeal to the Local Government Court if this is not done."

(6 to 8) "It is assumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the fact that the Brisbane City Council has not yet published in the *Government Gazette*, pursuant to Ordinance 19 of Part 3 of Chapter 8 of its Ordinances, a resolution, declaring land use indices in respect of various parts of the city in relation to the erection of multiple dwellings. The declaration of such indices is, in terms of the relevant ordinance a matter at the discretion of the council. I have no knowledge of the council's attitude in this matter but understand that its present practice in processing applications for the erection of multiple dwellings was adopted following the receipt of legal advice."

#### FEES, ROAD TRANSPORT OPERATORS

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

What were the amounts of permit fees, road taxes or any other taxes levied on road transport operators by Government departments for the years ended June 30, 1971 and 1972 and, of these, what amounts were paid and what action was taken to recover the unpaid amounts?

*Answer:—*

"In so far as the Department of Transport is concerned, fees and charges paid by road transport operators under the various Acts administered by that Department for the years ended June 30, 1971, and June 30, 1972, are shown in the Annual Reports of the Commissioner for Transport. Where payment of prescribed fees or charges under the above Acts have not been made to the Department, appropriate legal proceedings are taken."

#### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, TOowoomba

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

How many traffic accidents were investigated by police officers in the City of Toowoomba on a monthly basis from

January 1 to October 31, 1972 and, of these, how many occurred during the hours of (a) 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., (b) 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and (c) 12 midnight to 6 a.m.?

Answer:—

" Month	Number of Accidents Reported	7 a.m.—9 a.m.	4 p.m.—6 p.m.	12 mid-night—6 a.m.
January, 1972	111	9	19	5
February, 1972	109	10	14	7
March, 1972 ..	113	8	18	7
April, 1972 ..	106	4	14	8
May, 1972 ..	135	7	21	12
June, 1972 ..	120	7	18	5
July, 1972 ..	105	6	18	9
August, 1972 ..	108	4	22	7
September, 1972	110	10	19	6
October, 1972	95	3	23	5

UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL FOR TOWNSVILLE

**Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

Is he aware that during the recent Commonwealth election campaign Mr. Whitlam promised that a second hospital would be built in Townsville and that 12.5 per cent. of the construction costs would be supplied by the Commonwealth Government? If so, will he, when negotiating with the Commonwealth authority, give thought to the establishment of a university teaching hospital where medical students can be taught, in order to lessen the strain on the existing teaching hospitals in Brisbane?

Answer:—

"I have read the Press report that appeared in *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* of November 21, 1972, in which the statement was made that a Federal Labor Government would offer an immediate Commonwealth grant of at least 12.5 per cent. towards the construction cost of a new suburban satellite hospital in Townsville. The Honourable Member will be aware that the Townsville Hospital is now being developed to its maximum extent in the current building programme. This must continue to the point where it will be an acceptable teaching hospital in the event of a medical school being established at the James Cook University."

SPOT ROAD CHECKS ON MOTOR VEHICLES

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

In view of the ever-increasing tragedies and road-accident rate during the year and the expected unfortunate rise during the festive season, will be reintroduce, for a

trial period of two months, the system of road spot checks on motor vehicles under the Inspection of Machinery Act? If not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

"There is no power under the Inspection of Machinery Act to carry out spot road checks on motor vehicles and consequently the Honourable Member's suggestion is not one for my consideration. It is customary for such checks to be conducted by the Police Department. Where the police officer considers the condition of the vehicle to be suspect the officer normally issues a direction to the owner to present the vehicle for inspection by officers of the Division of Occupational Safety."

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ROAD TANKERS CARRYING FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES

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

(1) What rigid safety standards are set down by law with regard to (a) oil-company road-tanker fleets and (b) privately or otherwise-owned converted road petrol tankers?

(2) If no law exists with regard to safety features for vehicles carrying bulk flammable liquids, chemicals and gases which are highly dangerous and explosive, will he immediately have regulations or legislation introduced before a disaster occurs?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I refer the Honourable Member to Regulation 25 of the Machinery Inspection and Safety Regulations 1972 which relates to motor vehicles and containers for transport of flammable liquids and which applies to oil company road tanker fleets and privately or otherwise owned converted road petrol tankers. In regard to vehicles carrying chemicals and gases the problems associated therewith are now being considered inter-departmentally. At this stage it has not been established that control of the contents carried would be the responsibility of the Division of Occupational Safety which of course has been and still is responsible for the safety of the vehicle itself."

FREEZING OF PROPERTIES, BURANDA AND EAST BRISBANE

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

(1) In view of the consistent and numerous inquiries which I am receiving from residents, what detailed corridors of

interest does the Main Roads Department have in the area and streets bounded by Caswell, Stanley, Lisburn and Camberwell Streets, East Brisbane, together with Lotus Street and Logan Road, Buranda, and for what period?

(2) Are house and property sales frozen in this area as a result?

(3) If properties will not be affected by resumptions, why cannot the owners or would-be purchasers be informed definitely one way or the other by departmental officers so that worry, needless or otherwise, can be avoided?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "Currently the Main Roads Department is investigating a location for a future freeway through the East Brisbane area. The purpose of such facility is to connect the Northern and South East Freeways by by-passing the inner city areas. Such investigations are being conducted in a corridor within the area bounded by Caswell, Stanley, Lisburn and Camberwell Streets together with the Lotus Street area adjacent to Logan Road. The corridor by no means extends the full width of this area. Details of actual property requirements will not be known until late next year. Through an enquiry system available at the Department, owners and would-be purchasers are informed if a particular property comes within the area likely to be affected by the proposal. In fact in some extreme hardship cases the Department has already entered into negotiations to purchase some of the properties likely to be required. It is anticipated that it will be at least six years before any construction will commence in this area."

#### SUBSIDY ON CARTAGE OF FODDER FOR STARVING STOCK

**Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Did his Government administer, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, a scheme to provide a subsidy on the cartage of fodder for starving stock by road transport during 1968, 1969 and 1970 and, if so, what was the scheme?

(2) Did the Commonwealth Government lay down guide-lines for the implementation of the scheme and, if so, what were they?

(3) Did his Government or any department make a decision on October 6, 1969, relating to such a scheme and, if so, what were the terms of the decision?

(4) To what parts of the State and at what times did or does the scheme or any involvement of it apply?

(5) Has the Treasury given instructions in respect of the payment of the subsidy and, if so, what were the instructions?

(6) Has money been paid to any person by way of subsidy not in accordance with the terms of this scheme or any involvement of it and, if so, how much has been so paid and when and to whom was it paid?

(7) If money has been paid not in accord with the terms of this scheme or any amendment of it, (a) what steps have been taken by his Government to recover it and from what person or persons and (b) what steps are contemplated to recover it and from what person or persons?

(8) If money has been paid to any person not in accord with the scheme, (a) what criminal proceedings have been instituted, (b) what is the name or names of the person or persons, (c) what has been the outcome of such proceedings and (d) is his Government contemplating further criminal proceedings against anyone in relation to his conduct in regard to the scheme?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "No."

(3) "Yes. It was decided that on fodder transported by road only for feeding starving stock, a property owner could claim a subsidy of 75 per cent. of the freight costs with a maximum subsidy of 5 cents per ton mile. No subsidy was payable for the first 40 miles of the journey. The subsidy commenced as from October 2, 1969, and finished on December 14, 1970."

(4) "To a property owner whose property at the time the fodder was transported was situated in a drought declared area."

(5) "No."

(6 to 8) "Legal proceedings have been and are being instituted in connection with certain claims for subsidy on road transport of fodder for starving stock, and it is therefore inappropriate for me to provide Answers to these Questions at the present time."



SLIPWAY, CAIRNCROSS DOCK

**Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) Has a slipway been constructed recently at Cairncross Dock? If so, what is the size of the ships which will be accommodated?

(2) Have divers reported that the two main concrete beams of the slipway are cracked and that it is possible to swim under these beams where the foundations have washed away?

(3) What was the cost of constructing the slipway?

(4) What is the estimated cost of repairs?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes. Up to 2,500 tons."

(2) "Minor cracks in two track beams were detected during post-construction tests and were repaired by the contractor before the facility was handed over to my Department."

(3) "The contract price was \$959,114.47."

(4) "See Answer to (2)."

ELECTRIFIED RAILWAY LINK, INALA-  
ACACIA RIDGE AREA

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) In view of the announced intention of the Government to integrate the metropolitan transport system, has consideration been given to an investigation into the possibility of an electrified rail link into the Inala-Acacia Ridge area?

(2) Have negotiations been entered into between the Railway Department and the Brisbane Town Planning Committee for the provision of a corridor to enable the rail link to be built when the Government has made its decision?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "I would refer the Honourable Member to my Answer of November 29, 1972, to the Honourable Member for Stafford. I am not able to supply further information until details of the assistance to be given by the Federal Government are available."

BAKERY, BRISBANE PRISON

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

(1) Is the bakery at the Brisbane Prison to be closed and, if so, for what period?

(2) What is the present number and classification of the personnel employed in the bakery and, if it is closed, will suitable work be found for the employees?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The bakery at Brisbane Prison has been closed because of reconstruction work being carried on in the prison. A new up-to-date bakery is being established in the new workshop block and it is anticipated that this will open in the New Year."

(2) "A Prison Officer Trade Instructor and nine prisoners including a number of apprentices for whom arrangements had been made by the Prisons Department to continue their apprenticeships as bakers, were employed in the bakery at Brisbane Prison. The Trade Instructor has been placed in appropriate employment. Suitable temporary employment has been found for the prisoners other than the apprentices and on resumption of baking activities, those still in prison will be re-employed in the bakery. Action has been taken to transfer to Wacol the prisoners apprenticed as bakers so that they may continue to be employed in this trade."

TREATMENT OF ABORIGINE, KINGAROY  
HOSPITAL

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

(1) Has he seen the article in the *Sunday Sun* of December 10 headed "Coloured Man's Agony"?

(2) As Dr. Rowsell saw this patient at 10 p.m., diagnosed the condition and gave treatment and instructions, and as the Kingaroy Hospitals Board has called for a full report, will he (a) have a thorough investigation made into all aspects of the case, (b) take immediate steps to prevent a recurrence of such incidents and (c) table the result of the investigation and indicate what action is proposed?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The Honourable Member is advised to direct his Question to my colleague the Minister for Health, who is responsible for activities of the South Burnett Hospitals Board."

PARTICIPATION OF TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDERS IN LOCAL GAS AND OIL  
PRODUCTION BENEFITS

**Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in *The Courier-Mail* of December 12 headed "Islands 'rich in oil, gas' "?

(2) As a State Government authority has made statements that one company had found a big flow of gas, is this the main reason why he is so keen to retain these areas and not, as he would have us believe, that it is only because of the future of Islanders?

