

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 8 AUGUST 1973

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

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

APPEALS AND SPECIAL REFERENCE BILL

Assent reported by Mr. Speaker.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

LACK OF SUBMISSIONS TO COMMONWEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

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

(1) Why did (a) his Department, (b) the Commissioner of Police, (c) the Minister for Health, (d) the Queensland Road Safety Council and (e) the Co-ordinator-General fail to accept invitations to make submissions to the House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety at its public hearing in Brisbane on July 26?

(2) Does the lack of replies to such written invitations addressed by the Committee to the Commissioner of Police, the Minister for Health and the Queensland Road Safety Council indicate contempt for road-safety problems? If not, what other reason can be advanced for such discourtesy?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "As the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has, by his Question, made it patently clear that he is not aware of the true facts of the matter, I will provide him with the relevant details. On April 28, 1972, Mr. B. M. Chapman, the Senior Committee Clerk of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety wrote to me regarding the appointment of the Select Committee, setting out the terms of reference and requesting approval to seek the advice, assistance and evidence of the appropriate officers in Queensland. I subsequently informed Mr. Chapman that the Queensland Government was agreeable to relevant State officials giving the Select Committee the assistance it required and I suggested that he indicate requirements to my Ministerial colleagues concerned in order that appropriate officers could be nominated. Having regard to my reply to Mr. Chapman, now let me deal with the specific Departments mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition in his Question. *Premier's Department:* No subsequent written invitation to appear before the Select Committee was received. *Commissioner of Police:* No written invitation was received by the Commissioner of Police. *Minister for Health:* Mr. R. J. Beggs, Committee Clerk, wrote to the Honourable the Minister for Health on

June 27, 1972, seeking approval for Dr. J. I. Tonge, Director of the Laboratory of Microbiology and Pathology to prepare a submission and, if necessary, give oral evidence to the Select Committee. Dr. Tonge sent to Mr. Beggs reprints of publications of which he was either the author or co-author and indicated he was willing to give verbal evidence or supply further evidence in writing. Dr. Tonge appeared before the Select Committee in Brisbane at 10.30 a.m. on July 27, 1973. *The Queensland Road Safety Council:* At the time of the visit of the Select Committee to Queensland, the Chairman of the Queensland Road Safety Council, my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Transport, was in Canberra attending, with the Commissioner for Transport and the Deputy Commissioner of Main Roads, the fortieth meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council in accordance with arrangements made some time previously. The Australian Transport Advisory Council, as the Leader of the Opposition should know, is constantly involved in major problems of road safety through committees dealing with vehicle design, uniform road codes, driver improvement and road safety education. Nevertheless, as a consequence of a Press advertisement, the Secretary of the Queensland Road Safety Council offered to attend the Select Committee's Brisbane hearings to indicate the Queensland Government's interest and action in the field of road safety. *The Co-ordinator-General:* The Co-ordinator-General informed the Select Committee on August 1, 1972, that, although his Department was initially responsible for freeway construction, the Department of Main Roads would be in a much better position to make a submission, due to the transfer to that Department of the Structures Branch of the Co-ordinator-General's Department. I might add that the Department of Main Roads received a letter yesterday, August 7, 1973, drawing attention of the establishment of the Select Committee and inviting the Department to make a written submission on certain aspects of road safety. In short, none of the authorities mentioned received written invitations to attend the public hearing conducted by the Select Committee in Brisbane on July 26, 1973. The attempt by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to make political capital out of a matter where so much is being done in an area of national public concern is to be deplored. Nevertheless, when endeavouring to score politically, the Leader of the Opposition should make sure of the facts before he uses a Question to make accusations of discourtesy. The Leader of the Opposition is apparently not aware or has not taken the trouble to inform himself of the concerted attack on the road safety problem by all States and the Commonwealth which has already been implemented

at the highest level by the Australian Transport Advisory Council under the Chairmanship of the Commonwealth Minister for Transport. Our involvement is such that as recently as Thursday and Friday of last week the Minister for Transport, Mr. Hooper, attended, at the express invitation of the Commonwealth Minister for Transport, a two-day seminar on road safety held in Sydney under the auspices of the Commonwealth Expert Group on Road Safety, at which he was the only Transport Minister present for the full period. Apart from the practical measures which have been taken, the Minister for Transport has arranged for an appropriate submission to be made to the Select Committee outlining on behalf of the Department of Transport, including the Queensland Road Safety Council and the Traffic Advisory Committee constituted under the Traffic Acts, the work that has been undertaken in both State and Commonwealth fields in respect of road safety. It might be added that the State Department of Transport is currently involved in activities outlined by the Commonwealth Minister for Transport in his statement to the House of Representatives on April 12 this year which includes a reference to a feasibility study of the Defensive Driving Course where Queenslanders led the way for many years. In addition, one of the Road Safety Officers has been assisting the Commonwealth in producing a film on driving techniques. I trust that, as a result of the foregoing information, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will now withdraw his accusations of discourtesy."

POSITIONS EXCLUDED FROM RIGHT OF APPEAL UNDER PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

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

(1) Since July 1, 1971, how many new positions, in what designations, have been excluded from the right of appeal under the provisions of the Public Service Act?

(2) What is the total number of positions now excluded from the right of appeal under this Act?

Answers:—

(1) "Six new positions have been excluded from the right of appeal under the Public Service Act since July 1, 1971. They are—*Premier's Department*: Government News and Information Officer; Deputy Under Secretary. *Police Department*: Secretary to Commissioner of Police. *Justice Department*: Senior Deputy Public Curator. *Education Department*: Assistant Director-General of Education. *Department of Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services*: Director of Sport."

(2) "Exclusions under the Public Service Regulations relating to specific positions total 256. Other exclusions in terms of regulation 127 (D) relate to groups of positions such as those offices with maximum salary not exceeding the automatic maximum for male clerks. To extract the detailed information in relation to these particular categories would be a lengthy process and the time involved would not warrant the cost involved."

BURGLARY AND BREAKING AND ENTERING OFFENCES

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

(1) Between January 1 and June 30, how many cases of burglary and/or breaking and entering of (a) dwelling houses and (b) buildings were reported in the metropolitan area and the rest of the State respectively and how many have been solved?

(2) How many of the cases in the same categories and in the same areas were solved in 1972?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The information sought includes material which is now being prepared for incorporation in the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police and is not readily available. The report should be printed for the information of Members of the House within two or three weeks."

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM BY DISMISSED TOWN CLERK

(a) **Dr. Crawford**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

Following his Answer to the Honourable Member for Ithaca's Question regarding the Brisbane City Council's probable payment of \$120,000 to the sacked Town Clerk, Mr. T. V. McAulay—

(1) Would justice have been better served if Mr. McAulay had refused this unexpected financial windfall and continued to exercise his prerogative of requesting permission to appeal against his dismissal?

(2) Would it now be relevant for his Department to initiate a full public inquiry to determine the facts regarding Mr. McAulay's dismissal?

Answers:—

(1) "The payment made by the Brisbane City Council to its former Town Clerk in regard to the termination of his services will have to be recorded in the books and accounts of the Council which are subject to audit by the Auditor-General under the *City of Brisbane Act 1924-1972*. The legitimacy of the payment in question will

therefore be the subject of consideration by the Auditor-General who is required by the Act to report to Parliament on his audit of the Council's books and accounts."

(2) "The outcome of the appeal lodged by the former Town Clerk would have depended on the findings of the relevant tribunal and when you add the reported \$34,036 to wage adjustments, accrued holiday pay, accrued long service leave, and superannuation benefits to which he was entitled, I believe he will receive a better and certainly a surer settlement than he would have received should his appeal have been successful under the predicted legislation."

(b) **Mr. Miller**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) In view of the policy implications involved, will he initiate a top-level inquiry, perhaps by the Auditor-General, into the use of Brisbane City Council's public funds to buy the Lord Mayor out of the legal situation resulting from his dismissal of a former Town Clerk for personal reasons?

(2) Was the former Town Clerk "bought out" of the witness box in order to forestall a likely Brisbane version of the Watergate case?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Any payment made by the Brisbane City Council to its former Town Clerk in regard to the termination of his services will have to be recorded in the books and accounts of the council which are subject to audit by the Auditor-General under the *City of Brisbane Act 1924-1972*. The legitimacy of the payment in question will therefore be the subject of consideration by the Auditor-General who is required by the Act to prepare an annual report on the council's books and accounts and forward a copy thereof to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for presentation to Parliament. In these circumstances, it is not considered that any special inquiry into the matter is necessary."

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEME

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the announcement by the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security that \$250,000 of taxpayers' money is to be spent on a publicity campaign to "sell" the Commonwealth Government's health scheme?

(2) Would such a sum be better spent in providing high-grade accommodation for those residents of nursing homes who will have to leave them in Queensland as

the Commonwealth Social Security Department's "squeeze" on the finances of the homes continues?

(3) Will he make representations to the Social Security Minister to this end?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "I agree nursing homes could well use the \$250,000 involved but I doubt whether such an approach would be fruitful because the Commonwealth Government has committed itself to its health scheme and no doubt sees this propaganda splurge as the last hope of brainwashing the public into thinking it is to their advantage."

REFRIGERATORS FOR RAILWAY MAINTENANCE GANGS

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

(1) Is it departmental practice to provide refrigerators for all railway fettling and migratory gangs, particularly in places such as Lappa, Koobora, Bullock Creek, Fossilbrook Creek and Einasleigh and other isolated places?

(2) If not, in view of the obvious need for keeping their food in a state of healthful preservation, will he review the decision and provide this essential item?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "It is the practice to supply refrigerators to migratory gangs, but not to fettling gangs. The members of the fettling gangs are able to return each day to their homes and families, and are in no different a category from other employees of the Department who are required to live in country areas."

RAILWAY HOUSES, NORTHERN DIVISION

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

(1) How many railway houses in the Northern Division were sold during the period January 1, 1970 to June 30, 1973?

(2) What was the average price received for the dwellings?

(3) What is the ultimate plan for all railway houses in the Northern Division and, in particular, those situated at Bowen?

(4) What moneys were spent on the maintenance and repair of such dwellings during the period July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973?

Answers:—

(1) "One hundred and three."

(2) "\$145. Nearly all of the buildings were sold for removal and included amongst them was single accommodation."

(3) "It is not the intention of the Department to continue to maintain houses in provincial cities and towns where alternative accommodation is available."

(4) "\$228,062."

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA

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

(1) In regard to diphtheria cases which are appearing sporadically throughout the State, (a) how many suspected cases occurred during the period July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973, (b) how many confirmed cases were reported during that period, (c) what were the figures for the periods July 1, 1971 to June 30, 1972 and July 1, 1970 to June 30, 1971 and (d) how many suspected and confirmed cases have occurred in Townsville during the period July 1, 1972 to the present time?

(2) What percentage of those contracting the disease had been immunised?

(3) Are laboratory tests being continually carried out to ascertain if a new strain of this disease has entered our State and, if so, will the present immunisation programme ensure that children inoculated will be safe against the disease?

(4) What assistance is given to local authorities to improve the efficiency of immunisation campaigns conducted throughout the State?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "Much of the information required by the Honourable Member will take more than the available time to complete and I will communicate with him at a later date."

INVESTIGATION OF HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES

(a) **Mr. Dean**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

What stage has been reached in the investigation of the Federated Housing Fund of Australia Ltd. and associated home-loan companies and when will public shareholders in these companies know their exact position?

Answer:—

"An application has been lodged in the Supreme Court for a winding up order in relation to this company and associated home loan companies. The court hearing has been deferred pending the result of a Full Court hearing into certain related matters."

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

(1) Did the investigation into Mutual Home Loans Funds by Mr. P. D. Connolly, Q.C., reveal that this new housing finance concept is actuarially sound?

