

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [11.00 am]: I move -

That the House at its rising adjourn until a time and date to be fixed by the President.

We now reach that stage of the session when we conclude the business of the Parliament and head off to an election to decide who will be the Government for the next four years. It is appropriate today that we express our gratitude and congratulations to a number of people for the contributions they have made to the House, the Parliament and the State, over many years in some cases. Today we can do that without engaging in a political and acrimonious debate. It is important that we pay tribute to those people who deserve our gratitude, and I will go through the traditional list of the people I should thank as the Leader of the House.

Mr President, I thank you for your continuing excellent management and control of the House. You have been an excellent President indeed, and I congratulate you on your work, your understanding of the standing orders, your ability to work with all sides of politics and the impartial way in which you manage the House. It is a credit to you and I congratulate and thank you for that. Hon John Cowdell has also been an excellent Chairman of Committees. He has been impartial and has an excellent understanding of way the House operates. I congratulate John on the work he has done and I thank him. Similarly, I thank all of the Deputy Chairmen of Committees for their contributions.

I thank my two ministerial colleagues. In the next Parliament I should have three ministerial colleagues, because it is an onerous business in this House having to handle a heap of legislation for ministers in the other House. There being only three ministers has meant a significant increase in the workload for us. I will therefore recommend to the Premier that there be four ministers in this House in the next Parliament. However, I thank Hon Peter Foss and Hon Murray Criddle for the hard work they have put in, for the long hours they have contributed and for the dedication they have shown to this place. I thank them also for their hard work in answering questions about legislation and undertaking all the other responsibilities of ministers in the Legislative Council.

As the Government Whip, Hon Muriel Patterson has been outstanding. She made one mistake over the past four years, but as it was on the same day Hon Bob Thomas made one, I suppose it is only fair. Those who have had the opportunity to be the Whip know it is not easy to try to keep people like us, who are all independent and want to do our own thing, in some sort of line. Hon Muriel Patterson has done an excellent job, and on behalf of all government members, I thank her for her great work in keeping us in order.

All my colleagues on this side of the House have been extraordinarily patient, and have been prepared to not say all the things they would like to say from time to time so that the due processes of the House can be expedited. The House has changed dramatically since I first arrived. In the "good old days", there were only two sides to every argument, so there were always two speakers: One for and one against. We had the pleasure of going home at eight o'clock most evenings, after having started at 4.30 pm. There were no questions without notice; nothing political of that nature. It was quite an easy place in which to operate. However, seven different points of view now need to be expressed on every issue: Those of the coalition, the Labor Party, the Australian Democrats, the Greens (WA), the independent Helm party and the independent Nevill party. The National Party is another factor, if it wants to be different; fortunately, it has chosen not to be. The Liberal Party and I appreciate the National Party's continued presence in the coalition and that we have been able to work together in this House. There can now be up to seven different points of view on every issue, and everybody needs to express their position. Therefore, debates now take up to six times longer than they did in the "good old days". That has made it difficult for government backbenchers, as they are often asked to not take up the time of the House.

Without being political, I hope the number of different groups is diminished after the election, and that we do not have a situation in which so many people need to speak on every item. However, I thank my colleagues on the back bench for their loyalty to the coalition Government. They know how much I appreciate it.

I regret the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Tom Stephens, is not here today. He has an important engagement in his electorate. We all know he is a diligent representative of his electorate and works hard for his constituents. Every year I say that with the family Hon Tom Stephens has, he cannot be all that bad. However, I will not say that this year because it would be tedious repetition. Hon Tom Stephens and I have an interesting relationship.

Hon Peter Foss: So does everybody else.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Hon N.F. MOORE: If he is in a good mood, there is no more delightful a person. However, it is difficult when he wants to be highly political! I will leave it at that, except to say that I wish him well in the next election and hope he remains the only Labor Party member for the Mining and Pastoral Region.

I thank Hon Helen Hodgson, as the leader of the Australian Democrats, for her significant contribution to the House. I do not know why the Democrats always feel the need to speak on every clause and to amend every second one; but I guess that is why they think they are here. They play a major role and, although I hate to say it, the Democrats' questioning on every clause probably results in better legislation than was produced in the good old days.

Hon Peter Foss: Don't encourage her.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I agree with the Attorney General; it is not meant to be encouragement.

Hon Kim Chance: I assure you it will be taken as such.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is meant to be a positive acknowledgment of a job well done, and we thank her for that.

I am not sure who the leader of the Greens (WA) is; its members take it in turns. However, that makes it much easier to talk to them, because when I ask who the leader is on that day, they say, "Well, I am if you like", and the message gets through. I thank them also for their contribution to the House.

We now have two other parties: The Hon Mark Nevill independent party and the Hon Tom Helm independent party. On an occasion like this, the less said about how they came to be Independents, the better. We have appreciated Hon Mark Nevill's independent views on a number of issues, and not appreciated them on others. It was only last night that he gave the combined Labor Party-coalition parties a hard time on a Bill. I also thank Hon Tom Helm, who also is in his electorate today, for the contribution he has made over the time he has been a member of the House. I thank all the other members of the parties opposite for the work they have done for the Parliament. We all know that being a member of Parliament is not the beer and skittles that we read about in the newspapers; it is a tough job. It is hard on our families. It is hard on one's physical wellbeing and it is tough mentally. I am one of those people who think that members of Parliament deserve significantly more credit than they get in the media and in the community. Most members work very hard and put in long hours, often at great expense to their families and their own lives.

Laurie Marquet, Ian Allnutt and all the other staff in the Chamber provide excellent service to members. This would have to be one of the better Chambers of any Parliament in the Westminster system. I can say that without contradiction. This House works exceptionally well. The Clerk has us all under control. We all respect Laurie and Ian and the other staff members for the way in which they carry out their duties in such a professional way. We also know that when they provide advice, it is always good advice, and it is invariably taken. I thank Laurie, Ian, Malcolm, Chris, Jason, Peter, Brian and Donna, who look after us so well. Donna will be leaving shortly for reasons which are becoming more obvious as days go by. We wish Donna the best of luck and hope all goes well for her.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I thank Janeen and Valentina, who assist the Clerk, for the support they also provide to the House and to members; it is very much appreciated. I have two staff in the Leader of the Government's office - Teena Beale and Julie Holmes. Teena has been there for a very long time. She has worked for successive Governments. She is such a delightful person, always so willing to be helpful and so efficient in what she does. Teena is a gem in that office ensuring that all the work that is done for ministers is done properly and well. Julie was from my ministerial office and is now studying part time and working here part time. She is also a delightful young lady. The pair of them together are so supportive and helpful, and I thank them very much.

I thank the Hansard reporters, who must write down and record what we say. It is a pretty tough job often, and, I suspect, on the odd occasion, pretty boring and hard to handle. They do it well and we thank them very much. I thank Cathy and Marilyn on the switchboard, who have been here a long time. I guess that they understand us better than we understand them.

There are many people at Parliament House whom we know well who provide tremendous support for members. I thank the people in the kitchen. The dining room these days is superb. It is a pity more members do not use it. Hon Bruce Donaldson suggested we should have frequent user points for the dining room to try to encourage more people to use it. The quality of the service, the produce and the experience in the dining room has improved dramatically in recent times. Mr President, I thank you and the members of the Parliamentary Services Committee for all of the work it has done. I also thank the people who work in the gardens, who do a great job;

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

the people in the bar; the security people; and all the other people who work in the Parliament. They all do a very good job and we appreciate their contribution very much.

It is not yet Christmas time, but I trust that all those people have a very happy Christmas, and they get the opportunity to spend some time with their families in a positive and productive way.

Today may be the last occasion on which at least five members in this Chamber will be able to be here. That will depend on whether the House returns between the election and 22 May 2001 - sometimes it does and sometimes it does not. We are sitting today in case it does not, so that these five members have a chance to say a few words at the conclusion of their parliamentary careers. I will say a few words about each of those members and wish them every success for the future.

Hon Cheryl Davenport is retiring. I am not sure how long she has been here.

Hon Peter Foss: Since 1989.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I have not worked out how long everybody has been here. However, those who are retiring have been here for a long time. Cheryl is a very conscientious member, as we all know. I guess the pinnacle of her career was the abortion debate. She worked extremely hard to get what she wanted to achieve out of that issue. It was a very difficult debate. I think we said at the time that it showed that this House could debate an issue of that magnitude in a very mature way and reach conclusions which reflected the general views of the House, regardless of our political position and our personal view. Cheryl provided great leadership in that debate, and I congratulate her for that.

However, Cheryl should not be remembered as having done only that, because she is a conscientious person. She is determined and a bit emotional at times. She told me she might be a bit that way today, but that is fair enough; she is entitled to be. Thank you, Cheryl, for the contribution you have made to the Parliament, to your party and to Western Australia. I hope you have a very happy retirement.

Hon Bob Thomas is a fellow who I suspect is a very good local member, because he spends most of his time in this House giving the Government a serve because it is not looking after his constituents well enough.

Hon Bob Thomas: Only when it is needed.

Hon N.F. MOORE: In that case he has not had much to say! Bob has always impressed me as the sort of person who sees his main role as making sure his constituents are getting the best representation they can from him. He has been a very good Whip for the Opposition, and I know that Hon Muriel Patterson appreciates the relationship they have been able to develop to ensure that each side of the House knows what the other is doing. We have had very few problems with pairs and other issues that arise with which Whips must deal. Bob, I wish you a very pleasant retirement and lots of time on the golf course, which I know you are looking forward to. I am told you have a low handicap, and I hope it gets even lower. When I retire in 14 years, I am looking forward to playing some golf. We should all do more of that. As the Minister for Sport and Recreation, I say to all members that if we do 30 minutes exercise a day, we can save hundreds of millions of dollars on the Health budget. I keep saying that everywhere I go, but, regrettably, I do not practise what I preach. However, I am sure that Bob will take advantage of that advice and enjoy his retirement.

Hon Max Evans came into this place with a purpose - he will probably tell us about it later; to straighten out Western Australia. I suspect Max will be best remembered in this Parliament for the huge amount of work he did in opposition on the problems surrounding the State's finances. I do not propose to be any more political than that. However, Max did an enormous amount of research and work on a number of issues that needed to be researched and examined. He then became the Minister for Finance, and he did an excellent job in that position. Max has the great capacity that all accountants have to look at a set of figures and work out very quickly who is having whom on and whether the figures are written in an appropriate way.

Max also was Minister for Racing and Gaming. Having succeeded him in that role, I can say that he is highly respected in the industry. People remember with great affection the contribution he made to the racing and gaming section of our community. I thought that I would be able to follow in his footsteps in some respects, but I discovered there is nowhere else to go!