(3) Will he promise to make provision for the Islanders to be included in the future operations of any gas or oil production, by way of royalties and other payments?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No."

(3) "The Honourable Member should be well aware that I and my Government have the best interests of the Torres Strait Islanders close to our hearts. So far as the possibility of their being affected by any change in Queensland's boundary is concerned, I suggest the Honourable Member closely study the Answer given yesterday by the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General on the constitutional position involved. I would also suggest that he refer the facts outlined therein to the Honourable the Prime Minister and his A.L.P. colleagues so that they might give more mature and enlightened consideration to the issue than they have shown to date."

#### VISITS BY PREMIER TO TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

**Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

As the recent upsurge in statements by the Premier on the Torres Strait islands continuously highlights his interest in the Islanders as against the Prime Minister's lack of concern, even to the extent that he has not visited the islands whereas the Premier has—

(1) How often has he visited the islands of Dauan, Saibai and Boigu, for what duration at each and on what date?

(2) Was this visit during the time when his Ministerial portfolio included the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "If the Honourable Member is not aware that I have visited the Torres Strait Islands on many occasions, both in my capacity as Premier and also as Minister in charge of Aboriginal and Island

Affairs, then he has not bothered to substantiate the premises on which he has based his Question."

#### SPORTS OVAL, WYNNUM NORTH STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware that the sports arena at the Wynnum North State School has recently been fertilised with a heavy covering of fowl manure?

(2) If so, will he take immediate steps to have the necessary health measures taken in an endeavour to keep fly breeding, offensive smells, etc. to a minimum?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "I was not aware that this had occurred. The work which is being carried out on the sports area is a Parents and Citizens' Association project and my Department is involved to the extent of subsidizing top dressing only. My enquiries reveal that the top soil which is being delivered today will be spread by grader so that the fertilizer will be completely covered by tonight."

#### INDUSTRIES, PARKHURST INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

**Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Development,—

Have any firms or companies made application for the use of land at the industrial estate at Parkhurst? If so, what are the names of the firms or companies and what products do the firms or companies intend to produce or handle?

*Answer:—*

"Amalgamated Chemicals (Aust.) Pty. Limited, a manufacturer of stock feed supplements, is already established on the estate. In addition a lease has been granted to P. H. and E. M. Boyle, manufacturers of building products. Negotiations are proceeding with a number of other organisations contemplating establishing projects on the estate. As the Honourable Member will appreciate, I am unable to supply details in this regard as all such enquiries are treated as confidential until such time as a lease has been approved."

#### PREPARATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY ROLLS

**Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

In view of his comment regarding the closure of rolls on December 31 for the State local government elections in 1973,

will he institute the necessary publicity of the closure in an endeavour to overcome the obvious rejection of many people desirous of exercising a vote?

*Answer:—*

“As I pointed out on December 6 last in answer to a Question by the Honourable Member for Redlands, the *Local Government Act* 1936–1971 provides that rolls for the local authority triennial elections to be held on Saturday, March 31, 1973, close on December 31, 1972. I also pointed out that, in terms of the Act, the voters’ roll for each local authority area is compiled from the relevant annual State electoral roll or rolls and it is therefore important for eligible persons to ensure that they are correctly enrolled on the relevant State roll prior to the last-mentioned date. The provisions of the Local Government Act abovementioned have been in force for many years and accordingly I do not feel it necessary for me to give public notification thereof. I would emphasise that, provided eligible persons are enrolled on the relevant State electoral roll as at December 31, 1972, for the local authority area in which they reside, they will be automatically included on the voters’ roll for the 1973 local authority triennial elections to be held in that area.”

QUARANTINE PRECAUTIONS, PINE TREES  
FROM WEST GERMANY

**Mr. Blake**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an item in the A.B.C. television news at 7 p.m. on December 11, showing German pine trees intended for use as Christmas trees being unloaded from a West German military aircraft at Townsville?

(2) Is he aware of any quarantine precautions which were taken to prevent the possibility of introducing pests on the trees and, if not, will he urgently have safeguards carried out?

*Answers:—*

(1) “Yes. I would add that the Plant Quarantine Officer at Townsville, on his own initiative, investigated this report.”

(2) “Yes. I would thank the Honourable Member for his interest in this matter. For his information, action was taken early on December 12 by the Plant Quarantine Officer at Townsville to recover the pine trees imported from Germany and to arrange for their destruction. One pine tree had been carried on to Richmond Air Base and the Chief Quarantine Officer (Plants) Sydney, New South Wales, has been advised accordingly.”

FLY-OVER, JINDALEE EXPRESSWAY  
JUNCTION

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

(1) Has his Department given any consideration to the construction of a fly-over for traffic at the junction of the Jindalee expressway and the main highway at Darra?

(2) If it is proposed to construct this fly-over, have plans been prepared for the project?

(3) When is it likely that construction will commence?

*Answers:—*

(1) “Yes.”

(2) “Very preliminary planning only has been done.”

(3) “This project is not included in the current five-year plan and it is not known at this stage when funds for construction are likely to become available.”

SAFETY FENCE, FRANCIS STREET INTER-  
SECTION, REDBANK

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

(1) Are the officers of his Department aware of a dangerous situation which exists on the Brisbane–Ipswich highway at Redbank where the highway is adjacent to Francis Street?

(2) As a number of vehicles have run off the highway into Francis Street, thus causing danger to the residents in that street, will consideration be given to the erection of a safety fence between the highway and Francis Street?

*Answers:—*

(1) “No.”

(2) “Yes. An inspection will be made of the area and, if warranted, appropriate remedial action will be taken.”

SERVING OF LIQUOR WITH MEALS ON  
“SUNLANDER”

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

(1) Are adults who fail to purchase liquor with meals on trains not permitted later to obtain liquor to drink with the meal?

(2) Did one Government Member of this Parliament complain bitterly about this treatment on the 4 p.m. "Sunlander" on December 8 when a friend of his could not obtain liquor because he did not order it when ordering the meal?

(3) Did the Member of Parliament offer to endorse the docket and was he told that Government Members always cause the most trouble?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No complaint of this nature has been brought to my notice."

(3) "See Answer to (2)."

#### RAIL SERVICES, BRISBANE—SYDNEY

**Mr. R. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question on November 17 concerning railway services between Brisbane and Sydney, has he received the information from the Public Transport Commission for New South Wales and, if so, is he now in a position to give the details requested and, if not, what is the cause of the delay?

(2) If the information was received, does it make reference to the termination of the second division of the interstate trains at Casino, New South Wales, in early 1973 and, if not, will he make further inquiries to ascertain the intention in respect to interstate rail services?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "The Public Transport Commission for New South Wales is being pressed for information."

#### DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES FOR GOVERNMENT DRIVERS

**Mr. R. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question concerning defensive-driving courses for Government drivers, has his attention been drawn to an article in *The Australian* of December 7 headed "Need for 'improved' motorists course", wherein the article attributes a statement to him that he was not satisfied with the operations of the defensive-driving course in Queensland?

(2) If so, has he made any recommendation to Cabinet for improved motorists' courses for all drivers of Government vehicles in order to set the standard and example?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I have read an article which appeared in *The Australian* of Saturday, December 2, 1972—not December 7, 1972—which apparently is the one the Honourable Member has twice unsuccessfully attempted to identify. He should, of course, be aware that it is not proper to attempt to discover the existence or otherwise of any submissions to Cabinet which are of their very nature confidential. Nevertheless, I would like to reassure him that our efforts are directed to make the defensive-driving courses as appropriate to the road situation as practicable and all measures necessary will be looked at to achieve this objective."

#### RAILWAY STATION FOR STRATHPINE NORTH

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

What consideration is being given by his Department to the provision of a railway station at Strathpine North?

Answer:—

"The matter of the provision of a new railway station between Strathpine and Lawnton is continually under review, but the stage has not yet been reached when the considerable expenditure which would be required in the provision of that facility and the consequent delays and additional costs of train operation could be justified."

#### CANAL SYSTEM FOR CARGO VESSELS, PORT ALMA—ROCKHAMPTON

**Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) In the interest of facilitating further industrial growth in Rockhampton, will he have a feasibility study carried out into the suggestion that the Fitzroy River could be developed as a canal system for cargo vessels from Port Alma to the Rockhampton reaches?

(2) Will he further ascertain the validity of the contentions that (a) the straightening and dredging of the river would also prevent many pollution problems and (b) a canal system would act in a feeder capacity which would complement and assist the development of Port Alma?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The estimated minimum cost of deepening the Fitzroy River to Rockhampton to provide daily access for Australian coastal shipping is \$20 million and the expense of maintaining the channels would be even more prohibitive. These are among the reasons why the port for Rockhampton has been built at Port Alma. In these circumstances, I can see no purpose in the feasibility study the Honourable Member proposes."

(3) "Yes."

(4) "Yes, because it necessarily followed from the withdrawal of the major charge."

(5) "In his statements to the police which were ruled out, Mangan did make such a claim."

(6) "Yes. It appears so."

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### USE OF MEDICAL BENEFITS FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH SCHEME

**Mr. W. D. HEWITT:** I ask the Treasurer: Has his attention been drawn to the proposal of the new Prime Minister to use medical benefits funds to implement his health schemes? Could he say whether these funds are moneys paid by subscribers to protect them in the event of illness and hospitalisation, and what would be the possible effect if the funds were taken over?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I have read the statement attributed to the Prime Minister to the effect that funds in the hands of medical benefits societies or associations might be used for the purpose of establishing hospitals. How this could be carried out is beyond my knowledge. As one who is a subscriber to a medical benefits fund, I regard the money that has been lodged by me with that fund as a contract between it and myself for the provision of private hospitalisation if I so choose. As the Prime Minister has indicated that these funds could be used for the provision of hospitals and as the scheme put forward by the A.L.P., as I understand it, does not refer to private hospitalisation, I think this is something which subscribers would have a big say in. For my part, I cannot believe that political pressure could be used by the A.L.P. to force these funds to be utilised for a purpose not intended by me or any other subscriber.

##### CONDITIONS OF OCCUPANCY, HOUSEHOLD INSURANCE POLICIES

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I direct a question without notice to the Treasurer because of his extensive knowledge of the insurance industry and because I wish the people of Queensland to be aware of their obligations. When householders go on holiday, is it mandatory for them to inform the company with whom they are insured of their absence? If so, for what length of time must they be absent from their home before it is obligatory on them to inform the company concerned? In the event of a householder not supplying this information and a theft or fire occurring while he is away, is his insurance cover valid?

##### PROCEEDINGS AT TRIAL OF G. J. MANGAN; BOMBING OF COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS, BRISBANE

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

With regard to the bombing of the Communist Party Headquarters, 291 St. Pauls Terrace, Brisbane, on April 19 and the subsequent proceedings involving Gary John Mangan—

(1) Did Judge McCracken uphold a defence contention that Mangan had been unlawfully detained by New South Wales police on a vagrancy charge and use his judicial discretion to rule out the main evidence against Mangan, including the record of admissions which Mangan made to the police?