(2) Were the vested interests of any parties such as building societies taken into consideration when making the decision to wind up these companies?

(3) Is he aware that this type of fund has operated successfully for more than five years in New South Wales and that one group has allocated in excess of \$8,000,000 to its members?

(4) Is it correct that the funds concerned in this investigation would have welcomed official guidelines upon which to base their operations and had in fact approached the Corporate Affairs Commission with this suggestion?

(5) Is he aware that the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs in New South Wales has drawn up guidelines for this type of fund to follow when issuing a prospectus?

(6) Does he intend to request the New South Wales Commissioner for a copy of these guidelines?

Answers:—

(1) "As far as I am aware, yes."

(2) "I have no knowledge of this matter."

(3) "To my knowledge these firms have operated in New South Wales for some time and no proceedings have been taken against them."

(4) "I am not aware of any approach being made to this office in this regard and in any case consider it would have been improper to do so."

(5) "There have been certain requirements set down by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs in New South Wales in relation to prospectuses issued by this type of fund."

(6) "The Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, Brisbane, is aware of these requirements."

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

(1) Is he aware of a lengthy article in *The Australian Financial Review* of July 31 in which the Chairman of Fidelity Credit Corporation Ltd. expressed the view that he does not believe court action in relation to The Mutual Home Loans Fund of Australia (Qld.) Ltd. group will resolve the problem of the lifting of the suspension in the company's shares?

(2) Will the Brisbane Stock Exchange not lift the suspension of trading in Fidelity Credit Corporation Ltd. shares because of a statement by Mr. P. D. Connolly that he was of the opinion that the directors have acted in the affairs of the Fund Company in their own interest rather than in the interests of the members as a whole?

(3) Is he not prosecuting the directors of the fund as claimed in the statement causing the suspension?

(4) Is he aware that his inaction in this matter is causing severe financial hardship to the 360 shareholders of the company?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "I am not aware of the reason for the suspension in trading in Fidelity Credit Corporation Ltd. shares, this being a matter for the Brisbane Stock Exchange."

SPILLAGE OF LOAD, OVERTURNED SEMI-TRAILER, BREAKFAST CREEK

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the photograph in *The Courier-Mail* of August 7, showing a load of steel wheel rims spilled when a prime mover and semi-trailer capsized in Kingsford Smith Drive, Breakfast Creek, on the previous morning, resulting in three people escaping serious injury?

(2) Will he take action under the Traffic Act in view of the grave risk to public safety, especially in the closely-congested city area and, if not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "As this is a matter of enforcement and could be subject to civil action in relation to damage caused to a motor car by the truck and loading, I suggest the Honourable Member direct his Question to my colleague, the Honourable Minister for Works and Housing. I might add that the traffic situation in this area has been a matter of discussion between myself and the Honourable Member for Merthyr on a number of occasions."

NEW BRIDGE, PINE RIVER

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

(1) Are there plans for a new bridge over the Pine River adjacent to the present Hornibrook Highway? If so, what stage have they reached?

(2) Has a date been set for the commencement of the bridge?

(3) Has any consideration been given to the construction of a tunnel under the Pine River similar to that in some overseas countries, such as the one from Kowloon to Hong Kong?

Answers:—

(1) "An \$80,000 model study of the estuary is being carried out by the University of Queensland, and when this is completed, the design can then be commenced."

(2) "No. This depends on the outcome of the study."

(3) "No. It is not feasible in this location."

REVIEW OF MILK PRICES

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

(1) As the cost of production of milk has increased alarmingly since the last price adjustment in April, 1971, is it proposed to increase the price to enable the producer to recover some of his losses which are occurring daily?

(2) If the wholesale sections have not submitted their costs to the Milk Board, will he adjust the farmers' returns immediately and make a further determination to satisfy the wholesalers and retailers at a later date?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Queensland Dairymen's State Council, in a submission made on July 20 in support of their application for a rise in the price of milk has chosen to vary without consultation several of the approved imputed costs to which, in accordance with the Milk Supply Acts the Brisbane Milk Board is required to have regard in fixing the price of milk. Before the board can proceed with a new price determination formal amendments must be made to these imputed costs in order to comply with the Acts unless the presently approved costs are used as the basis for the producers' price. The board is waiting for the Queensland Dairymen's State Council to make an officer available to participate in consultations to formulate soundly based recommendations regarding the necessary amendments. It would be quite impracticable to adjust the price structure in part. This can only be done as a complete operation. The wholesalers are not responsible for any delay as a complete submission has already been received from this section."

TECHNICAL COLLEGE CLASSES FOR
APPRENTICE CABINET MAKERS,
CAIRNS

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

(1) Why were technical college classes in Cairns for first-year apprentice cabinet makers/joiners discontinued?

(2) In view of the many problems this has caused, when will these classes be resumed?

Answers:—

(1) "There has been a very large increase in apprenticeship enrolments throughout Queensland for 1973 and all technical teachers are fully committed; many are carrying overtime teaching loads at the colleges to which they are allotted. The Cairns Technical College has a one hundred per cent increase in first year carpentry and joinery trade enrolments, namely an increase from 27 in 1972 to 53 in 1973. Therefore the two technical teachers are fully loaded in catering for this trade. In previous years the first year cabinet making course has been offered despite the fact that the number of apprentices was small and well below an acceptable number to justify the conducting of oral classes, e.g. three in 1971 and six in 1972, because teaching time was available. A class was formed in 1973 comprising seven cabinet making apprentices using two teachers of their specialties to handle trade drawing and the two carpentry and joinery teachers carrying overtime commitments. Because of the cancellation of one apprentice and the necessity to transfer trade drawing from the second term to the carpentry and joinery teachers, the apprentices had to be transferred to the Technical Correspondence School otherwise teaching commitments would have been at or above the accepted overtime limit specified by the Technical Teachers' Award."

(2) "Cabinet making classes will not be resumed at Cairns in 1973; any future plans would depend upon the number of apprentices and the teaching hours available at the college next year."

STUDENTS FROM CAIRNS STATISTICAL
DIVISION ENROLLED AT COLLEGES OF
ADVANCED EDUCATION

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

How many students in the Cairns statistical division are enrolled as (a) full time, (b) part time and (c) correspondence students at the Capricornia Institute of

Advanced Education, the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education and the Queensland Institute of Technology?

Answer:—

"No information on students enrolled in colleges of advanced education is collected according to statistical divisions. To meet the needs of various authorities such as the Bureau of Census and Statistics and the Australian Commission on Advanced Education, the annual statistical collection provides information on the location of students' homes in the following categories—(a) within 25 miles of college; (b) elsewhere in State; (c) elsewhere in Australia; (d) overseas. It is clear that such information is not classifiable by statistical divisions. To obtain the information sought would require a special investigation in each college. At the Queensland Institute of Technology, for example, it would involve the analysis of more than 5,500 individual enrolment records. I am sure the Honourable Member will understand that I am not prepared to ask autonomous colleges to divert staff from their normal duties to undertake the extensive investigation required to provide the information."

BARGE RAMP, QUINTELL BEACH

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

Further to my Question of March 20
relative to the Quintell Beach ramp—

(1) Have any repairs been carried out on this ramp and, if so, by whom and at what cost?

(2) Is he aware of the extreme difficulty experienced by shipping in unloading at this ramp and will he consider an alternative method?

(3) When was the last call by a barge and when is the next call expected?

(4) Have delays occurred due to inability to berth or to leave the ramp?

Answers:—

(1) "Some minor scouring has occurred under one side of the concrete slab and this has been repaired by grouting stone under the slab in this section. This work has been carried out by the Cook Shire Council. The council has not rendered its account for this work, but I understand the cost will be in the vicinity of \$200."

(2) "I am not aware of any extreme difficulty experienced by shipping in using this ramp. Some difficulties of approach do occur which are consistent with those experienced on any portion of the semi-exposed coast-line in this vicinity and do not warrant alternative methods."

(3) "The last call by the barge at this ramp was on August 2, 1973. I understand the next call will be about August 16 next."

(4) "Since the first call at this ramp on December 14, 1972, a service of at least one visit per month has been maintained. On one visit in February a delay occurred due to rough weather but the barge unloaded at the ramp on the return trip. On one other occasion the barge was delayed on the ramp for one tide, awaiting sufficient depth of water."

LOCKHART RIVER HOSPITAL

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

(1) Is he aware of the extensive white-ant infestation at the Lockhart River Hospital?

(2) Has an investigation been made to ascertain the cause of this destruction of timbers in a relatively new building? If so, what was the result?

(3) When is it expected that repair work will be carried out?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Yes. The damage was inspected by Works Department officers who established white-ant infestation via concrete ramps. Remedial measures recommended by architects involve replacement of some timbers and ramps as well as some structural alterations."

(3) "Tenders called on two occasions were fruitless and negotiations are presently proceeding with a building group working at Lockhart. It is expected that the firm will undertake the remedial work."

HOUSES CONSTRUCTED ON BADU ISLAND

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

(1) How many new houses have been constructed on Badu Island within the past two years?

(2) Is he aware that some of these houses are not occupied because of their faulty construction and that rent is being paid even though they are not occupied?

(3) Will he have the houses inspected and the necessary repairs carried out to make them habitable?

Answers:—

(1) "Ten for Torres Strait Islanders and one for the ecology programme."

(2 and 3) "All homes are occupied. Some problems were encountered initially but have been remedied."

DISTRIBUTION OF NATURAL GAS BY NATIONAL PIPELINE AUTHORITY

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

(1) Is he familiar with recent proposals by the Commonwealth to provide for a national pipeline authority to control the distribution of natural gas throughout Australia from the various fields to the major population centres?

(2) Will the Roma to Brisbane natural gas pipeline come under the control of the Commonwealth body?

(3) Has the Commonwealth indicated to the Queensland Government any proposal to pipe natural gas from Roma and/or any other Queensland fields to the major provincial cities along the Queensland coast?

(4) If not, as natural gas would provide a cheap alternative non-pollutant fuel for sugar mills and increase the economic viability of paper-pulping plants using bagasse, will he place a submission along these lines before the Commonwealth Government to see if Queensland can obtain as good a deal in the distribution of natural gas as that which is being given to New South Wales and Victoria?

Answers:—

(1) "I have noticed reports in the press that the Commonwealth has passed legislation for the establishment of a National Pipeline Authority."

(2) "It is not the intention of this Government for the Roma-Brisbane natural gas line to come under Commonwealth control."

(3) "No."

(4) "Since the Commonwealth Government has only stated its policies regarding this matter by vague generalities in the press, it would be impossible to make any submission to the Commonwealth Government with any substance."

SPARE PARTS FOR IMPORTED ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

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

(1) Is he aware that considerable inconvenience is being experienced by the general public and the electrical retail and repair trade because of the inability of the trade to obtain spare parts for faulty electrical goods which have been manufactured overseas?

(2) Is there any Statute in Queensland by which wholesale distributors of imported electrical goods can be compelled to stock sufficient spare parts?

(3) If not, and as numerous overseas Governments, one of the most recent being the State of California in the United States of America, have introduced legislation to compel manufacturers and/or wholesalers to supply spare parts within one month or suffer a large fine for non-compliance, will he consider the introduction of similar legislation to cover all types of manufactured goods?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "There is no authority in Australia which forces wholesalers to keep spare parts. However, consumers should always be advised before purchasing articles to make appropriate enquiries regarding the availability of spares."

EFFECT ON INDUSTRY OF TARIFF REDUCTION

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

What is the effect of the 25 per cent. cut in tariff on Queensland industry?

