

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

*Motion*

Resumed from 12 June.

**HON BARRY HOUSE** (South West) [5.35 pm]: I am pleased to support the motion, and in doing so commend the Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, and Mrs Sanderson, on their first six to nine months in that role. They are obviously very well qualified for the role, with a wealth of relevant qualities and experience, and have fitted in very well. They have been very quick to get out into the community to meet many people throughout Western Australia and to make an impact. The Governor has demonstrated a very solid knowledge of history. The most recent example of this was on Saturday, 2 June, when I attended a ceremony to unveil a monument to the Baudin expedition's first Australian landing site, near Eagle Bay, in Geographe Bay. Geographe Bay is named after the ship commanded by Nicolas Baudin; its accompanying vessel was the *Naturaliste*, commanded by Hamelin. At the unveiling of that monument by the Governor, he gave a very detailed and comprehensive speech on the history of French connections to Western Australia, doing a thoroughly professional and proficient job. I am sure that Lieutenant-General Sanderson and Mrs Sanderson will continue to make a great contribution to Western Australia, and I wish them well.

I also congratulate you, Mr President, on becoming the first Labor President of the Legislative Council in over 100 years. I am sure you have all the qualities to do an excellent job, and the Opposition looks forward to assisting you in that way over the next four years. I also congratulate the Chairman of Committees, Hon George Cash, on his election to that role. I also congratulate him on his performance over the past four years in the role of President of the Legislative Council. He has made an impact not only in this Chamber, but also throughout Parliament. This has been particularly noticeable to those of us who have been here for a few years. The improvements made to our general working conditions in this place have been quite marked over the past four years. That is not to say that there is not a lot more to do, but the improvements have been quite marked and are a great credit to Hon George Cash.

I welcome all the new members in this Chamber, particularly my colleagues, Hon Alan Cadby and Hon Robyn McSweeney. They arrived here via the election. The election was a great disappointment - I go so far as to say it was a disaster from my point of view. In the South West Region it was particularly disappointing, because the coalition lost four lower House members - the members for Mandurah, Bunbury, Albany and Collie. All of those seats were taken by the Labor Party. Unfortunately for me, those defeats turned the wheel back a few years. When I first came into this place in 1987, five of the seats in the South West Region were held by the Labor Party, and progressively over the next two or three elections, all those seats were won by either the Liberal Party or the National Party. That gave me a great deal of personal satisfaction, because I initially worked around the Bunbury area, almost in the role of a lower House candidate, when both of those seats were held by the Labor Party. However, that was the verdict of the electorate and we cannot do much about that except try to change its mind in a few years. That leaves me to congratulate - even if it is through clenched teeth - the Labor Party on its win. I genuinely wish it well in the interests of Western Australia, because Western Australia deserves good government; the Opposition will certainly play its part in helping to provide that.

On the face of it, the win was a comprehensive win for the Labor Party. However, I do not want members opposite to get too carried away with their win because despite its comprehensive look on the surface, the Labor Party's margin is fragile; its primary vote increased by only 1.4 per cent across the State. The collapse of the Liberal Party's primary vote by about nine per cent across the State caused the change in government. Most of that vote went to the Labor Party via the Greens (WA) and One Nation, which allowed it to form Government. The Labor Party therefore should not get too cocky about the situation. I must say, Mr Deputy President, some of the early signs have not been too good. There has been a touch of arrogance, and even complacency, in some areas. I will say a bit more about that later.

I congratulate the five members of the Greens (WA) party who were elected, despite none polling a full quota in their regions. That is a product of our electoral system and we are stuck with that for the time being. Members talk about one vote, one value and I wonder how they reconcile the fact that five Greens in this Chamber form about 15 per cent of the State's representation when their primary vote across the State was about six per cent. It is hard to reconcile that but that is a result of the electoral system.

For the first time in WA, the five members of the Greens (WA) party have the balance of power in this House, which is a very powerful position. I am sure that has not escaped their notice. However, I hope also it has not escaped their notice that along with that position goes a large degree of responsibility; the jury is still out on that matter. The Opposition is keen to see whether in the next four years the Greens will be merely the left wing of the Labor Party or whether they will play an independent role as a party in their own right. At the end of the day

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the only thing we can count on to determine our view on that is how they act and vote in this place in the next four years. It is early days yet but an analysis of the four votes so far in this session of Parliament indicates that the Greens appear to be more members of the left-wing of the Labor Party than an independent organisation in their own right. Time will tell. I shall reserve my judgment on whether they should be in a coalition with the Labor Party, although I do not believe the Labor Party would be silly enough to entertain a coalition with the Greens. The only time that occurred in Australia was in Tasmania a few years ago when the Labor Party quickly backed out of a coalition with the Greens after it ended in disaster. We shall see what happens. I am sure the Greens (WA) have their ideas and we shall wait to hear them.

I congratulate the One Nation members in the Chamber who polled well in the election. They polled 14 per cent in the South West Region and got 1.14 of a quota in their own right. They well and truly deserve a seat in this place in terms of popular support; I therefore congratulate them on winning three seats. I also congratulate them on playing a significant role in the election of a Labor Government, if that was their intention, because that is the end result of their role in the election campaign. They have been successful in Queensland and now in WA. We shall wait with anticipation over the next four years to hear a bit more about their contribution in this place and their position on a variety of matters. So far we have heard vitriol and negativity, but not too much constructive input. However, I live in hope and hope to hear more in the future.

One matter I will comment on is One Nation's decision to centralise its electorate offices in Perth as one organisation. They will not be orphans because many members in this Chamber who represent country electorates live in Perth and have their offices in Perth. I have been a constant critic of that, even among my own ranks. On analysis, only the Liberal south west members plus Hon Christine Sharp and Hon Murray Criddle live in their electorates.

Hon Ken Travers: And Hon Kim Chance, Leader of the House.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I believe he lives in Perth.

Hon Ken Travers: No, he maintains his home in Merredin. Because of his duties he is in Perth half the time, but he lives in Merredin and always has.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am sure many other members serve their country electorates well. My point is that members can thoroughly understand their electorates only if they live and work in them. I have been adamant about that point in my time in this place.

In light of the fact that so many members from country WA have their offices and homes in Perth, it will be interesting to see what happens when one vote, one value legislation comes to this place, as it undoubtedly will in the next four years. I will vehemently oppose that legislation at every opportunity. I fear that many members of this Chamber who are based in Perth will undermine the argument against one vote, one value. Members cannot, on the one hand, centralise their operations in Perth and, on the other hand, argue a case against it. However, time will tell on that matter too.

Dwelling for a minute on the election result, it is obvious that the issue of logging in old-growth forests played an important part in and had an impact on the election results. I indicate at the outset that I accept the verdict of the people, although the Opposition has no option. I accept that the people made a decision based on their perception of where the various parties stood on that issue. We lost the ballot; there is no doubt about that. However, I shall make a few remarks about that, as the issue will not disappear. It appeared to me to be a campaign of selfishness and intolerance, with the most deliberate misinformation that I have seen in my years in politics. The selfishness came from a couple of angles and demonstrated a severe lack of care and compassion for people in other roles in our society. The most galling images during the whole debate were those of doctors, dress designers and lawyers who can afford -

Hon Dee Margetts: Scientists.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Scientists, if the member likes. The most galling images were of those people, who could afford to buy the average timber worker many times over, preaching from the pulpit about their industry.

Hon N.F. Moore: A wooden pulpit too.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes, a wooden pulpit. Most timber workers in south west communities would be lucky to take home \$30 000 a year. They support a family on that. That has been the hardest part to accept.

Hon Dee Margetts interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): Order! Hon Dee Margetts will get an opportunity in due course. We do not want a running commentary.

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Hon BARRY HOUSE: The other selfish aspect that will have an impact for a long time to come is the contempt shown in the debate for forest management professionals. I have no doubt that the Greens (WA) won the battle through an appeal to people's emotions. However, in the process, they ridiculed good and decent people, and people who are well-qualified in forest management who were using science and logic to mount their argument. I fear that has done damage to how decisions will be made in this State for a long time to come. The argument, which revolved around big trees, was mounted on limited environmental grounds. No care or compassion was shown for any of the social or personal aspects of the debate. They devastated south west communities in the process. What concerns me is that some people could not care less. They were also perfectly prepared to shift the focus on the old-growth logging debate to anywhere else in the world - to third world countries; it did not seem to matter, as long as it was not in our backyard. They see it as perfectly okay to shift logging into the native forests of Brazil, Borneo, South America or wherever. The demand for timber products will not diminish. It will march on, and those timber products must come from somewhere. That is a selfish aspect in the debate, which I had to comment on at this stage. I will wait to see what happens in a few years time. My prediction is that some time in the future this debate will be relived in this place and in the community. We will have a debate in 20 or 50 years time on whether to log some of the old-growth forests and even national parks. That is simply because it does not make sense to cut down 10 regrowth trees and devastate areas of regrowth well before their time, when we could get the same amount of timber from one old-growth tree that would probably die in a few years time anyway. That is a logical argument, but some people do not want to hear logic. I accept that.

We also know that the extreme green movement will not be satisfied with what they have achieved. The Premier has announced the withdrawal of logging from old growth areas.

Hon N.F. Moore: The populist Premier.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It was a totally populist decision. We know that the goalposts will move. The goalposts on what are old-growth forest areas have already moved. The goalposts on regrowth areas are moving because the greens do not want them logged either. The goalposts on plantation timbers will move, because people will not accept that plantation timbers should be available to be harvested. It will be a real test for the Labor Government to handle that situation and to show how responsible it is. The Government has delivered on its election commitment, but let us see how it handles the uncompromising nature of extreme environmental zealots who will never accept any compromise.

I have a few reflections on the past eight years of the Court Government. It was a privilege to be part of it. Even if I was on the fringes as a parliamentary secretary, I was part of its achievements over the past eight years. I am confident that history will treat the Court Government very well. It was a Government of major achievements for this State, and it will be acknowledged for that. The only fair comparison to make is with the state of affairs now and what existed in 1993; that is, on the change of government. I was here in 1993 when the Government changed. In 1993 we had seen the devastation that had been inflicted on this State by WA Inc. The monetary losses are well known. They were in the vicinity of \$1.5 billion.