(2) Did Mangan, at any hearing or court appearance, make charges against the police of unfair or illegal extraction of admissions from him? If not, why was Mangan's admission of involvement in this bombing episode not taken into consideration?

(3) Was a jury sworn in without hearing any evidence?

(4) Did the judge rule that no reference could be made in evidence to the bombing after the Crown withdrew the bombing charge and entered a lesser one of being in possession of explosives with intent?

(5) Did Mangan claim that the bombing was actually committed by two other men, one of whom was known as "The Skull"?

(6) Has justice been done in this case?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Counsel appearing on behalf of Mangan submitted that the admissions made by Mangan were improperly obtained, but Mangan himself gave no evidence."

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I can speak only from my own personal experience of this matter. No doubt each insurance company has a specific provision—possibly in small print—in its policies. In the case of the insurance company with which I have my personal house insurance, I must inform the company if my home is to be left unattended for a period of more than 28 days. The periods might differ with the various companies.

#### USE OF TENNYSON STATE SCHOOL AS PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

**Mr. LEE:** I ask the Minister for Education: Because of the continuing fall over several years in enrolments at the Tennyson State School, and in view of the decision of the Education Department to close this, the only one-teacher school in the Brisbane area, will he give urgent consideration to having an investigation made of the suitability of the present school site for the establishment of a pre-school centre?

**Sir ALAN FLETCHER:** I am not quite sure that this is the only one-teacher school in the Brisbane area, but that does not matter. It goes without saying that the honourable member's proposal will have to take its place on the list of sites being investigated for the purpose of deciding where pre-school centres can best be established. On the face of it and without knowing very much about the circumstances, I should think that any school that is small enough to be closed possibly would not rate the highest priority for a pre-school centre. Naturally, the matter will be investigated.

#### SALE OF BOTTLED LIQUOR, ROMA STREET RAILWAY STATION

**Mr. JENSEN:** As the Minister for Transport is not present, I will direct this question to the Minister for Justice: Why is unopened bottled liquor sold at the Roma Street Railway Station bar, presumably to be taken onto mail trains, when drinking is permitted on mail trains only with meals and in the dining car?

**Mr. KNOX:** Offhand, I do not know the answer to the honourable member's question.

**An Honourable Member** interjected.

**Mr. KNOX:** I do not drink at that particular bar. I am not familiar with the circumstances. I will make inquiries and reply to the honourable member's question by letter.

#### INCLUSION OF OFF-SHORE ISLANDS WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS

**Mr. GUNN:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Electricity: Would he advise what progress is being made with the inclusion of all islands off the Queensland coast within local government areas?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** It will be recalled that some time ago I advised the House that the Government was considering the inclusion of all islands not presently covered by a local authority within a local authority area. Towards that end, I asked the Surveyor-General to prepare a map illustrating all the various islands. That map is now to hand, and it would appear that there are hundreds of islands—possibly 1,000—off the Queensland coast that need to be included in a local authority area for their protection against developers and also against various people who could destroy the environment.

When I was in the Torres Strait area last August, I discussed this matter with the various native councils on the islands there. While they are in agreement with the overall principle, they wish to remain under the control of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs; they wish to retain the benefits flowing therefrom. Consequently, I told them that we would look into ways and means of bringing them within a local authority area in a way that would still allow them to enjoy the benefits they presently receive under the present administration. That matter is now being investigated and will be further examined by me with my colleague the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

In addition, the Titles Office was requested to provide maps showing the number of subdivisions that exist in the Moreton Bay islands, off Brisbane, which, as honourable members know, are basically freehold land. On the four islands of Russell, Karragarra, Lamb and Macleay there are 18,640 subdivisions, which surprised me considerably.

**Mr. Bromley:** All unauthorised.

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** They are in fact authorised. Although none of those islands is in a local authority area, the subdivisions have been registered by the Titles Office, as is their just due because they happen to be freehold land. There is nothing illegal in what is being done.

We took a random sample of 100 sales, and the prices averaged out at \$1,832 a block. However, further investigations reveal that virtually no improvements have been effected by the companies that have carried out the subdivisions. Virtually no provision has been made for roads, electricity, water, and so forth. Consequently, I welcome the opportunity to answer the question so that I can warn the public that when buying subdivisions on the various islands in Moreton Bay they will be paying an average of \$1,832 each for them but will be getting no facilities. In time, the necessary facilities will have to be provided by somebody.

The further point I wish to make is to warn the general public that there is no obligation on the part of anybody to provide

facilities after the company has handed over the blocks. Consequently, it is a case of let the buyer beware.

It is our intention to look at ways and means of local authorities taking over these islands. How they can be developed is a problem that is causing my department a great deal of concern.

In relation to the four islands I mentioned earlier—Lamb, Karragarra, Russell and Macleay—it is my intention to invite Mr. Dick Wood, chairman of Redland Shire, to see me next week, if that is convenient, to discuss details of local authority control of these islands. But the point I wish to make very clear, as I have done on several occasions, is that it is a matter of “buyer beware” when purchasing blocks on these islands.

#### SAFETY STANDARDS FOR LONG-DISTANCE BUSES

**Mr. BOUSEN:** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for Transport, I crave your indulgence to direct a question to the Minister for Justice, who until a few months ago was Minister for Transport. Has the Australian Transport Advisory Council laid down safety standards for long-distance buses, and, if so—

(a) what are the minimum safety standards, and

(b) what inspections are made of long-distance buses operating throughout Australia?

**Mr. KNOX:** Standards are laid down, but surely I am not expected to carry the details in my head.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest that the honourable member put the question on notice.

**Mr. BOUSEN:** I do so accordingly.

#### RAIL SERVICES, CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD

**Mr. R. JONES:** In the absence of the Minister for Transport,—

**Sir Gordon Chalk:** Don't you know he is doing a broadcast?

**Mr. R. JONES:** What sort of broadcast is it that it is regarded as being more important than the proceedings of Parliament?

I ask the Premier: As there were 52 up trains and 46 down trains scheduled to run on the north side of the Brisbane suburban area last Christmas Day, will he review the Christmas-holiday time-table and grant the same service to the travelling public this year?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** The honourable member must appreciate that in accordance with the Railway Department's modern and

efficient methods, it will be watching the situation very closely. If extra service is justified, as the honourable member implies, I can assure him that the Railway Department will provide it. The department would know exactly what is best in the over-all interests of the travelling public.

#### ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD

**Mr. WALLIS-SMITH:** I ask the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs: Further to my previous question on 17 November relative to the Island Industries Board, has he completed a study of the report of investigation and has the position of secretary-manager been filled?

**Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT:** The report is now with the Public Service Board and is still in the process of being finalised. No appointment has been made to the Island Industries Board up to this moment.

#### PROTECTION OF CROCODILES

**Mr. WALLIS-SMITH:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: As Queensland is the only State that does not have legislation to protect crocodiles, will he give this matter consideration with a view to introducing, during the next parliamentary session, legislation that will not only afford protection but will also close avenues for the illegal export of crocodiles to the other States?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I will give this matter consideration. Of course, anything to do with legislation is Government policy, and I cannot reveal at this stage what may or may not be done. We continually think about all sorts of things.

#### ADMINISTRATION CHANGE, JUVENILE AID BUREAU

**Mr. HUGHES:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Will the Minister allay the misunderstandings that still exist regarding the functioning of the Juvenile Aid Bureau? Are arrangements complete for the smooth changeover of the bureau to the Department of Children's Services? When will this take place and under whose authority will the bureau then operate? In the functioning of the bureau, what will be the policy regarding the information obtained by it for the *modus operandi* section of the Police Force?

**Mr. HODGES:** As honourable members are aware, on 1 January 1973 the Juvenile Aid Bureau will be transferred to the control of the Children's Services Department and will be within the portfolio of the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services. The bureau will continue to implement its present policy and, as well, will carry out its present function. There will be no change

in the co-ordination that presently exists between the bureau and the modus operandi section.

#### MEDICAL TREATMENT, HOPE VALE MISSION

**Mr. WALLIS-SMITH:** I ask the Premier: As he is a director of the board that administers Hope Vale Mission, will he give urgent consideration to the elimination of the present system of transferring residents in need of medical care from Hope Vale to Cooktown in the back of an open truck once a week? As the new hospital at Hope Vale is presently not accommodating any in-patients, will he make use of these local facilities instead of requiring persons to undertake the 35-mile journey to Cooktown?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I am neither a director nor a member of the board; nor am I familiar with the current situation at the hospital. However, I will attend to the matter and advise the honourable member accordingly.

#### MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

##### LAND SPECULATION, MAROOCHY SHIRE

**Mr. BALDWIN** (Redlands) (11.52 a.m.): I wish to speak again to the matter of public interest that I raised last Wednesday on behalf of residents of the Maroochy Shire. Certain allegations that I presented on behalf of the persons named have been misconstrued. Just as I did last Wednesday, so, too, today I bring to the notice of the Government and the people of Queensland the severe and crippling impact of the price explosion in land on young married couples and retired persons in the south-eastern portion of the State as well as on the economy of that region.

In view of Press reports and statements that have been made in this Chamber, I reiterate that the allegations I made were not mine but rather were those of persons who had presented documented cases to me. Furthermore, they were prepared to have their names associated with those charges. As I am the Australian Labor Party's spokesman in this Chamber on local government matters, I would, if requested, lay such charges on behalf of any electors or organisations in my electorate or, for that matter, in any other electorate.

**Mr. Ahern:** Even if it's slander.

**Mr. BALDWIN:** The honourable member can claim it is slander. The evidence that was presented to me and tabled by me certainly required an airing.

**Mr. Ahern:** What about Plant?

**Mr. BALDWIN:** The shires in which the particular persons live are not important. They came to me with a documented case, on which I acted. Perhaps I should add that I am aware that the honourable member for Landsborough was approached previously on this matter. It is a matter of opinion. In his opinion the matter was not worth raising in the House; in mine it was. If the view of any Government member that because an honourable member is in Opposition he has no right to act in this way on behalf of electors anywhere in the State is upheld, we might as well fold up Parliament and bring in the jack-boots, which is perhaps what Government members are trying to do.

I inform the House that I have received many phone calls, letters and messages of congratulation, and promises of further information not only in relation to the Maroochy Shire but also in relation to other shires in the south-east zone. If the persons bringing the information forward are prepared to do what was done by people in the Maroochy Shire, I will take similar action on their evidence if I think it is justified. I will stand by my right as a member of Parliament to bring it forward.