Answer:—

"Although the recent reduction in tariffs might in the short run result in a lowering of costs of certain imported capital goods, raw materials, and components, the benefits in the long term are likely to be more imaginary than real. As an example, overseas freight rates are forever increasing and any further rises in this field would naturally erode, at least in part, whatever benefits might be expected to accrue from the tariff cut. Overall it is difficult to be precise in determining the likely effects of the tariff cut on Queensland industry. Clearly some industries will suffer from greatly increased competition from imports. This in turn could well result in a retrenchment of some of the State's workforce. The textile, clothing, footwear, motor vehicle assembly and some engineering establishments are most likely to be affected. Staff retrenchments are likely to be felt most in the female workforce. Summarising the situation as I see it the 25 per cent. tariff cut whilst having a detrimental effect on many industries is unlikely to have any significant impact in relieving the unprecedented inflationary pressures with which we are presently confronted."

TOXIC EFFECTS OF HORMONE SPRAYS

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

(1) Is he aware that recent overseas research has found that dioxin, a component of 2,4,5-T hormone spray, has accumulated in some food chains and is being found in concentration in shellfish and fish?

(2) Was 2,4,5-T discontinued as a defoliant in Vietnam in 1971 because of its proven effect on new-born babies?

(3) Has the Queensland Government spent over \$500,000 in some years using this chemical as a spray for weed control?

(4) Has any investigation been made of the amount of this chemical used by private industry?

(5) Is the Water Quality Council monitoring waters and organisms for 2,4,5-T?

(6) Is the council aware of recent studies showing the adverse effects on animals from both 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T and the dioxin contaminate of 2,4,5-T?

(7) What steps will be taken to protect the citizens of Queensland from this hazard?

Answers:—

(1) "While I know DDT has this disadvantage, I am not aware of overseas works which show that dioxin has accumulated along food chains and would appreciate a reference to the publication concerned."

(2) "I do not know the reason why the use of 2,4,5-T was discontinued in Vietnam."

(3) "This question does not fall within the scope of my administration and should be addressed to my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Lands."

(4) "No investigation has been made by officers of my Department into the amounts of 2,4,5-T used by private industry."

(5) "No, but if the use of this chemical is found to produce water pollution problems, it will receive the attention of the Water Quality Council of Queensland."

(6) "The dioxin impurity is said to be a teratogen affecting the unborn foetus."

(7) "The amount of dioxin in Australian produced 2,4,5-T is believed to be quite small, but I will refer the matter to the Minister for Health for consideration of an approach to the National Health and Medical Research Council."

T.B. INSPECTION OF MEAT

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

(1) Have the Commonwealth and State senior veterinary staff rewritten a section of the manual distributed to meat inspectors dealing with T.B. inspection of meat?

(2) Are all carcasses showing lesions of T.B. automatically rejected for export?

(3) Will this rewritten section allow meat from partially condemned carcasses to be placed on the local markets?

(4) Did his Department in 1965 issue instructions that there was to be no partial condemnation of a dressed carcass?

(5) Will this new instruction override the 1965 instruction?

(6) What are the reasons for the change?

Answers:—

(1) "Although not within my purview, it is my understanding there has been a rewrite of that section by senior veterinary staff of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "Yes; in that respect there is no change."

(4) "Again, although not in my purview, it is my understanding a circular to that effect was issued in that year in Queensland but not other States."

(5) "Yes; in fact it can be said to have been overridden since the issue of the Manual of Instruction. This is understood to have been early in 1970."

(6) "This should be directed more appropriately to the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry. However, it is my understanding the rewrite was designed to provide a clearer understanding of the then existing instructions and to obtain greater standardisation of inspection judgments on carcasses showing evidence of tuberculosis."

INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS

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

(1) Has any economic evaluation of costs to the community been undertaken in this State with respect to deafness caused to workers by industrial noises?

(2) How many claims for industrial deafness were lodged with the Workers' Compensation Office in the last twelve months or in the last period for which records are available and how many were successful?

(3) What is the maximum amount payable for such a claim?

(4) Is any legislation in existence or proposed in relation to (a) machinery design with a view to eliminating or reducing noise (b) granting power to Government inspectors to order that noisy industries must modify their operations and

(c) defining maximum noise levels and providing hearing protection equipment where noise levels exceed this standard?

(5) What sums of money have been spent by the Department of Health and/or other Government bodies on industrial deafness, educational and advisory services?

Answers:—

(1) "No such evaluation has been made by the State Health Department."

(2) "Fifty-three claims for Industrial Deafness were lodged in the metropolitan area in the last 12 months. Forty were successful."

(3) "\$5,760."

(4) "There is no legislation administered by the State Health Department in relation to these matters. However, the Occupational Health Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council is currently considering the feasibility of administrative controls of the limitation or reduction of noise, and also the matter of maximum noise levels as well as the provision of hearing protection equipment."

(5) "Detailed costs have not been kept of the various routine and special duties carried out by Government Departments in relation to this particular problem."

AERODROME LEASE, MORETON ISLAND

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

(1) What period has been granted for the lease of approximately 34 acres of land on Moreton Island for the construction of an aerodrome?

(2) What rental or other charge per annum is being paid for this lease?

(3) Will the original "Eagers Track" be restored when the runway is completed or before?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "This is not a matter coming within the ambit of my Ministerial responsibility. I would suggest the Honourable Member direct his question to my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Lands and Forestry."

MANLY JETTY

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

(1) Is the existing Manly Jetty to be demolished and a rock wall constructed to enable vehicles to proceed to the boat harbour pens?

(2) If so, (a) when will the roadway be completed and (b) what provision will be made for the safety of pedestrians?

Answers:—

(1) "There is no proposal to demolish the existing Manly Jetty and to construct a rock wall."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

TRADING OPERATIONS, REGIONAL
ELECTRICITY BOARDS

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

By what authority do the Regional Electricity Boards conduct trading operations and what guidelines and safeguards are laid down to ensure that electricity boards conduct their trading operations on a fair basis in competition with private enterprise?

Answer:—

"The Regional Electricity Boards are required to conduct trading operations under Section 33 of *"The Regional Electric Authorities Acts 1945 to 1964."* Cabinet has laid down that the State Electricity Commission exercise careful supervision over trading policies which are reviewed annually to ensure continuation of uniform and fair trading practices."

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE FOR HOUSING
AND AGED PERSONS' UNITS

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

What amount of finance was made available to this State by the Commonwealth Government as from January 1 to July 31, 1973 for (a) housing and (b) aged persons' units?

Answer:—

"(a) \$1,013,625; (b) \$726,302."

POLICEWOMEN

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

(1) In relation to the actual strength of the Police Force as at July 31, what number of policewomen, including ranks in all categories, were employed?

(2) How many are married to serving members of the Police Force in all categories?

Answers:—

(1) "There were 140 Policewomen in the Police Force as at July 31, 1973, including two sergeants 2/C and 138 constables.

(2) "Of the 140 policewomen, 11 were married to serving members of the Police Force. The ranks of these policewomen and their husbands were as follows: Policewomen—Sergeant 2/C, 1; constables, 10. Members to whom married—Superintendent, 1; constables, 10.

DISMISSAL OF PAINTERS, WORKS
DEPARTMENT

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

(1) How many painters have been dismissed from the Department of Works since June 30?

(2) What were the reasons for the dismissals?

(3) Are further dismissals contemplated?

Answers:—

(1) "Throughout the State, the services of 63 painters have been terminated since June 30, 1973, including 19 such tradesmen who terminated their employment with the Department on their own accord and two others for unsatisfactory service."

(2) "The termination of the services of the 44 painters as mentioned in (1) was necessary to stabilise the work-force employed by the Department in this trade in relation to availability of funds for painting works."

(3) "No, not in the immediate future."

OPERATIONS, ASH GROVE QUARRY

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

(1) Is he aware that both the Brisbane City Council and the Ashgrove Quarry operators admit that the operators are working beyond the extractive industry zone?

(2) What assurance will he give that he will forthwith require the council and the company to adhere to both the provision of council ordinances and the permit under which the company operates?

(3) Have the quarrying company's illegal operations absorbed a road which, during the last Session, the Minister for Lands refused to close?

Answers:—

(1) "Correspondence with my Department indicates that the company operating the Ashgrove Quarry did in fact conduct their operations outside the limits of the Extractive Industry Zone for a short time. I am advised that upon the matter being brought to the attention of the Brisbane

City Council, prompt action was taken to ensure that the operations of the company were conducted in compliance with the provisions of the City of Brisbane Town Plan, the City of Brisbane Ordinances, and the conditions of the permit. As far as I am aware at this stage, the company is still complying with these requirements."

(2) "The action taken by Brisbane City Council in respect of this matter indicates that the council is effectively administering its own ordinances in the case in question but at this time I am not aware if the council has requested reclamation compensation for the admitted breach."

(3) "This matter is outside my area of jurisdiction and should be referred to my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Lands and Forestry."

TAKE-OVER OF WEEDMANS LTD. BY
SPORTSCRAFT HOLDINGS PTY. LTD.

(a) Mr. Davis, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

In view of the efforts of a group of almost 500 minority shareholders of Weedmans Ltd. to obtain a just price for their shares related to current value rather than the inadequate price of 63 cents offered by Sportscraft Holdings Pty. Ltd., and his comments in a series of Press advertisements that he is keen to protect the interests of the public—

(1) Is he aware that Sportscraft Holdings Pty. Ltd., which is making the current offer of 63 cents which hundreds of minority shareholders consider to be seriously inadequate, was convicted in the City Court in Melbourne on May 7, 1973, only seven days before take-over discussions with Weedmans were announced, for two breaches of the Companies Act in relation to another unsuccessful take-over in which it had been engaged?

(2) How promptly can he take action against Sportscraft nominees, who comprise the majority of Weedmans' directors, for their improper use of information acquired in their position as directors to gain an advantage contrary to the provisions of section 124 (2) of the Companies Act in that they did not pass on to the shareholders of Weedmans, to whom they have fiduciary responsibilities, information of crucial importance in considering the adequacy or otherwise of the take-over offer on matters such as profits on intercompany transactions between Sportscraft and Weedmans, payments by Weedmans to Sportscraft on consultancy and franchise arrangements, the value of future tax gains to be derived by Sportscraft from accumulated losses of Weedmans and details of reports by L. J. Hooker Ltd. and Hungerford Spooner and Kirkhope?

(b) Mr. Davis, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

(1) Is he aware that Weedmans Ltd. Board, which is controlled by Sportscraft Holdings Pty. Ltd., refused a specific request from a shareholder for details of previous-mentioned reports?

(2) Will he, in his capacity of defender of the public interest and protector of the economically weak against the powerful, apply to the court for an injunction to restrain the take-over from proceeding, on the grounds that Sportscraft acquired about 187,000 shares on July 23, 24 and 25 as a result of gross misrepresentation in that many shareholders accepted the offer on those days under pressure from Sportscraft in circulars which strongly implied that share values might drop substantially after the scheduled closing date of July 25, whereas Sportscraft had already decided to extend the closing date, as a statement by their advisers referring to prospects of obtaining acceptances several weeks later was made to the Press on July 23 and was reported in *The Australian Financial Review* of July 24?

(c) Mr. Davis, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

(1) Will he take appropriate action against Sportscraft Holdings Pty. Ltd. in connection with the despatch of a circular to shareholders on or about July 18, which constituted an offer which could be accepted by completing the attached form but did not contain the information which section 180C of the Companies Act requires to be included in take-over offers?

(2) Will he also take action against the directors of Weedmans Ltd. and Sportscraft for their failure to draw to the attention of shareholders their rights to require Sportscraft, in the circumstances described in section 180Y of the Act, to acquire their shares at 63 cents per share in a period of up to several months after the closing date of the offer which, in the absence of an arm's length relationship in the transaction, would amount to a failure to act honestly and use reasonable diligence, as required by section 124 (1) of the Act?