Hon Ken Travers: This comes up every week.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Hon Ken Travers was not around then, but I can assure him that in many people's view that is a conservative estimate. That is only the monetary disaster that was inflicted on this State. The real disaster was the damage to Western Australia's credibility. When the coalition came to government in 1993, Western Australia was a laughing stock in the eyes of the world. That hurt those people who have some pride in this State, and I do not doubt that is every member here. That situation took a bit of turning around. I am proud to say that I was part of the Court Government that turned it around.

The Court Government started to pay off the massive debt. In its last days the Lawrence Government operated on a Bankcard mentality. In its last three years the Labor Government borrowed a billion dollars a year to pay recurrent expenditure. That has been turned around. Not only was that trend arrested, but also state debt was halved from about \$10 billion to \$5 billion. The Court Government restored the State's AAA rating. The Court Government brought back some credibility to Western Australia and for Western Australians. It introduced accountability legislation. Members opposite conveniently forget that freedom of information legislation was proclaimed by the Court Government.

Hon N.F. Moore: Labor brought in FOI a week before the election knowing it would lose.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The Court Government set up the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Public Sector Management Act and various others as well.

The lasting impression of the Court Government will be of the capital projects that were undertaken in this State. The Government was responsible enough to get the finances in order in such a way that this State could embark

on a positive capital infrastructure program over the past eight years. That involved roads, hospitals, schools, police stations and capital infrastructure over a wide area of the State.

In 2001 we have a change of government. Let us compare 2001 with 1993. By any measure, Western Australia's finances are in a solid condition compared with 1993. Even if we believed the worst of the new Premier's propaganda, it pales into insignificance compared with the difficulties that the Court Government faced in 1993. Let us look at the figures. The only fair comparison is budget expenditure in 1992-93 and 2000-01. The expenditure on education increased from \$1 314 million to \$1 469 million, an increase of \$155 million. Expenditure on health increased from \$1 206 million to \$1 889 million, an increase of \$682 million or 56.6 per cent. In many people's minds disability services is only a minor budgetary item, but the increase in expenditure indicated that the Court Government not only built things but also was a compassionate, caring Government. Disability services funding increased from \$7.4 million in 1992-93 to \$166.5 million in 2001. In percentage terms, that is an increase of 2 150 per cent.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm*

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Prior to the dinner break I was quoting a few budgetary figures comparing the budgets from 1992-93, when the Court Government came to power, and 2000-01, the last budget of that Government. This gives the only meaningful comparison we can make over time to provide a measuring stick. Let us look at the figures on public order and safety: the 1992-93 budget allocation was \$520 million; and in 2000-01 it had increased to \$755 million, an increase of 45.2 per cent. In housing - and I will check these figures as they are quite stark if the figures I have uncovered are correct - the 1992-93 allocation was \$0.25 million; in 2000-01 it was \$16.5 million which was a massive increase of 6 550 per cent. The area of environmental protection is often used against the coalition Government to describe it as an uncaring Government; however, the last budget of the Lawrence Government in 1992-93, allocated \$16.4 million which was 0.3 per cent of the budget. The Court Government's last budget in 2000-01 allocated \$57 million to environmental protection, which was 0.7 per cent of the State's budget. Over that eight-year period the increase in the dollar allocation to environmental protection was \$40.6 million or a massive increase of 247.6 per cent. Let us hear no more of this nonsense about the Court Government not having an environmental conscience.

In the area of tourism and promotion, the budget allocation for 1992-93 was \$21.7 million; that increased in 2000-01 to \$59.9 million, an increase over eight years of \$38.2 million or 176 per cent. In transport and communications, the 1992-93 budget allocation was \$142.4 million, representing 2.8 per cent of the State's budget; in 2000-01 it increased to \$1 447 million, a massive increase over eight years of \$1 305 million or 916 per cent. A great deal of credit for that goes to the Court Government and ministers Eric Charlton and Murray Criddle during that time for the allocation to transport, which resulted in an amazing increase in the transport capital infrastructure around this State. The challenge for the Labor Government is to emulate that record. I am looking forward to a stocktake in four years time when next election is held, and my prediction at this stage is that this Government will not come within a bull's roar of matching some of the achievements of the Court Government over the eight years. Let us wait and see, but I stand very confident in my assertion that it will not come anywhere near it.

I have made some observations about how the Labor Party has started in Government. I have tried to assess some of the things that have come to my notice and I have come up with four words to describe them: impotent, deceptive, heartless and untrustworthy.

Hon Kim Chance: You're not normally so generous!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am not talking specifically about the Leader of the House in this place, because he is an honourable man. In the industrial relations area the Gallop Government has portrayed itself as impotent. From day one, on the Monday morning following the election, the union heavies were on building sites rolling in with their no ticket, no start slogan. What has been done to combat that outrageous behaviour? Very little. I would say nothing. We have seen bus drivers and nurses flexing their industrial relations muscles, and in those campaigns we saw a very muted response from the Government. I can think only of words such as - and they may be a bit harsh for the Leader of the House - "limp-wristed" and "nonexistent response." In other words, the early indications to me are not very encouraging and, unfortunately, they portray what we have come to expect; that is, the Labor Party is still the creature of the heavy union movement in Western Australia and it will still succumb to mob rule.

The second word that sprung to mind is "deceptive". The Gallop Government has taken the populist line by reducing number of ministers from 17 to 14 - we have heard this talked about in this Chamber before - and creating superministries. The jury will be well and truly out on that as well, and we must wait for the verdict. However, we are already hearing about the lack of accessibility of ministers and the filtering layer that people must go through to get to the decision maker, the minister. That filter, in large part, is hand-picked mostly from

people with trade union backgrounds. It is not a good way to run a Government when people are put through a political test before they can get to the real decision maker to resolve an issue.

The word "heartless" came to mind because of one planning appeal that came to my notice. I know that planning appeals are not often debated in this House, but this one stood out. I will not mention names, but it involves a country property at which some people wanted to subdivide a couple of acres around a house occupied by their daughter and her son. The daughter has a mental disability and she does her best to care for her son; however, she still needs close supervision and assistance from her ageing parents. This subdivision did not fit the planning guidelines, but I was happy to support an appeal against that decision on compassionate grounds. I know that Hon Christine Sharp also supported the appeal on compassionate grounds. However, the appeal was rejected by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon Alannah MacTiernan. That was extremely disappointing, because there is a provision for compassion in ministerial appeals, and there must be. I thought that if this did not indicate a situation in which some compassion could and should be shown - to give the daughter with the mental disability not only a degree of independence, but also arm's length assistance from her parents - I could not think of a case that would qualify. I know that there is a proposal to scrap ministerial planning appeals, which will probably come up in the near future.

Hon Kim Chance: Not to scrap, but to remove it at arm's length from the political process.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I will carefully look at that proposal, because I hesitate to support a proposal that will take the minister completely out of this realm. At the end of the day, and all other factors being equal, there must be an avenue for compassion to be shown in certain circumstances. I hope that is retained in any reassessment of the planning appeals process.

Untrustworthy is another word that springs to mind about the Government. There has already been debate in this House on the backflip that the Government, through the Attorney General, seems to have done on the commitment to people caught in the finance broking scandal. I will not re-run the debate, but firm commitments were given to provide assistance to determine state liability and to open up the books of the Ministry of Fair Trading to those people who lost a lot of money during that fiasco. I do not think those people feel as if those commitments are being met.

It may be minor in the scheme of things, but I chair the Terra Australis 2001 Committee, which is attempting to coordinate a few events for the bicentenary celebrations of the Baudin expedition. This was Australia's first French connection and goes back 200 years to the Baudin expedition of this coastline. Members of that expedition landed in several places and took back a wealth of flora and fauna specimens, doubling the world's knowledge of biodiversity at that time. The lasting legacy of that expedition is the many French names that are found up and down the Western Australian coastline. This committee, which was started at the University of Western Australia, has put together some projects and has attempted to promote and encourage others. It has had limited funding. It is not a government committee but a community-based committee. It received some funding from the State Government and the French Government to mount a series of monuments to Baudin in Fremantle and other places up and down the coastline.

Baudin was largely overlooked because of a few historical factors, including differences that occurred during the voyage between scientists and navigators on board. The other factor was that Baudin was careless enough to die before returning to France, so other people wrote the history of that voyage. In addition to the monuments, some aspects of the voyage were re-enacted last week by the sail training ship *Leeuwin*, in the waters off Cape Naturaliste, Cape Leeuwin and Geographe Bay. That coincided with the dates of the expedition to the south west coast. Twenty school students from around Western Australia joined that re-enactment and re-lived some of the history of that time. The Western Australian Museum put together a travelling exhibition, which is currently on display at the Busselton Jetty Interpretive Centre. I recommend people visit that place before the end of this month, when the exhibition will move to other venues around the State. It is a terrific part of this State's history that not many people know much about. I grew up in the Busselton area and was vaguely aware of the French sounding names - Geographe, Naturaliste, Vasse and so on - but without knowing the history behind them. In the past few years, I have become much more interested in that history - it is a fascinating story.

The committee also put together an education kit consisting of a manuscript and historical information suitable for lower high school students. Last year the committee, with the assistance of Hon Colin Barnett, the Minister for Education, negotiated for the Education Department to help distribute this education kit to schools throughout Western Australia. I thought this was a reasonable and appropriate thing to do, considering it relates to a part of this State's history. I am not sure whether it was because I am the chairman of this committee - I certainly hope not - but when the committee approached the new Minister for Education, Hon Alan Carpenter, soon after he took office, unfortunately the committee was told that the Government was reneging on that commitment and that the Education Department would not take part in the distribution of that material. It has

not been a good start by the Government in some areas. I am sure members will see many more examples of that in their electorates over the next few years.

I will now raise a series of specific commitments concerning the south west that were made by the Labor Party during the election campaign. These have been taken directly from the Labor Party's policies and I want them put on record. I will continue to raise them both in the community and in this House over the next four years to ensure that the Government delivers on those commitments. I will beat Government members around the ears if it does not. That is the role of the Opposition.