I have asked quite clearly for an open, judicial inquiry to allow persons who made allegations to present them without fear of repercussions, and to allow those who believe they have been wrongfully implicated to clear themselves in the same way. On the evidence I have, I will go even further. I am so convinced that the evidence is valid and warrants an inquiry that, if after holding an inquiry no case is substantiated for further prosecution, I will resign my position in the Redlands electorate. I issue a challenge to the honourable member for Landsborough, who has taken up the cudgels on behalf of these people, the Minister for Transport, who queried me and accused me of abusing privilege, and the Minister for Works and Housing to do likewise.

**Mr. AHERN:** I rise to a point of order. My purpose in rising in this House was not to defend these people, as the honourable member for Redlands says, but rather to clear the name of one person who came to me claiming to be aggrieved. I felt it only just that his name should be cleared. I have made no statement on this question, and I ask the honourable member for Redlands to accept my denial. I have made no comments in relation to the other matters the honourable member has raised.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Lickiss): Order! The honourable member for Redlands will accept the denial of the honourable member for Landsborough,



**Mr. BALDWIN:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not know if you were in the chair, but the honourable member for Landsborough—

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I do not want to debate the matter. The honourable member for Landsborough has taken a point of order and I ask the honourable member to accept his denial.

**Mr. BALDWIN:** How can I accept it when he interjected, "Slander", when I was speaking? I would not have said that if he had not accused me of engaging in slander.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Landsborough has stated that he was wrongly quoted by the honourable member for Redlands and he has said that the inference drawn by the honourable member for Redlands is not the correct one. I ask the honourable member for Redlands to accept the denial of the honourable member for Landsborough.

**Mr. Davis:** You must withdraw it.

**Mr. BALDWIN:** I do so, in so far as it goes, without including the honourable member's interjection of "Slander".

**Mr. Davis:** You'll see what happens.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Brisbane is reflecting on the Chair.

**Mr. Davis:** I was not reflecting on the Chair.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member was reflecting on the Chair. He said, "You have to accept it, otherwise you'll see what happens." I take that as a reflection on the Chair and ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Deputy Speaker—

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I do not want a debate. I ask the honourable member to withdraw the statement.

**Mr. Davis:** I did not reflect on you; I reflected on Small.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I now warn the honourable member under the provisions of Standing Order 123A and I ask him to withdraw the statement.

**Mr. Davis:** I withdraw it.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I advise the honourable member to watch himself.

**Mr. BALDWIN:** I am firmly convinced that there is something to be inquired into in this matter. That is borne out by Councillor Vernardos himself, who paid me a visit

here and congratulated me on my stand and offered to support me. It is also borne out by a telegram signed by 61 residents of the Maroochy and Landsborough Shires which I have before me. It reads—

"Congratulations on your stand against alleged corruption in the Maroochy Shire."

Regardless of what may be said in this House by way of answer to questions, no-one can convince me, on the evidence I have, that I should not have raised this matter. If the Ministers mentioned think that I have breached privilege, let them look at these documents. If they think that I, or anyone else, should have reported this matter to the police, I claim that laying these documents on the table for the Ministers in charge of those departments is better than reporting the matter to the police. If they want to denigrate their departments, that is their privilege.

In 1970 I presented to the Police Department and to the Minister in charge of that department the case of a fellow by the name of Wilkinson who gave me documented evidence that he had been wrongfully accused of not paying rent to the Queensland Housing Commission and that the rent had been wrongly collected. I have heard nothing about this since. I also presented the case of Brian Dawes, a criminal who took the household possessions of the Richardsons of Belmont. These people applied to have their property restored. The criminal was released on parole. He cleared his house of their property. That is what I got for going to the police on that occasion. I could give half-a-dozen examples.

While I am a member of this Parliament, no Government member will tell me what privilege and right I have to represent my electors or any other electors who come to me in my accredited position as a member of this Parliament. I have issued the challenge to those Ministers concerned: "Pay up or shut up!" I will be prepared to do the same.

I ask the Minister for Justice: Is it not true that Plant's trust account was frozen just prior to this incident of the fire? I regret that I made one slight error in contingent information. The fire was not in Plant's office; it was in a house he used outside Bli Bli. He had the electricity connected and shortly afterwards the house was burnt. The next day, before the ashes were cold bulldozers came in and heaped the ashes up. He was seen by people who were walking along the road to put documents in there, and they are prepared to come forward. The police went out there after this, but too late. All of this must surely be on record. The fire brigade is supposed to have been notified. On that account, let him be answerable—not me, the farmers, or anyone else.

**Mr. Ahern:** He has had nothing to do with any of those deals.

**Mr. BALDWIN:** That is the honourable member's opinion. I am giving the circumstantial evidence contingent to the whole case. The more the honourable member denies it and the more he jumps up and down, the more case there is to clear their names. If these persons who have given me this information are wrong, I will expect them to apologise to me, to the honourable member and to the others, just as the honourable member would.

(Time expired.)

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Mr. FRAWLEY** (Murrumba) (12.3 p.m.): I rise to speak on a matter of great public interest to people throughout Queensland. I refer to local government. I do so with a tinge of regret, because in a few short months I intend to sever my connection with local government. To serve on local government is a very rewarding experience, and I have no regrets because of the six years I have spent as an alderman on the Redcliffe City Council.

Local government is the very epitome of democratic, on-the-spot government, and its functions should be expanded rather than whittled away as the result of a lack of finance or take-over by a State Government. Any large-scale amalgamation of local authorities into regional government would nullify the many and important advantages of the present form of local government, which is government directly answerable to the people, easily accessible to the people and easily removed by the people, as compared with bigger and more remote forms of government.

Because local government members live in the midst of the area under their administration and are personally interested in it, they are more responsive to the needs of the people. Local government affords the opportunity for local participation in government. For example, in the city of Redcliffe, 35,000 electors in an area of 13 square miles elect a mayor and eight aldermen. Of course, only a percentage of those 35,000 residents are eligible to vote, but the remainder at least exercise some influence on the result of the election.

The last, and perhaps the most important, asset of local government is that bureaucracy, which intends to impair democracy, is at a minimum. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people of Redcliffe for having me as an alderman for two successive terms. I feel that I have justified the confidence shown in me by endeavouring to exercise my vote intelligently for the good of the city of Redcliffe.

Moreover, never at any time have I allowed myself to forget that as an alderman my duty has been to the citizens of

Redcliffe, and any decisions I have made over the past six years have been in their interests. Perhaps at times I have allowed my feelings to influence my decisions and have bent the by-laws a little, especially when dealing with pensioners and other people in unfortunate circumstances, but, given the opportunity to start again, I would still make the same decisions.

Far too many aldermen, councillors, and even council officers, tend to forget that they are the servants of the people. Their salaries and allowances are paid by the people, and they are in office to assist people rather than to impose their will on them. Some aldermen serve on councils to further their own selfish social ambitions, and when they become chairman of a committee they think they are omnipotent. However, given a little time, people recognise their insincerity and shallowness, and they exercise their franchise accordingly at the polls.

There have been cases of people serving on councils for financial gain, for instance, to get information on subdivisional land and use that knowledge to their own advantage. Searching through rate cards seeking information with regard to people's properties, and using that information, is another very unethical practice that takes place at times. However, all these things are in the minority, and only in very isolated cases do they occur. During my term in local government I have never been involved in any of these shady practices, and I am quite certain that the majority of members of local government throughout the State are good, sincere people who are making a worth-while contribution to their shire or city.

The electorate of Murrumba takes in the shire of Caboolture, part of the Pine Rivers Shire and part of the City of Redcliffe. The chairman of the Pine Rivers Shire Council, Councillor John Bray, is to retire at the end of next March after serving as a Pine Rivers Shire councillor for 26 years, the last 22 as chairman. He has given sterling service to local government, and I offer him my sincere congratulations on a job well done.

The chairman of the Caboolture Shire Council, Councillor Alex Barr, who was one of my opponents at the last State election, is in his first term as chairman, and under his leadership the shire has progressed. I should like to congratulate him also.

Last but not least is the mayor of Redcliffe, Alderman Kroll, who is at present serving his third term as mayor. He has been a member of the council for 15 years. On the retirement of the honourable member for Redcliffe (Mr. J. Houghton) who was the first mayor of the City of Redcliffe (before becoming a city it was known as the Town of Redcliffe), Alderman Kroll was elected mayor, and he has retained that position at two

subsequent elections. After serving under Alderman Kroll for six years, I have nothing but the highest regard for him. Noted for his sense of fair play and complete impartiality in the conduct of meetings, Alderman Kroll has firmly established himself in the saddle and he will, I am sure, continue to be mayor of Redcliffe as long as he offers himself for the position. I have on many occasions disagreed with his rulings, but is it not typical of the democracy in which we live that we are allowed to disagree?

Local government is completely devoid of party politics, and I feel that it should stay that way. In 1967, the A.L.P. ran a team of five men in Redcliffe for election as aldermen at the council elections. Only one was elected, which is evidence of the people's belief that party politics have no place in local government. A glaring example of the dangers of party politics in local government is evidenced by the actions of the Brisbane City Council. Here, most of the decisions are made by one man who, over the years, has held many businessmen to ransom. If, for example, an oil company wishes to construct a service station anywhere in Brisbane, it has to "kick in" \$8,000 to the Brisbane City Council. This money is for kerbing and channelling and other necessary road works associated with the service station. The cost of these works, as I have learnt from experience in Redcliffe, is approximately \$3,000. This means that the Brisbane City Council gets a nice rake-off from every service station established in Brisbane. In addition, the land required for the truncation of the corner has to be given to the council free of cost. Of course, the oil companies are quite happy with this arrangements, as they soon recoup their outlay.

Other councils, too, place restrictions on people who wish to develop land, and aldermen and councillors must see that they do not give blanket approval to all recommendations made by their planning officers. Far too many aldermen are content to sit back and allow council officers to make decisions on matters that are vital to the ratepayers, to whom they are responsible.

The awarding of council contracts is another matter that must be watched very carefully by all aldermen. The last fuel contract awarded by the Redcliffe City Council was the subject of much discussion. Fortunately the lowest tender, that of Caltex, was accepted, despite many attempts by B.P. to have the council decision altered.

Valuations have caused a great deal of dissatisfaction in local government, but I should like to emphasise that although the Valuer-General's valuations are used for the levying of rates, the total amount of rates collected by a local authority is purely a

matter for that authority. The Valuer-General has no say whatsoever in the rates to be levied, but his valuations are the means of distributing the total rating burden amongst the landholders in a local authority area.

All local authorities should have both a rural and an urban rate, and, in addition, a concession should be given to pensioners. The Redcliffe City Council rates pensioners at 50 percent of the general rate, and its rural rating is 25 per cent of urban rating. Pensioners who do not receive this concession from local authorities should make their voices heard, especially at the next local Government elections in March 1973.