Hon Kim Chance: The Reykjavik Cup.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes. Max had actually booked to go to that. I think he may well go there after Christmas. Max, I thank you for the magnificent contribution you have made to our party and for giving us some serious strength in the accounting field when we needed it. Your contribution will be long remembered by people who look at the way in which the State's finances are run and the Treasury of Western Australia is managed.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Hon Murray Montgomery is not here today. Like Hon Bob Thomas, his electorate comes first, and that is where he is today. I understand Hon Murray Criddle will say some words on his behalf. Hon Murray Montgomery has been a diligent local member and has worked very hard for his electorate. He has taken up an interest that I would like to share one day; that is, he now has a vineyard. Anyone with that taste has something going for him. I recommend Montgomery's Hill wine; it is a very good product from the very south of Western Australia. The wine industry is growing dramatically and will be fantastic for Western Australia. I thank Hon Murray Montgomery for his contribution to the House, his party and Western Australia and wish him every success in his endeavours after politics.

Hon Muriel Paterson is one of the most wonderful people I know. She has a lovely, sparkling personality. I have never seen her get cross or angry about anything. She is supportive, helpful and encouraging. Everyone should have someone like her to work with. Apart from undertaking the responsibilities of Whip - which she has done superbly over the years - she has been conscientious, supportive, helpful and positive as a team member. If everyone were like her, we would never lose anything. I thank her very much. I also recognise her wonderful values and the way she has expressed them in this place. Muriel is not the greatest talker in the sense of filling in huge amounts of time in this Chamber - it is a pity there are not more like her.

Hon Peter Foss: Don't look at me!

Hon N.F. MOORE: However, when she makes a speech, we know that what she has to say is well thought out and based on her very impressive values. When she feels the need to say something, we should all take notice. When she tells us what she thinks, she invariably has it spot on. I thank her very sincerely. We will get a chance between now and her final retirement to share a glass of red wine and to reminisce about her time in the House.

I trust that everyone will have a very happy Christmas. Members on this side look forward very much to the next election, which will come sooner or later. I will not say that I would love to see everyone back here after the election, because I hope some members will not be here. That is not said from any personal perspective. When I first came into this place, there were about 30 members and the break-up was 21 coalition members and nine others. The seats allocated for our members stretched around to Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich's seat and the back row as well. The Opposition occupied the three seats opposite me in the front row and a couple behind. If that scenario is replicated after the next election, I will not be unhappy. However, times and the electoral system have changed and that will never happen again. We must acknowledge that and continue to work together. Consensus generally produces a satisfactory result for the community. However, it also produces a set of compromises, and that can be the worst result. The nature of this House is such that compromise is always on the cards. One of these days I will think seriously about whether that is a good thing. I might make some comments about an issue of that magnitude in my final speech. Today is not the day for that.

I thank members for their contributions during the past four years. Members on this side look forward to the contest and to being back here after the election. I wish the retiring members the best of luck in the future. Once again, I thank them for being members of this House and for the significant work they have done for Western Australia.

HON N.D. GRIFFITHS (East Metropolitan) [11.24 am]: On behalf of Hon Tom Stephens, who, unfortunately, cannot be here because of a commitment in his electorate, and on behalf of the Australian Labor Party members, I thank you, Mr President, for your service to this House and the community during this session of Parliament. I also extend my thanks to the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of Committees for their difficult work, which has been of great assistance to all of us in carrying out our duty. I thank the Clerks at the Table and our very caring attendants, in particular Donna - I wish her all the best. I also thank the committee clerks and staff, whom we see here from time to time, and who, outside the Chamber, perform exceptional service and cause those extremely interesting reports to be very pertinent. I extend our thanks to Hansard for setting down for history what we meant to say, and expressing it much better than we really said it. I thank the entire staff of the Parliamentary Services Department, in particular the staff at the Parliamentary Library, and the ladies at the post office, who are probably the most patient people in the whole of Parliament House. I also thank the Parliamentary Information Service, and those who have retired from that department, particularly Sheila Mills; the security staff; the catering staff; the staff at the bar; and the gardeners. I extend our thanks to the staff of the Leader of the Government in this place, who do a magnificent job and are most helpful to us in the course of our activities, particularly with that awful business of the lodgment of questions, which leads to comment in the Chamber. I thank the staff of the Leader of the Opposition, Ben, Liz and Steve, and the staff of the Clerk, Janeen and Val, for all they have done for us. I do not think any member of Parliament could cope at all without the magnificent assistance those people give to each and every one of us.

Now I have said the thank-yous, I will deal with members of Parliament. It is a great pleasure serving in the same Chamber as the Leader of the Government, Hon Norman Moore. He is the father of the House. He has been a

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

member since 1977, and he has now told us that he will leave in 2014. He was here before any of us, and I assure members that if his wish is achieved, he will be here a long time after any of us. We on this side of the House have had some very interesting but, for the most part, very enjoyable moments. I have learnt quite a bit from watching Hon Norman Moore in action, particularly at question time. It is a delight asking him a question without notice and seeing how he responds to it. I think he enjoys questions without notice perhaps as much as those of us who ask those questions enjoy hearing his answers. I make a similar observation about his ministerial colleagues, Hon Murray Criddle and Hon Peter Foss. I think we all particularly enjoy question time. We enjoy their answers and their company. We wish the three of them all the best in their future careers, and we trust it will not be as ministers!

I acknowledge the associations that we in the Labor Party have with all members of the government parties. We have a different point of view on many issues. However, we have a lot in common actually, and the things we have in common are more important than those on which we differ. Again, like the Leader of the House, I do not want to be political, because somebody in the electorate might hear it and that would be the end of us.

I am unsure whether the Greens (WA) are a party or a collective. Last year their leader, Hon Giz Watson, referred to them as a collective. However, I and my colleagues very much enjoyed their company and valued the contribution they made to the deliberations of this House and, through their ideas, to the deliberations of the Australian Labor Party.

Through you, Mr President, I thank our colleagues from the Australian Democrats - Hon Helen Hodgson, the leader, and Hon Norm Kelly, the deputy leader - for their worthwhile and friendly contributions, which we enjoyed very much.

I thank Hon Mark Nevill and Hon Tom Helm, who have made worthwhile contributions to public life. I note they are not on the list of speakers to speak shortly; however, whatever may occur, I wish them well and thank them for their contributions over the years to this House and to the deliberations of the Australian Labor Party.

I wish to thank the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Tom Stephens, and my colleagues, in particular our Whip, Hon Bob Thomas. Hon Bob Thomas is a person of great political judgment - he knew I would say something about him today. I note some members look as though they have not had much sleep. However, I was paired at quarter to six last night and when I got that message I just kept walking; nobody would have got me back to this place. I took my home phone off the hook and Bob knows I never answer my mobile phone, so I was pretty safe. I thank Bob very much for that and I will refer to him later if he interjects, which he does not do often!

A number of members are retiring, as Hon Norman Moore pointed out. A number of members are retiring voluntarily, and we know who they are: Our colleagues, Hon Cheryl Davenport, Hon Bob Thomas, Hon Murray Montgomery, Hon Muriel Patterson and Hon Max Evans. A number of members know they are retiring but have not admitted it to us or to the world. A number of members will be retiring but do not know they are retiring; observations will be made about them in due course.

I shall make some brief observations about the five members who are retiring voluntarily. Four are from the class of 1989 and one is from the class of 1986. Two of the four from the class of '89 are my Labor Party colleagues Hon Cheryl Davenport and Hon Bob Thomas. Hon Muriel Patterson and Hon Murray Montgomery were also elected at the 1989 election. It is interesting to note that three members of the class of '89 have their electorate offices in the Albany region; the member who does not is Hon Cheryl Davenport. However, I say to Hon Max Evans that he is the odd member out on both counts because he was elected in 1986 and does not have an office in Albany. Perhaps he will have something to say about that in due course.

Hon Cheryl Davenport has made a significant contribution to the deliberations of this House and to the work of the Australian Labor Party. Her interests have always been for those who often do not have a voice. In recent years she played a significant role on behalf of the Labor Party in dealing with issues affecting women's interests and seniors' interests. Cheryl is a very dedicated person. She believes in what she does, what she has done and what she no doubt will do. She is a very community-minded person and it has been a great honour and a great privilege to have served with her. I wish her all the best indeed. I know that Hon Cheryl Davenport will continue to be very active and will play a major role in the functioning of our society in the years to come. Her experience and the role that she has played in this House will stand her in good stead and will be of great benefit to the community.

Hon Bob Thomas has taught me a few things and I think he will continue to teach me a few things in the years to come. He made me half promise to do something for him after his retirement - I will not go into that in detail, but I can assure the Anti-Corruption Commission that it will not be improper. Hon Bob Thomas has been a fantastic Whip in this House for the Australian Labor Party. He has been the most successful ALP Whip in the history of the Legislative Council in Western Australia. I hope that his successor will be even more successful.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

For the moment, Hon Bob Thomas has that record and has done an exceptional job. Whips have a difficult job. They must be mindful of how members are getting on both in the Chamber and with their colleagues from the other side - note that I used the word colleagues. Hon Bob Thomas' talent as Whip has been to know when a member has had enough - that he must go home. The great example of that was last night - again, I thank him very much.

Hon N.F. Moore: I am sorry it was not our Whip.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: Hon Bob Thomas will be remembered for many things - his work as Whip and his great advocacy of the south west region, not only in Albany, but also in his role in the Bunbury, Mitchell and Collie areas. Without being political, with a bit of luck the Australian Labor Party may have a lot to thank Hon Bob Thomas for next year. I do not think I can do justice to Hon Bob Thomas in just a few words. I will leave it at that for the moment, but perhaps I might later take up Hon Norman Moore's advice to play golf and, something that might surprise some members, even have a glass of red wine.

Hon Muriel Patterson is also a Whip. I have also served under Hon Muriel Patterson and had her as my Whip. A more courteous, caring person would be difficult to find. I do not know Hon Muriel Patterson as well as I know Hon Bob Thomas, but it has been a great honour to serve with her in this House. She has set a great example for all members on how to behave. She has been a great representative and member - sometimes one runs out of superlatives. I thank Hon Muriel Patterson for the courtesy that she has extended to everyone in this House, particularly to those members on this side of the House. She and Hon Bob Thomas have been a great team. The House could not function without the two Whips working well together. Sometimes members disobey the instructions of their Whips - I will not point anybody out as the member concerned is not about to retire, but I also wish him well.

Hon Murray Montgomery is not here today and that is a great pity. I know that I should not refer to him as not being here, but he is away on very important parliamentary business. One of the most important acts of extra-parliamentary business that I performed this week was to obtain from Hon Murray Montgomery, for a proper sum, a case of wine that he produced. I look forward to tasting that over the forthcoming period.

Hon N.F. Moore: Weekend!

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: It will be a long weekend.

Hon Kim Chance: Have you got one left?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: No, that is not true; I have three left. I was paired last night. However, I have not yet opened it.