Hon Kim Chance: Quite appropriate.

Hon Simon O'Brien: We won't beat both ears; we will be balanced about it.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I will start with the Edith Cowan University campus in Bunbury. The Labor Party made a commitment to appoint a professorial chair in regional development at that campus, to fund short-term secondments of talented senior government officials to undertake specific research and policy analysis, and to appoint a post-doctoral research fellow for a three-year period. I, and other members of the Liberal Party, had discussions with Professor Elizabeth Hatton and other people from the south west campus of Edith Cowan University. We were doing our best to give support to that direction as well. That is on record. The Opposition will be here to ensure that the Government delivers on its promises.

The Labor Party also gave a commitment to develop a recreation area for high school students and the general public on a reserve adjoining Bunbury Senior High School, to enable more classrooms to be built on the school site. This is an important commitment for Bunbury. I heard the member for Bunbury refer to that land in front of Bunbury Senior High School as urban desert. In some ways he is right; it is an expanse of land which has terrific potential. Bunbury Senior High School is on a very small site and needs room to expand. I wish the Labor Government well in meeting that commitment. The only problem is that the Government does not own the land. However, it has made that commitment, so it must work out a way to overcome it.

The Labor Party made a commitment to identifying a permanent site for the Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School, which is in Carey Park. It is a terrific school and doing a really good job. We had quite extensive discussions and negotiations in the past year or so with Djidi Djidi school management and Bunbury City Council, trying to identify and allocate a permanent site for the school. Those involved with the school want it to stay on the site at Kelly Park. I can see no reason that it cannot. Kelly Park is owned by Bunbury City Council and there has been difficulty in overcoming some issues. The school deserves some security of tenure, which is what it is seeking. We negotiated an extension of a couple of years on the school's lease at the current site, but that is only a holding position. It certainly needs some urgent action to resolve the issue.

The Labor Party committed to commencing planning and design work for new primary schools in north Australind and south of Bunbury in the College Grove-Gelorup area. We will be following that commitment with interest. The Court Government allocated funds towards a South Busselton primary school that was to be built ready for occupation by the beginning of the next school year. That date has already shifted back six months. I fear there may be some moves to shift it back even further. I put the Government on notice about that commitment.

A commitment that was very topical during the election campaign relates to Smith's Beach near Yallingup and coastal development. The Labor Party committed to blocking the controversial housing and tourist development that has been proposed for Smith's Beach near Yallingup. That commitment has already been partially carried out - at least the rhetoric is there. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has announced a review of that section of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste statement of planning policy that addresses the Smith's Beach issue. We have not yet seen any details, and the proof is in the details, but the Labor Government has bipartisan support for that position. We will be following that commitment, as I know many people in the area will be, over the coming months. Let us hope it does not take years to fulfil.

The Labor Party is committed to working with local communities and stakeholders towards the creation of marine conservation reserves at Geographe Bay to Hardy Inlet and Walpole to Nornalup estuaries. That commitment is putting on the ground legislation that was created by the Court Government to establish marine parks on our coastline. It is committed to proceeding with a landscaping plan for Bunbury Back Beach. Bunbury Back Beach was a controversial issue in the six to 12 months leading up to the election. The Labor Party has committed to following through on at least the landscaping. We will wait and see.

The Labor Party committed to developing a management plan that will link the entire beachfront from the coastal zone north of Bunbury to the coastal zone south of Bunbury. The Labor Party said it would increase the funding and support for the land conservation district committees by the permanent appointment of regional Landcare coordinators. That is an interesting commitment.

Hon Kim Chance: That is mine.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I will be questioning the Leader of the House on that over the years to come. I am sure he will be able to give us an update on the progress.

Hon Kim Chance: We hope to put the first of those in place very soon.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Has the Government budgeted for it?

Hon Kim Chance: Very much so.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I assume that would be quite a big budget item.

Hon Kim Chance: It is \$1.5 million.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The Labor Party committed to declaring a Peel regional park within six months of forming government. There are further commitments relating to the Peel region, one of which is to construct a new \$3 million community health building on the Peel Health Campus to accommodate all branches of community health on one site. In the area of health there is a commitment to change the boundary criteria to ensure the patient assisted travel scheme is available to patients living in towns closer to Perth, such as Pinjarra and Mandurah.

Hon Kim Chance: I think it may already have been done.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I have not seen any announcements, but that commitment has been made.

Hon Kim Chance: If it has not been done, the time is very close.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Some constituents of mine will welcome that, I am sure.

I will pick out a couple of commitments on law and order. The Labor Party is committed to creating five police flying squads with one based in Bunbury. It will have a police presence in Falcon just south of Mandurah. It will also fund a Peel youth diversion program.

On rural and regional policies, the Labor Government will provide support for the proposed viticulture campus in Margaret River. I am very pleased to see that commitment. However, at the moment the first indications are not all that encouraging, because pressure seems to be being applied to allocate the money that is available through TAFE and build the centre of wine excellence, as it is called, on the high school site in Margaret River. This issue has been extensively researched and investigated two or three times in the past couple of years. All sites have been assessed, among them the high school site. The high school site has been rejected every time and the suggestion has been an east Margaret River site on Darch Road, which is the preferred location.

Hon Kim Chance: That was my intention also. That commitment of mine was driven off a proposal of Curtin University.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University and TAFE are the three tertiary institutions involved. The concept is terrific. I hope that the almost universal support for the concept is not lost in an argument about the site.

Hon Kim Chance: So do I.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I assure the minister that there is no support for the facility being located on the high school site. It is an easy option, and I can see that somebody looking at it from outside might say that it is an easy option because all the services are available at the site and it is gazetted. It would be a very short-term, unpopular decision.

The Labor Party committed to ensuring that tourist-operated projects such as the Mandurah marina development and the Pinjarra-Boddington railway will enhance the opportunity for local business. The Labor Party is supporting those projects. In a Bunbury 2020 policy, the Labor Party is committed to a \$1.5 million one-stop call centre for customers of state government departments, a \$1 million e-commerce training centre and a new \$2 million electronic library. It will conduct a feasibility study on a Peel regional zoo project. It will enter into a joint venture with Dardanup Shire Council to develop a new recreation centre as part of the new high school in Eaton. We committed to that as well during the election campaign. I and other members are here to make sure that commitment is delivered. The Labor Party committed to a \$1 million contribution towards the construction of a Bunbury regional social history museum. It pledged to take action to reduce the growing gap between country and city petrol prices. I am aware of legislation in this place, but anecdotal evidence suggests that commitment has already failed.

Hon Kim Chance: "Failed so far" would be more generous.

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President; Hon Bruce Donaldson

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Hon BARRY HOUSE: This next commitment I want to spend time on. The Labor Party is committed to the Peel deviation and will ensure that Main Roads' 10-year road building program includes the Peel deviation, also cementing the extension of the freeway to Mandurah and the Peel deviation road, as a matter of importance. Labor will start the process by allocating \$5 million towards the acquisition of land required and to compensate local landowners for the Peel deviation. The coalition's commitment was to have the Peel deviation up and running by 2005, and the matching Serpentine deviation, which will run from the end of the freeway which will be opened in a couple of weeks, to Mandurah Road and connect to the Peel deviation by 2011. The previous Government was making significant progress towards that and a lot of work was being done by the then Minister for Transport. I was about to get started on chairing a committee to put together the nuts and bolts for that project when the election rudely interrupted. That is a commitment I want to see fulfilled. What worries me a little about the Labor Party's commitment is that the Serpentine deviation is not mentioned in it. It states that the Labor Party will -

Ensure that the Peel Deviation is funded in the current ten year road program.

I want to see it on the five-year road building program, this year. I do not want to wait for three years and then put it on the 10-year road building program, which will put it out 13 years. That road is becoming a critical bottleneck through Mandurah. The document further states that the Labor Party -

Will increase funding of the Bunbury City Transit service by \$1 million . . .

the introduction of a CAT type bus service for the central city area;

expansion of the current public bus system to improve access for residents living in the new, outer suburbs of the City;

an outer ring service between the major regional shopping centres, recreational facilities and medical services . . .

improvement in the bus link service between the railway station and the CBD;

new services on Saturdays to better reflect changed shopping and work patterns and to cater for Australind and Eaton shoppers.

That is quite an extensive commitment, one that I am sure the Bunbury people will want to see delivered. In terms of the Bunbury port, the Labor Party is committed to -

Commence land acquisition for the port access road in the area between the Australind Bypass and the South West Highway at Picton.

That is very important.

Accelerate planning on the railway corridor linking the port to Kemerton.

Commission a report into the dualing of the rail track between Brunswick Junction and the port to cater for increased tonnages of alumina railed to the Port.

Work will also be done to -

Commission a report on an extension of the rail network beyond Bunbury to Busselton and Manjimup.

This is interesting. Why not take it to Margaret River or Augusta as well? A reserve already exists for such a line. In relation to the Bunbury airport, the Labor Party is committed to -

Work with the local authorities and the community to plan for the possible relocation of the Bunbury Airport to an area more remote from the urban areas of Bunbury.

This mystifies me, because one of the first actions of the Gallop Government was to cut the minimal subsidy to a regular air service linking Perth with Busselton and Margaret River. The minister, Hon Michelle Roberts, labelled the Busselton airport a white elephant. Here, a commitment is being made to spend about \$4 million on relocating and upgrading the Bunbury airport. Bunbury is 50 kilometres closer to Perth. If Busselton will not work, then Bunbury certainly will not. I am not denying that an upgrade is necessary at Bunbury. It is a fairly ordinary airstrip.

Hon Kim Chance: It is a bit short, too.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It is a bit short if one is in a hurry, yes. In the areas of tourism and ecotourism, in response to the decision to cease logging in old-growth forests, I will pick out a couple of commitments for the sake of getting them on the record -

Undertake five tourism projects in the South West initiated by the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).