Notwithstanding anything said to the contrary, local authorities have the power to strike their own rate and any attempts by them to blame the valuation of land for excessive rates is merely shelving their responsibility to their electors. The basis on which valuations for rating are made are as follows: First of all, the Valuer-General is required to ascertain the market value of land, which is determined by examining the sales of land about the relevant date in the locality of the land being valued. Any person who buys or sells land must furnish the Valuer-General with a notification of the change of ownership in a form known as V.G.1., which includes particulars of the sale price, the terms of sale, and other details. Officers of the Valuer-General's Department inspect the land sold and analyse the sale price to the best of their ability. As far as possible the circumstances of each transaction are investigated, such as whether the sale was a family sale, whether there was any degree of compulsion or over-anxiousness on the part of the vendor to sell, or whether the purchaser was experienced. The amount that a man desiring to buy the land would have had to pay to a vendor willing to sell it for a fair price, but not anxious to sell, is also taken into consideration.

In some cases the sales are of unimproved land, and the calculation of the unimproved value from these sales is fairly simple. In other cases, however, the only sales available are of improved land, and the valuer must then proceed on the basis that the property being valued is in its unimproved state but that surrounding properties are developed to the extent to which they are and that the existing public services and facilities are available.

Unimproved value has often been the subject of attack, and it should be realised that at times it can lead to some anomalies in rating. In some States, invisible improvements such as clearing, filling, and the like, are disregarded when assessing the value of improvements. However, in Queensland the definition of unimproved value at present contained in the Act has stood the test of time and no satisfactory alternative has yet been presented.

## CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (12.12 p.m.): The matter of public interest that I wish to raise relates to child welfare.

A major responsibility of any statutory child welfare department is to provide alternative care for those children whose families are considered, for a variety of reasons, to be unable to provide a suitable environment for those children.

Traditionally, provision has been made for such children to be cared for in large institutional-type buildings, where little personalised attention has been possible. With the development of modern principles of child care, large institutions are no longer seen as being a satisfactory method; in fact, they are seen as being positively detrimental to the well-being of children deprived of their own families.

It is evident, however, that apart from the development of foster care, only minimal attempts have been made in Queensland to overcome the historical legacy of the traditional institution. This is not to deny the individual efforts of some homes to provide better standards, but the criticisms I raise today do apply broadly to patterns of child care in Queensland.

It has long been held by authorities such as Robinson and Goldfarb, that children who are deprived of their own families are likely to be emotionally upset in a way which can hinder their development of relationships, affect their image of themselves as worthwhile, lovable people, and influence their capacity to learn at school and elsewhere.

Let us consider first, then, a simple dimension such as the size of children's homes in Queensland. There are some 50 State and licensed institutions in Queensland, including five owned and run by the State, and three especially for Aboriginal children at Palm Island, Cherbourg and Woorabinda. Over half of these institutions are much too large by modern standards of care.

Let us take 12 as the optimum number of children if they are to receive good, personal care in a family-size unit, albeit a large family on today's standards. We find that 27 homes have more than 12 children—I obtained that information from the annual report of the Department of Children's Services for 1971—which means that approximately 1,400 children, or 90 per cent of all children in homes at any one time, are living in homes larger than 12.

Clearly, 50 would be a large home, in anybody's language, for the care of children who have already undergone distressing, traumatic experiences. In Queensland there are, incredibly, nine homes with more than 50 children, containing approximately 50 per cent of all children in homes. Nor has there, apparently, been a great deal of effort put

into encouraging the establishment of small family-unit homes in the community, the exceptions being the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist family-group homes.

Instead, the tendency over the past two or three years has been to increase the size of the existing complexes, for example, the addition of a new cottage at Boys Town, further group units at Tufnell Home and another dormitory block at the Church of England Boys' Home at Enoggera.

The pressures on house-parents under these conditions are enormous, especially when some of the children in their care are emotionally disturbed, subnormal, in stages of anxiety or depression, or revealing their fears through aggression.

Another inevitable effect of the large-sized home is the labelling of children who reside there. The larger the number, the easier it becomes for the community to identify the "home kids", especially when such practices exist as going to school in a special, marked bus and having special parties en masse. Thus the children are separated off as recipients of charity. In fact they are classified as second-class citizens.

Surely the only sane alternative is to establish many more small family-style homes within the community so that children who have been separated from their own families can experience at least some of the conditions, such as the right to privacy and the opportunity to establish positive relationships within a family-like setting, which we would see as essential for our own children.

The training for house-parents is approached in Queensland in a limited piecemeal fashion, and there is a desperate need for the training and selection of staff to be professionalised. Many staff readily acknowledge that they are not trained to cope with the demands placed upon them, and too often a situation which calls for understanding and sympathy produces an authoritative response from a harassed house-parent. In many homes the emphasis is on polish and extra neatness, creating an uncomfortable environment for the children.

Too often there is very poor communication between the homes and the department to which they are responsible. This is the fault neither of the home nor of the child welfare officer who liaises with the home, but of the department, which allows this situation to continue. A child is placed in a home simply because a vacancy exists, and frequently the home is not supplied with adequate information as to the particular needs of the child. The child welfare officer who liaises with the home has a heavy case-load over and above the children in the home. He has not sufficient time to ensure that children are returned to the care of their own families as soon as possible, or even

to get to know the children in the home, or to discuss with the staff problems of individual children.

The placement of a child in a home is a complex procedure which demands skill and understanding. In the pre-placement period the child and his parents must be prepared for the coming separation, and the child should be introduced gradually to the selected home. Following placement, parents, child and staff should work together to minimise as far as possible the traumatic effects of separation, for example, feelings of loneliness and rejection on the part of the child. The total placement period should be seen as a working towards the child returning to his family as soon as possible. And yet the complexity of this process is often simply not recognised and, particularly by this Tory Government, many placements are made on a hasty ad hoc basis.

Adolescent care facilities in Queensland require special comment. Adolescents are generally placed in training homes as the result of a court order, though often no specific offence has been committed. "Boys who are the subject of application for care and control are involved mainly in very minor offences or are uncontrollable behaviour problems. Girls in this category are generally guilty of immoral behaviour." That quotation is taken from the 1971 annual report. Thus, adolescents entering training centres are already stigmatised as "bad". Removal from home and segregation from the community further reinforce this image and the feelings of rejection and worthlessness that accompany such a self-image. It would be difficult to convince the adolescent who enters Wilson Youth Hospital through three sets of locked gates that he is going to be treated rather than punished.

Given, however, that firstly, every effort has been made to assist the adolescent and his family before removal from home has become necessary and, secondly, a responsible decision has been made that the adolescent is still in need of alternative care, presumably the adolescent then requires some form of supportive therapeutic experience in a setting which does not remove him totally from the social, community environment and which allows for recognition of himself as a person with individual needs and individual problems. And yet the emphasis in much of the "treatment" for adolescents is still in producing a "good" boy or girl rather than in providing positive individual and group relationship experiences.

Thus, at Westbrook "the approach to the improvement of attitudes has been through general and religious instruction, treatment of sickness and handicaps, exemplification of conduct and bearing, and the encouragement of self control and industrious habits." Again that quotation is taken from the 1971 annual report.

Some homes operate on the "reward" system—"If you conform to our rules, you will be rewarded accordingly"—but how relevant are the rules of a narrowly limited environment to the adolescent when he leaves the institution? Mere behavioural conformity cannot be seen to be a worth-while goal of any "treatment" setting.

Perhaps the social and psychological injustices which children in institutions suffer are ultimately derived from societal attitudes—homes must be seen to be undesirable as a deterrent against the violation of societal norms, whether on the part of "bad" parents or "bad" adolescents. Or perhaps our society's priorities simply do not favour the expenditure of public money on providing more adequate and up-to-date facilities for the politically powerless. And these children are politically powerless.

In any case, while we are putting off making changes many children are suffering damage to their personalities now and a severe limiting of their chances of success in life in the future, even though a lot is already known about how to prevent this.

Again, the small-group unit seems to be a much healthier alternative for the adolescent in care. Discipline will be necessary, but the prime feature must be the opportunity for the adolescent to learn about himself, and himself in relation to others, in the context of a small group under the guidance of trained sympathetic staff.

I urge the Minister to give serious consideration to the matters I have raised.

#### BRISBANE FREEWAY COMPENSATION AND PROTEST COMMITTEE

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.21 p.m.): I should like to take this opportunity of making public some facts about an organisation known as the Brisbane Freeway Compensation and Protest Committee, which has received considerable publicity over the last few days. This organisation has attracted the support of a number of good people from within my electorate of Merthyr who are affected by proposed freeway works and who have been advised that their homes or properties will ultimately be resumed. These people are naturally very concerned as to whether they will receive adequate compensation to enable them to purchase a home of a similar type. They were therefore persuaded, by a printed invitation placed in their letter-boxes, to attend the inaugural meeting of the organisation, which was held on 20 November 1972 in the chapel of K. M. Smith, Funeral Directors, 95 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley.

I was present at this meeting, as was also the honourable member for Brisbane (Mr. Davis). May I say that I was not invited to the meeting as Mr. Davis was, but I found

out indirectly that it was being held and went along to be of whatever assistance I could to my constituents.

The meeting was called by Mr. Smith, the funeral director, and Father Tiernan, a Roman Catholic Y.C.W. chaplain from Fortitude Valley. The purpose of the meeting, as shown on the printed invitation, was—

(1) to form an organisation to fight for better compensation for land holders affected by resumptions; and

(2) to consider the desirability of preventing more freeways in the city.

Soon after the meeting was opened by Mr. Smith, a motion was moved by a Mr. Gordon O'Sullivan, a paid official of the Australian Labor Party—who just happened to be present—proposing that the organisation adopt as its aim the first of the purposes mentioned above. I could have no argument with this and was prepared to give it my support. However, a further proposal was then made to the meeting by a man named Geoff Goulet, who is a very active member of the Communist Party of Australia, calling for the adoption of a second aim, namely, to prevent the building of more freeways in Brisbane. He was supported in this proposal by three other members of the Communist Party of Australia, namely, Mr. Bill Hill, Mr. Merv Young and Mr. Bruce Carmichael.

The matter was put to the vote by the chairman in a very informal way, and although it seemed to me that it did not have majority support, the chairman announced that it had been carried, thus committing the organisation to consider the desirability of preventing more freeways in the city. The honourable member for Brisbane and I both addressed the meeting and, following this, the name of the organisation was decided on and a committee was formed to convene a further meeting at a later date. The Communist Party members, Bill Hill and Geoff Goulet, were both nominated for membership of the committee.

A further meeting of the organisation was called for Monday, 11 December 1972, at the Hope of the Valley Lodge Hall, Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley. A leaflet was distributed to interested parties for this purpose. The aims of the organisation were set out on the leaflet as follows:—

(1) to fight for a just and equitable form of compensation for freeway victims, based on resettlement costs; and

(2) to call on the Government to halt the building of freeways in view of the growing feeling, both here and overseas, that the problems associated with freeways outweigh their value.