Answer:—

(a to c) "The matters raised by the Honourable Member in his Questions are currently being enquired into and any action thought to be appropriate will be taken. It appears that dissatisfied shareholders are taking suitable action to protect their interests already."

HOUSING COMMISSION UNITS FOR AGED PERSONS, NEW FARM

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

Further to my previous Questions in relation to the construction of a number of age-pensioner flats to be built in Kent Street, New Farm, what is the present position regarding their construction and are any further delays being caused by the Brisbane City Council?

Answer:—

"I previously advised the Honourable Member that a design for 44 units for aged persons was forwarded to the Brisbane City Council on October 31, 1972. Council concurrence with the proposal was received on March 22, 1973. The Commission's consulting architects were immediately authorised to obtain the necessary engineering data and to prepare plans, specifications and quantities. Tenders will be called as soon as these working documents are completed."

MAINTENANCE OF KINGSFORD SMITH DRIVE, HAMILTON

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

As he is no doubt aware of the uneven and pot-holed surface of the bitumen roadway in Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton, between Breakfast Creek and Racecourse Road, since major underground works were carried out there by the Gas Company and the Brisbane City Council, is Kingsford Smith Drive a dedicated roadway under the control of his Department or has the Council sole responsibility for maintaining it in a condition which will not contribute to road accidents involving heavy vehicles and their loads?

Answer:—

"Kingsford Smith Drive is a Brisbane City Council responsibility."

PRESERVATION OF LAGOONS, SANDGATE

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

Has the Honourable Member for Sandgate ever made representations to him to use his influence to ensure that the three lagoons at Sandgate are conserved for the use of the various swamp birds and wild life which inhabit them, so that the ecology of the area is not interfered with by the heavy hand of the Brisbane City Council?

Answer:—

"No. Should further information be required, I suggest you direct your Question to the Honourable the Premier."

RADIO EQUIPMENT, BURKETOWN HOSPITAL

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

Will he take the necessary action to have the two-way radio equipment at Burketown Hospital transferred from the old hospital building to the new hospital, in order to facilitate the efficient use of the equipment?

Answer:—

"The relocation of the two-way radio equipment from the old hospital building to the new hospital has been authorised and the Department of Works has issued the necessary order to their Townsville office to have this work carried out."

ILLEGAL PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY

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

(1) How many investigations were made into alleged incidents of the illegal practice of dentistry in the years ended June 30, 1972 and 1973?

(2) Were any dental technicians prosecuted for this offence during the same periods?

(3) Were any complaints lodged with the Dental Board of Queensland relating to services provided by dental technicians during these periods?

Answers:—

"The Registrar of the Dental Board has advised me,—

(1) "No investigations were carried out during the year ended June 30, 1972, and one during the year ended June 30, 1973."

(2) "Yes. One during 1973."

(3) "Yes. One in 1972, but attempts to ascertain the name of any patient who had allegedly received treatment were unsuccessful and no further action was taken. A complaint was received during the 1973 fiscal year which was investigated and a technician was subsequently prosecuted."

DENTAL GRADUATES

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

How many dentists will graduate in 1973 and 1974?

Answer:—

"I am unable to prophesy the results of dental examinations. The numbers of students enrolled are—1973, 31; 1974, 32."

FLOW-THROUGH TO CONSUMERS OF
TARIFF REDUCTION, HONDA
MOTORCYCLES

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

In view of the 25 per cent. tariff reduction on certain imports, as announced by the Commonwealth Government, what action is he or the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs taking to see that this reduction is passed on to the consumer, with particular reference to imported Honda motorcycles?

Answer:—

“There is no price control of motor cycles in this State and it is unlikely that there will be. Presumably the authorities which reduce the tariff are supervising its implementation.”

FIRE PRECAUTIONS, BRISBANE PLAZA
BUILDING

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

Following the inspection of the Brisbane Plaza building in March by a Metropolitan Fire Brigades fire prevention officer—

(1) How many items were found to be in contravention of either the Brisbane City Council ordinances or the Factories and Shops Act?

(2) Have all items found to be in contravention been rectified? If so, on what date and, if not, how many and what items remain to be rectified and by what date is it expected that they will be rectified?

Answers:—

(1) “Several items were found to be in contravention of the Brisbane City Council Ordinances but I am not aware what action has been taken by the Brisbane City Council.”

(2) “One item was found to be in contravention of clause 19 of the General Rule under the Factories and Shops Act and I expect this item to be rectified in the near future. I shall inform the Honourable Member when it is rectified.”

FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN STORAGE OF
CELLULAR PLASTICS

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

(1) What explicit precautions are laid down for the storage of cellular plastics?

(2) Are these precautions mandatory?

(3) How often are premises where cellular plastics are stored inspected by a fire prevention officer?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) “No explicit precautions are laid down, the Chief Inspector of Fire Services having considered that there is no apparent need for new legislation on the matter. However, the matter of the fire risk involved in the storage of cellular plastics has already been brought to the notice of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for attention by inspectors when visiting premises where such material is stored.”

(3) “The frequency of inspections by fire prevention officers would depend on the fire brigade involved.”

USE OF CROWN LAND BY PINE RIVERS
SOCCER CLUB

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

With reference to his letter to me of July 30 in answer to my representations on behalf of the Pine Rivers Soccer Club for acquiring the use of certain Crown land known as Portion 241, Parish of Warner, in which he stated that this land is required for future use by the Crown, for what purpose is it to be used?

Answer:—

“Portion 241, parish of Warner, is one of the few areas of vacant Crown land within reasonable distance of the townships of Strathpine and Petrie and as such is required for future use either by the Pine Rivers Shire Council or the Crown. Although the precise use has not yet been determined, I am of the opinion that in the public interest the area must be retained by the Crown until such time as its best use is decided. In the meantime, there is no objection to the Pine Rivers Soccer Club having the use of portion 241 for recreational use in conjunction with the adjacent recreation reserve, but, as the club and the Pine Rivers Shire Council have been previously informed, on the understanding that no permanent structural improvements could be erected.”

LOAN ALLOCATIONS, PROVINCIAL CITIES

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

What are the respective loan allocations for 1973-74 for the cities of Ipswich, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Maryborough?

Answer:—

“Debenture loan allocations for the cities listed, in respect of the year 1973-74, are as follows:— Ipswich, \$3,000,000; Gold Coast, \$4,345,000, plus a special allocation of \$3,000,000 carried forward from 1972-73 for beach erosion control

works; Toowoomba, \$1,300,000; Townsville, \$3,800,000; Rockhampton, \$1,076,000; Bundaberg, \$632,084; Maryborough, \$399,824."

HOUSING COMMISSION PENSIONER
RENTAL UNITS, IPSWICH

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) How many pensioner units have been built for rental in Ipswich and has the number been increased in recent months?

(2) Does the Housing Commission intend to further increase this very necessary aspect of housing?

Answers:—

(1) "Nine units were completed in February, 1973, and a further three units in June."

(2) "The Commission is very conscious of the need for accommodation at Ipswich for aged persons and for families in the lower income groups and it is the intention of the Commission to pursue an adequate construction programme for both categories."

X-RAY FACILITIES, WINTON HOSPITAL

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) What X-ray facilities are available at the Winton Hospital?

(2) Was a road-accident victim transported over rough roads from Winton to Longreach on June 29 for X-ray purposes? If so, what was the reason?

(3) If X-ray facilities are inadequate at Winton, will he take steps to have them improved?

Answers:—

(1) "Winton Hospital is normally adequately equipped with a Konrad 50 X-ray machine, but at the time of the accident referred to by the Honourable Member, the machine was under repair."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "See Answer to (1)."

DAMAGE TO O'KEEFE STREET OVERBRIDGE
BY TRANSPORT VEHICLE

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

(1) In view of the recent stupid act by the driver of a vehicle in endeavouring to pass under the freeway bridge in O'Keefe

Street, Buranda, when it was obvious that the load on the truck was too high, what action will be taken?

(2) Apart from dislocation of traffic in O'Keefe Street and on the South-East Freeway, (a) what is the estimated cost of the damage, (b) who or what organisation will be responsible for repairs together with the associated costs and (c) was the damage considered serious and, if so, will there be any long-term adverse effects on the bridge?

(3) As there has been a number of similar accidents in the Brisbane area, does this indicate that the Traffic Acts are not thoroughly understood by drivers and that penalties are not severe enough or are not being enforced?

Answers:—

(1) "Action will be taken to recover the costs."

(2) "Repairs are now underway and the cost has not been determined to date. Repairs are being carried out by the Main Roads Department. The damage was extensive but as far as can be ascertained the repair work should prevent long term adverse effects."

(3) "It is considered that there is substantial evidence of excess height loads being carried on the road system. A press statement has already been made on this matter to stress the seriousness of damage to bridges and to stress the requirements of the Traffic Act. The whole matter is under review at present."

MINING LEASES NOS. 105, 113, 114
AND 159, NANANGO MINING DISTRICT

Mr. N. F. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

Further to the Answer to my Question on August 2 regarding Mining Lease Applications Nos. 105, 113, 114 and Mining Lease No. 159, in which he stated that these lease applications and lease have not yet been granted by the Governor in Council—

(1) (a) On what dates did the Mining Warden and the Minister recommend the applications for approval; (b) were the applications recommended subject to survey, and, if so, were the conditions of the recommendation subsequently carried out, and (c) when does he expect the mining lease applications to be granted by the Governor in Council?

(2) As his Answer also stated that rentals have been paid at the rate of \$1 per acre per annum up to December 31, 1973—(a) does the \$1 per acre represent a nominal sum payable annually on mineral lease applications, (b) what are

the acreages of the mining lease applications and lease in question and (c) what amounts in yearly rentals have been collected by his Department since the recommendations for approval of the applications were made?

Answers:—

(1) "(a)—

No.	Warden	Minister
105	29-6-60	18-7-60
113	11-7-62	13-9-62
114	8-8-62	27-8-62
159	26-1-71	29-9-72

(b) Yes. The areas have not yet been surveyed. (c) It is not known when this will be done. I would point out for the Honourable Member's information that under the previous Mining Act once an application had been heard in the Warden's Court and provided there were no objections and the application recommended by the warden, the applicant was required to commence work within seven days of the warden's recommendation. The actual grant by the Governor in Council did not take place until the area was surveyed and the instrument of lease prepared. Unless there was some doubt or a dispute as to the actual location of the area, in most cases the applications were never surveyed and the applicant mined under his Mineral Lease Application tenure. The minerals covered by these applications are kaolin and in the case of Application No. 105 kaolin and fireclay. There were no objections and, as shown above, were recommended by the Warden."

(2) "(a) The Mining Act prescribes that rental on Mineral Leases applied for prior to January 1, 1972, shall be \$1 per acre per annum. On leases applied for on and after that date \$2 per acre per annum is payable. (b) No. 105, 10 acres; No. 113, 4 acres 3 roods 8 perches; No. 114, 20 acres; No. 159, 10 acres. (c) Since applied for the following amounts have been paid:—No. 105, \$135.87; No. 113, \$59.58; No. 114, \$230; No. 159, \$30."

GOVERNMENT PURCHASES OF KAOLIN, GOODGER CLAY AND CERAMIC MINERALS

Mr. N. F. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Has the Government purchased any kaolin, Goodger clay and/or other ceramic minerals for use in any Department or Governmental institution during the period January 1, 1964 to December 31, 1972 and, if so, who has supplied such minerals?

(2) Were such materials either directly or indirectly supplied from mining lease applications and/or mining leases in Queensland and, if so, what mining lease applications and/or mining leases supplied them?