I have known Hon Murray Montgomery during my relatively short stay here and have had the good fortune to serve on committees with him. When on a committee dealing with the sorts of matters we have had to deal with, a member gets to know other members fairly well. Murray is a gentleman with a particular political point of view, which is a mainstream, conservative point of view, but he advocates his position with reason. He is careful in his deliberations, very courteous and the sort of person that this community and this House needs to be a member of Parliament. He will be sorely missed. I look forward to catching up with him and telling him how good his wine is, which I have not yet tasted, but I am sure the next time I mention Hon Murray Montgomery in a speech I will make the appropriate recommendation. I will remember Murray for the times we have had together on committees and the very good work that he has done.

I now come to Hon Max Evans. I have unlimited time, do I not, Mr President? However, I will not use all of my unlimited time or even come close. I will not be like the Attorney General, for example. In August of last year the Leader of the Opposition in the other place kindly asked me to shadow Hon Max Evans; I had that duty for several months and it was an absolute pleasure. Max and Barbara were great hosts to Rhonda and I over the spring and summer months of 1999-2000, showing us an area of human activity about which neither of us had much knowledge. It is that sort of courtesy one rarely sees in life, and I personally thank Max very much for that.

Hon Max Evans has been here longer than have the other members who are retiring. He has had a very significant innings - if I may use that word; I do not know how we are doing in the test - he was in opposition and he served as a minister for approximately seven years. He has made a significant contribution to the workings of this House and whenever I wanted to know something about matters in which Max had expertise - there were quite a few of those, and I do not want Max to talk about them today because we do have to have lunch soon - he provided me with advice in areas such as superannuation and myriad others dealing with finance. Irrespective of political considerations, when we were dealing with issues of knowledge, Max has been extremely helpful, as I am sure he will continue to be to other members. I note the voluntary service he has

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

performed on behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, for example, and matters of that kind. As with Cheryl, Bob, Muriel and Murray, it has been a great honour and privilege to serve in a House of Parliament with Hon Max Evans.

Today is 24 November 2000 - it is always good to know what day it is when one is in a House of Parliament - and we are exactly one month short of my birthday, which may be significant to me but not to others, but a more significant event occurs the following day. I wish every member and their families and those I have listed previously a happy and holy Christmas and all the very best for 2001.

HON M.J. CRIDDLE (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [11.45 am]: I will make a few remarks and in particular thank you, Mr President, and acknowledge the respect we have for the work you have done during this Parliament. Members derive great comfort from knowing that you, as President, are in this place. The President handles his duties extremely well. I also thank Hon John Cowdell for the work he has done as Chairman of Committees. Many other members have been recognised by the Leader of the House and Hon Nick Griffiths, who is today representing Hon Tom Stephens. I thank the Clerks and the attendants. I thank all the staff of Parliament House, in whatever capacity they work, for the wonderful work they do. Members sometimes do not appreciate the work done for them. I thank the Leader of the House for his help. I was the new boy on the block about two and half years ago. I also thank Hon Peter Foss for the help and understanding he has given me, and for the work he does for the coalition. I think we have a great team, and the National Party appreciates the great working relationship that we have. I hope it will continue into next year and beyond.

I also acknowledge the Opposition and other parties. I have worked with most opposition members on committees. I cannot remember the number of committees on which I have worked, but I have enjoyed working with each and every member of those committees. All members have their points of view and I appreciate that. I believe the committee system is a good example of the way in which Parliament should operate, and it allows members to express their different points of view. I have appreciated working with the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Kim Chance and Hon Nick Griffiths. I thank them and the other parties for the work they have done.

I recognise the work done by two other colleagues who left the Parliament during this term. Hon Eric Charlton did not get the opportunity to give a farewell speech, and perhaps some members appreciate that fact! When Hon Eric Charlton first entered Parliament, he was on a mission to fix the roads in country areas. It is coincidental that I am having lunch with Eric today, as I have not seen him for several months. He put in place a mechanism to fund the building and maintenance of roads. The work being done around the State is a clear indication that he has achieved his principal objective. He took on great challenges and he did a great job. He believed the road trains should be allowed to travel on roads across the State. He became quite well known as Reckless Eric. He got on with his job, whether it was building roads, ports or airports or fixing up the metropolitan transport system in the way that he thought fit. He has left a mark on Western Australia that will remain for many years. The advances have been enormous. Eric is a good mate of mine.

I remember the circumstances in which I became a member of Parliament. Eric came to see me. There was a pall of dust as he drove over the hill on a gravel road. He came to my front door and told me that I was to stand at the next election. There was no denying him. That is how I became a member. The rest is history. He has given me a great opportunity to get involved in politics. He created the opportunity for me and it has been a great privilege to work with him.

I have known Hon Murray Montgomery for a long time. He is a man who sets about his job in a professional manner. He has handled himself very well. He looks after his constituency with great passion. He can be relied on to do a good job. He will retire to his property in the south west. One of his passions is his winery. Hon Murray Montgomery also has some beef cattle. I can see him sitting on Montgomery hill with a glass of red in his hand and enjoying life with his wife Pam for quite some time to come. I must also recognise Eric Charlton's wife Yvette, who has been of wonderful support to him.

I also recognise the other members who will retire at the end of the session. I got to know Hon Cheryl Davenport on some committees. We had many conversations about them. She has done a great job during her time in Parliament. I did not know Hon Max Evans until I came into the Parliament, but we have had many conversations about finance. He and I are not too far apart in our beliefs. Certainly, having been in business for a while, I believe that a lot of the things he has done in this State have been absolutely outstanding. Hon Max Evans came into Parliament to fix the finance, much as Hon Eric Charlton came into Parliament to fix the roads. Max and his wife Barbara will obviously have a great time together for some time to come. I do not know Hon Bob Thomas all that well because he comes from the southern part of the State, but I wish him well. If he likes to play golf, I know that he will have a good time.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

I have left Hon Muriel Patterson till last on purpose. She has become a great mate and has done a great job. I will leave it at that, and she knows that I am genuine when I say that. I thank her very much for her efforts.

I wish everybody well as we go into the Christmas break. We are also heading into an election, and may the best man win!

HON CHRISTINE SHARP (South West) [11.53 am]: During the first few weeks after I won my seat in this place in May 1997, I was surprised to learn what a friendly place Parliament is. It is a real surprise to someone who comes into this place from the outside, because the impression from the media - television, *The West Australian* and so on - about the way members carry on in this Chamber is very different. It is extraordinary that an enormous number of extremely nice, helpful, friendly people work in this place. What a surprise it was!

Being in this Chamber is like being on the stage. We are all playing certain roles and, by and large, have our words at least half worked out before we walk into the Chamber and stand up to speak. This opportunity this morning is quite strange because we can drop those roles, speak as unmediated human beings and recognise each other as such. It is quite unusual. I hope that the young people in the gallery take note of that. They must not think that what they see on the television represents all that happens in Parliament House, because the situation is much more complex than that. There is a lot of support for the work of the Parliament, which has such an essential role in government. We all feel very tired this morning from the pressure of the past few weeks.

The Greens (WA) speak not from the position of government or opposition, but from a different place. They try to bring a different and new paradigm into the Parliament, from the perspective of ecologically sustainable development and the challenge it poses to Governments throughout the world. It is very difficult for we three to always do justice to the importance of that role, given that we have such limited resources. That was very clear to me as a member of this place, particularly on occasions during the last week when I found myself inadequately prepared because of a lack of opportunity and support to do justice to all the issues I felt my colleagues and I had a responsibility to consider and to bring a fresh perspective to. The amount of research and work involved in bringing our insights to the Chamber is an enormous strain on the minor parties. Therefore, I ask for acceptance by other members that we have a difficult role. Sometimes we may have been inadequate in that role, but members must recognise that we are a few people fulfilling an enormous role.

On behalf of Jim and Giz, I thank many people in here. All people here are part of making this a helpful, supportive and friendly place in which to work.

To begin at the top, I thank you, Mr President, for your role in this House. Personally, you have been a great source of strength to me. You are enormously fair and bring a balance to this Chamber, which I more fully appreciate when I go into the other place.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council has been very helpful on many occasions, usually at extremely short notice, and he is always available and has something amazingly intelligent and helpful to say. I thank him. I also thank Ian Allnutt and Malcolm Peacock who sit at the Table with the Clerk for their help. I also thank all the staff in the Chamber for the invaluable help they provide.

I thank very much the Leader of the Government in this place. Although we do not see eye to eye much of the time, Hon Norman Moore is fair and makes sure that everybody has the opportunity that is their deserved role in this place. To that extent, he is an excellent Leader of the Government. I thank him.

I acknowledge that in my many dealings with Hon Tom Stephens over the past three and a half years he has never let me down once. He is incredibly reliable and does what he says he will do. I respect that, and I thank him for that approach.

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for the occasions when he acts as Leader of the House. I appreciate his way of facilitating the work of this place on the difficult, long nights, and I appreciate his human touch.

I have only good feeling towards every member of this place. We are all extraordinarily different - what a group of people! Everyone is a character in some shape or form. It has been an enjoyable human experience working with members, and I thank them all for their friendliness and support.

When I first took my seat in this Chamber, I looked at the items of business on the Notice Paper and noted the name of a Bill for which Hon Max Evans had responsibility. My more experienced colleague said that the Bill would be okay; it was one of Max's and he always presented good Bills.

In his absence, I wish Hon Murray Montgomery well and thank him for the drop of cabernet franc - I can also recommend the brewery. I thank Muriel Patterson for her friendliness. I will always remember the speech she made on the night of the great abortion debate. Although the member came to a different conclusion than I, her speech that night showed enormous humanity and compassion. It gave me a perspective of the member, which I

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

have not lost. I wish her well in her retirement. I also wish well the children about whom the member spoke that night.

On that same night Hon Cheryl Davenport made history in this Chamber on behalf of women throughout Australia; she took them an enormous step forward and she carried herself beautifully. In the time I have been a member, Hon Cheryl Davenport has been a shining example of what women can bring to politics. She is always friendly and supportive. On that night she managed to build consensus across the parties, across the roles of members and across the formalities. She made us address an important humanitarian issue, and she will never be forgotten for that. I will miss Hon Cheryl Davenport.

I turn lastly to Hon Bob Thomas in the corner, whom we think of as the Greens Whip.

Hon M.J. Criddle: So do we!

Hon CHRISTINE SHARP: Perhaps I should not have said that!

Hon Bob Thomas: I am flattered.

Hon CHRISTINE SHARP: Hon Bob Thomas made it his business, in his role as Whip and as an experienced member of this place who, therefore, interacts a lot with members, to take Hon Giz Watson and I, as new members, under his wing. He made sure that we were functioning properly and were in the right place at the right time. Bob is an excellent bloke whom I will miss. I hope we have the opportunity to catch up frequently when I visit his part of the world. I wish him all the best.