- A \$1 million environmentally sensitive karri tourist drive near Pemberton;
- A \$2 million tourist attraction in the Manjimup/Nannup region;
- A \$1 million upgrade of tourism facilities at Wellington National Park;
- A \$2 million development of three environmentally sensitive camping and chalet sites;
- Bring forward the sealing of Mowen Road between Nannup and Margaret River to 2007-08 at a cost of \$2 million.

I am not sure whether that is bringing it forward at all; this is about what the present plan calls for. I hope the Gallop Government, the Commonwealth Government or anyone can find the money to bring forward that project in the next two years, because it is a vital east-west link in that part of the world. At some stage I would like to know from the Minister for Forestry and Fisheries about the future of the sky jetty proposed before the election. Another commitment is to -

Establish an EventsCorp Regional Events Unit in Bunbury to attract events and conventions to regional centres and help promote them. Two EventsCorp FTE's will be transferred to the Bunbury office of the WA Tourism Commission . . .

We will wait and see on that one. The document further commits the Labor Party to -

Construct a \$1 million Karri-Tingle Discovery Centre and outdoor classroom . . .

Reopen the Boddington to Pinjarra railway at a cost of \$1 million . . .

The Labor Party committed itself to many things in the lead up to the state election. A combination of those commitments and a range of other factors saw it elected, and it is now the Government. The Government has made, in my eyes, a fairly unconvincing start to its term. I am sure that the next four years will be interesting. They will be frustrating at times, and I am sure it will be horrifying to some of us to see some of the things that are done. But they will be satisfying years if the Opposition can do its job and provide sufficient scrutiny of the Government's activities, placing the coalition in a position to be re-elected in four years time.

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN** (South Metropolitan) [8.06 pm]: I am delighted to have the opportunity to support this motion, and to add to the words of the mover my own admiration for the job that His Excellency the Governor is doing, together with the splendid contribution that Mrs Sanderson is making to the life of the community in Western Australia. We are fortunate to have the benefit of Lieutenant-General Sanderson and Mrs Sanderson in their respective roles, and I join other members in voicing my satisfaction with that state of affairs.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the President on his election to that office. I had the opportunity on another occasion to quickly mention this, and I would now like to formally acknowledge the new President of the Legislative Council, and express my confidence that he will do a fine job in that role. I have also had the opportunity in the past, Mr Deputy President (Hon George Cash), to express my confidence in you as President on another occasion, four years ago. I would now like to join my colleagues in thanking you for your service as President of the Legislative Council, which you completed with the distinction, impartiality and professionalism that we all anticipated. We are delighted that you are continuing to serve us now in the role of Deputy President, and thank you for your service in that capacity. I also offer greetings to new members just elected to the Legislative Council, and I hope I have the opportunity to get to know all of those members better, and to form constructive and cordial working partnerships. I also welcome back those former members who have returned, and express my satisfaction that I am still here to be able to serve with them in this Chamber.

I would like to canvas several matters of concern to me in this debate. I hope they will also be of interest to the House. I have already reported that the Liberal Party has made me its spokesperson on drug strategy, and I will have something to say about that on other occasions. I also have the honour to be the Opposition spokesperson on disability services, and this is the first matter I would like to draw to the attention of the House. By way of introduction, I will quote some figures drawn from the latest annual report of the Disability Services Commission, and a few other more up-to-date sources that I have researched, to give members who may not be aware of this important area a feel for the scale of the issue that we have to deal with.

Members may not be aware that approximately 355 500 Western Australians have a disability. That figure represents about one-fifth of the population. I think a lot of people will be surprised to learn that this figure is so high. A number of those people who are defined as having a disability have a disability that does not unduly restrict them. However, 179 000 Western Australians - a significant number - need help to ensure that their daily needs are met.

The disability services area primarily addresses people whose disabilities have manifested or occurred before they have reached the age of 60. The number of people under the age of 60 with a profound or severe disability is about 62 400. It is important to be aware of the nature and number of some of these disabilities, because that is critical to understanding the nature of the problem in the community. We all know through family, friends, acquaintances or neighbours people who have disabilities and require care. However, it is important that as parliamentarians we understand the impact of that throughout the community. Nearly 17 000 of those 62 400 people receive services from the Disability Services Commission or non-government agencies.

The budget figures on the provision of disability services in this State also indicate where we should place the emphasis in providing services to this client group. There is a strong bias towards giving assistance to the people who need it the most; that is commonsense, and it is expressed in policy. In 2000-01, the Disability Services Commission will spend around \$200 million; and I will use fairly round figures for the purposes of this exercise. Approximately \$166 million of that \$200 million will be provided from state government coffers, about \$30 million will be provided by the Commonwealth Government, and approximately \$4 million will come from bequests, donations and other forms of fundraising.

Approximately \$99 million of that \$200 million will be spent on providing high-level assistance in the form of residential services such as hostels, group homes and so on. Therefore, \$99 million of that \$200 million will be spent on only 1 660 people. That is an average cost of \$59 121 per annum to care for people with severe needs who require 24-hour assistance; some people may have a disability that requires that \$80 000 be spent, and others may have a disability that requires that \$40 000 be spent. The second group comprises 16 120 people who receive in-home support such as day activities, therapy and other specialist services. Approximately \$78 million is spent on those people, at an average cost of \$4 801 per person.

The local area coordination offices provide services in the community to help identify and work with people with disabilities, and their carers and families, on a case-by-case basis, in situ. This morning, I was at the Fremantle Local Area Coordination Office of the Disability Services Commission, and I was most impressed by the commitment, compassion and professionalism shown by the local area coordinators whom I had the privilege to meet. About \$16 million is spent on local area coordination to provide services to about 5 500 people, at an average cost of \$2 871 per person. About \$7 million is spent on providing other services to the 355 500 people in Western Australia who are recorded as having a disability. Those services include strategic coordination, access, safeguarding of rights, and advocacy, at an average cost of between \$15 and \$20 per person. The \$200 million is dispersed via grants to non-government agencies of about \$100 million, grants to individuals of about \$11 million, and government-provided services of about \$89 million. There are a great number of service providers, large and small, throughout Western Australia. One of the keys to understanding the disability services area is that each of the 355 500 persons with a disability has a unique set of circumstances and cannot be pigeonholed according to the disorder or type of injury that has occurred, even though that has tended to be the practice in the past. A person may suffer a physical impairment and also suffer a form of intellectual impairment that creates special needs. As members would be able to tell from the figures I have given, another key to understanding people with disabilities in our community is that a vast number of them do not receive government assistance to meet their daily needs, which may range from supervisory support in going to work or school, or crossing roads, to higher-level assistance in eating, going to the toilet and bathing.

Hon Kim Chance: It certainly points to the economic value and contribution of carers.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I thank the Leader of the House for his interjection, because he has hit the nail on the head. We need to acknowledge that it is estimated that families and friends provide 70 per cent of all the assistance that is needed by Western Australians with a disability. In view of the shopping list and the bill that I have just read into the record, that 70 per cent represents a lot of service delivery dollars. It also represents a lot of compassion, commitment, plain hard work and heartache. I do not want to refer to individual cases, but consider the not uncommon case of a child who is born with a severe intellectual developmental disability which means that child will only ever possess the life skills of a two-year-old. Many members in this place will know how difficult it can be to look after a two-year-old child who has his own needs, cannot reason and communicate properly, and may even behave in a way that is violent. Members should consider what happens when that child is 18 years old but still has the needs of a two-year-old. That child may be 100 kilos and six feet tall. The only person looking after that child may be a single parent because the stresses and strains involved can sometimes tear families apart. That single parent must care for that two-year-old child, putting up with sleepless nights, pulled hair, accidents, nappies and everything else that goes with it. Do not forget that an 18-year-old man in that position needs to be shaved; it is hard when he must wear nappies as well. Consider doing that, not until the child is two but for 20 years. How long does that child-looking-after go on for? Forever. It must be done until that loved child, who has a life and deserves to live it to the fullest possible extent, ultimately dies. Then parents worry about what will happen when they die. Who will look after the child then? There are many elderly

parents with a range of health problems who worry about who will look after their severely, intellectually disabled 50-year-old children who have known only one household in their life. The burden that that dimension adds to the life of the families, friends and carers, who care so willingly and lovingly, is severe. They are a valuable asset to the State because they provide many of the services that need to be provided. They do so willingly but on many occasions - I have alluded to only one hypothetical scenario - they obviously need all sorts of assistance, including in-home help, respite accommodation and a range of other services.

What happens when carers have emergencies in their own lives? Carers sometimes fall over, break hips, get run over, suffer heart attacks and have nervous breakdowns. First, we must ensure that services are always available, which is a difficult job because by definition they are for unmet needs. Secondly, those needs are a moving target, but the Disability Services Commission and other bodies try to meet them. Those needs change constantly with the changes in people's circumstances. It is therefore a complex and difficult situation. I pay tribute to all carers, including not only principal carers but also others in the family such as teenage children who perhaps do not get the attention from their parents that other teenage children take for granted because so much care must be put into one member of the family. I salute the numerous workers in a range of disabilities areas, such as home help, physiotherapy, speech therapy and so on. I hope, as a community, that we will continue to strive to meet the needs that I referred to earlier, to satisfy existing needs, to try to meet unmet needs and to try to project the future needs, because this is a growth area of government activity.

Members should be under no misunderstanding that this is an area where the carers, although taking the burden of their disability challenge in their family squarely on their own shoulders, expect that the assistance will be there when the time comes that they need help, when they may be either too old or infirm to continue to provide the care that is needed. Sadly, that is not automatically the case. New needs are arising constantly.

I view with great alarm the questions that I receive from constituents. I have raised these matters in the House in question time about possible cuts to this area of government expenditure. The estimates of cuts vary from four per cent to eight per cent. It was specifically suggested that cuts of the order of six per cent might occur. I do not know if that is true. We have been told there will not be wholesale cuts to government programs in this budget. Perhaps that depends on the definition of wholesale. However, I accept at face value the reassurances I have received that there will be no cuts to this area and that the fears expressed by many in the disability services area are unfounded.