(3) Did supply of these materials come through the State Stores on contract and/or any other account on contract and what price was paid for them?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "My Department has no knowledge of any purchases of these materials on contract by Government Departments or Institutions. However, I am advised that approximately 15 tons of pottery clay are purchased annually by the Education Department from a supplier at Bundamba. It is understood that most of this pottery clay is mined at Bundamba, the balance at Kuraby. Some very small quantities of such clay are purchased by State Stores Board for institutions such as Mosman Hall, Charters Towers. Refined kaolin for medical purposes has been purchased in small quantities from overseas."

DISEASES IN FISH, BUNDABERG AND HERVEY BAY WATERS

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

(1) In view of persistent reports of diseased fish being captured in Bundaberg and Hervey Bay waters, what is the result of scientific investigation into the cause of the prevalent disease and its significance as a health hazard to consumers?

(2) If no positive conclusions have been arrived at, will he, as a matter of urgency, seek the assistance of other world-recognised authorities in this type of research?

Answers:—

(1) "The investigations into the disease affecting fish in rivers in the Bundaberg area and elsewhere in southern Queensland have not so far enabled any positive conclusions concerning the primary cause to be reached, but there is no evidence to suggest any health hazard to human consumers."

(2) "A fish pathologist of the Victorian Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has been examining specimens collected and forwarded by technicians of the Fisheries Branch, and assistance is also being sought from the Eastern Fish Disease Laboratory in West Virginia which is one of the foremost research centres in the world in the field of fish diseases."

GATES COMMITTEE REPORT ON BURRUM AND CONTIGUOUS SHIRES

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

(1) When is the Gates Committee Report on Burrum and contiguous shires expected to be made available to his Government for consideration?

(2) As he instituted the Burrum Shire investigation as a matter of urgency in 1972, is this section of the full report expected to be received and dealt with before the full report on local government matters, covering the whole of Queensland, by the research committee of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Professor R. C. Gates, Chairman of the Research Committee of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies commissioned to carry out a research project entitled 'Local Government in the Development of Queensland', has recently advised that it is planned to complete the research for the project in September, 1973, and that the full report will be submitted as soon as possible after that date. Professor Gates advised also that, whilst it was thought originally a subsidiary report on the Burrum area could be prepared much sooner, it became clear much wider issues were involved. The preparation of this subsidiary report was therefore delayed until the shape of the report on the whole project became clearer."

EFFECTIVENESS OF MOTOR VEHICLE SEAT BELTS

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

(1) Has any survey been undertaken, or are figures available, concerning the effectiveness of the use or non-use of seat belts in motor accidents in Queensland since the introduction of the regulations for the compulsory wearing of seat belts on January 1, 1972? If so, what are the figures?

(2) How many persons who were not wearing seat belts have been killed or injured?

(3) Has consideration been given to extending the provisions to include those motor vehicles and road users not presently provided for under the existing regulations?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to a similar Question addressed to me by his colleague, the Honourable Member for Port Curtis, on Wednesday, April 4, 1973."

(3) "This matter was discussed in depth at the July meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council and is currently under investigation by the Vehicle Performance Committee of the council, which is

also formulating guide lines for the fitment of seat belts to older passenger cars not so equipped."

LONG-DISTANCE RAIL TRAVEL CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS

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

(1) Has the Railway Department recently changed its practice in respect of long-distance rail travel to pensioners, the periods of availability and the number of breaks that may be made en route in the forward and return journeys?

(2) If so, in what manner and from what date do the new provisions apply and will he outline the reasons and detail of any departures from previous practices?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

UPGRADING OF CAIRNS-KURANDA RAIL SERVICE

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

In view of the increasing passenger journeys between Cairns and Kuranda through the scenic Barron Gorge, due to tourist demand, will he give urgent priority for the allocation of funds to update and increase this tourist service with a view to early replacement and modernisation?

Answer:—

"Funds are not available for any upgrading or increase in the service between Cairns and Kuranda. Funds which are available are required for works of a more urgent nature."

FREEHOLDING OF LAND

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

How many acres of land in Queensland (a) have been converted to freehold tenure and (b) are in the process of being converted to freehold tenure either in the short term or in the long term, e.g. purchase lease?

Answer:—

"As at December 31, 1972, to which date full figures are available, there was an area of 28,178,786 acres of freehold land in Queensland while a further area of 34,353,091 acres was in the process of being freeholded under various freeholding tenures."

HOME CARE SERVICE FOR GOLD COAST
AREA

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

With reference to his correspondence on home care service being extended to the Gold Coast area—

(1) Why is the area, with its large population and its large percentage of retired people, apparently being penalised in relation to other Queensland centres?

(2) As he has stated that the Gold Coast will be considered when next the service is being extended, when will it be extended?

Answers:—

(1) "The area is not being penalised."

(2) "Expansion will take place in accordance with the availability of professional resources and finance."

SUBSIDY FOR WOONGOOLBA FLOOD
MITIGATION SCHEME, ALBERT
SHIRE

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Will his Government grant the 33½ per cent subsidy on the agricultural drainage work in the Woongoolba area which has been applied for through the Albert Shire Council?

Answer:—

"The Albert Shire Council has already been informed that, in the event of the residents of the area deciding to proceed with the scheme, the State subsidy rate for flood mitigation works, namely 33½ per cent., would apply to the Woongoolba Flood Mitigation Scheme."

ISSUE OF SENIOR CERTIFICATES BY
BOARD OF SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDIES

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

With reference to the Senior certificates to be issued by the Board of Secondary School Studies, by what date will they be in the hands of students?

Answer:—

"It is planned to have an Interim Statement of Results and a Tertiary Entrance Statement posted to reach each student at his private address by December 21."

MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS,
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

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

(1) What are the details of matriculation requirements for students who aim to enter the University of Queensland in 1975?

(2) If details are not yet known, by what date will they be known?

(3) Will he have this matter finalised soon as it vitally affects students who are now more than half way through grade 11?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The University originally agreed that, for an experimental period until 1975, matriculation should be based on teachers' assessments over the four semesters. If no change is made, the matriculation rules applying in 1973 for 1974 will continue for 1975. In April, 1973, the Professorial Board of the University of Queensland empowered its Matriculation Committee to draw up new rules based on a single final assessment. The Registrar advises that the implications of such a change are being explored; it has not been determined whether a change will be desirable or what change should be made."

DISCIPLINARY STATUTES, QUEENSLAND
UNIVERSITY

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

With reference to the amendments to the University of Queensland Statutes covering by-laws presented by him to Parliament on August 2, will he outline the reasons for removing a number of disciplinary powers from "a competent authority" and placing them with the Vice-Chancellor?

Answer:—

"The sections which had empowered 'a competent University authority' as well as the Vice-Chancellor to take certain action were felt to be vague in that in some areas at least doubts could arise as to which officers of the University were competent authorities for the purpose of the particular section. In future the Vice-Chancellor, acting under the authority given by section 29A, will authorise specific officers to exercise specific powers, and no uncertainty will arise."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

UNITED STATES QUOTAS ON AUSTRALIAN
PRIMARY PRODUCTS

Mr. TUCKER: I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to a statement in "The Courier-Mail" of 2 August 1973 by the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, calling on the United States to relax restrictive policies on agricultural trade? As a Country Party Premier, does he believe in the continuance of strict quotas against Australian primary products, such as meat, and, if not, will he now pledge the full support of the Queensland Government to Mr. Whitlam in this objective?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Naturally, we are always very glad to see a relaxation of restrictive measures against any commodities that we in this country wish to purchase or sell. We must recognise, of course, that all Australian States, as well as the Commonwealth, have to meet certain requirements on the home front. Over the years, action has been taken to gain a greater share of the American market for our products and at the same time make trading with that market generally freer.

For the honourable member's information, I also noted in the Press yesterday that the British Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, attacked our Prime Minister on his Government's attitude to other aspects of the Australian economy which could have a very serious effect. I was particularly interested to see the seriousness with which the British Prime Minister treated this matter, which is of deep concern to many people in Australia. It also gives rise to concern about the relationship between Great Britain and Australia.

SAND MINING, TUGUN BEACH

Mr. HINZE: I ask the Premier: What steps have been taken to avoid any serious accident that might result on Gold Coast beaches from possible confrontations between the mining company concerned, the Gold Coast City Council and local residents?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yesterday I received a petition that had been signed by a number of Gold Coast residents who objected to sand-mining operations on their beaches by the company concerned. This morning I sent a message to the company suggesting that, in view of the great confrontation that could occur, it refrain from carrying out any sand-mining today. I also suggested that its representatives should meet the Minister for Mines, representatives of his department, and me, together with the honourable member for South Coast, this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

SITE OF PROPOSED NEW POWERHOUSE

Mr. MARGINSON: I ask the Minister for Local Government and Electricity: As the site of the proposed new powerhouse is of great importance to the people of Queensland, will he ask Cabinet to allow Parliament to discuss this question and arrive at a final decision as to its location?

Mr. McKECHNIE: The matter is one for Cabinet and will be dealt with accordingly.

LANDHOLDINGS OF PREMIER, TARONG AREA

Mr. MARGINSON: In view of the answer to my previous question, I now ask the Premier: As it would appear that Cabinet will make the decision as to the site of the proposed new powerhouse, has he disclosed to Cabinet his financial interest in and ownership of all property situated in the

Tarong area and within a reasonable distance thereof? Secondly, has he or any member of his family recently purchased or acquired any property in the area?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I always feel that Opposition members are very hard put to it when, from time to time, they descend to this type of question on all sorts of issues. The information sought by the honourable member is entirely beside the point. As he should know, I have lived in the area in question all my life—for 60-odd years. We have property there, but I do not know how many miles it is from the proposed powerhouse site. I should think the proposed site is about 20 to 25 miles from our property. Whether there is a power station there or not, it will have no effect or bearing on our property.

The question as to whether I or my wife have recently purchased any land in the area in question, or any other area, is similar to statements made frequently by A.L.P. members all around the State. Such a suggestion is completely untrue; there is nothing to it.

BRUCE HIGHWAY, HINCHINBROOK AND CARDWELL SHIRES

Mr. ROW: I ask the Minister for Mines and Main Roads: Further to my recent correspondence with him concerning the state of the Bruce Highway in the vicinity of the Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires, will he take the necessary action to have immediate substantial repairs carried out to overcome serious traffic hazards which exist on that section of the highway, especially near the Euramo State School and the Bilyana Siding.

Mr. CAMM: I assure the honourable member that the Main Roads Department district engineer will be looking at the damage caused to the roads in that area by the prolonged wet season and that we will be doing everything possible to bring them back to a safe condition. The same remark applies to the Maryborough, Gympie and Bundaberg areas, where there has been excessive rainfall. Any practical man will realise that a bitumen road cannot be repaired when the ground under it is wet. However, we will be looking into this matter in accordance with the honourable member's request.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

PROPOSED NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEME

Dr. EDWARDS (Ipswich) (12.4 p.m.): I rise to speak in this debate because of the problems that I visualise facing the people of Queensland following the introduction of the Federal Government's proposed national health scheme. I have no fear of contradiction when I say I believe that this health issue has done more damage to the credibility and

image of the Federal Government and the State Opposition than any other Federal Government policy. I go further and say that, before this policy is introduced, it will do much more damage to the image of the Australian Labor Party in the Federal Government and certainly in this State.

In August of last year, during the debate on the Appropriation Bill, I outlined to the people of Queensland what I considered to be the iniquities within the scheme as put forward by the shadow Federal Minister for Health in those days. Although this was a major issue in the election, and in the days prior to the election, I am sure that few people in this State understood the dangerous effects of this costly and iniquitous scheme. At that time I said I was surprised that so many members of the medical profession had been restrained in their criticism of the scheme. I suggested that this was probably for ethical reasons rather than agreement with the scheme. I also said I felt certain that before long—this was in August last year—there would be a major confrontation between a Labor Government, if elected, and the medical profession.