These thanks could go on and on to the library staff, the gardeners and the chefs who cook the marvellous food we eat. All those components make the place extremely supportive. We all need that when it gets tough. It is great for members to walk out of the Chamber and have dinner served by someone with such kindness, and without recognition of our political differences. I do not know whose job it is to employ the staff in this place, but they do an excellent job screening people who are extremely genuine and kind. I thank each and every one of the staff in this place on behalf of the Greens(WA). I wish all members greetings of the season. Do not work too hard for a little while; take a break and have a merry Christmas.

HON NORM KELLY (East Metropolitan) [12.04 pm]: The Leader of the House said earlier that he could not understand why the Democrats felt the need to speak on every issue. However, I am sure he will not mind on this occasion. Today marks the end of the first parliamentary term of the Australian Democrats' involvement in this State Parliament. Now is the time for reflection and assessment of our achievements over the past three and a half years. I believe we have achieved a great deal. We have also learnt a great deal and we are looking forward to continuing that learning curve.

Finishing the parliamentary year in November is to be highly recommended. It will enable us to take a slight break and enjoy Christmas, rather than being so wiped out that Christmas becomes a bit of a blur.

I sincerely thank you, Mr President, for your work in the role that you manage so well. Taking over the Chair after your predecessor, who served in that role for more than 20 years, must have been somewhat daunting. The Australian Democrats appreciate the task you took on, Mr President; not only did you succeed someone who had been in the role for so long, but also you faced extra demands as a result of the different nature and balance of the membership of this House. We appreciate your work, Mr President. We also appreciate the work of the Chairman, Hon John Cowdell, and of the Deputy Chairmen. I am sure the President and the Chairman also appreciate the work of the Deputy Chairmen who share and ease the workload.

The Democrats very much appreciate the assistance of the Council staff. As a party with few members in this place, we rely on that assistance and advice, especially from the Clerk, Laurie Marquet. During the past few years, due to the changes among drafting personnel, it has been difficult to find consistent help. It is always tempting, therefore, to refer to Laurie because we know the tasks will be done more efficiently and in a manner that is far more suitable to our purposes. We appreciate his understanding and the work he does. We also appreciate the work of Ian Allnutt and Malcolm Peacock. No matter what time of the day or night we seek help, we always get a helpful response. We also thank the other Chamber staff, Chris, Jason and Donna for their assistance in helping to ease our workload as a minor party.

I acknowledge the two new staff, Peter and Brian, in this Chamber. Having previously served on the Joint Parliamentary Services Committee, I applaud the fact that staff have an opportunity to move between the various roles in Parliament so that they become more familiar with its workings. We see Brian each day for afternoon tea, and in the Chamber I am sometimes tempted to ask him for a cup of coffee rather than a glass of water! However, that may be some way down the track yet.

Hon Peter Foss: It's a good idea!

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Hon NORM KELLY: We wish Donna all the best for what is in front of her! The Australian Democrats entered this place three and a half years ago; Donna later became engaged and is now expecting her first child. Those stages in her life represent the marking of time to me. We wish Donna well.

We also appreciate all the work done by the other staff connected with the Chamber. I refer to Janeen and Val, and Lorraine in your office, Mr President. Although they are very busy people with huge workloads, they are always very professional and willing to assist. Many other staff deserve thanks, especially the dining room staff and the gardeners. I extend particular thanks to the Hansard reporters for the unstinting work they do, even at 3.30 in the morning, and for their ability to do such a good job all the time on what we say. Further removed from the immediacy of this Chamber, I also thank Teena Beale and Julie Holmes, upon whom we rely to do their work well, and we appreciate their assistance. We also appreciate Trevor Whittington for his work in liaising between the Australian Democrats and the Government and assisting the Leader of the House to manage the business of the House.

I appreciate the expressions of concern and interest made to me by other members, but I would like to assure members that I will not be giving a valedictory speech today, nor will I be giving one next year. I may consider retirement from this place in years to come; and those members who are retiring today make retirement look very rosy indeed. It may involve spending summers in Italy or on the golf course, or in the case of Hon Murray Montgomery, sampling the wines, maybe at Royal Ascot - who knows? I probably do not know as much about Hon Muriel Patterson, but I do know that it could be just strumming a ukulele, as I found out last night.

Hon Ken Travers: She could form a band with the member for Kimberley!

Hon NORM KELLY: I express a special thank you to Hon Cheryl Davenport for her support and assistance in my work. I am so thankful that she has been able to achieve what she has in this parliamentary term. People with such a strong moral conscience, no matter what their beliefs, are far better served when they remain true to that conscience. Such people make a House of Parliament far stronger.

I convey the disappointment of my colleague, Hon Helen Hodgson, to Hon Max Evans who is retiring. It is very difficult for her to find people who get excited talking about tax issues, and I would not be surprised if Hon Max Evans receives a few telephone calls in the coming years. I have also had an association with Hon Max Evans through my work in the racing and gaming portfolio, one I find very interesting, as did Hon Max Evans in his years as minister. When Hon Nick Griffiths spoke earlier, he mentioned the leadership team of the Australian Democrats - the leader, and me as deputy leader. He forgot to mention that I also happen to be party Whip, a position we hope to be able to delegate to another member of the Australian Democrats after the next election. I thank all those members who plan to retire - Hon Muriel Patterson, Hon Murray Montgomery, Hon Bob Thomas, Hon Cheryl Davenport and Hon Max Evans - for having worked long and hard in this place, and I hope they enjoy a well deserved and successful retirement. When they leave they will take with them collectively more than 60 years' experience in this place. That experience will be sorely missed, and it will be left to those who remain to become the more experienced members and to continue that work. I know I speak also on behalf of Hon Helen Hodgson when I say that three and a half years ago when we came into this place, in which we did not have any people from our own party, we very much appreciated the support, advice and help of other members of this place. I hope that next year we will be able to help the new class of 2001 establish themselves in this place.

Hon Helen Hodgson and I thank all members for a very enjoyable three and a half years in this Chamber. We look forward to taking a bit of a break some time in the next month or so to get ready for the election campaign, and to coming back here after the election refreshed, recharged and committed to improving on the work we have done already. We thank all members and wish them well for Christmas and the future.

HON BOB THOMAS (South West) [12.16 pm]: If I had known that so many people would be saying so many nice things about me, I might have left this place earlier! Since the beginning of 1997, I have turned my mind increasingly to my valedictory speech and have come up with a lot of profound things that I want to say today. However, the House will be pleased to know that I have not written down any of those things and cannot remember them; so my comments today will be more brief than had I written down those things. It is just over 11 years since I gave my maiden speech in this place, but it seems to me as though it was just yesterday that I stood here and ever so nervously read out the speech that I had written at midnight the night before. While I was reading out that speech, I kept saying to myself, "What on earth have I done to myself? I have put myself into some pretty risky and difficult situations in the past, but this would have to be the most nerve-racking thing I have ever done."

I felt that way partly because it was my view that a maiden speech should be about 15 minutes' long, and that I should say a bit about myself and how I came to formulate my political philosophy, and talk in passing about a couple of important issues within my electorate. Therefore, I had prepared a speech that I thought was about 15

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

minutes' long. However, at Caucus on the morning that I was to give my speech, Hon Joe Berinson came to me and said, "Bob, we need you to make a long speech. We need you to speak for 45 minutes and take your maximum time." I think someone had not had a briefing and we needed to delay the debate on a particular Bill. I was nerve-racked. If I had phoned my wife and said, "What can I do; I have to give a 45-minute speech and I have only prepared a 15-minute speech?", she would have said, "Tell them about your vasectomy; that usually takes two hours, and you don't get any questions."

Those members who were in this Chamber when I read out my speech would probably have noticed when I was holding up the pages that written across the top of them were the words, "slow down." As it turned out I spoke for 15 minutes, but I am just as nervous today as I was then. I am a pretty ordinary sort of bloke of about average ability, but for me to have been a member of this Chamber and a member of Parliament in Western Australia for 12 years has been an absolute privilege for a number of reasons.

Firstly, it has been a privilege to represent the Labor Party in this Parliament as a person with a strong commitment to equity and social justice and a desire to make the Western Australian community a fairer, more equal society in which people can advance themselves based on their ability and willingness to do hard work rather than rely on the affluence of their family. I am proud to have been in this Chamber and to have participated in those debates in which our philosophy has been needed. I have listened carefully to people who have put forward a different point of view and have listened to them expound their philosophies in this House. I have spoken to many of those people opposite in social situations and I have not changed my philosophy one iota. It is my view that Parliament is the clearing house of political tension in Australia; we resolve our conflicts on the floor of the House rather than at gunpoint as they do in other countries. Therefore, I make no apologies for standing and arguing about issues in this place in the same way that members opposite would not make any apologies for arguing their views. I hope that I have made some form of valuable contribution in the time that I have been here.

It has been a privilege to represent the South West Region; Albany, Denmark and Walpole would have to be the most special places in the world, and the rest of my electorate, the west coast, Manjimup, Collie etc are not far behind and are great places also. Again, to have represented the South West Region, the most dynamic area in this State, in this Parliament has been a privilege for me.

I also would like to say that having worked with Hon Joe Berinson in this place is something that very few people would appreciate the value of. I do not want to demean the contribution and the value of other members in this Chamber but, in my view, Joe Berinson would have to have been one of greatest parliamentary performers in any Parliament in the world. I recall the enormous pressure that was placed on him in our last term of government. However, the special memories that I will take away are of how Hon Joe Berinson used to listen to a debate from the other side and then stand and demolish those arguments by quoting the classics, contemporary literature and contemporary movies. He could talk about any of the Acts of Parliament as if he had a photographic memory and he had a wit that was unsurpassed this place. As much as I have enjoyed working with everyone in this Chamber, Joe Berinson would have to have been the greatest and it was a privilege to work with him.

It was also a privilege to have worked with the wonderful people of Parliament House. I refer to the officers of this Chamber, the switchboard, the kitchen, the cleaners, the Leader of the Opposition's staff, your own staff, Mr President, and the staff of the Leader of the House. I am talking about everyone in this Parliament. Almost everyone is more intelligent than me and has had far more interesting life experiences than me. I have really enjoyed working with those people, and feel I am a better person for my contact with them.

I believe I got into Parliament by accident. I worked for the Commonwealth Employment Service in Manjimup between 1985 and 1988. Brian Burke held a cabinet meeting there and was accompanied by my good friend Ted Cunningham, who was one of his staff. I had not seen Ted for a number of years and we rekindled our friendship. I was about to leave Manjimup and move back to Perth for my work, but my good friend Ted, Hon Ed Dermer and Hon Nick Griffiths encouraged me to run for the third south west upper House seat. I did not give myself much chance but, with their encouragement and support, I was preselected. After that, I think I was the only person in the south west who believed I had a chance of winning the seat. I appreciate the confidence they had in me to encourage me to run for the seat.