It seems to me that these aims go further than those adopted at the first meeting. Anyone who was present at the meeting at the lodge hall will know that I went to the

trouble to attend in order to point this fact out as early in the process of the meeting as possible. In particular, I drew the attention of those present to the second aim, which in fact amounted to complete opposition to the building of freeways in Brisbane. I pointed out the impracticability of this proposal because of the necessity to have freeways to allow of the quick and orderly flow of traffic from one side of Brisbane to another, thus alleviating congestion in suburban residential streets.

I told the meeting that, as I could not support this second aim, I would therefore have to dissociate myself from the organisation. I pointed out that I was perfectly happy to represent any of my constituents who may feel that they were not receiving just and adequate compensation. I stand by this statement, and invite anyone who needs help to contact me or his State member of Parliament on the matter.

Prior to leaving this meeting, I felt it my duty to caution the chairman as to the credentials of some of the people who had been most vocal and active in the organisation so far. I pointed out that there were people in the organisation who I knew did not live anywhere near the proposed freeway, and I suggested that he check their political affiliations. I was referring, of course, to the presence of the Communists, Bill Hill, Geoff Goulet, Merv Young and Joseph Evans, none of whom live anywhere near the route of the proposed freeway. Nor, of course, does Mr. Gordon O'Sullivan. Yet two of these gentlemen had found their way onto the executive committee of the organisation.

From the behaviour of these four men prior to the meeting, it was obvious that they were taking some active part in organising the meeting. This is another reason why I will not be associated with this organisation, which, despite the good intentions of some of its members, has developed in a very short time into nothing more than a political front.

I state my position quite clearly; I will not be associated with any organisation in which members of the Communist Party are involved. Apart from the fact that none of these people are to be trusted, their motives are suspect and I do not believe they serve the interests of the innocent whom they involve in what they like to call "mass organisations".

It may puzzle some honourable members to know why such prominent Communists would be interested in freeways. This interest was first shown several months ago, when a decision was made by the national committee of the Communist Party of Australia to climb onto the band wagon of conservation, environment and quality-of-life issues and so attract public interest and support for the Communist Party.

To co-ordinate this activity, each State office of the Communist Party was directed to set up a new cell of cadres to be known as an Ecology and Resources Group. This was done in Queensland, and in August this year the group's first leaflet was published. It is authorised by Mr. Charlie Gifford, who was, conveniently, the Communist Party candidate for the Federal election in Brisbane. The leaflet, a copy of which I have with me, is headed, "Free Transport—not Freeways", and calls on the Queensland Government to stop the construction of the Central and Northern Freeways or any future freeways. This is the same aim as that proposed by the Communist Party members three months later at the meeting of the Brisbane Freeway Compensation and Protest Committee.

Prior to the first freeway meeting, and during the election campaign, Mr. Gifford distributed another pamphlet in which he advised that he was "currently engaged in a campaign to restructure the Brisbane public transport system, which is neglected, inefficient and expensive due to an irrational scale of priorities which puts the private motor-car and the congestion and pollution it brings ahead of an efficient free rapid transit system."

In September of this year another pamphlet was issued in Brisbane by the Ecology and Resources Group of the Communist Party of Australia against pollution by A.P.M. at Petrie, as well as by other "capitalist companies", as they are referred to. All these leaflets contain a tear-off slip for completion by interested persons who may wish to join the Communist Party of Australia.

It was this Ecology and Resources Group of the Communist Party that was responsible for the initiative in forming the Brisbane Freeway Compensation and Protest Committee through some well-meaning people with whom they made contact, and it is this same Communist cell that, through the Communists I have mentioned, exerts a great influence on the organisation up to the present time.

If anyone who attended the first meeting is in any doubt about what I say, he should ask himself who it was that persuaded those present—a majority of whom only want to receive adequate compensation—to agree to the second aim, namely, opposition to the construction of further freeways. It was indeed the four Communists. This could only result in a head-on confrontation with the Government, which, I submit, will suit the Communists, who have a vested interest in conflict.

A perusal of recent issues of the Communist Party newspaper "Tribune" will also illustrate that party's new-found interest in ecology. In other States we have seen activity that has resulted from the decision

arrived at several months ago by the national committee of the Communist Party of Australia. For example, Mr. Jack Munday, the well-known Communist secretary of the Builders' Labourers' Federation, refused to allow his workers to work on certain jobs that he claims will affect the environment. He is using the industrial strength of the union he controls to halt national development and progress. This is a national Communist campaign of disruption.

I caution those people with a genuine complaint about freeway resumptions to ensure that they are not being used merely for someone else's political purposes, irrespective of the party to which he may belong, as this will not serve their interests or those of their families in gaining fair and adequate compensation and satisfactory resettlement, which must be of paramount consideration when people are displaced to make way for roadworks that will benefit the majority. The principle that must prevail is that the majority must bear the cost of shifting the displaced minority.

When the policy committee under the Wilbur Smith Plan, which is made up of representatives of the State Government and the Brisbane City Council and, as well, includes the Lord Mayor, has decided to construct freeways in this city, I believe it has adopted a balanced approach in the argument of freeways versus public transport, and no doubt it will continue to do so. I do not deny genuine people who attend these meetings—some local, and some from the university—and who are sincere in their activities, the right to do so. I simply say they are entitled to know who they stand with when they attend meetings of such a nature so that they will not be misused, either consciously or otherwise.

**Mr. DAVIS** (Brisbane) (12.31 p.m.): Early this morning, when the House adjourned, we learned that the House would have to sit today because the honourable member for Merthyr had told the Premier he wanted to disclose something of vital importance, and demanded his right to be heard. Today, we have listened to 10 minutes of pure, utter claptrap from him.

**A Government Member:** Do you support the Coms?

**Mr. DAVIS:** If the honourable member will wait a moment I will tell the House about this original meeting that was called. I attended because I am interested in that freeway, and because I am affected. I am not like people from Hamilton Heights, who frown on the poor working people of the district and say, "Very well, we will help you with compensation." I attended the meeting after receiving an invitation from Father Tynan, the director of the Young Christian Workers of St. Patricks, and Mr. Cyril Smith, Chairman of K. M. Smith. I do not think

anyone could call him a Left-winger. At the meeting I listened to the men and women who expressed concern about how their properties would be affected.

I should say that 150 people attended the meeting. The honourable member for Merthyr now says—obviously after checking with the Special Branch—that four or five Communists were amongst the 150 people who attended the meeting. I guarantee that there were 50 or 60 Tories in attendance and about five or 10 National Civic Council members, as obviously the honourable member would know.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIS:** If he did know that the Nazis were there, he certainly did not bring the fact to our attention.

I did not attend the last meeting held in the electorate of Merthyr, but I should like to know why the honourable member did not tell the 300 or so people who attended the meeting that, in their number, were Communists who were trying to divert them from obtaining adequate compensation. I guarantee he did not say that. He says now that he spoke to the chairman about them. Probably as he left the meeting, he said, "There are a couple of Communists around here, so be careful."

I represent this area that will be devastated when the freeway is constructed. Many "ifs" and "buts" have been raised about the resumptions and the prices to be paid. Government members may talk about what they have done. When the freeway was announced—incidentally, it was a couple of weeks after the last election, not before it, because the Government knew that if the news was released before the election there would be political implications—

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** What is your attitude to freeways?

**Mr. DAVIS:** I do not intend to subsidise the construction of freeways, and I have told all who will be affected that I do not intend to see them subsidising progress. The community has to pay for the freeways. I ask honourable members to consider the plight of a lady of 75 whose land adjoins the back of my place. She was offered \$5,000 for her house. Where will she go? I have here an illuminating article that appeared in the "Express." It concerns the member for Merthyr, who made a grand tour, accompanied by a TV camera crew. He knocked on two or three doors in the electorate and said to the people, "I am the member for Merthyr. I will look after your interests." He said that he believed the Government should—

**Mr. LANE:** I rise to a point of order. The statement made by the honourable member that I knocked on only two or three doors is untrue. I find it offensive and I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr. DAVIS:** Perhaps the honourable member knocked on 10 doors.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw the statement.

**Mr. DAVIS:** I should like to point out that the tour was not made only by the honourable member for Merthyr. His cohort the honourable member for Clayfield was with him. They suggested that the State Government, after taking these properties, should lend the owners money so that they could buy other properties. The honourable member for Merthyr said—

"We feel that the Government has a responsibility to see that some form of finance is lent to these people to bridge the gap between what they will get for their old home and what it will cost them for another one."

**Mr. K. W. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIS:** That is fair enough. The older ones do get hurt more. The Main Roads Department should have learnt a lesson from the South-east Freeway.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** The Main Roads Department does a fair job.

**Mr. DAVIS:** The property officer should not be blamed. John Bell is a decent fellow. All the people concerned with the Main Roads Department are good people to deal with. It is the policy of this Government that is the trouble. We should not kid ourselves. Over the past three months, four or five different statements have been made by the Minister for Main Roads and the Premier, claiming that there must be some revival of compensation, etc.

So far, over 60 houses between Fortitude Valley and the electorates of Merthyr and Clayfield have been resumed, and very inadequate compensation has been offered. I have referred to the lady who was offered \$5,000. Another person was offered \$7,500. Where would a person get any decent property in Brisbane these days for that sort of money? Even in the flooded areas around Northey Street properties which are not connected with the freeway are selling for \$7,000 and \$8,000, so there must be something radically wrong with the compensation payments.

Let me now deal with this allegation that the Communists seem to have taken over. We have heard this spiel from the honourable member for Merthyr in every speech he has made. He seems to have a mad phobia about the Communist Party. I am on record as stating that I stand against the Communist Party. As a union official, I have fought and beaten the Communists. What has this person done about the Communist Party? As I said the other day, I challenge the honourable member for Merthyr to come to the next meeting of the Brisbane Freeway Association and tell the chairman, Mr. Smith,



that he will not be connected with the association not because the Government is paying pitiful compensation but because two or three Communists have infiltrated that organisation.

**Mr. Lane** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIS:** The honourable member did not. I can say this because I have a couple of friends who tell me what goes on. Even though I could not attend the meeting on Monday night, I know that the honourable member for Merthyr did not make any public statement at that meeting about Communists being in the organisation. He might have said it to the chairman as he left the meeting, but he did not get to his feet and state publicly that he would not be involved with that organisation.