History tells us that the Labor Party became the Government in the Federal sphere last December. What we have seen since then is nothing but destructive attempts to destroy a profession and, as I suggested at that time, a major confrontation between the Government and the medical profession, fighting for its freedom from bureaucratic and socialistic control for the major benefit of patients. The Labor Party, which is biased by its socialist attitude, is aiming to destroy and control every profession, and the medical profession is the one at which it is aiming first. It is trying to make every individual within all professions subscribe to the State.

At that stage I also challenged members of the State Opposition to proclaim where they stood as far as the introduction of this scheme affected Queenslanders. But not a word has been uttered. They have embarked upon a battle designed to denigrate and destroy the Queensland health scheme. They have made snide, untrue, devastating and exaggerated comments in an effort to justify a health scheme which is being propagated and brought forward by the Federal Labor Government. The Opposition spokesman on health matters in this Parliament, whose main source of information, according to what we hear—and even on his own admission—is medical movies, as well as leakages of extracts from confidential reports, which have been taken out of context for political-propaganda and destructive purposes, has attacked this State's hospital system.

We have heard statement after statement damaging the image of the hospitals of this State. This is totally unacceptable. Worse than this, we have heard, by implication and innuendo, dedicated staff in the nursing, medical and domestic sections of our hospitals

criticised for their efforts. Time and time again implications that have been made by the Opposition spokesman on health matters have been proven completely untrue. They have been refuted by the Minister and others, and the grounds for this refutation have been totally unshakable.

I ask members of the Opposition if they have ever come up with an alternative to the present health scheme in this State. Are they critical of the Government spending \$100,000,000 on buildings during the next 10-year period? Have they anything to say about the credit that has been given over the years, and continues to be given, for the work done in the renal units, cardiac clinics, asthma clinics, diabetic clinics, melanoma projects, Queensland Radium Institute, and hospitals throughout the State? World-wide authorities regard us as outstanding medical people because of the work that has been done.

Have members of the Opposition brought forward any alternative to the present health scheme within this State? Have they done anything but suggest building cottage hospitals all over this city or the establishment of community health centres? These are the only things that I believe they have suggested. This Government has already taken the lead and is building community health centres.

World-wide authorities on hospital planning have already said that cottage hospitals have no place in modern hospital administration. I might quote the position in Cardiff, Wales, where small hospitals are being closed and major hospitals built to service specific regions. I am convinced that the destructive and outrageous actions of the Opposition in this State are designed solely for the purpose of trying to justify the iniquitous health tax of the Deeble-Hayden scheme.

In Queensland, the people have the choice of a free public hospital and health scheme, with no means test, under which one can have medical attention, varying from a very minor consultation to a costly renal transplant, at no cost.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lickiss): Order! I note that the honourable member for Lytton is on the list of speakers. I trust he will afford the honourable member for Ipswich the same opportunity to speak as he would like other members to afford him.

Dr. EDWARDS: Forty-eight per cent of our community have no health insurance, and 52 per cent have voluntary health insurance. I understand that a large number of Opposition members have chosen to take out voluntary health insurance for themselves. This insurance scheme will be destroyed by Labor's health plan in the Federal sphere. We will see imposed on the people of this State a health tax in addition to their normal income-tax payments. Under the Federal Labor Government, most of the 48 per cent of the people who are not insured will pay

1.35 per cent of their taxable income at least. If a wife works, she will also pay. I might add that there are 1,200,000 working wives in Australia. Single people will pay as much as married people whereas under the present scheme they pay only half as much. There are 1,800,000 single working people in Australia.

In addition, the scheme of the Labor Party will give the people only public-ward care, which is available free under the present scheme of the Queensland Government. In addition, the Labor scheme will give the people only 85 per cent of their medical costs, as well as numerous problems. How the Labor Party can say, without flinching, that the scheme will be cheaper for three out of four people in Australia is, to me, incomprehensible. It was only three months ago that Mr. Hayden said that it would be cheaper for four out of five people. Now it is said that it will be cheaper for three out of four.

Another point that I want to raise is the blatant annihilation of the medical and hospital fund organisations. This concerns me from two aspects. In the first place, there is the possibility of unemployment facing employees of the hospital and medical benefits organisations. Although the Federal Government has stated that preference in employment will be given to the staffs of existing medical benefits organisations, its destruction of health funds places in jeopardy the careers and livelihoods of thousands of employees in this State and nation. No solution to the problem has been offered. The Minister for Social Security himself has confirmed that some unemployment will be inevitable.

Such destruction of an established sector of the community could be tolerated if the things to be achieved were worthwhile. But in this case the efficient, economic and personalised service now provided by health benefit schemes, to which many Opposition members subscribe, will be replaced by a vast bureaucratic machine which will render a greatly reduced service at a greatly increased cost to the community.

I am also concerned at the effect that Labor's scheme will have on the numerous friendly societies. Many of these societies are within my area and the electorate of Oxley, which is represented by the Federal Minister for Social Security. He is going to destroy the medical, health and hospital insurance schemes which have been provided so ably by friendly societies that have operated for many years in my area. This I absolutely deplore. The recommendation of the planning committee to ban private health insurance is a particularly drastic measure that leaves no alternative to accepting the medical services offered by the Federal Government. To me, this is an indirect form of civil conscription, because it denies to the individual his right to decide how much of his personal resources should be directed to the purchase of private health care.

(Time expired).

CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION

Mr. BURNS (Lytton) (12.15 p.m.): The Opposition does not accept the validity of the diatribe of the honourable member for Ipswich, because if the Government was "fair dinkum" in its support of increased doctors' fees it would improve the conditions and increase the salaries and wages of the hospital staff by 29 per cent, as the money-grabbing doctors have done for themselves.

However, in this debate on matters of public interest, I wish to talk about the threat to the quality of life of the citizens of Brisbane because of the lack of activity of the Minister for Health and the Air Pollution Council in controlling the operations of companies setting up new industries under section 27 of the Clean Air Act. The so-called tough legislation introduced and written up in the newspapers from time to time as being designed to defend or protect us from pollution is a despicable, expensive trick.

I refer particularly to the announcement in June that a cement works is to be built on the bank of the Brisbane River. The list of scheduled industries under the Clean Air Act includes "any premises being used for cement works". Under section 27 of the Act, scheduled premises may not be established or extended unless the Air Pollution Council of Queensland has given prior approval. This prior approval applies not only to plans and specifications but also to the site. One would expect that a new cement factory would be completely covered by the Act.

To say that the Queensland Cement and Lime Company's Darra cement works is a major source of pollution would be a gross understatement. It is sufficient to say that the cement industry has caused untold financial and physical discomfort to Darra residents for years. In both the 1970-71 and 1971-72 annual reports of the Air Pollution Council, Darra Cement received special mention.

Referring to the city's concrete-mixing plants, the 1971-72 report said—

"Industry with such a high pollution potential should not be sited close to houses or industries which could be affected by pollution."

It was not talking about mills or works, but about the small mixing plants scattered throughout the city. Thus we have established that cement industries are regarded as pollution sources by the Air Pollution Council under the Act.

On Thursday, 7 June 1973, "The Courier-Mail" financial page carried a story of an announcement by Mr. H. L. Elphinstone, chairman of Queensland Cement and Lime. The report said—

"Queensland Cement and Lime had called tenders for a large new \$3.5 million cement milling complex.

"Evaluation of these tenders was nearing finalisation. The site would be a riverfront site on Parker Island on the north bank of the Brisbane River. The site was being developed by the Harbours and Marine Department."

That night I rang "The Courier-Mail" and "The Australian" and suggested that the plans for the mill should not have been approved by the Air Pollution Council, as such a mill would pollute all of the Hamilton, Morningside, Cannon Hill and Bulimba areas of the city.

For the next three or four days we experienced a barrage of misrepresentation, deliberate distortion and untruths, designed to throw a dust screen over the project. On Friday, 8 June 1973, reports in "The Courier-Mail" and "The Australian" carried the following statement—

"Queensland Cement and Lime Chairman, Mr. Elphinstone, said yesterday his executives had been working in close collaboration with Air Pollution Council officers."

In the same story "The Courier-Mail" quoted a Queensland Air Pollution Council officer as saying that a news report of the proposed plant was the first he had heard of the project. To his knowledge no pollution study had been requested. That was a couple of lines under a statement in which the company said it had been working in co-operation with the council for two months.

On the same day "The Australian" reported that the Chief Engineer of the Air Pollution Council had said—

"We would like to know what type of process this is. If it is going to be anything like the works at Darra, we certainly want to know about it."

A cement works was to be built on Government land and the Government's pollution control authorities were unaware of any plans for that project. So much for section 27 of the Act and the Air Pollution Council's reports of 1971-72 and 1972-73 which stressed that section 27 was important and that the real underlying strength of the Act lay in prior approval.

On the same day, Friday, the "Telegraph" reported that a company spokesman—Mr. Elphinstone had dropped out of it; we now had anonymous statements—had said—

"Government officers had been seconded to work with the company on the environmental aspects of the mill."

It was obvious that all of these statements could not be right. Now we come to the cover-up.

The next day, Saturday, "The Courier-Mail" reported from unnamed sources close to the Air Pollution Council—this time they did not have the guts to put their name in print—

"The Air Pollution Council had no legal right to insist on any safeguards until it (the mill) was built."

That is not what the Act says, but that is what an unnamed officer of the Air Pollution Council said.

The unnamed source said—

"The owners did not need the approval of the Air Pollution Council before the complex was completed."

But in the same story—the same newspaper, the same day—Sir Gordon Chalk was reported to have said—

"An environmental impact study would have to be made before any approval was given to establish the complex."

You have never seen, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so many contradictory statements as were made about the proposal to build this cement works that will pollute most of the city.

Sir Gordon Chalk then fouled things up by saying—

"Negotiation for a lease on Parker Island provides for the environmental impact study."

He went on to cloud the issue further by saying—

"The City Council, as the administrative authority, is responsible for calling the impact study."

Unfortunately for Sir Gordon Chalk, in that same month a district mining warden had ordered an environmental impact study at Rochedale. I remind you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that was done at the direction of a mining warden and not the Brisbane City Council, which Sir Gordon Chalk said was necessary.

The sordid story closes with a solicitor's letter from the company to some newspapers in which Mr. Elphinstone admitted that no discussion had been held with Air Pollution Council officers about the Parker Island project. He also admitted that section 27 of the Act had not been implemented, that he was telling lies in his earlier statements in the newspaper, and that the company was not working with Air Pollution Council officers on this project. He said, "The Parker Island project had not reached a stage where the Council would wish to take an active part." I remind you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that three days before in the same newspaper he announced that the company was evaluating tenders.

What type of air pollution control Act do we have when we can argue over the difference in meaning of the phrases "cement mills" and "cement works" at a time when the quality of life of all Brisbane citizens is threatened by a cement works so sited that

prevailing winds will distribute the pollution over Morningside, Murarrie, Cannon Hill, Hamilton, Nundah and other areas! We know that Darra Cement has destroyed the living conditions of people in Darra. What a farce it is when the Government cannot interfere to prevent pollution before it occurs! What a disgrace when Air Pollution Council officers state that they wait for polluting industries to advise them before they act!

The people of Brisbane demand and deserve clean air. Any sham activity or string-pulling to deny them this right must be terminated immediately. I challenge the Government to say what action it has taken relative to this cement works. When did the Department of Harbours and Marine grant a lease over that island? What environmental impact studies have been carried out to decide what effect this lousy, dirty industry will have on the citizens of our city?

KARMEL COMMITTEE REPORT ON AID TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. CORY (Warwick) (12.22 p.m.): I rise firstly to support the Premier in his stand to preserve State rights and keep the process of government as close to the people as possible. I emphasise that we need to retain government by the people; we do not want remote bureaucratic dictation from a central Government. In many avenues, and in many decisions that are being made at the present time by the Federal Government, we find that bureaucratic dictation is creeping in. I wish to refer to one very serious matter that became known yesterday.