All retiring members look back over their careers and think about their achievements and regrets. I have always believed that politics is about the people who come through the front door and about getting things done for people. I place great store in helping those who need my help, and I have accomplished an enormous number of things for many people. I do not want to bore the House with the details, but I take pride in the things I achieved in Albany during my 12 years in this place, particularly during the Labor Party's term of government. This Parliament passed the Western Australian Land Authority Act in June 1992. LandCorp was set up in July, and in

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

August 1992 I invited Vince Papparo, the chief executive officer, to Albany. I spoke to him about LandCorp becoming involved in the foreshore development. He then spoke to the combined councils in the area and agreed to fund the project to the tune of \$11m. Some of the other things I negotiated with Vince include \$100 000 for the further upgrade of York Street and \$100 000 for the Albany shire. That was to have been for a bicycle path from Bayonet Head Road to the Lower King bridge, but unfortunately was used for other purposes. Other achievements include helping a local organisation get a grant to carry out work at the south coast community hall, the T/S Vancouver development and the hard but successful work with the surf lifesaving club and the excellent facilities it now has. The list goes on, and I take pride in the things I was able to help various groups in Albany accomplish.

However, there are times when I look back on my career and regret some of the things that happened. As a country member, I have had to live away from home for so long. That has placed an enormous burden on my wife Carol. She has had to do a lot of things she would normally have expected me as a partner to do. I refer specifically to many of those responsibilities in bringing up our children. My wife has done an excellent job, and I am extremely proud of my two girls. However, much of the credit must go to Carol because of the amount of time that I have spent away. It is also a matter of great regret to me that I was not at the graduation ceremony in 1997 when my oldest girl Megan graduated from Albany Senior High School. It may not seem important to other people, but we sat on that day and the plane that I caught home got in late, and I got to the ceremony about a minute after my daughter had graduated. I also have a deep regret that I missed my youngest daughter Bronwyn's graduation from Albany Primary School. My daughter is an actor with the Coco Youth Theatre. She is a very good actor, if I say so myself. Apparently her finest hour was at her graduation. Her class put on a production and she played Steve Urkel, a character from an American television show, and she brought the house down. There were tears all around, and she was at her greatest. I regret that I have missed out on many family things as a member of Parliament. I have gone along and watched many other children accomplish things and be rewarded for their achievements at other schools, yet missed going to my kids' assemblies and sports days.

I also thank the staff that I have had the great pleasure of working with during my career. Ursula Richards worked with me for about five years. Ursula would have to be one of the best operators at putting people at ease. Many people who come into members' electorate offices are anxious or upset. Ursula was marvellous at putting people at ease. Julie Hooper and Pam Stoney have replaced Ursula. They have similar skills; and their computing skills are second to none. I swear they can make their computers talk, they are so good. They are wonderful people to work with. Guy Wroth is my research officer and also a bit of a brake on me. He is very astute. He is a lovely person to work with. Since 1997 I have had a part-time office in Bunbury and have had the pleasure of working with two lovely people there, Terri-Ellen McKenzie and Eileen O'Sullivan. They were fantastic people to work with. Young Greg White, who now works with me, is an extremely competent and valuable member of my team, and I appreciate the work he does there.

I conclude by saying that I wish members opposite the very best. I hope they achieve their ambitions, as long as it is within the context of a Labor Government. I wish members on this side of the House the very best. I recommend that they reach for the stars. I believe in every one of you, and I wish you very well.

[Applause.]

HON CHERYL DAVENPORT (South Metropolitan) [12.34 pm]: I have the box of tissues, folks. I am notorious, I know; but what you see is what you get with me. Hon Bob Thomas mentioned a prompt to remind him to pause in his first speech in this place. I remember my first speech in this place, on 6 September 1989. All the way through that speech the words "breathe", "pause" and "have a drink of water" were written. I thought, "God, I suppose I'll be the same today." Therefore, I apologise if I get a bit emotional.

When I leave in six months, I will not leave behind just 12 years of service in this place but almost three decades of service in the political system. As these valedictory speeches were to be given today, the past week or so has been a time for thinking about those three decades and my contribution to the political landscape of both the Australian Labor Party and the State of Western Australia. I will categorise my remarks into three areas, and leave my thanks to people in this place until the end. The three areas I want to cover are the community and the electorate; the political party and the highs and lows; and also the commitment within the parliamentary sphere.

Each term I have served in this place has been very different. I think seven or eight of us came into the House as part of the class of 1989. Hon Bob Thomas and I were the only new Labor members at that time. It is interesting that we have both chosen to leave this arena at the same time. I have been afforded a very big privilege by my political party and by the South Metropolitan Region in being able to serve the people of Western Australia in this place. In the past 24 hours I have gone back and read the speech I made in this place

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

on 6 September 1989. I feel proud of myself, because I think I have achieved a number of the goals I set myself when I was elected.

In the whole spectrum of the political process, I have been one of those people who has been commonly referred to by the media as a party hack. There is no doubt that the success I have enjoyed in my career, which has been very much an evolutionary one, can be attributed to my knowledge and work within the Australian Labor Party. I was there when both the Tonkin and Whitlam Governments were in power; I was there when the Hawke-Keating Governments and the Burke-Dowding and Lawrence Governments came to office. I have seen the pendulum move across the political spectrum on a number of occasions. During that time I have also learnt a lot about life and politics. Nothing across the political spectrum surprises me any more, because I have seen it all before and I guess when I leave here I will see it again.

Like Hon Bob Thomas, I am a pretty simple person. I left school when I was 15 years of age. I did not have the opportunity that women in later times have had. I was very much a country high school girl. We were streamed very early. If one did not do well, one basically had a few options: One could go on to become a nurse by working one's way through the system, or one could undertake secretarial studies, and that is what I did.

I came to Perth in 1963 when I graduated. That was a very big step in my life. It took me three bites of the cherry to settle in the metropolitan area because I got incredibly homesick. I am proof of the aphorism that "You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl." I remember my colleague to my left saying to me when he was contemplating coming into Parliament that I could go back to my roots. I replied, "I am already here and I'm not about to swap positions."

I was one of the first members elected under the regional system that was introduced with proportional representation. I was "parachuted" into this place. I had done most of my political work in the community and for the party in the northern suburbs. The electoral changes introduced at the 1989 election meant there were not enough seats for sitting members. I was campaign director for Hon John Halden when he was elected in 1986 for the North Metropolitan Province. Like me, if he wanted a political career, he had to move to the South Metropolitan Province. That created ructions in the party. I am no novice when it comes to conflict in the party system.

Over the past three decades I have seen incredible changes in the Australian Labor Party. When I was first involved there was no formalised factional system, although there were always informal alliances across the party. That has not changed; in fact, over the past 15 years it has been formalised. I must take some responsibility for that - I was the inaugural coordinator of the left faction in Western Australia. I am very proud to say that I lean towards the left in ALP politics. I have worked very hard within that structure to push the boundaries, particularly to ensure that women are much more prominently featured in the political system. It is not about merit; it is about justice. Our population is 52 per cent female. I make no apology for the fact that I have pushed hard to ensure that women are more fairly represented in the political system. Once we get that critical mass, we will not be sitting in this Parliament until 3.30 am. There will be changes in the system. I am sorry there has not been enough of us here to ensure that that occurred before I left.

I was very pleased to second the 1993 motion to enshrine the 35 per cent affirmative action rule in the ALP in this State. The motion was moved by the then leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party in Western Australia, Ian Taylor. I am very proud that at the 2002 federal election the Labor Party will be only a couple of women short of achieving the 35 per cent preselection target in Australia. We have also reached that target for the coming state election, in both winnable and marginal seats. I will be very proud to welcome those new women into this Parliament after the next election. It will be a much better place for having a stronger component of women, who bring a very different point of view into Parliament. That does not take anything away from my male colleagues, but we need to even it up somewhat.

I will also touch briefly on an organisation called EMILY's List - an acronym for early money is like yeast; that is, it makes the money grow. It is only in its very formative years in Australia. I co-convene that organisation nationally with my very good friend, the former Premier of Victoria, Joan Kirner. We have worked very hard over the past four years. We do not get involved in pre-selection processes within the Australian Labor Party, but we do support, mentor and train women who are pre-selected for the Australian Labor Party and who subscribe to the principles of equity and justice, self-determination and full participation, are pro-choice and support child care, equal pay and diversity. One of the wonderful things that I take from the creation of EMILY's List in Australia is that, in the organisation's four short years of existence, it now has almost 2 000 members Australia-wide and has provided some \$260 000 to Australian Labor Party women who are standing for election around this nation. I am very proud of that fact and have been very involved in promoting and assisting women during those four years. I am looking forward to having a little more time to concentrate on that organisation and to further the work it does. One thing that has become very clear is that the only way we

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

can assist in the election of more women is by providing them with support mechanisms and finance so they can compete on an equal footing.

I will also talk a little about some of the highs and lows that I have experienced in my years in the Labor Party, in particular within the parliamentary system. It has often been very tough. The year 1990 was a particularly difficult time for our Caucus when we changed Premiers. I also participated in the very difficult election post the release of the WA Inc Royal Commission report. They were very difficult times for us, and that summed up the first four years that I was here. Being a backbencher in government - as I am sure I do not have to remind my colleagues on the other side - is not an easy position to be in. I could probably count on the fingers of two hands the number of speeches I made in this place in those first four years. I had always found public speaking quite difficult, and to some extent that is what held me back from putting myself forward to be a parliamentary representative for so many years. I think I have overcome that in the last two terms. When we were unfortunately relegated to the opposition benches in 1993, I had to learn pretty quickly how to get up and talk about literally anything.

However, I have a recollection of the then Whip, Hon Tom Helm, asking me to speak for half an hour on a Bill. I refused and said I would not speak on an issue about which I knew nothing. I made it clear at the outset that I like to know what I am talking about. That is perhaps one of the reasons that when I do speak in this place - although they may not agree with my views - members take a bit of notice of what I have to say. I say to most members in this place that if they want to be taken seriously they must do some preparation and must know what they are talking about. Some members think they are contributing if they simply speak. However, it is far better to be prepared and to know what one is talking about than to talk about nothing.

I shall concentrate briefly on what were for me the parliamentary highs and lows. I am a bit sad that I have not achieved more. Obviously, the pinnacle for me was two years ago in May 1998 when I achieved the task I set myself to have the abortion law reform legislation passed through this place. I now look back at the four months that it took from the charging of two doctors to the passing of the Bill on 21 May - the ninth anniversary of my election to this place - and wonder how I survived the pressure of that time, with all the long nights and so forth that every member experienced. I was the proponent of that legislation, which, because it was not backed by any one political party, brought a new way of bringing legislation into this place. I do not necessarily agree with Hon Norm Kelly who said that we should observe more often our conscience. If we did, we would get very little done in this place if more legislation were debated on a conscience-vote basis.