**Mr. Lane:** That is only hearsay; second-hand stuff.

**Mr. DAVIS:** It is not second-hand stuff. The honourable member admits it is a fact, otherwise he would rise and ask me to withdraw it. I know his form. I have heard from a couple of directions what the honourable member for Merthyr has done. It is typical of what he has tried to do in this Chamber since he has been here. It has been typical smear—

**Mr. Lane:** It seems to worry you.

**Mr. DAVIS:** It does not worry me. I am in a different position because I am affected by the freeway. I know what these people are going through, and the worries that they have. It is all very well to sit comfortably on Hamilton Heights and say, "I am glad I'm not affected by the freeway." It always seems to be the poorer-class suburbs and the working people who are affected by freeways. I shall be supporting the Brisbane Freeway Association, and I shall be assisting my constituents to obtain just and adequate compensation.

#### TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT STREET INTERSECTIONS, BRISBANE

**Mr. HUGHES** (Kurilpa) (12.41 p.m.): I call for some measure of sanity and, in the interests of saving lives, the urgent provision of three sets of traffic lights to help reduce the hazard at three of the city's most serious traffic situations. Two of them are of parochial interest to me, and the third concerns the dreadful traffic shemozzle and Rafferty's rules that one sees every day at the intersections of Albert Street with Adelaide and Ann Streets.

I shall deal first with the situation at the junction of Annerley Road and Gladstone Road. A huge volume of traffic now uses Beaudesert Road and the other highways to the South, and at this junction there is now probably the highest traffic count in Brisbane. A promise to install lights there was made back in the time of the late Mr. Ernie Evans, when the Government gave the Brisbane City Council the right to install

traffic lights and receive finance from parking-meter revenue. Lights were programmed for installation at this intersection at that time.

The Brisbane City Council has been recreant in its duty, and it has been hopelessly unrealistic in its works programmes and priorities. Because of the great volume of traffic and the many pedestrians, including aged people and school-children, who use this junction, provision of lights there should be given urgent priority. As the local alderman has dodged his duty, I must bring the matter up in this House on behalf of the motorists and pedestrian concerned, and call for urgent action.

I now refer to the junction of Dornoch Terrace and Gladstone Road. The situation there is even worse than the one I have already mentioned. Public meetings were held earlier this year in the area to deal with this matter. After waiting for years for the installation of traffic lights at this junction and receiving many promises from the council that they would be provided, the ire of the citizens boiled over to the extent that they said, "This is a dangerous crossing. We will not be fobbed off any longer by meaningless promises of the Labor council." They held public meetings and pointed out to Alderman Dutton, and other representatives of the council, the dangers of this junction. Because of its accident record, it is well known to the Police Department. A war widows' home is situated nearby, and it is a particular danger for aged people. It is on the crest of a hill, and there are blind spots that make it an extremely dangerous intersection.

The local alderman has "dumped" the citizens in this instance, too. During the recent State election campaign the A.L.P. tried to make political capital out of the situation. They said, "We will put in lights, so vote for us." They might have fooled some of the people, too. They tried to place the blame on the Government for the absence of traffic lights, and they tried to mislead the people by untruthful statements.

The Lord Mayor promised, as was reported in the Press prior to the election, that traffic lights would be installed there. Nothing has been done. Since then, the alderman has been pressed by the committee that was set up—I am associated with it—to have lights provided. The members of the citizens' committee are told by the alderman that the Government dictates where the council shall install lights. They are also told, "We have to use the traffic-light money for the installation of lights in Mary, Margaret and George Streets because of the freeway development."

I want to expose those claims as lies and subterfuge on the part of the council. It is ducking for cover and is not doing its job. In reply to questions posed to me by the committee, I said—

"The Brisbane City Council carry out the installation of traffic lights in city and suburban streets.

"The B.C.C. do so entirely at their own discretion, unfettered by any control or dictation by the State Government.

"The B.C.C. act autonomously and place their own priorities on the location or installation of traffic lights.

"The B.C.C. receive from the State Government each year the sum of \$120,000 from the Traffic Engineering Trust Fund. This fund is financed by drivers' licence fees."

That, of course, comes from licence fees. I then said—

"The B.C.C. do not (and in fact have refused) to submit a programme of works of traffic lights to the Main Roads Department.

"The Government, this year, granted a special and additional subsidy of \$70,000 to the B.C.C. to provide for the installation of lights for the South East Freeway and linking to the computer control at Hawthorne Street. This includes paying for the supply and installation of lights at George, Alice, Margaret and Charlotte Streets."

In ducking for cover, the council has wrongly accused the Government of taking certain action. In fact, as I pointed out, the Government has provided the council with additional funds for the installation of traffic lights in the area near Parliament House and the freeway.

In the light of these facts, having in mind the safety of both pedestrians and motorists, I call on the Brisbane City Council to install the traffic lights I have mentioned as a matter of urgency.

I intended to ask the Minister for Transport a question without notice this morning. It was—

"Further to a question asked by me recently wherein I drew attention to the volume of heavy-duty trucks and semi-trailers using Queen Street, will the Minister now, as a matter of urgency and in the interests of the safety and welfare of citizens, have the Commissioner of Police, the council authorities, or whoever is responsible, issue orders preventing such vehicles from using Queen and Adelaide Streets during peak and shopping hours up to and including 23 December?"

I point out to the House that these streets will now be frequented by large numbers of citizens, including shoppers and children, and will also carry an increased volume of buses and other motor vehicles. I ask the Minister, therefore, to take urgent action to see that the streets mentioned are made safe for pedestrians and motorists.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** Under the Traffic Act, the Government has no authority to do what the honourable member asks. However, I will certainly try to co-operate with the Brisbane City Council and do something about it.

**Mr. HUGHES:** If the Minister for Transport makes representations to the Brisbane City Council for action to be taken, I think both he and the Government will receive a tremendous amount of commendation from the public. Something must be done about it; I leave it to the Minister.

I also draw the attention of the House to the traffic snarls now occurring at the corner of Adelaide and Albert Streets and Ann and Albert Streets. Why are the traffic lights not operating at these corners? It is because Alderman Jones wants to subvert the Government by using this form of coercion and pressure, regardless of the safety of citizens, to bring about the closure of Albert Street. By not using the traffic lights he is able to say, "Look at the traffic snarls at the corner of Albert and Adelaide Streets." He says, in effect, "Damn and to hell with public safety and convenience!" He wants Albert Street closed, and this is one way of trying to coerce the Government into taking action. I do not think the Government will fall for it, but I say that it should be mindful of his motives and the dangers associated with the action he is taking.

If the Minister for Transport, in conjunction with the Minister in charge of police, takes realistic action and makes a request to the council relative to the non-use of Queen and Adelaide Streets by heavy vehicles up till Christmas time, that may tend to give some relief. However, it will not overcome the traffic snarls that occur throughout the day at the corners to which I have referred. At what cost to human life will it be? Have we to wait till there is death and carnage on the roads? Have we to wait till there is a tremendous amount of damage to property caused by motor vehicles? Have we to put up with the inconvenience and the slowing up of city traffic and transport because of the attitude of the Lord Mayor, who wishes to bring pressure to bear on the Government to close one street? Let us have the traffic lights used. They were in fact installed at the corner of Adelaide and Albert Streets, but the Lord Mayor once again said, "Although they have been installed at public cost, you are not going to turn them on."

Anyone driving along Ann Street can see any day of the week the tangles and snarls that occur at the corner of Ann and Albert Streets, and there are similar snarls and tangles at the corner of Adelaide and Albert Streets. What will happen with the increased volume of motor traffic between now and 23 December? What about the safety of people? I think that should be supreme. Let us get action.

(Time expired.)

ALLEGATIONS BY MEMBER FOR REDLANDS AGAINST MR. K. L. PLANT, MAROOCHYDORE

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Minister for Justice) (12.49 p.m.): I do not intend to take up much time in this debate, which

is one on matters of public interest or grievances, but I think it is appropriate that Ministers should answer charges made during the course of it.

The honourable member for Redlands asked me this morning to conduct an immediate inquiry. His allegations concerned a solicitor named Plant who, the honourable member said, was under investigation by the Justice Department. I have made inquiries this morning and I find that there is absolutely no investigation being undertaken by the Justice Department. The Justice Department has not frozen the funds of solicitor Plant, and there is no investigation of solicitor Plant's affairs by the Justice Department.

#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH AND QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENTS

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.50 p.m.): As we are coming to the close of the sitting, I thought it would be a fair time to have a look at some of the statements made by Government spokesmen concerning the new A.L.P. Federal Government.

I was amazed to find that the Government of this State was out of step with every other State in the Commonwealth. Immediately the Queensland Government knew that a Labor Government was to take office in Canberra, it started a vicious attack on the new Federal Government. That was beneath the dignity of the State and certainly was not what the people of the State would have wanted. The attack started before the new Government was even sworn in.

I refer to a statement made by the Premier as reported in "The Australian" on Monday, 4 December. That was at a time when Mr. McMahon was still Prime Minister—before he picked up his marbles and ran home saying, "We are no longer going to govern." Although the election was held a week earlier in New Zealand, it was only last Friday that the Government officially changed. Mr. McMahon immediately picked up his marbles and said, "I am handing in my commission." The newspaper article reads—

"The Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, said yesterday it was not up to the Queensland Government to co-operate with the new Federal Labor Government."

What a shocking thing to say!

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I rise to a point of order. At no time have I said I would not co-operate with the Federal Government. I have denied that Press statement on a number of occasions, publicly, through the Press, and so on. I said I would not co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in matters which we consider are not in Queensland's interests. I cited the border issue as one issue on which we would not co-operate.

**Mr. HUGHES:** I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition. It is offensive to me inasmuch as it is untruthful, because I, as a Government member, have said—

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

**Mr. HUGHES:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will resume his seat.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is not what the Premier said. Every day since the Federal election he has allowed the Minister for Health to get up and argue and debate something that was reported in the Press. That has happened every day. His present statement is completely untrue.

**Mr. TOOTH:** I rise to a point of order. I have been answering questions and I have consistently defended the Health Department against the most scurrilous attacks made by Messrs. Whitlam and Hayden.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw that statement.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Withdraw what? That he has been making replies in the House to what he has read in the newspapers? Let him deny that that is true.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Please proceed.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** He answered what was in the newspapers. If a Labor man says something and it is reported in the newspapers, honourable members opposite say that it is a truthful and factual report, but if a Government Minister's statement is reported in the Press, they say that the reporter misquoted him.

The same newspaper article reported that the Premier went on to say—

"It is our job to see to what extent Labor will honour its promises."

Fair enough! I have every faith that Labor will honour its promises. But what about the State Government? How many promises has the Government honoured since the last State election? During the election campaign the Government came out with an elaborate promise of pre-school education. We do not yet have one pre-school centre. There is still a shortage of trained teachers. Many features of the promised scheme were simply plucked from the air.

Rail freights were supposed to be reduced. How many rail freights have been reduced? Ask any honourable member from the northern areas about that.

Then there was the promise to appoint an ombudsman. Has anybody ever heard of this appointment? This again was only a political gimmick.