The dangers of remote control based on a theory that disregards human and economic factors are demonstrated in the Karmel Committee report on aid to independent schools in Queensland, which is very suspect. Its total disregard for the real financial position of these schools cannot be justified under any headings. Some schools came out quite well, but others in exactly the same financial situation were, in effect, thrown out the back door. We should be trying to improve education standards. We should not be looking at the matter purely on the basis of individual schools because obviously all schools must be the vehicle for the setting of education standards. It is obvious that this has been one of the Federal Government's theoretical exercises. It has acted without any practical knowledge of the situation in many of the institutions. I refer honourable members to these comments of Brother Boulton as reported in this morning's "Courier-Mail"—

"Some of the very small, struggling country schools have been put into Category A."

That means that they will not be receiving any assistance after this year. Brother Boulton went on—

"They are not well-established schools, yet they have been caught out with low pupils-to-teacher ratios. This is not a measure of their affluence. It is a measure of their struggle."

The Commonwealth Government does not appear to have the wisdom, foresight or common sense to see this situation. I was led to believe that the basic principle behind this scheme was to give additional aid to those schools in most need and with particular difficulties. The very reverse is being applied in many cases.

I believe that a Government has the responsibility to help the small man, not to kick him in the "guts" when he is down. That is what we are seeing at the present time in many of these cases. This is a blatant case of helping some schools grow bigger and kicking others out the back door. It appears that the main criterion used was pupil-cost. The actual cost and the situation and conditions in the area serviced by particular schools were apparently not considered in any way. If the theories involved took into account all the facts, the result would not be so bad and could be justified, but when it is known that all the facts were not considered in arriving at the decision, one cannot help but believe that it is dishonest and leaves the gate open for "bastardy" at Government level. It is quite obvious that the small schools do not have the resources to buy Government decisions, and they should not have to do so. If the Government will not support the small person in the community, we are not going to have honest Government.

I refer now to four independent schools in my electorate which have been penalised, first of all for paying their staff well. If it is a crime to pay staff good wages, these schools are guilty. The fact is that they had to pay their teachers those wages. Another factor that operated against them was that they have a high teacher-student ratio, which is something that educators throughout Australia, including the Teachers' Union itself, have been striving for. These particular institutions, with their small pupil numbers and their effort to provide a full range of subjects, have had to employ a large number of teachers. Are they to be penalised for this?

These schools are faced with the additional costs involved in operating in a country area. They are providing a service to a predominantly rural community and I feel sure that in this field, as it has in others, the Federal Government has been quite happy to disregard the needs of people who do not live in the metropolitan area. People engaged in primary industries are facing this situation in many different ways at the present time.

Mr. Chinchen: Did any Federal people visit these schools?

Mr. CORY: No. It was a purely statistical exercise and it took no account of the fact that parents are paying for many of the facilities provided. Is it a crime for parents to pay something extra to provide the education they want for their children, and should the school be penalised because they do? As I said previously, the children themselves are of paramount importance in the education system and if we are going to downgrade certain institutions financially and by doing so downgrade the type of education they can provide, then we are doing a disservice to the parents and particularly to the children. This is what the Federal Government is doing at present.

Mr. P. Wood: You are not interested in the 9,500 schools that are getting more money. You are only interested in a handful.

Mr. CORY: The honourable member's remarks are true if one believes in discrimination. The schools that are getting more money could well have their own arguments. When some are getting less, those involved with them are certainly going to argue that it cannot be justified. Over \$750,000 goes into our community each year through the running of these schools. If they are not given support equal to that of other institutions of a similar kind in the community, it is obviously a deliberate move to lessen activity in these areas. It makes a mockery of the Federal Government's policies of regional planning and decentralisation. As I have said on various occasions, it is far better to support something that is already soundly based and is a success than to kill it and have to provide some alternative.

I believe that this attitude appears to be creeping into nearly every activity of the present Federal Government. It wants to change the policy of many well-established and highly regarded institutions. If we allow this trend to continue, many of the traditional and accepted institutions in particular communities will not be able to remain in business. I appeal to our State Minister for Education to look closely at the situation, of which, because of his previous connection with these institutions, he is well aware, and determine whether an approach by the State could be made to correct some of these anomalies and injustices or whether the State can provide some form of interim assistance.

Many of these schools presently are in great financial difficulties. These difficulties have arisen largely as the result of the poor economic state of rural industry and rural areas. Many of the schools have incurred enormous debts, and they should be encouraged and assisted in every way possible to surmount the difficulties that face them.

A great need exists for private schools and boarding institutions as well as for the type of education that they provide. It is incumbent, therefore, on any Government, particularly the Federal Government, to ensure their continued existence.

SITE OF PROPOSED NEW POWERHOUSE

Mr. N. F. JONES (Everton) (12.32 p.m.): I desire to confine my remarks to the consequences that will flow from Cabinet's decision on the site of the proposed new powerhouse.

I have read with concern the following report in "The Courier-Mail" of 7 August 1973—

"State Cabinet is understood to almost unanimously favour Tarong, near Nanango, for Queensland's new power station."

I am thus impelled to question the motivations behind such speculation.

Let me examine the ramifications of such a decision, which affects not only the present Government but also future Governments in this State and, more importantly, the future of the State itself.

I understand from a report in the "Financial Review" of 24 July 1973 that a report to Cabinet by the State Electricity Commission supports the establishment of a powerhouse at Tarong, a few miles from Nanango, and that the successful tenderer will be the Conzinc Riotinto Group, with its 66½ per cent holding, and New Broken Hill, with its holding of 33½ per cent.

I was indeed surprised that Tarong was able to submit such an attractive tender, as the report by the Regional Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Brisbane, entitled "Coal—Queensland, March 1972" makes no mention of the Tarong potential.

Even more surprising was the alleged advice to the Co-ordinator-General from the Secretary of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in June 1973 concerning the possible power station at Tarong drawing water from Cooyar Creek.

That advice was alleged to have been as follows—

"Our investigations indicated that a dam on Cooyar Creek at a site 7.7 miles upstream of its junction with the Brisbane River and with a capacity of 150,000 acre-feet would have an assured annual supply of 20,000 acre-feet which is similar to the stated requirements of the possible power station near Tarong. The estimated cost of such a storage would be between \$17 and \$18 million.

"Your report on the proposed dam on the Brisbane River at Middle Creek or Wivenhoe of June 1971, in its conclusions and recommendations, states that a dam

on Cooyar Creek would reduce the yield at Wivenhoe by approximately its (Cooyar) yield."

This continues:

"The Moreton Regional Water Advisory Board Committee in its report to Cabinet of October 1971 stated that Wivenhoe Dam could economically develop the whole remaining yield of the Brisbane River system and that further dams upstream of Wivenhoe would not significantly increase the yield of the system but would greatly increase capital investment. It is therefore recommended against the construction of further irrigation storages in the upper reaches of the River."

This, in effect, means that additional supplies would have to be obtained to service the needs of South-east Queensland, an aspect to which the Co-ordinator-General drew attention in May 1973 on the subject of a water supply to the proposed power station, when he is alleged to have said—

"The inevitable result of either or both diversions would be to bring forward in time the need to construct a further dam, on the Albert River or elsewhere, to meet the water supply needs of the region."

In the light of such anomalies, it is vitally important that this Parliament should be given much more information on the proposed powerhouse before any Cabinet decision is taken.

In relation to the tenders called by the State Electricity Commission, my information is that the initial tender documents of December 1972 placed a limit of 30 per cent ash content in supplies of coal to the proposed powerhouse. While the West Moreton fields could supply such needs at approximately \$8 or \$9 a ton, with only 22 per cent ash, and thus more B.T.U. value, the Tarong tenderers found that they could only supply the tonnage requirements of blended coal—admittedly at a cheaper rate—with a 35 per cent ash content, and thus less B.T.U. value, giving rise to more emission problems. Consequently, the percentage of ash content demanded of the tenderers by the State Electricity Commission was raised to 35 per cent ash to accommodate the Tarong tender, notwithstanding the better proposition of 22 per cent ash on the economics of the scale. It is vitally important that this Parliament should be given much more information on the tenderers for the proposed powerhouse before any decision is taken, as it is well known that the Tarong field is not proved in terms of supply but only in terms of estimate.

I am thus inclined to ask why the powerhouse should be sighted at Tarong. I now believe that the answer lies in the influence of a multi-national company dictating to the Queensland Government. In referring

to the Gladstone Power Station, I ask honourable members to consider that, on 2 March 1969, the financial editor of "The Australian" commented in these terms—

"The Queensland Government has something like the proverbial chicken and egg dilemma before it at the moment . . . Neither Mr. Bjelke-Petersen nor Mr. Chalk has as yet been able to come up with firm proposals from companies which would be prepared to set up plants in Gladstone to take advantage of the cheap and plentiful power. They each contend that once the go-ahead is announced for the power plant, industry requiring cheap and plentiful electricity will soon be found to be set up in the area."

A further development in the Gladstone Power Station debate followed on 10 April 1969, when "The Courier-Mail" reported that discussions to have the biggest aluminium smelter in the Southern Hemisphere were proceeding with an undisclosed company. We thus have the situation where the Queensland Government had based its hopes of attracting new industry to Central Queensland on the provision of cheap and plentiful power. But the hopes of this Government relative to Central Queensland have not been realised. It is now faced with the embarrassment of having a great white elephant on its hands. It is embarrassed because it has gone ahead and committed the State to huge expenditure in Central Queensland and is now faced with a surplus of power at Gladstone unless industry can be attracted to that area. No doubt it will have to channel this surplus power down the grid to South-east Queensland, and pass on the further costs to the electricity consumers in this part of the State. Again we have an example of the Country Party Government using the people of Brisbane and South-east Queensland as a scapegoat for speculative over-planning.

An examination of the annual report of the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland for 1971-72 discloses the following—

"Eventually the Gladstone station, at which the first 275,000 kilowatt generating set will be commissioned in 1975, will utilise the 275,000-volt line being built by the Authority to send energy to South East Queensland's electricity supply systems."

I now refer honourable members to a statement by the former Minister for Electricity and Local Government (Mr. Rae) in "The Queensland Times", in the following terms—

"Where the power station will be located depends on the outcome of these investigations, but present indications are that it could be established on the West Moreton coalfields—provided orderly production of coal on these fields results in prices becoming competitive."

It is a pity that the honourable member who represents that area on the Government side of the House did not have something to say about this matter instead of trying to defend the increased fees that doctors are seeking.

We now find the present Minister for Local Government and Electricity (Mr. McKechnie) arguing that the claim by the Tarong people that they can produce cheaper 35 per cent ash-content coal should be the major determining factor in locating the new powerhouse. What a smoke-screen that is!

The Government is being subjected to manipulation by a multi-national company—Conzinc Riotinto (CRA)—which says, "Give us the powerhouse contract and we will give you the smelter at Gladstone to get you off the hook." Comalco, which is part of the corporate structure of the multi-national company CRA, will commit itself to a smelter at Gladstone, for which it has already taken out options, if CRA and its partner in the venture, New Broken Hill Consolidated Ltd., are given the new powerhouse. This situation is intolerable, and a full public disclosure of the powerhouse deal should be made to this Parliament.

This is a vitally important decision, which binds not only the Queensland Government of today but also Queensland Governments of the foreseeable future. A powerhouse is not constructed today and resited tomorrow. A powerhouse is not constructed today and, like a house, loaded onto a semi-trailer and moved tomorrow. Cabinet's decision commits the entire State of Queensland for generations to come. The decision will influence not only the industrial development of Queensland but also community life in various areas. In these circumstances, the Government has a responsibility to ensure that all the facts are publicly available and that the decision is not taken in secrecy on the basis of confidential reports known only to 14 Ministers in a minority-elected Cabinet.