I take this opportunity to say to the Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore, that I appreciate very much the leadership he showed in this place at that time. I know we had a different philosophical perspective on the issue; however, the way in which he managed this place and the way in which you, Mr President, chaired the debate was for me very telling. When one reads the *Hansard* of some of the debates in the other place, I know where I would rather have been to debate the Bill; it was definitely in this place. Mr President, your charge of this House and the way you conducted us was very much a reflection of your ability to chair this place and I thank you very much for that. At times I thought you were a bit hard on me - you made sure I stuck to the issues. In the last evening of the debate, when three motions were moved and passed, you kept me very much on a narrow path; you did not let me stray off it. Although I endured difficult times during that debate - some of the scars may never heal - I was nevertheless proud of myself for not letting personalities get in the way in which I conducted myself in this House. It was very much an example of how legislation can be made under difficult and trying circumstances, and I am pleased that I and the people who supported me in that process were able to achieve that. I can honestly say that I came into this place with an agenda and I achieved that agenda. As I said at the time, the legislation is not perfect but at least people know where they stand in this State and women can no longer be imprisoned for something that is very much an issue of social justice.

I will now speak about two more areas of legislation with which I was involved. In 1994 I was in charge, on behalf of the Australian Labor Party, of the adoption legislation that rewrote the Adoption of Children Act 1896. As members know, I subsequently introduced a private member's Bill based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Legislation. That period was a bit of a low for me because vetoes on information and contact between adoptees and relinquishing parents has not been removed. I know that the 1994 legislation has been reviewed and that new legislation is in the pipeline; I hoped that it might be introduced before I left, but that is not the case. I charge those members who were part of that legislation committee process to ensure that the unanimous position of that committee - which was coalition Government-dominated - is adopted.

I was also involved, over a period of eight years, with an attempt to reform the motor vehicle repair industry through licensing and registration of service outlets, and to create a decent mediation regime for people who have problems with accounts. My brother has worked in that industry for a long time. I spoke to him this morning and he said that that was one area of legislation in which I did not achieve the result I wanted. That was not through any fault of mine or either major political party. I served as chairman on the committee appointed

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

by the then Minister for Consumer Affairs, Hon Yvonne Henderson, and was also a member of the committee reappointed under the then Minister for Fair Trading, Hon Peter Foss, which was chaired by the member for Geraldton. Those committees reported their findings. However, throughout the process there was incredible resistance by the Ministry of Fair Trading to the reforms that the committees wanted to introduce. The committee recommended a stand-alone co-regulation model to be supported by industry, government and the Ministry of Fair Trading. The Labor Party, and I am sure the Liberal Party, will take that policy through to the next election. I am hopeful that the legislation will get up in the next term of government. New South Wales is the only State in Australia that boasts that kind of legislation, and has had it for 20 years. Every incoming Government in that State - Labor or Liberal - experiences the same push by the fair trading departments to repeal or amend that legislation. I charge all members to ensure that that legislation is finally successful. They are a couple of things that I have not been able to achieve in my time in Parliament, but I will be watching that situation in the future.

I will now thank some people, and here I may become emotional again. My colleagues who sit on either side of me in this House both told me to leave the "Ross" word until last - so I will. For members of Parliament to do their job well, they must have good and loyal staff. In the almost 12 years that I have been a member, I have been blessed with reliable and loyal staff. Carol Treloar was my electorate officer for the first nine and a half years of my service to Parliament. She had worked for a previous member of Parliament. We went through some highs and lows together, but she was a wonderful supporter and a great person to work with. She job-shared for about six years of that time with Julie Kroeber, who remains with me today. Julie is also a trusted and loyal staff member. During that time Julie has had two lots of maternity leave and now has four wonderful children who keep her on her toes, but she works for me just one day a week now, and she is the best financial records keeper any member of Parliament could want to have. I thank both Carol and Julie for their service over the years. I have on my current staff Liz Vivian, who has been with me now for the best part of two years. Liz came to me from the office of Megan Anwyl, the member for Kalgoorlie, who had trained her very well. It was the first time Liz had worked as an electorate officer - she is a former nurse - and I was lucky when she decided to make the move to Perth. She has been tremendous. She has participated in the Seniors portfolio, for which I have been spokesperson for Labor over the past four years, and I know that in my retirement she will be snapped up by one of my colleagues because she is so talented and has been a great source of support over the past couple of years. Helen Mills has been a stalwart worker for members in the Australian Labor Party. Helen joined me about 15 months ago as my research officer. I say thank you to Helen; she is roughly the same age as I am, so we are of the same vintage and I guess we understand each other very well. She is tremendous to have around. I have been blessed and a lucky person to have had over the 12 years of my service only four staff members.

I also pay tribute to my friends. As a single woman with no partner, one of the things we rely on for emotional support and to sustain us is to have a very strong network of friends. I have some wonderful friends, particularly my friends in the Victoria Park area - a crowd of women we call the Victoria Park feminist precinct - and they have been the means of my keeping my feet on the ground. They will tell me when they disagree with things that are happening, and that is a great way to ensure that one keeps in touch with the community. It is easy to come into this place and lose contact with ordinary people and, because of my years of experience in the political system, I knew it was very important to ensure that I maintained those links with the community and I have done that through a great group of friends.

I also have a quarter of a century friendship with Val Ferguson, the former member for the East Metropolitan Region. I was very sad about the way Val left Parliament and the tough negotiations that went on in relation to her preselection at the time. I guess that has put some strain on our friendship, but that is mending and I am pleased to say that I can still look forward to many years of friendship with Val. I also thank Pat Tassell. I met Pat in the northern suburbs in 1983 and she went on to work for members of Parliament but now has her own employment and training business in the northern suburbs. Pat has been a great source of inspiration to me and certainly a very close friend.

I want to say a few words about special colleagues who have been mentors and friends within the Labor Party. I want to acknowledge my mentor, Pat Giles. I worked for her for eight years before I entered Parliament. She is an inspiration to me. She is now 72 years old and continues to provide incredible commitment to the community - not just at the local level where, in the past 12 months, she has also convened Womens Legal Services Inc (WA). She still has international connections. She is the President of the International Alliance of Women. She is also involved in the Global Women's Health Commission for the World Health Organisation. She is constantly an inspiration to me. If I can be half the contributor she is when I am her age I will be very proud.

I also want to thank the member for Fremantle, Jim McGinty. Jim and I go back a long way. When the left faction formalised in the Labor Party in this State, he and I were the convenor and coordinator of the faction.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Jim helped me make the decision to put my name forward to contest the preselection for the South Metropolitan Region in 1988. It was a hard decision for me as I had a lot of self-doubt at the time. Jim knew my history and had faith in me. He continues to have faith in me and has offered me the hand of friendship over a long time. I admire him enormously for his decision to stand down as leader of the Labor Party in 1996. He knew the party was not performing well because of his leadership and that some very good Labor members were in jeopardy of losing their seats. He made the incredibly courageous decision to step down as leader. I admire him even more now for the contribution he continues to make to the Labor Party. Over the past four years he has demonstrated incredible dedication. His work will help ensure that the Labor party will become the new Government after the next election.

I also acknowledge the members for Maylands, Bassendean and Thornlie. They are all close friends. I wish them all well for the future and I hope that they will become ministers in the new Labor Government. I acknowledge the member for Kalgoorlie, Megan Anwyll. We have got to know each other well over the past four years since she was elected in a by-election. Megan and I share the same birthday but I have to say I wish I were her age! She is a fighter. It is not easy to represent a seat like Kalgoorlie. She is the first woman to have done so. She does her job very well. She is facing a tough battle in the election. One should not become too political at a time like this but I can understand the coalition strategy. I have been in politics for a long time and I know that, given the current political pendulum, the Government has to win seats to offset those it will lose. I can understand the rationale of targeting Megan. She has shown over the past few years that she fights for her constituency. She knows that her constituency wants good health care and good access to education services and to know that the community is safe and secure. I have seen her grow in her parliamentary career. I think it was a big ask to fill the shoes of the former Deputy Premier of the State, Ian Taylor. Megan Anwyll has done her job very well, and has been a credit to both the Australian Labor Party and women in political life. I wish her well in the next election. I know that she will be a minister in the next Labor Government. I look forward to the contribution that she will make in that role.

I turn now to this Chamber and to the many friends I have made during my service of almost 12 years. As people have said earlier - and Hon Christine Sharp mentioned this - it is true that we have very robust debate and some conflict in this place, but across all the parties some very strong friendships will endure. I have enjoyed my years of service with my colleagues on this side of the House, albeit in the past eight years in opposition. I have seen the pendulum swing a couple of times and it is now on the way back. I particularly acknowledge my colleagues on my left and right. I have known Hon John Cowdell for 25 years and I have known Hon Ken Travers for about 15 years. We are lefties! We have come through some pretty tough times in the party system. Over the past couple of years they have given me a lot of stick in this place, largely because I am the shadow spokesperson for Seniors, but they have tried to persuade me to stay. They have told me they will construct some ramps, and they have even promised a silver-plated Zimmer frame, if I stay! I must disappoint both of them. I am very comfortable about the fact that I am leaving this place. I thank them for their support and friendship, and look forward to seeing great things from both of them.

I also acknowledge Hon Kim Chance. Kim and I sat together on the government benches for a while. I was thinking last night during one of the divisions, that Hon Dexter Davies now occupies the seat I had when I first came into this place. If the Labor Party is on the other side of the House after the election next year, I would not mind once more occupying that seat until 21 May.

I acknowledge some of my mates in the coalition. I really do class people such as Hon Derrick Tomlinson and Hon Peter Foss as friends. They were also part of the class of 1989. We got to know one another quite early in the piece when we served on the inaugural Standing Committee on Legislation. We did some pretty good work on that committee. I enjoyed my time on that committee and getting to know them. Latterly, as a member of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, I got to know Hon Barry House and Hon Murray Criddle very well in that context. I also mention Hon Barbara Scott; there is no doubt that we have had our differences but I class Barbara as a friend and wish her well. I am pleased that she intends to serve another term. As a fellow member for the South Metropolitan Region, I am pleased that she will be leading that ticket.