However, a sense of unease exists and I commend to the Government that it sustains the commitment that the recent coalition Government attempted to exhibit in addressing the unmet needs of people in this area. That commitment was exhibited as recently as 8 December, just prior to the election. A looming election is a critical time for ministers to put in bids for funding for election announcements. The former Minister for Disability Services, Paul Omodei, signed off on a bid, having succeeded in convincing his cabinet colleagues that a further \$12.4 million was warranted above and beyond the established business plan to provide for a further 91 cases of critical need. That was an outstanding effort on his part and he deserves to be congratulated. I hope the new minister is able to continue to display that sort of commitment. If that commitment is displayed, I assure the Government that it will enjoy the Opposition's full support in delivering it; conversely we will express our severe disappointment if something less than that is exhibited in the future.

One way in which members can be involved in disability services, apart from their role as local members in liaising with local service providers and individuals and in lobbying for resources for their own electorates, is through the politician adoption scheme. I was adopted a few years ago as a private member. You may well ask, Mr Deputy President, who would have me? The answer to that is a very lovely girl called Toni Catlow who suffers from severe intellectual and physical disabilities. Her family taught me a few things about the pressures that confront the carers of a severely disabled child. Toni is growing up now. She is in upper primary school and is no longer a babe in arms. She is severely disabled. It takes one and a half hours to feed her at each meal. She requires round-the-clock care on every aspect of life. She is certainly well cared for and loved by her parents Chris and Helga Catlow, with whom my wife and I have formed a close friendship. That is only one of the benefits of the politician adoption scheme. It has also opened my eyes to the needs that people dealing with disabilities must confront. It has been a rewarding and enriching experience on a personal level alone. Therefore, if members are approached about the politician adoption scheme, I urge them to give it positive consideration.

I place on the record my appreciation to the Catlow family, which consists of Chris, Helga, Toni and their dog Scamp. Scamp is a wire-haired dog - one of those really bristly types. One of the most humbling experiences I ever had took place when I was sitting down with Toni one day. Toni is blind and incapable of speech. However, I had a new teddy bear for her - some tactile stimulation. We were sitting on the couch with everybody and playing one of those games that I guess adoptive uncles play with kids - a bit of rough-house -

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and she had her cheek against mine. Of course, I had a full beard then, as I do now. We were having a cheek-to-cheek moment, and Toni, with her very limited powers of communication, made two signs. With her hand, she made her sign for pleasure. She was enjoying the company that Joy and I were providing. The other sign she made, showing a sense of humour, was her sign for Scamp the dog, meaning that my muzzling with my beard felt like that wire-haired dog.

Hon Dee Margetts interjected.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: It most definitely was.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Obviously, she is not very handicapped intellectually.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Obviously not. That was a humbling and enriching experience, and it melted my heart. I wanted to share that with the House. As I said previously, I hope that members will all look kindly on the politician adoption program.

I will move on quickly to a couple of other matters. I want to pay tribute to some people in my electorate who are involved in a rather special project. Again, this is related to people with disabilities, but not necessarily so much under the State's purview. An organisation in Rockingham is called the Totally and Partially Disabled Veterans of Western Australia. That local group is a spin-off from the parent group, the TPI Association of Australia, WA Branch. In the Rockingham area, an interesting thing has come to light. A number of disabled veterans live in that area, and many of them are getting on in years. Typically, Vietnam veterans are well into their middle age and beyond by this stage of the game.

I ask members to consider this: if, as a result of war service, a person were to suffer a total or partial, but permanent, disability, how would that impact on that person's life after he was discharged from the defence forces? Sure, that person would get a card saying he was entitled to treatment at the Hollywood repatriation hospital or whatever else he required; and there are pensions and other forms of assistance. I even have a card from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, but I have never had to use it. I have the card because of an orthopaedic injury I suffered when I was serving with the peacetime army. Plenty of those cards are around. However, it is difficult when a person comes out of that situation, having suffered some of the trauma, both physical and mental, of a permanent injury on active service. It is difficult to come to grips with the reality of civilian life, when a person is incapable of doing many of the jobs that he might otherwise have done throughout his working life. For example, a crook right leg might cut out a range of potential occupations because a person cannot drive any form of vehicle, climb a ladder or push a wheelbarrow. It has been hard for some people in that situation to find a meaningful way to live their lives, sometimes with tragic results. However, this group is rather different. They are a self-help, get-up-and-help-other-people type of group, despite their own disabilities. I have heard them referred to - not disparagingly - as a glorified social group. The group has all sorts of equipment, including trailers that have been modified to take barbecues, umbrellas, chairs and all sorts of things. It is marvellous how they have constructed this equipment. They take groups such as disadvantaged children's groups on picnics, and contribute to the community in that way. Recently the group obtained an old Metropolitan Transport Trust bus - it is not a little bus but a big bus - which is used to routinely take members of retirement villages on picnics and outings. These people are trying to put something back into the community. However, the chief reason for the existence of their association is to look after their mates. They are all in the same boat. They have physical and sometimes psychological scars that need to be treated, even if they cannot be fully mended. They understand that. Many of them have demons to exorcise, and clinical psychologists and counsellors are available to assist them. However, there is no doubt that the hand of a good friend on the shoulder, and the offer of comfort and comradeship, is often the best tonic to start that healing process and to help people through a difficult time.

Members of the Totally and Partially Disabled Veterans of WA group, under their President, Mr Peter Douglas, have been doing a great deal of work to provide services to their colleagues. One of the dreams of the association was to provide a setting for permanent respite and emergency accommodation, where members of the group could live on site and also take in people in emergency or respite situations and provide the sort of comradeship, personal counselling and support that they find works in their area. They wanted to do it in a tranquil, bushland setting, away from the hustle and bustle but not away from the metropolitan area and the families who may be taking some respite, or from the services they require. However, they were having trouble getting this ambitious idea off the ground. I came on board a couple of years ago when Peter Douglas came to see me with his ideas and wanted to know how he could bring them to reality. I sat down with him and looked at some figures. The figures that I first saw astounded me.

On several occasions in this House I have pointed out the absence of services, particularly medical services, around the Rockingham area and that people have to travel as far as Fremantle, at least, in order to obtain services. It is a real burden to travel from that area when one is sick or injured, or on a regular basis for dialysis,

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for example. That area generally needs more services. Mr Douglas showed me some statistics he obtained from the Department of Veterans' Affairs database indicating the distribution of the department's clients by postcode. I noted with interest that the Rockingham postcode not only had the largest number of veterans' affairs clients but also exceeded all other areas by a factor of 10. It is a remarkable concentration of people in this -

Hon G.T. Giffard: Is that all other areas or any other area?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: It refers to all other areas. I can see that the member is surprised, as I was. It is remarkable. Of course, as the member knows, the Rockingham postcode area is probably bigger and more heavily populated than many. Even so, it has a heavy concentration of veterans' affairs clients.

Hon E.R.J. Dermer: Is it the attraction of the seaside?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: A range of demographic reasons could explain the phenomenon, including the availability of reasonably priced housing and peer support. They have tended to congregate in that area.

Hon E.R.J. Dermer: I imagine that peer support is a big factor.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: It is, and that lends weight to the project.

It took some time for my office to work out how to tackle this problem; it seemed pie in the sky. We have gradually pulled together a plan. I will provide members with a record of runs on the board, because there were some false starts, wailing and gnashing of teeth and all the other disappointments that go with working towards something that is ultimately worthwhile.

We asked various agencies to identify a suitable large block of crown land that might be made available for this purpose. A number of blocks were identified, and we whittled the list down to one on Safety Bay Road just east of the Mandurah Road intersection and adjacent to the Sherwood Estate. The Ministry of Housing officers have been terrific. Realising that the ministry would ultimately be the landlord for many of these people, officers took the view that, if land were provided, they would be interested in providing group housing for this group as the ministry does for other groups. I place on record my appreciation of the many officers from the ministry who have provided assistance to date.

The third part of the jigsaw is a manager, and the City of Rockingham offered to take on that role. We had some false starts with other potential property managers. I will tell members about one or two of them on another occasion outside the Chamber, because it was an interesting situation. I thank those involved at the City of Rockingham - the council and the officers, including chief executive officer Gary Holland and executive manager John Green, who assisted with the Rockingham Veterans' Association. We needed to form a new incorporated body for this purpose and we called it the Rockingham Veterans' Association. The City of Rockingham came to the party and provided administrative support. We also needed to provide an authority in which the land could be vested, because it needs to be an authority with a demonstrated management capacity. As members would be well aware, it is useful to have the local government authority onside when one is attempting a development such as this. For an interim management committee we needed some fairly competent and tough-minded people to work with all the parties involved. I place on record my appreciation of former Mayor Laurie Smith for taking on the role of chairman. I also thank the representatives of the Totally and Partially Disabled Veterans of Western Australia, Mr Peter Douglas, Mr Bob Woods, Mr Bill Heise and Mr Kelvin Wormald, who are also on the interim committee. Councillor Allan Hill, our deputy chairman, is a veteran as well as a councillor of the City of Rockingham. He is doing a great job. In addition to mucking up the retirement plans of our chairman, Laurie Smith, I have also sought to damage the retirement plans of the former head of veterans' affairs in Western Australia, Mr Jim Dalton. It was a great achievement to recruit Jim to our board along with some tremendous supporters in the form of Mal Hughes, who has worked on this sort of project before, and Mr Norm Brooks, who is also providing a considerable amount of expertise. Two of the people who also need to be thanked are the Secretary of the Totally and Partially Disabled Veterans of Western Australia, Mrs Pamela Perkins; and perhaps the biggest vote of thanks should go to Mrs Lorna Douglas, whose contribution, along with that of her husband, Peter, to the welfare of veterans in that part of the world is considerable and, indeed, deserves the recognition of this House.

I have mentioned this matter to the Leader of the House informally on another occasion, and I hope that my brief outline of this project interests him and his colleagues in government. I know that his party colleagues the member for Peel, whom I briefed on this quite some time ago, and the member for Rockingham, who has also attended meetings, are both supportive. That is great, because this is about doing something for the community. I very much appreciate the ongoing support of the new Government just in bringing this project to fruition. The project will provide a range of services. In addition to the residential dwellings that I have mentioned, a community centre and some other services will be involved. It will help a large number of people. I look

forward to working with the Government on this project and with people like Hon Graham Giffard, who is a member for the South Metropolitan Region and no doubt has an interest in it. Hopefully we can bring it together.