The Premier, in reply to my questions about his kaolin interests, insisted that he has no interest in coal. Is he merely jumping the gun in assuming that this is what we were digging for? I believe that the Premier knows what is going on, and I now call on Cabinet to give Parliament and its members the full information and answers to the unexplained questions on the powerhouse and so allow the people of Queensland to judge for themselves following debate on the matter in this House.

SOCIALIST OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12.41 p.m.): As is often soothingly said, it cannot happen here, that is, the advent of a rigid oligarchic

control. It can happen in European, South American and emerging countries with long histories of brutal repression and loss of individual freedom, but of course, not here! The plain fact is that it is happening here and I shall now demonstrate what is happening.

I want to draw attention to the frightening assaults that have already been made in this country on liberty and freedom of choice, which every Australian and certainly every Queenslander took as his natural birthright until some six months ago. Liberty, freedom, fair play and equity are reeling under the massive body blows which have been delivered by the Federal Labor Government and its satellites.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. PORTER: Obviously, judging by the interjections of Opposition members, they think that this state of affairs is exaggerated and overcoloured for propaganda purposes. On the contrary, the crisis point is virtually here because, already, personal freedom and initiative are a long way down the drain. They have been pushed, hit, kicked and shoved there by an A.L.P. which is hell bent on socialism.

Just to allay any questions that may be raised, let me review what has happened in the past few months. Let us remember these things: the infamous raids on A.S.I.O. and the Commonwealth Police pre-dawn raids—the carefully timed 4 a.m. raids—on Australian citizens. This is the first time in history that this has happened in our country. It introduced here, for the first time, a pattern which is common to police States in other parts of the world. It was introduced by the Federal A.L.P. Public servants have been forced to join unions on the basis that, if they do not, they will not get the four weeks' annual leave that other public servants will get. Firms have been told and are being told at this moment that they will not get Government contracts unless the union bosses approve of them. Queensland citizens have been bluntly told that they will be handed over to New Guinea as part of a political package deal. The Opposition went along with that all the way. Fortunately, it was prevented by this Government and its Premier.

Mr. Murray: They said they would get Denis Warner.

Mr. PORTER: Yes, that is another one.

Anxious home-buyers have been told that the Government will put obstacles in the way of home-ownership; that it wants people only as dependent tenants. Citizens are now being told that next year they will not be able to insure themselves against the contingencies that they might foresee. The Federal Government intends to make this

illegal. As part of this apparatus which the Federal Government has introduced, in a Labor State, private citizens are being threatened with two years' gaol unless they accept Government direction as to what they may earn. This is happening. It is not a threat; it is on. Right at this moment unions are acting as "kangaroo" courts which will decide to ban work for all of those who do not servilely accept what the Government decrees. This is also happening at the moment.

Let me stress that these instances are only part of the total story, and that what they reveal is still only the tip of the iceberg. What we are seeing is a ruthless application of the crude, intimidatory apparatus of highly centralised bureaucratic control. Of course we are seeing it. There is no way out of it; it is the inevitable concomitant of socialism when it is translated from theory into practice. It is not a nightmare from which Australians might happily feel that they can awake next morning and see it all vanish. It is not crude exaggeration of propaganda. Everything that I have stated is recorded fact, and, if any honourable member opposite wants to question it, let him speak up now or for ever hold his peace. All I have said has happened and is happening, and more is proposed.

This represents such a threat to all that this country has stood for, fought for, and worked for as to warrant a tremendous response from all who believe in the essential freedom of the individual, for that is what at heart this is all about. It is not an academic argument about State rights, about who should have the direction of this part of administration, or who should handle this or that particular power. What it is about is personal freedom and individual liberty, and these cannot be unduly limited without being lost. As history has shown down through the ages, they certainly cannot long endure under autocratic central direction.

On this vital issue, I believe that it is much later than some people think. These dreary, doctrinaire, fanatical socialists imagine that they are riding high, and they are led by a vain, reckless and arrogant Prime Minister whose greatest satisfaction is playing to the mob—any mob. The Australian Left Wing, China, Yugoslavia, Mexico—it is a very impressive list.

If anybody has any doubt about what Mr. Whitlam intends as the Leader of the Federal Government—and his intention has been subscribed to by honourable members opposite at the recent Surfers Paradise convention—he is on record as saying, in the latter part of last year, just what he is about. I read it as it appeared in "The Sydney Morning Herald"—

"It would be intolerable if a Labor Government were to use the alibi of the Constitution to excuse failure to achieve

its socialist objective—doubly intolerable because it is just not true that it need be so."

Those are Mr. Whitlam's words. They are his blueprint for action, and they are being implemented right now. There is therefore no doubt whatever about what is being attempted. We are witnessing the brutal rape of Australian democracy. The stage is not only set, the action joined, and the play under way; it is fast approaching its climax. We can only hope that when the play ends and the curtains are drawn it will not be "curtains" for the intrinsic liberty and individual freedom that alone make life worth living, and which sustain the democracy that we hold as hostage from our forebears with the charge that we pass it on intact and inviolate to the next generation.

A very real and massive attempt is being made to extinguish the lights of liberty all over Australia, and I believe that all men of good will—and there are many of good will opposite, I am sure—should consider whether the time has not arrived when they must put aside narrow, partisan party loyalties and come, not to the aid of their party, but to the aid of their country. The honourable members for Ipswich and Warwick spoke eloquently in the debate this morning on the need to sustain those freedoms of choice, and the equity and fair play which should be the heart and core of any decent pattern of government.

Labor, under its demagogic Federal Prime Minister, has been sedulously fostering the image of itself as a national party. In this way, of course, it has been helped very much by servile media which seem to have an obsequious desire to please Mr. Whitlam. In fact, everything that the Federal Government has done to date, every plan that it has made, reveals it as a Government that is totally sectional in its outlook, fanatically devoted to implementing programmes of academic, bureaucratic, across-the-board control by Canberra of literally everything that grows, moves, or has its being in any part of Australia.

The old phrase that all people are equal has come to mean, with the A.L.P. Federal Government, that some people are much more equal than others, and in this latter category are Communists, Left-wing unions, and countries with a long history of bloody repression and insensate cruelty, not those countries which have long been our allies and on which we drew for so much of our tradition and our heritage.

Rhyme, reason, equity, natural justice and basic freedoms are all under threat both in this State and throughout Australia today. The faceless men have become the Judas men. God help Australia if this situation is not arrested before it goes too much farther!

LACK OF SUBMISSIONS TO COMMONWEALTH
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.51 p.m.): I had not intended speaking in this debate, and I thank the honourable member for Redlands for allowing me this opportunity although he had an important matter to raise.

This morning, in directing to the Premier question No. 1 on the Business Paper, I asked why certain Government departments had not seen fit to submit evidence to the House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety at its Brisbane sittings on 26 July. The Premier went into a great deal of detail, supposedly in answer to my question, and concluded with the statement, "I trust that, as a result of the foregoing information, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will now withdraw his accusations of discourtesy."

I do not know where the Premier received his information in reply to my question, but it is completely contrary to what is contained in a letter that I have here. It was written by a responsible officer of the select committee.

Mr. Lee: Who was he?

Mr. HOUSTON: Just be patient.

Mr. Lee: I want to know who he was.

Mr. HOUSTON: Mr. R. J. Beggs, the Committee Clerk of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety. I suggest that whatever that gentleman put in a letter, dated 27 July 1973, would have some substance. The letter was not written to me—it was written to someone else—but that does not matter; the substance is still there.

Let me contrast some of the statements by the Premier in reply to my question in this House with the accusation contained in the letter from Mr. Beggs. I shall refer first to the Premier's Department.

According to the letter that I have, the Premier's Department was invited on 28 April 1972 to make a submission to the select committee. That invitation was acknowledged on 17 May 1972, but no further letter or communication from the Premier's Department was received by the select committee. The Premier said in his reply this morning, "No subsequent written invitation to appear before the select committee was received." Apparently the Premier came to a full stop when he replied to the select committee and said, "We will co-operate." So my accusation that no evidence was given still stands.

Let us now have a look at something of greater importance. I am glad that the Minister in charge of police is in the Chamber, because according to the letter from Mr. Beggs, the Commissioner of Police was invited on 7 June 1972 to make a submission. That was followed up in March 1973 with a request to make a submission, but no reply to or acknowledgement of those invitations had been received on 27 July 1973.

This is a straight-out statement of fact, asserting that on two occasions communications were sent from the Select Committee on Road Safety to the Commissioner of Police. The Premier's reply to me was that no written invitation was received by the Commissioner of Police. They cannot both be correct.

The Premier has already shown in this House that he can make statements that subsequently he has to deny.

Mr. Lee interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: It was not the first one. He did not make it straight off the cuff. He was challenged, and the correct information had to come from another source.

In this instance, I am saying that either the Committee Clerk of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety has put in writing a statement that is untrue—and that is one of the statements I used in framing my question—or the information that the Premier has given the House is untrue. It has to be one or the other, but it is not for me to judge. Now that I have brought to public attention the difference between the two statements, the Premier has an obligation, through the Minister in charge of police, to check on whether or not the invitations I have referred to were issued on 7 June 1972 and March 1973. I assert that the Premier had no right or occasion to suggest that I was trying to make political capital out of this, or that I was using incorrect information.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am defending myself now. In his reply, the Premier virtually said that, in my statements, I was misinforming the House. I resent the grave reflection he cast on my integrity and honesty of purpose. My question was based on information contained in a letter from a responsible officer.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: Of course, the honourable member for Yeronga wants that right for all except those associated with the Australian Labor Party.

Mr. Lee: How did I come into it?

Mr. HOUSTON: While I am on the subject of road safety, let me say that this Government has done very little of a practical nature to bring real road safety to our State.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know that fines have been increased, and that the Government has brought in many punitive measures to deal with people who break the law. However, it has done little of a practical nature to overcome the basic problems associated with road safety. Government members continually blame the drinking

driver. I am not suggesting for one moment that those who drink should drive, or that those who drink excessively are not a menace on the road. But there are many other practical steps the Government can take.

I have frequently argued that, as most of our young people will be drivers in the future, driver-training programmes should be instituted in secondary schools. Many students are drivers while they are at high school. We often see Senior pupils arriving at school in motor vehicles. Many of them are already drivers.

Let us make sure that every young person is given an opportunity to learn something not only about the actual driving of a motor vehicle but also about the relationship between speed and power and speed and braking. These are the essential factors. High-school students are well versed in solving mathematical problems. Surely through mathematics we can demonstrate to them the great danger associated with speed, weight of vehicle and road conditions.

How many people are taken onto a circuit during the training programme where they can be shown the various problems with which they can be confronted while driving a motor vehicle? Most drivers first encounter wet-weather driving conditions only after they have become licensed drivers. During training and testing, most drivers are never called upon to handle a motor vehicle on slippery roads. The first time they have to cope with such conditions is when they are licensed drivers, driving on a roadway with other vehicles surrounding them. Surely some of the money obtained from fines and other penalties imposed on drivers could be used to construct driver-training centres in several cities and towns.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for the debate on Matters of Public Interest has expired.

Mr. CHINCHEN: Under Standing Order 298, I ask that the document read by the Leader of the Opposition be laid on the table.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it private?

Mr. HOUSTON: It is a letter that was written to another person, but I have authority to use it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the honourable member for Mt. Gravatt move that the paper be laid on the table?

Mr. HOUSTON: There is no need to move that the paper be laid on the table. I am not ashamed of the document. What I said is completely true, and I have no hesitation in tabling it.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the paper on the table.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.