One of my legacies to this place is that the Labor Party ticket for the South Metropolitan Region will be led by three women. Hon Jim Scott may see four women out of five candidates elected for the South Metropolitan Region. That is not beyond the realms of possibility, because I was elected from the No 3 position for the Labor Party when I came into this place in 1989. I also acknowledge my friends in the Greens (WA) and the Australian Democrats. We have been through some tough times in the past few years, but I class them all as good friends. I was very moved by what Chrissy Sharp had to say this morning. Five women members were in this place when I was first elected in 1989. We now have seven women members, and after the next election I am sure there will be another influx, which will be to the betterment of this place.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Lastly, I thank the people who serve us very well in this Parliament. I particularly pay tribute to Marilyn David and Cathy Harrison on the switchboard. I give them credit for helping bring up my son in the early years. He was aged only 10 years when I was first elected, and Marilyn and Cathy found me whenever he needed me. I thank them. They are tremendous people and Parliament will be poorer when they leave. One of them has been here longer than I have, and we all owe them a great debt as they are tremendous and do a wonderful job serving Parliament.

I also thank the Hansard staff, who have been just incredible. I know when I first came in here I was a pretty awful speaker, and the reporters turned out some wonderful work with my speeches. I highlight one issue: I remember in 1994 the famous trouser debate in this place, and I take some credit for ensuring that, in the cold of winter, female Hansard staff are now allowed to wear trousers in this House. They are some of the little anecdotes from my time here.

I thank all the staff in the Chamber, particularly Laurie Marquet and Ian Allnutt. Ian and I have sons of a similar age, and we have compared notes over the past 12 years. Both our sons were pretty young when I arrived, and they are now grown young men. We can both be proud of them.

Also, I note the other people who serve the Chamber. I hope another woman will take Donna Artingstall's place as there are not enough women here. I wish Donna well in achieving motherhood, and I am sure she will delight in that position. I thank the education officers, the dining room staff and all the people who serve us here. It is a pretty daunting task at times and it is done very well.

Last, but not least, is my son, who has been an inspiration over the past 12 years. It has not been easy for him being an only child with a parent who has not been around most of the time. I tried to ensure that the time we spent together was quality time. I say to any parent who comes into this place, quality not quantity counts. I said in my first speech that he was my best friend - he continues to be. I am very proud of him. He is a wonderful young man who has a great contribution to make to the future. I wish him well. I hope he achieves his dream to play cricket for Western Australia; I will support him all the way. I thank Ross for making my life as rich as it is.

I turn now to the future. As somebody said, "Italy, here I come", although before I go I must spend a couple of years learning the language. I offer an invitation to any member who can help me pay for it to come with me. I have always loved Italy; perhaps it goes back to my childhood. I was there during summer a couple of years ago and found that it is very much like where I grew up. Something draws me to it and I look forward to going there and spending quality time soon.

I now refer to the debate on ageing. The community must acknowledge it and look at it more positively. The focus of the debate seems to be on care, which affects only about 15 per cent of the population. The other 85 per cent of people aged 60 plus are well aged and want to remain that way. Over the next 25 years the percentage of older people in this State will double to 25 per cent. One in four people will be aged 60 and over. We are faced with the challenge to ensure that older people come back into the mainstream political and social systems; currently they are marginalised. I intend to involve myself in the debate. The community can draw on much wisdom and experience from older people. I will be active in the community, worrying the politicians, to ensure their voices are heard.

I have always been clear about my time in this Parliament. In March 2001 I will have worked in salaried positions in the political system for 28 years - almost three decades. It is time for me to move on and do something different. I have always subscribed to the view that I wanted to choose my own time to leave, and I have done that, despite some people across this nation having urged me to stay. Members have a finite time to make a contribution. I have made mine and I have enjoyed it immensely. During the time of my service, particularly in Parliament, I have tried to the best of my ability to serve my electorate and my community. I believe I have done that pretty well. I have facilitated progressive law reform through this Parliament, and I have demonstrated my loyalty and worked hard for the Australian Labor Party. I am proud of my contribution. I look forward to the forthcoming election and I will work to ensure the election of a Labor Government, as I have done over the past three and a half decades. I look forward to that occurring early next year. I am sure Parliament will return prior to 21 May. If that is not to be, I wish all members well in whatever they choose to do in the future.

I noted what Hon Norman Moore said earlier about intending to be in Parliament for another 14 years. Much work needs to be done in the community. With the member's experience, he has a tremendous contribution to make to the ageing community. I urge members to think about that. I have been privileged to be in some focus groups over the past six months with people who have turned 60 and over. I was struck by the ill-prepared nature of men to contemplate retirement. That is another challenge for the community.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Hon N.F. Moore: Do not let this grey hair in any way affect your judgment; I am only 36 years old!

Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT: There are many challenges in the community and I look forward to them. I wish all members well. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in this place.

[Applause.]

HON MURIEL PATTERSON (South West) [1.25 pm]: I thank all the people who said those very kind words about me. It is rather lovely to think that I did not have to die before they were said. I am very appreciative and very humble.

I will share with members the following words -

The real freedoms are to worship, to think, to speak, to choose, to be ambitious, to be independent, and to be industrious, to acquire skill, to seek reward. These are the real freedoms, for these are of the essence of the nature of man.

Those words of great wisdom and direction were spoken in 1949 by the founder of the Liberal Party, Robert Gordon Menzies.

I humbly thank members of the Liberal Party south west branches who have allowed me the privilege of representing them during the past 12 years. I have done this with great enthusiasm and worked to the very best of my ability. It has been the highlight of my life.

When I was asked whether I could contribute to politics, I replied that a vote for me would be a vote for commonsense and many of life's experiences. My mission has been always to place value on and to give guidance to families, to improve conditions for the rural and country sector and small business and to see a proud and vibrant Australia with all peoples occupying this land and putting Australia first while appreciating their past cultures. I said that in my maiden speech and today I encourage continuation of those goals because they are never fully achieved.

One of my most memorable achievements was to chair the ministerial task force for Western Australian families and to see the Government implement many of its recommendations. I have witnessed the Government's commitment to the rural sector in building new schools, police stations, health centres and sporting facilities and in funding an enormous amount of construction on country roads. Such measures give rural people the quality of life they deserve.

With the introduction of workplace agreements, the Government has provided small business with the most effective assistance ever. Many employers are recruiting staff knowing that they can adjust conditions and working hours to suit their circumstances. They are no longer wary of employing new staff. I suggest that this is a contributing factor to the lower unemployment levels.

Over the years we have seen and heard many lobbyists, delegations and protests. On one occasion while standing on the front steps of Parliament House with tears streaming down my face, I witnessed an amazing delegation when the disabilities lobby came to Parliament, not to protest, but to give thanks and recognition to the Premier and government members for all they do for the disabled and their carers. They presented the Premier with a large cane basket full of individual posies of flowers to which each person present had contributed. It is difficult for people to imagine the huge effort it took for both the disabled people and their carers to assemble there to make that wonderful gesture. This Government leads the nation in the provision of care to those who need it most. We are a caring government and conscious of our responsibilities.

I was recently speaking to Hon Barry MacKinnon, a previous Liberal leader, who I am happy to say is still chairman of the Disability Services Commission and actively engaged in helping others to enjoy a greater capacity for life. This brings me to a personal tragedy my family experienced when our eldest son, Warren, as a passenger in a car involved in an accident, suffered serious neurological damage. It was a difficult time for me, which I did not handle very well. I will be forever grateful to those in this House who showed me great kindness, support and understanding. It was like being part of an extended family. As a matter of fact, I always look forward to returning to this House to be with my fellow members because it has become a second home.

As I look around this House and see the faces of my colleagues I can assure them that each one has a story for me! Looking opposite brings back fond memories of the times I shared with Hon Tom Stephens, Hon Nick Griffiths and Hon Ed Dermer when we opposed the abortion Bill, as did Hon Barbara Scott, Hon Greg Smith, Hon Murray Nixon, Hon Murray Montgomery and, at times, Hon Norman Moore. Some say we lost our fight, but I do not consider that we did. The debate on the abortion Bill provided the opportunity to publicise and educate the public on this very important issue. People have the right to make their own decision, but it should be an educated one.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Sometimes the debates in this House are profound and important to our constituents and very educational to members. At other times, I wonder why we are here wasting so much time. However, I know this is not a unique situation. Recently, I read an early twentieth century English parliamentary debate on whether women's hair should be short or long. The House of Lords voted 3:1 in favour of long hair while the House of Commons was divided between 231 for long hair and 217 for short hair. Lord Amphthill said, "A woman with short hair was as unsightly as a woman in prison garb with her nose cut off". The Earl of Birkenhead said he was "too old to know anything about women's hair" and the Earl of Southampton diplomatically said that he liked them "all ways". Sir Ashton Pownall gave the ultimate politician's reply when he said, "At present, I have 25,000 women voters - I refuse to commit political suicide by commenting on a subject of such grave importance."

The committee system in this House is superior to committee systems in many Parliaments around the world. I have been privileged to sit on a number of committees, the longest being the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, of which I was an inaugural member. At this stage, I thank the members of that committee, one of whom was Hon Bob Thomas, and who are now Hon Ed Dermer, Hon Simon O'Brien and Hon Ljiljana Ravlich. I give credit and thanks to Hon Mark Nevill for his friendship and chairmanship, which has been fair, intelligent, and of great interest to members. I believe the recommendations made by that committee are seriously worth considering by the ministers involved for the benefit of all Western Australians. I for one sincerely hope that Mark is returned to this House next year.

Often when debates are in progress, it strikes me that all members have the same goals, but see different philosophical ways of achieving them. I thank the Opposition Whip, Hon Bob Thomas, for his cooperation and honesty in keeping agreements on pairs.

As a member, I am gratified by the calibre of the Clerks of the Legislative Council. Mr Laurie Marquet, the Clerk of the Legislative Council, has vast knowledge and has always been willing to answer my queries with clear, concise explanations. I even enjoy the expositions. The Deputy Clerk, Mr Ian Allnutt, remains forever courteous and helpful, as have each of the attendants of this House, from Malcolm Peacock to other staff members who have come and gone from time to time. They have all made a contribution to our wellbeing. Of course, the silent heroes are the Hansard reporters who miraculously make sense of the words we impart.

Over recent years, Parliament House has been restored stage by stage, which work has been encouraged and guided by the President, Hon George Cash, and the Clerk, Laurie Marquet. This is appreciated by many people, as we see this beautiful old building regain some of its past glory. What a wonderful heritage we will leave to our next generation.

I give my heartfelt thanks to Teena Beale, the parliamentary secretary to the Leader of the House, for her efficiency, which she delivers in such a delightful manner, and I also thank Julie Holmes. Teena does the loveliest things. This morning, she came into my office and presented me with a little gardenia that she had picked from her garden and said, "I want you to wear this today, Muriel."

I mention also the committee staff; Cathy Harrison and the other staff in the post office; and the staff in all the other services - security, library and gardening - not forgetting, of course, ever, the catering staff, who have helped me keep so healthy. The staff of this Parliament are unique, and I do not believe we could ever wish for more obliging and kinder people. When we go into the Premier's office, there is Wendy Ireland, and when we go into the President's office, there is Lorraine Coogan, and it just gives us such a lovely feeling.