Again, I express my appreciation of these people, who are doing this work to help each other and not for any reward. They are just trying to help their fellow Australians, their mates, and it is deeply moving to be allowed to be involved in this project. It is one of the reasons we all appreciate the great honour involved in being a member of Parliament and being called upon to participate in these matters.

Finally, a matter of some moment in a particular part of the electorate needs some attention. On the corner of Hill View Terrace and Albany Highway in East Victoria Park there is a remarkable building set in parkland. It looks like the original haunted house. It is the old Hillview Hospital and it has been known by a number of names. It is located off Albany Highway and has a long straight driveway lined by mature trees. At the top of the driveway one can see the old two-storey red brick building with big verandahs on both floors. The building has a rotunda on the top. If one comes upon the building in moonlight, it looks like the original haunted house. It has very striking features. It has been called the rotunda hospital and it was built as a maternity hospital in 1912 by matron Baillie. Baillie Avenue is named in her honour. The hospital predates King Edward Memorial Hospital by about four years. At the time it was built, the hospital was regarded as being out in the sticks; it was halfway to the far-flung settlement of Cannington. It is not out in the sticks now. Being the first maternity hospital in the area, it was a very important building. After the First World War, it was used as an influenza hospital during the epidemic of 1919-20. During that time, additions were made to the hospital. The additions are still there and consist of additional wards and a sanatorium. One can imagine that, in its heyday, it had rows of cast-iron bedsteads surrounded by extraordinarily wide verandahs that sufferers of influenza could use. The hospital later was used as a tuberculosis sanatorium for ex-servicemen for many years. After 1960, it served children with autism and, more recently, it has provided supervised accommodation for adolescents with personality and psychological difficulties. The site has a number of other buildings. A small part of the complex is still used by the Disability Services Commission. That point brings me back to the starting point of my address tonight.

The Hillview Hospital site, sometimes known as the Edward Millen Home, stands largely empty. It is important to recognise that, in the medical and social history of the district, the hospital is significant. In architectural terms, the main building with its driveway and parklands is a spectacular survivor of an era that has long since passed. A number of possible uses for the hospital have been suggested by a catalogue of interested community and business groups that are interested in retaining the building for its historical and architectural heritage. The building is listed by the Heritage Council of Western Australia. The question is how can we retain and use the building if that is the will of the community. The property is owned by the Health Department but it is now surplus to requirements due to the passage of years and the change in technologies. I have never seen a situation in which a government hospital that is surplus to requirements has not caused a big headache for the Government of the day when it tries to decide how to dispose of, or use, the property. This has occurred with the Sunset and Heathcote sites and other places. The site requires over \$2 million to restore it to a useable facility. That is the level of maintenance required for the site to have a new and meaningful life.

Similarly, I have been advised that up to \$200 000 a year will be required to provide ongoing maintenance and general upkeep, covering everything from the grounds to painting and supervisory and custodial services. If we are to retain this place for the community, we have to find the money to restore it, and it should not come out of Health Department funds - they are allocated for things other than restoring old buildings. We must also have a management group to provide that income on an ongoing basis and enable the site to be available for community groups and others. A number of controversies come to light when considering where that money will come from. The only way to raise that money is by selling off part of the land parcel - it has to come from somewhere. Obviously, because the vista and the parkland is so much a part of the heritage aspect, it has to be a sensitively balanced exercise, otherwise it will spoil the purpose of trying to retain the site for posterity.

When I toured the site last December, it was hoped that the Health Department would have received by March or April of this year a consultant's report providing options to cabinet. I do not know whether that has occurred, but I urge the Government to make a decision on what will happen to this building. This is becoming urgent. Since I last inspected the building in December, it has gone downhill due to its being unoccupied - there has been a bit more vandalism and a bit more deterioration. Members would know how buildings tend to deteriorate if they are left unused and unoccupied. I urge the new Government, even though it is busy with a whole range of challenges, to please give some consideration to the future of the Hillview Hospital site. It is something which is capturing the imagination of many of the public, but it would be more likely to capture more of the public's attention if we failed to do something in a timely manner and ensure the building is preserved.

Hon Barry House; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Ken Travers; Hon Simon O'Brien; Hon Derrick Tomlinson;  
President; Hon Bruce Donaldson

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I restate my goodwill to the members of this House. I have had the privilege to sit in this House for one term, during which time I have grown to admire the workings and the nature of Parliament. Similarly, I hope that during this new term we can build on this as a House of Review, based on proper and cordial relationships, despite some of the controversies and hot words that fly around from time to time. I thank the House for the opportunity to respond to the Governor's speech.

**HON DERRICK TOMLINSON** (East Metropolitan) [8.59 pm]: I rise with great pleasure at the death watch to support the motion of Hon Ken Travers, and express my loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and thank His Excellency for the speech he delivered to Parliament. I do not know how long this Parliament will continue to express loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty - what the future holds will unfold. However, I am pleased that under the current conventions, we continue to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign. I also join with Hon Ken Travers and the many who have spoken already in acknowledging the Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant General John Sanderson. Unlike those who claimed to have met the Governor on several occasions and were effusive in their respect for him, I cannot claim to have had any more than a brief acquaintance with him on only two occasions. The first was a fleeting meeting - I think that is the best way to describe it - at the parliamentary reception shortly after His Excellency arrived in Western Australia. My only other close contact with him was at the opening of this Parliament. However, I commend His Excellency on what appears to have been an auspicious start to his term as Governor of Western Australia. I also commend His Excellency on his delivery of the speech opening the Parliament, a speech which, it is fair to say, was more interesting for what it did not say rather than for what it did.

Mr President, I also sincerely congratulate you on your election as President. An irreverent reference was made in *The West Australian* in recent days to you being the "Red Pres". I am not quite sure whether the journalist was making reference to the colour of your hair or your partisan affiliations; however, I think it was quite irreverent.

Hon Peter Foss: We should jail him for it.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Of course. The more apt appreciation was best presented by Hon Adele Farina in her maiden speech when she said -

Knowing your keen interest in the presidency, I thought it magnanimous of you to nominate Hon George Cash for the position. However, I noticed that you were not distraught when he declined it.

I know it is a position to which you have aspired and I congratulate you on having achieved it. I am sure you will carry it with all the grace of a Louis XIII or perhaps even a Louis XV, but, I sincerely hope, not a Louis XVI. I sincerely hope that when you leave office, your magnificent red head is on your shoulders and neither bloodied nor bowed.

Hon Peter Foss: You hope his furniture is Louis XIV.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Perhaps his clocks will be of another vintage.

Given the importance of your position, Mr President, and the flair with which I know you will carry out your duties, I suggest that rather than sneaking through the back door at the commencement of each day's sitting, you should enter heralded by the Usher of the Black Rod with doublet and hose. I think that would be much more in keeping with the status of the position.

Hon Peter Foss: I suggest that coming in from the back is rather like Major Major Major leaving his caravan.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the member for his suggestion as, I am sure, will the Usher of the Black Rod.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Unfortunately, Hon George Cash is elsewhere on parliamentary business. He would know that he and I do not have a sycophantic relationship, but rather a mutual respect for each other. However, I want to put on record my great respect for the way he fulfilled his role as President of this Chamber. Any judgment of Hon George Cash as President of this place is that he raised the presidency to a new level of respect. All of the members who served under his stewardship respected his detailed knowledge and acute interpretation and application of standing orders and his appreciation of the significance of the Parliament and its form and tradition.

At another level, the changes that have been wrought not only in this Chamber but also in the Parliament under the stewardship of Hon George Cash in the fabric and refurbishment of the Parliament, with a small allocation from Treasury, stand as a tribute to the time he served as President. Without wishing any premature cessation of your occupancy of the chair, Mr President, I sincerely hope that, at the appropriate time, Hon George Cash will be given another opportunity to serve as President of this Chamber.

While I am thanking members, I want to thank the Greens (WA) and the Australian Labor Party for my presence in this Chamber. Had it not been for the Greens' preferences and the distribution of the surplus of the ALP

votes, I would now be languishing on the beach at Ledge Point. Oh, God, thank you. Lee Bell from the Greens party would have made a very valuable contribution to this place. I have worked with him on a couple of occasions in my electorate. He is a man of very respectable intellect who has the facility to use knowledge to irritate in a way that few members of the Greens (WA) could emulate. In that respect, I suppose I am disappointed that I had to displace Lee Bell. I, nonetheless, thank the Greens for having the confidence to give me their preferences.

I also acknowledge the statement by Hon John Fischer in his opening address when he referred to an article by Mr Peter Walsh, the former Labor Senator, long-serving minister and guardian of the morals and integrity of the Liberal Party.

Hon Paddy Embry: The Labor Party.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Thank you.

Hon Kim Chance: I think you were right the first time.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Possibly so. According to Hon John Fischer, Peter Walsh wrote in the March edition of *The Institute of Public Affairs Review* -

If One Nation is illegitimate, surely a government elected on its preferences must also be illegitimate?

I was not elected with One Nation's preferences, so I can say that I am not illegitimate. Ladies and gentleman, standing before you is a person who is not a political bastard. Have I committed an indiscretion? I think the word is a wholesome Anglo-Saxon word.

Hon Peter Foss: It was not used as a swear word; it was used as a description.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Of course; my forebears will be gratified.

On a more sober note, we would all agree that the election result was interesting. Some members might have said that it was an unanticipated result; however, for me, it was not. The trends in the polls for some 12 months before the election indicated that the previous Government did not have the confidence of the electorate. Some people have said that the ALP is surprised to be in government. Perhaps it is, but I anticipate that some of the wiser heads in the Australian Labor Party had also discerned the trend in the polls. Whether or not we are surprised, it was an interesting result.