**Mr. Tucker** interjected.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I stand corrected. The current rumour is that the Treasurer is not going to accept an appointment to the Racing Commission, that he is not going to Tokyo, either, but that he is going to be the ombudsman.

What we do know, of course, are the things that were not promised by the Government during the election campaign—things about which the Government did not say one word. I do not want to go over the history of the City of Brisbane Act Amendment Bill.

Speaking about freeways, the honourable member for Merthyr did not say one word during the election campaign about the freeway going through his area. Neither the honourable member nor any other member on the Government side advocated during the election campaign that replacement compensation should be paid for a house or property that was resumed. That was a plank in the Labor Party's policy, but it was not part of the Government policy. In spite of all the talk now about compensation, all the Government is prepared to do is give the person affected the market value of the house. Anyone who goes to an estate agent and wants to sell a house will be handed a form to fill in. That form, which has to be filled in and signed, contains an undertaking that the property is not affected by a freeway, a railway route or anything else. In other words, if the seller tells the truth and admits that his property is affected, he must say, "Yes, I believe a freeway is going through the area." In that event the value of the property drops tremendously. This is the type of payment the Government wants to make to citizens of Brisbane.

In North Queensland there was no mention of a take-over of the North Queensland Fish Board. Not one word was said in North Queensland, or in any other part of Queensland, about that. The Bill was brought in, according to the Minister, because the North Queensland Fish Board could not provide money for rebuilding purposes. What about the S.G.I.O. coming to the rescue? It made money available to H. G. Palmer, which went bankrupt, and in that way lost over \$1,000,000 of contributors' money. I laughed this morning when I heard the Treasurer talking about whose money it was in a medical benefits fund. How many contributors to the S.G.I.O. knew and agreed that S.G.I.O. money should go to H. G. Palmer, or to that kind of investment?

**Sir Gordon Chalk:** Where do you want it to go?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Where did the Treasurer want the medical benefits money to go? He wants massive buildings. He does not want the money to go towards medical benefits. The Labor Party believes that money contributed to medical benefits funds should be used, if possible, to provide medical benefits.

If the S.G.I.O. invests money, the Treasurer thinks it is all right. When H. G. Palmer went broke he was very quiet about the situation. Now he is vocal about medical benefits funds.

During the election campaign I asked question after question about whether the new bridge over the River was to be built from Norman Park to New Farm. I was told it was not, that it was starting near Mowbray Park, which is not in my electorate at all. As soon as the election was over, however, a start was made on planning and obtaining property to build a bridge from Norman Park to New Farm. I am not against freeways, but there should be some order of priority and, so far as the south side is concerned, the highest priority should be given to the proposed Gateway Bridge. That should be built first.

**Mr. Camm** interjected.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Isn't the Gateway Bridge to be a freeway? I know the Minister for Main Roads was responsible for stopping the bridge being built in the first place.

(Time expired.)

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion agreed to.

#### VALEDICTORY

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (1 p.m.): I move—

"That the House do now adjourn."

At this time it is customary to extend seasonal greetings to you, Mr. Speaker, as well as to all honourable members and I do this as this first part of the first session of the 40th Parliament draws to a close.

It is interesting to note that during the 55 days on which we have been sitting the Government has initiated approximately 40 Bills. It has been a busy period and, as well, a memorable year. During the past 12 months there has again been tremendous growth throughout the State. The Government has enacted a wide variety of legislation designed to improve the quality of life of all Queenslanders and also to ensure the continued development of this great State.

I should like to thank Sir Gordon Chalk and all Government members for their co-operation and support during the past year. As a result of the election held in May, this

House welcomed several new members, and during the past six months they have ably represented their electorates.

At the end of the previous session we saw the retirement of a number of members, including the former Speaker, Sir David Nicholson.

You, Mr. Speaker, have followed a long line of distinguished Speakers in maintaining a good standard of conduct in this House. As Leader of the Government, I should like to express my thanks to you for the way in which you have discharged your responsibilities, and extend to you, your wife and family my seasonal greetings.

I also extend thanks and greetings to the Chairman of Committees and the Panel of Temporary Chairmen for their valuable role of ensuring proper conduct while the House is in Committee.

I should also like to extend thanks and seasonal greetings to the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues. I thank him for the way he has presented the Opposition's view with vigour, but never with animosity.

On behalf of the Government, I extend thanks and seasonal greetings to the Clerk of the Parliament (Mr. Cyril George), the Clerk-assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms (Mr. George Wyborn) and the other officers and attendants serving with them. The new members of Parliament, and even the more experienced ones, appreciate how much we rely on their experience, knowledge and advice, which they make available so courteously at all times.

I express my thanks to the Under Secretary of my department (Mr. Keith Spann) for his efficient administration and help to me in coping with the many complex problems that arose in the course of the year.

I also thank Mr. John Fisher for the quiet and efficient way he attends to his duties. I am sure I speak for all Ministers and members when I say "Thank you" to John for a job well done. My thanks also go to other officers of my department for their loyalty and industry, which, I believe, is reflected throughout the Service.

I should also like to thank the Parliamentary Draftsman (Mr. Jim O'Callaghan) and his officers for the efficient way they have framed the legislation that has been introduced. Their experience in law is reflected in the fact that over the years there have been very few challenges in the courts to Bills presented to Parliament. I appreciate the knowledge of Mr. O'Callaghan has imparted to me on a number of important legislative matters, and again I express my sincere thanks to him and his officers.

I also extend thanks and greetings to the Chief Hansard Reporter (Mr. Stan Rohl) and his staff for their very efficient recording of the business of Parliament. I am sure this is appreciated by all honourable members. The Library and clerical staffs also deserve our thanks for their willing assistance at all times.

We also appreciate the help of Miss Glennie and the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms staff, the telephonists, the messengers, the police, and indeed all staff who are part of the machinery of government and make it possible for Parliament to function smoothly.

In expressing these words of thanks, as is done every year, I do so in all sincerity not only on my own behalf but on behalf of all honourable members. We all recognise that without the help of the staff at Parliament House we simply could not function.

Parliament is going into recess with the knowledge that unemployment in Queensland is the lowest of all States. That gives satisfaction to the Government at this particular time of the year. I am sure honourable members will return to their homes and families feeling that they have played an important part in preserving the machinery of government and also in playing a role in the over-all development of our State.

I extend to you, Mr. Speaker, to Sir Gordon Chalk, to the Leader of the Opposition, and to all honourable members and officers of Parliament the compliments of the season.

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (1.6 p.m.): I join with the Premier in expressing sincere thanks at this time of the year. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on the way you have carried out your duties. I thank you for the assistance you have given me and all Opposition members, and no doubt this assistance has been extended to all Government members as well. I should like you to convey to the Clerk of the Parliament and his assistants our thanks for the many courtesies extended to us.

When we make speeches in this House they may or may not sound all right, but invariably when we read the report of them we are quite happy with the phraseology, the choice of words and the presentation. We must thank the "Hansard" staff for that. I find their accuracy so good that I can read speech after speech without finding it necessary to make one alteration. Thank you, gentlemen, we all appreciate the way you assist Parliament to operate.

Naturally, there are many other members of the parliamentary staff who deserve our thanks. I join with the Premier in thanking

Miss Glennie and the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms staff, the lads and lasses in the Parliamentary Library, and the messengers.

**A Government Member:** And the girls in the Correspondence Room.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** It is certainly not my intention to omit mentioning any members of the staff, because they all play a very important part in the operations of Parliament. Personally, I do not now come in very close contact with the girls in the typing pool, but I do know that their work is appreciated. I point out, however, that there are not enough typists at Parliament House. This is regrettable. If there was a shortage of staff in any other Government department, the Government would fall over backwards to ensure that adequate staff was available to do the job. Parliament is the most responsible department in the administration of the State. I point out to the Government through you, Mr. Speaker, that extra staff in the typists' pool would certainly be appreciated by all honourable members.

**Mr. Lee:** You aren't reflecting on the efficiency of the girls we have, are you?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Of course not. They are completely efficient. But no matter how efficient they are, with a little more assistance no doubt their work would be easier and thus they would be even more efficient.

**Mr. W. D. Hewitt:** The girls are not only efficient; they are highly decorative, too.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** They are very attractive.

I thank the Lodge staff for the way they look after country members, and the excellent way they carry out the many jobs that have to be done.

Thanks to the activities of the ground staff, it is seldom that visitors come to Parliament House when the gardens are not in magnificent bloom and the grounds in excellent shape. The ground staff are entitled to full credit for that.

We do not have any rowdiness problems in our Assembly, but I am sure that our friend the policeman, with his little radio box, would do an excellent job if the necessity arose.

At this stage I should like to thank members of my own staff, small though it is, for the tremendous job they have done. They have worked many hours beyond what is regarded as the normal spread on the multifarious duties and responsibilities that I have given them.

Last, but not least, I congratulate all new members of the House on the way they have applied themselves. New Opposition members came into Parliament with various backgrounds and various opinions on the duties and responsibilities of members of Parliament. I, and my older colleagues, are

happy at the way they have co-operated and co-ordinated with other members of the Opposition. It could truly be said that the Opposition has discharged its responsibilities to the full in its functions as part of the government of the State.

On behalf of Opposition members, I thank all Ministers and their departmental officers for the many courtesies they have extended to us and their help in solving problems of constituents. I extend to the Premier, the Deputy Premier, other Ministers and honourable members the best wishes for the Christmas season.

Whatever political opinions we have, Queensland needs complete co-operation between all tiers of government. I cannot conceive that anyone who accepts public office or is elected to public office through our democratic system is not a good Australian or would not work in the interests of Australia as a whole. Although we may differ on the various methods of obtaining something, co-operation is absolutely necessary if we are to progress as a nation.

Once again, on behalf of the Opposition I extend to you, Mr. Speaker, and all other honourable members the compliments of the season. I trust that next year will see us all back here together.

**Mr. SPEAKER** (1.12 p.m.): I thank both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for the kind remarks they have passed and the appreciation they have voiced for the efforts of the staff of the House. Their remarks are well founded. I thank them very sincerely.

I should like to express my very sincere thanks to the staff. I came in here as a very new boy and the staff have been of great assistance to me, particularly the gentlemen sitting in front of me and, of course, others who are not in the Chamber at present.

I extend to honourable members on both sides of the House my very sincere appreciation of their tolerance. I have made many mistakes. Possibly some honourable members may not have noticed them but, still and all, many did and were kind enough to overlook them. I appreciate that very much.

Honourable members, I join in extending the season's greetings to each and every one of you, and I look forward to seeing you all again when the House reassembles in the New Year.

I think I have covered most matters. The most pleasing task now is to invite everyone to the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms for a malted milk and a corned-beef sandwich.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.14 p.m.