The most perceptive comment made on election eve came from Tony Cooke, the UnionsWA Secretary. He was interviewed on ABC television - I watched it, so it must have been ABC, because that is the only channel we get in the hills. I hope that I do not paraphrase incorrectly what Tony Cooke said. Considerable elation went on around him during the interview. The ALP members were absolutely ecstatic over the win. I know how they felt; although I did not share their ecstasy, I knew the joy they were experiencing. However, Tony Cooke was more sober. He was concerned about the disintegration of the political system in Western Australia. I share his concern.

The two major parties that have dominated the political system in Western Australia for a century garnered between them approximately two-thirds of the vote. The remaining one-third was distributed among One Nation and the Greens (WA). The Australian Democrats saw a considerable decline in their fortunes. A large number of votes were also dissipated among the Independent candidates. I have read and heard many interpretations of those results. I think the electorate has said to us and the ALP, "A plague on both your Houses." Our vote declined by seven per cent and the ALP increased its vote by two per cent. Between us we were able to harvest only two-thirds of the confidence of the electorate of Western Australia. It was indeed a plague on both our Houses.

The result was also a reflection of the genuine concern about the condition of the environment, or perhaps I should say, the ecology of the earth. The Greens (WA) and the liberals for forests, or the Independents who did not stand under the banner of liberals for forests, attracted a considerable vote. It could be said that that vote was a statement simply about the forest issue; however, the Labor Party, which promised to end logging in old-growth forests, was not able to attract the portion of the vote that went to the Greens (WA) and the liberals for forests. It must be recognised that a range of people in Western Australia expressed an opinion in that vote - they expressed a genuine concern for the future of the earth. One Nation must also be acknowledged - I hope its members will not be offended - as a right wing alternative. It has clearly struck a sympathetic nerve, particularly among rural Western Australians and - again, please do not interpret this in a disparaging way - among the working class in Western Australia. The high vote in the East Metropolitan Region in suburbs such as High Wycombe, Thornlie, Gosnells and Armadale indicates that the sympathetic vote is not restricted to the rural sector. That must also be taken note of.



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Having absorbed the message of the election - having realised that I had been returned - I fell into a slough of depression. The very thought of being here for another four years suddenly dawned upon me. In that slough of depression, I took myself off to a beach some 130 kilometres north of Perth, without a phone or newspapers. I took with me a book that I have often dabbled in. By coincidence, it was *Mein Kampf*. The reason I have dabbled in *Mein Kampf* is that I once had an academic interest in power and authority in the Australian political system, particularly the federal system. I have dabbled in *Mein Kampf* from time to time. I say "dabbled" because *Mein Kampf* is not a book that one sits down and reads; *Mein Kampf* is a book that one dabbles in. That is all one can do.

Hon Frank Hough: You weren't a part of the Hitler Youth were you?

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: No, but Hon Frank Hough would be surprised at what I would look like if I had the hairy face that he has.

I sat on the beach and dabbled. *Mein Kampf* is not one book, but two. The first was written in 1925. If members will excuse my imperfect German pronunciation, the first book is called *Eine Abrechnung*. Is that close enough? It translates as "a reckoning". It was published in 1925.

The PRESIDENT: I think the comment was, entschuldigung bitte.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I will not even attempt the pronunciation of the title of the second book, which was written and published a year later in 1926 and which translates as "the Nazi movement". The two books were brought together in a single volume in 1930. Every member of the Hitler Youth movement and every bureaucrat in the Third Reich had a copy, just as once upon a time all the radicals opposed to the Vietnam War had a copy of Mao Zedong's little red book. I am sure that the President had one.

The volume of *Mein Kampf* that I possess is the cheap edition published by Hutchinson in 1936. This edition published in 1989 has an introduction by Professor D.C. Watt, the Professor of International History at the University of London. Professor Watt said about *Mein Kampf* -

Those who pick it up and thumb it through expecting a work of political pornography are going to be disappointed. It is lengthy, dull, bombastic, repetitious and extremely badly written. As a historical picture of Hitler's life up to the time he wrote it, it is also quite unreliable. Most of its statements of fact and the entire tenor of the argument in the autobiographical passages are demonstrably untrue.

Hon John Fischer: Perhaps if you had asked Ron Birmingham -

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I am glad the member mentioned Ron Birmingham, because I will get to Ron Birmingham.

The translator of this edition of *Mein Kampf*, Mr Ralph Manheim, said -

Hitler has been called a paranoiac; at all events, his view of the world is highly personal. Even where he is discussing theoretical matters like 'the state', 'race', etc., he seldom pursues any logic inherent in the subject matter. He makes the most extraordinary allegations without so much as an attempt to prove them. Often there is no visible connection between one paragraph and the next. The logic is purely psychological: Hitler is fighting his persecutors, magnifying his person, creating a dream-world in which he can be an important figure. In more concrete passages he is combating political adversaries in his own movement, but even here the continuity is mystifying, because he never tells us whom he is arguing against, but sets up every political expedient as a universal principle.

Hon John Fischer has already anticipated the coincidence. I did dabble in this volume during a vacation period in March. I was somewhat surprised when, in his maiden speech, Hon John Fischer made the point -

One Nation is not vilified for what it stands for, but for the threat it poses to the two major parties. At a recent meeting of the state council of the Liberal Party, Mr Ron Birmingham, the senior vice president of the West Australian branch, described the people behind One Nation as evil and told the delegates they should read *Mein Kampf* to understand our policies.

Anybody who has read *Mein Kampf* would understand that any attempt to read into *Mein Kampf* the policies of One Nation is beyond credibility.

Hon John Fischer: I can only say that you should therefore go and ask your vice president, because I was merely repeating what he said.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: That is the point that I found most interesting.

Hon John Fischer: Possibly a co-author.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Co-author of *Mein Kampf*? I think not.

Hon John Fischer has made the point that these words were allegedly spoken by Ron Birmingham in the state council of the Liberal Party. My surprise at the reference was twofold. The first was the very coincidence that I had been dabbling in it just a matter of months beforehand. The second was that Hon John Fischer had a remarkable knowledge of what went on in the state council of the Liberal Party. It surprised me, and I wondered how that might be so. In *The West Australian* of Wednesday, 30 May 2001 I found an article under the heading, "Ex-Liberal tweaks One Nation speech". This is a reference to Mr Crichton-Browne. I read from *The West Australian* article -

Attached is a covering letter in which Mr Crichton-Brown appears to outline some changes he has made to a draft speech written by the Mining and Pastoral region MLC.

The article then quotes from that letter from Mr Crichton-Browne -

maiden speeches need to establish some credentials besides the ability to simply parrot parochial issues.

This is very wise advice. Among other things Mr Crichton-Browne is an outstanding political strategist.

Hon John Fischer: It is a pity the Liberal Party does not still have him.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Perhaps that is because One Nation has him. The article then states that Mr Crichton-Browne said in his letter that he has -

laboured the Liberal Party's decision to put you last on its HTV (how to vote) cards because it will bring pressure to bear on the Party to reconsider their position.

An interesting proposition. The letter quoted in the article goes on to say that -

most of the Party share the views expressed in the speech, and it is designed to give them something to argue with on the issue. I think it is important to reach over the heads of the leadership to the membership of the Liberal Party.

Given my acknowledgment of the political acumen of Mr Crichton-Browne, I think the advice his letter offers to Hon John Fischer is perceptive and intriguing. The article goes on to say -

In the letter Mr Crichton-Brown also describes the Liberal Party State vice-president Ron Birmingham as a supporter of Prime Minister John Howard's view on preferences to One Nation.

My copy of *The West Australian* is the morning edition. My understanding is that the evening edition quoted the letter as saying that Ron Birmingham is a slave of the Prime Minister John Howard's view on preferences to One Nation. I have tried to put together what the letter may have said, and the order in which it was said. What we have are observations that the speech should establish some credentials, that Mr Crichton-Browne has laboured the Liberal Party's decision on preferences, and that most of the party shares the view, and then there is the reference to Ron Birmingham. The letter accompanied a document that is some 17 pages long, and I am happy to table it. The letter said something like this - and I am only surmising and trying to put together the syntax of the quotes from *The West Australian* -

John, attached is the document. You may do with it as you wish. I have laboured the Liberal Party's decision to put you last on its HTV (how to vote) cards because it will bring pressure to bear on the Party to reconsider their position.

There is then the paragraph -

Most of the Party share the views expressed in the speech and it is designed to give them something to argue with on the issue. I think it is important to reach over the heads of the leadership to the membership of the Liberal Party.

Where then does the reference to Ron Birmingham fit? Let me speculate that the letter reads like this -

John, attached is the document. You may do with it as you wish. I have laboured the Liberal Party's decision to put you last on its HTV (how to vote) cards because it will bring pressure to bear on the Party to reconsider their position.

I anticipate the letter then went on to say -

Birmingham is standing for president, as will, I believe, Kierath. Kierath has a much more pragmatic view of the matter than Birmingham, who shares Howard's view. Most of the party shares the view

expressed in the speech and it is designed to give them something to argue with on the issue. I think it is important to reach over the heads of the leadership to the membership of the Liberal Party.

That is my constructive interpretation.

Hon John Fischer: Your interpretation is about as correct as the Liberal Party's interpretation prior to the state election of what was going to happen to it.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Then, Mr Fischer, table the letter.

Hon John Fischer: The only reason you are quoting from that letter is that it is a stolen article. Had I passed it to you, or had anyone else passed it to you, it would have made no difference whatsoever.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: If I am quoting from a stolen letter, this is the letter.

Hon John Fischer: I did not say that. I said you are quoting from a stolen letter, of which you are fully aware.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Then table the letter.

Hon John Fischer: That is the merely the length that the Liberal Party would go to.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I challenge the member to table the letter.

Hon John Fischer: I am not going to table the letter. I do not deal in stolen articles.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: What did we hear about the anatomy of the Liberal Party? What were the interjections about the anatomy of the Liberal Party?

Hon Simon O'Brien: Testicular fortitude.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Is that what it was?

The remainder of the letter outlines some of the key points of the speech that will be of interest and appeal to the people of the mining and pastoral electorate. The letter then states -

maiden speeches need to establish some credentials besides the ability to simply parrot parochial issues.

The letter probably says also that maiden speeches need to do more than refer to the decline of country towns; they need to offer explanations of the decline to demonstrate an understanding of the issues, and present them in a way which connects with country people.

Mr President, when we come into this place we can be the sycophantic apparatchiks of external operatives or we can stand up for what we believe in. Before we can stand up for what we believe in, we must know what we believe in. I suggest, as I did at the commencement of my speech, that the One Nation party - not the Liberal Party, sadly - has struck a very sympathetic chord in the Australian electorate. My mother expressed it in these words -

Hon Frank Hough: She probably voted for us.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I don't dare ask her. My mother expressed it in these words -

Hon Frank Hough interjected.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Does the member not want to be flattered?

She said, "They are saying the sort of things we want to hear." It is correct to say that One Nation is asking the right questions. However, I wonder whether it has the right answers.

Hon John Fischer: We do not have much to beat because the last electoral result would show you whether you had the right answers.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Without doubt. That the two major parties that have dominated the political system in Western Australia for 100 years at the last election had between them the confidence of only two-thirds of the electorate in Western Australia, is an indication that they are not connecting with the Western Australian electorate.

Hon John Fischer: You are missing the point. The Labor Party increased its vote; you lost yours.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I do not dispute what Hon John Fischer is saying. What I do ask is whether the party that is now asking the right questions has the right answers.

I laboured the point about Mr Crichton-Browne and I make the point that he and I have known one another since 1970. We have been antagonists for the greater part of that period. That is my honest position. I wonder in this situation what is Noel Crichton-Browne's honest position. The letter indicates his encouragement to the Liberal

Party to take a different approach towards a form of a rapprochement or agreement with One Nation: "We will put you high on our how-to-vote ticket and in return you can put us high on your how-to-vote ticket" with the simple understanding that the party that knows how best to harvest the preferences in our electoral system is the party that succeeds. The party that attracts three per cent of the popular vote holds five seats in the Legislative Council because that party knows best how to harvest the preferences in our political system. I believe the honest position of Mr Crichton-Browne in his advice to One Nation and in this letter is about harvesting the preferences. However, there is also an element of vindictiveness in that approach.

I refer to an article in *The Australian* of 6 October 1998 entitled "Grudge Match". Under the heading "Crichton-Browne's 'revenge'", the article states -

Stirling MP Eoin Cameron, who campaigned for Crichton-Browne's 1995 expulsion from the Liberal Party, blamed the loss of his seat to Labor on his old nemesis.

"It was his means of revenge," said Mr Cameron, claiming Crichton-Browne urged One Nation to preference against Liberal members in marginal seats.

When *The Australian* contacted Mr Crichton-Browne yesterday morning he happily admitted to urging One Nation to target Mr Cameron. "Yes I did," he said. "I'm pleased to be able to make my contribution."

If that is not a statement of vindictiveness, I have not heard one. I wonder whether Mr Crichton-Browne, also in the same election, did not urge One Nation to target two other members of the House of Representatives: the then member for Swan, Don Randall, and the then member for Canning.

Hon John Fischer: I certainly do not think One Nation would have needed any inducement to go against those two people. I doubt very much that Mr Crichton-Browne or anyone else gave us any help in that direction.

Hon Frank Hough: They deserved it.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I see. It is interesting that I keep hearing the words, "I don't want to keep the bastards honest; I want to get the bastards out."

Hon Frank Hough: And we did.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: That is why I say to Hon Frank Hough that One Nation has the right questions but it does not have the right answers. I wonder whether Noel Ashley Crichton-Browne played the same game in the recent state election - but let us not speculate on that.

The dear John letter brings to mind the dear Pauline letter from Noel Crichton-Browne of 26 October 1996, wherein Noel Crichton-Browne offers advice - obviously gratuitous advice.

Hon John Fischer: If you still had his expertise, you might still be in government. You're on the right side of the House.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Yes. I think at the same time Pauline Hanson also abandoned John Pasquarelli. The advice that the dear Pauline letter of 26 October offers is -

... [It] is not desirable for you to have a branch structure. The danger is that you will attract people into office bearing positions in the branches who may be thoroughly undesirable and over whom you will have no control. You most certainly will not have the resources to vet and monitor them.

A much more desirable system is to have a national membership controlled directly by you.

Candidates who run under your banner should be vetted and checked by people whose judgement you can completely rely upon. One or two people with political nous are required in each State.

We now have One Nation Ltd, a company registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. The dear Pauline letter of 26 October 1996 also has some advice on membership. It reads -

In Western Australia at least, registering a political party is quite a simple matter. The Electoral Commission requires a Constitution, evidence of sixty financial members and an authorised officer. Membership should be seen as no more than a data base for finance and volunteers. If people are prepared to join a political party, they are invariably prepared to make a donation and to assist at election time. Often they are an excellent conduit to other people for campaign finance and election workers. It is desirable to make the membership cost as low as possible to ensure that no one is disqualified from joining. A special concession should be offered for pensioners.

This advice came from a discredited member of -

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Hon John Fischer: If the member spent as much time learning something about his own party instead of being enthralled with One Nation, perhaps his party would not have lost the last election.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: The gentleman doth protest too much, methinks! This advice came from a discredited and dishonest member of the Australian Senate who argued in the Liberal Party to keep membership fees as low as possible and to offer concessions for pensioners. There was a riot in the Liberal Party that Hon John Fischer is familiar with because he is nodding his head in acknowledgment already.

Hon John Fischer: Our membership is a lot higher than the Liberal Party's.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I accept that is true.

Hon Frank Hough: It has \$10 branch stacking.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: That is it exactly; \$10 branch stacking. Hon Frank Hough has hit it on the button. For \$100 one could buy a country branch; for \$300 one could buy a metropolitan branch. This is the advice from Mr Crichton-Browne. I have made the point several times - it is almost starting to be tedious repetition - that One Nation asks the right questions - but does it have the right answers? I am interested that in this document Noel Crichton-Browne is at pains to defend One Nation against accusations that it is racist and xenophobic.

I have read another Crichton-Browne document that was probably written at about the same time as this document, which I will seek to table at the end of my speech. Mr Crichton-Browne offers the same repetitious defence that One Nation is no longer a racist party. The Crichton-Browne document, which is remarkably similar to the speech delivered by Hon John Fischer - the very few deletions are criticisms of the League of Rights - offers criticism of Don Randall and Bob Cronin, both enemies of Mr Crichton-Browne. The document contains a criticism of one of our departed members: the former member for the Agricultural Region, the once honourable Murray Nixon. Hon John Fischer stated -

If the Liberal Party genuinely believes that the One Nation party is racist, Mr Birmingham might well explain to Liberal Party voters why its senior members held numerous meetings with One Nation in the earnest hope that the two parties could enter into an arrangement that would provide for the swapping of preferences ahead of the Labor Party.

Hon John Fischer: Are you denying that?

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: No. The paragraph eschewed is as follows -

I should perhaps remind the office bearers of the Liberal Party, that one of their own members who departed this chamber at the last election, had very close connections with the League of Rights and was as I understand it, a previous member. Perhaps the Liberal Party may care to explain its views about that organisation, one whose policies on race, One Nation repudiates and abhors.

Hon John Fischer did not deliver that paragraph. He did not deliver the criticism of Hon Murray Nixon, nor did he deliver the criticism of the League of Rights.

Anyone who reads *Mein Kampf* and tries to draw a comparison between the vapid intellect of Pauline Hanson and the demonic imaginings of Adolf Hitler is pursuing a totally indefensible path.

Hon John Fischer: Your aspiring Liberal Party president did it.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: It is not there. If members want to understand the mind of One Nation or its policies, I suggest that the answer lies not in any comparison with the Nazi party, nor is the key found in *Mein Kampf*.

Hon Frank Hough: Did you get *Mein Kampf* from the Liberal Party library?

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Not at all.

Hon Frank Hough: We do not have it.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: The member has not read it, has he?

Hon Frank Hough: No.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I suspect Hon John Fischer has not read it either.

Hon Frank Hough: We do not have it. I must go to the Liberal Party library to get it.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I knew Hon John Fischer had not read it because he was offended by what it contained. He was offended by that which he knew nothing about!

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Hon John Fischer: Unlike you, I do not dabble in it down at the beach; I have better things to do.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I have dabbled in it for some 20 years.

Hon John Fischer: I am sure you have.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Mr President, if you want to understand the policies of One Nation, you are much better advised to look at the writings of Eric Butler and the Australian League of Rights, and to read the theory of social credit by C.H. Douglas and some of the tendentious pamphlets of the McAlvany institute with its flat earth economics, its xenophobic views of the world and its appeal to shallow populist politics.

I return to the proposition that One Nation does not have the answers and its constant claim that it is not a xenophobic party. The speech by Hon John Fischer refers to the policies of One Nation in an attempt to demonstrate that it is not a xenophobic party. Page 546 of *Hansard* says -

Item 2 refers to the abolition of the current concept of multiculturalism. It states that One Nation will abolish funding for multicultural programs, while at the same time upholding the principle that individuals or groups are free to preserve their cultural heritage using their own resources.

Let us consider the multicultural nation. I sought information about the composition of the population of Western Australia by referring to the most recent census of population and housing in Western Australia. The document is reference No 2015.5 on the selected social and housing characteristics for statistical local areas. In table BO5, the total population with the birthplace of Western Australia at the time of the census in 1996 was 1 726 095 - in round figures 1.7 million. The total number who were Australian born was 1 178 331.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon B.K. Donaldson.

*Tabling of Document*

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: I do not know whether to thank Hon Bruce Donaldson or not.

Hon Tom Stephens: The debate has been adjourned.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: You are shutting me up. I seek leave to table the document to which I referred during the debate.

Leave denied.

*Points of Order*

Hon B.K. DONALDSON: Is it possible for the member to seek leave to extend his time?

The PRESIDENT: No; that opportunity has now passed.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Is it possible to move that the documents that have been quoted by the member be tabled?

The PRESIDENT: No; it is not.