No man or woman is an island, and never more so than as a member of Parliament. I pay tribute to my Albany electorate officer, Sandra Scott, who has been a terrific help in my work. I have received credit on occasions, which I accepted at face value, but I passed the credit to Sandra when it was deserved. I have been part of a united south west team with Hon Barry House, our Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, and Hon Bill Stretch, our party secretary, and over the years we have worked and supported each other in representing South West Region. It has been my pleasure to enjoy their company and friendship, knowing that each one of us has something different to contribute; therefore, we are dependent on each other and are working for the same goal.

The south west is a wonderful part of this State, and I have met some fabulous people. We speak so much about the environment, but it behoves us to remember that people are part of the environment - the most important part - and we should never lose sight of that. We live in a glorious State and are the envy of most other countries, and it is saddens me when I hear negative remarks about Western Australia. This State belongs to us all, and for this reason we must share its bounties. By this I mean we must give industries and people opportunities to work according to their capabilities. Other people view this in the same way. This is not just a Liberal philosophy. I refer to the book *Confessions of a Failed Finance Minister* that was written by Peter Walsh, a former Labor Senator for Western Australia and Minister for Minerals and Energy and Minister for Finance in the Hawke Federal Government. I am indebted to Peter Walsh, who understands where our wealth

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

comes from and has a vast understanding of the nation's economy, for taking the time to expound this knowledge in the written word. He has written a very powerful book, and I urge members of all persuasions to read it.

At this stage I acknowledge Hon Barbara Scott, my only female colleague on this side of the House. It is gratifying to know that she was elected for her ability and not her gender. Barbara has made a great contribution.

Mr President, I had always aspired to the position of Whip and was appreciative of my colleagues for their vote of confidence in me in both the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth Parliaments. No-one could have had a better team than this coalition team. Coalition members have remained courteous, cooperative and obliging to me at all times. As a matter of fact - I do not know whether I dare say it - I have a real affection for each of them, and I sincerely hope our friendship does not end with the closing of this Parliament.

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for his outstanding contribution to transport, in freight and roads, which has benefited people throughout the State. I think it is only people who are in industry or who travel a lot who appreciate what a terrific job he has done. I thank Hon Peter Foss for making our homes a safer place with his recent Bill, and for all he has contributed to our justice system. He introduced reforms in prisons and workable methods of rehabilitation. Some of those reforms have been visionary and very successful. When all is said and done, that is our ultimate aim.

I thank the Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore, for his efforts to unite us as a team. He does a good job at that; he even invited us all to the Avon Descent this year. An event like that produces a lovely atmosphere and bonds us all. We all meet once a year for a night out, and it is a pleasant time. We thank him also for his vigorous fight to improve education and sport and recreation, particularly in country areas. We thank him for his fight for a fair deal in mining, our largest export industry. One day he will be recognised as the minister who led the State in the development of a successful convention centre. We thank him.

Mr President, you have been a leader in opposition, a leader in government, and now President. At all times you have gained our respect for your ability, fairness and friendship. We are grateful.

Life in politics is not all seriousness. The Liberal members of the Legislative Council meet at the end of each fiscal year for a few hours to have a fun time and recognise the work that has been done. Part of the evening includes the presentation of a Whip's award to a member who has made some contribution to the Parliament. This is expected to be presented with a humorous speech. However, I am not very good at humorous speeches, so I chose to put them in verse. I recite to the House the verses I wrote for the presentation of my first and my last awards. Members can work out who they refer to.

He came to us a loyal and trusted one
A country chap undoubtedly, Koorda's favourite son!
"I'm here for the good of all and not defined by borders"
That was fine before he spied our standing orders.

Never one to miss a chance, to gain the upper hand
Something he quickly learned while tilling Koorda land.
"These rules are old and out of date, let's get with the time,
I will not let it go" became his constant chime.

"Committees are the way to go you've got to give them range,
Before we can do that we have to make the change".
So up came copy number one and soon draft twenty four
George said "Get him out of here, before he dreams up any more".

God made heaven and earth and all therein, about a week
Without a copy or a draft just common sense, so to speak,
No one wants to change the plan we're more than satisfied
You could have knocked me down, when came his motion to be tried.

It really begs the question why a motion such as this
With all the changes to be made was this really his?
One does not doubt his sincerity was there just a tiny fudge?
Far from me to say but you may be the judge.

Amendments came in thick and fast, and tore the thing apart,
And to a lesser man, he would have lost all heart.
This man is made of sterner stuff and took it on the chin,

Extract from *Hansard*
[COUNCIL - Thursday, 23 November 2000]
p3731c-3762a

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon
Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

I've heard he's offering 10 to 1 these standing orders will stay in!

We know but little of what may come next
Nor can we follow all his detailed text
But now, we do know how to vote and when to pee
And thank goodness, he left us our afternoon tea.

The award of June 2000 was my last as Whip, and I presented it with the following verse -

As usual this award is couched in rhyme
This of course will be for the very last time
As I pondered past times - the good, the bad, and some jolly
I confess to feeling somewhat melancholy

Many struggle to find the meaning of life
Where suggestions abound and solutions rife,
Searching in places like India, the Orient and Kathmandu
Well - I found it right here thanks to you.

One enters this place, to serve, and give their all
This we all know can be a very tough call
During the twelve years has been a huge learning curve
To wit survival comes - providing one has the nerve.

I know each one of you I'll surely miss
Perhaps I should just leave with a hug and a kiss
Great memories are mine to take as I depart
Memories, that always will have a place in my heart

How could I forget Pete's matching ties braces and socks
If I were a betting girl - I'd say they matched his jocks
And Max with his gift to untangle budgets taxes and tolls
And guessing if he'll show up in the Bentley or in the Rolls

And Barry's love of cricket and also his neighbour's wine,
and Bruce's Lotto knowledge he's always confident we're next in line.
There's Simon in moments like these there's a minty in the dish
And Derrick's demise would be the A double C's only wish

Of course Ray the reserved one - until his ire is raised,
And Murray who remains cool, calm and always unfazed
And Bill's passion for the land and at length will extol
And Greg's contempt for the Greens oh bless his soul!

Barbara's knowledge of health and childhood care
She's always ready for her members with time to share
And Norman - who spent time with the beautiful Elle
Were George's daily prayers for Norman maybe time will tell!

Now such a notion would never cross my mind -
For Norm's the most honourable chap one would find
I recall him once even being called a saint
Cos I believe it was he who caused Ljiljanna to faint.

George our President with understanding of - things - legal
With ecclesiastical demeanour and persona regal
Oh yes he's the one who confesses to speeding
And addiction to the share market is constantly feeding

With the Whip's award there is a tradition
Only one person to be named that's the position.
But what's to be done, when this I'm unable to do
Forget tradition and simply name two.

Now having faced the dilemma of no monthly cheque
That's no Moore Cash well what the heck -

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

I suppose I could find work as a gardener or storeman
and maybe I could get a reference from George and Norman

So you know the reason they receive this award
Be it anyone else is something I cannot afford.
Oh! There's also another reason why this award I bestow -
It's in appreciation to two great guys I'm privileged to know.

I acknowledge my husband Rol's contribution to my career. When the state president of the Liberal Party telephoned Rol one evening and asked him whether he was stopping me from nominating as a candidate for the South West Region, Rol said he knew nothing about it. Rol is not renowned for his tact. Rol asked whether they had approached me. I said they had been asking me for several years, but I had declined. He asked why, because he thought I would love to do it. I said I would, but that I did not think it would do our marriage much good as I would be continually away. Rol said that as our marriage had survived everything else, he was sure that it could cope with politics, and that he would support me. Happily he has supported me, and our marriage has survived. We will celebrate our fiftieth wedding anniversary before I leave this Parliament.

I acknowledge my colleagues who are also retiring: Hon Cheryl Davenport - in a democracy we do not always have to agree, I accept that; Hon Bob Thomas and Hon Murray Montgomery - this will only be a farewell from Parliament as they both live in Albany; and Hon Max Evans, who is our most senior member, and, I suspect, one of the fittest. My friendship with Max goes back before politics as we both worked at senior levels in the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I learned to respect him then and I respect him greatly now. To you all, my very best wishes for life after Parliament.

For those on this side of the House, whom I expect to remain here and return after the next election, I urge them to carry on with and recall regularly the mission statement of Sir Robert Menzies, and to support Premier Richard Court, who is an honourable man of strength, personal values, compassion and vision. He is worthy of your support.

In closing I wish each member of this House and their families a very very happy festive season.

[Applause.]

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan) [1.49 pm]: I should just say thank you very much, but I have a few things to say. Members were talking before about speed. I said to Murray Nixon last night that I might go too fast and that he should kick me if I did. I said to him a little while ago, "Let me go fast. I might need to."

I have enjoyed the privilege of being a member of this House. For the first 28 years of my life, I lived within three blocks of Parliament House, in Richardson Street and Colin Street. I often used to wander around Parliament House and sit in the gallery. There used to be old wooden steps that led up to the gallery, and they were very treacherous. However, I had an interest in the Parliament.

I joined the Liberal Party in 1948. About 400 people attended the last state conference, but I think only 10 people put up their hands to say they were members of the Liberal Party in 1948. I joined what was called the Legion of Liberty for all the young Liberals, with some boys from Scotch College. I have had a close association with the Liberal Party. In 1949 I started working for Sir Charles Court. He was not even thinking of politics in those days. It has been a great privilege for me to be in this place, and I have enjoyed it very much. I thank all the friends I have made here during that period.

If I have been successful, particularly during the period when I was a minister, as well as at other times, I owe it to my wife Barbara. I thank her. Barbara has been the most wonderful companion, and I thank Hon Nick Griffiths for his comments about her. What she did for Hon Nick Griffiths she did for many other people at functions - she looked after them all. She can remember faces much better than I can, and she will say that this is so-and-so or that is so-and-so. Over the years when I was the Chief Commissioner of Boy Scouts, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, a backbencher and a minister, I attended and hosted many functions, and Barb was absolutely wonderful. It made my life a lot easier. It is often very difficult for country members whose wives are not in the city. Also, my family has given me great support in that regard.

During my time in politics, I have met a lot of people. I have enjoyed the company of all my ministerial colleagues in this House. Hon George Cash started off as a minister, he was then a backbencher, and he is now the President. I also mention Hon Peter Foss, Hon Eric Charlton and Hon Norman Moore.

During my ministerial time, I also enjoyed working with my chief executive officers. They had a wonderful dinner for me after I retired as a minister. It was just great. We had a real club spirit. I did not work with policy officers; I worked directly with my CEOs whenever anyone had a problem. Vic Evans of the Insurance Commission of Western Australia and his board did a lot of very good things and made it a good, strong organisation - as good as any in Australia. We were initially presented with a balance sheet with a minus of

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

\$330m, so there were a few problems there. Vic has been a great friend of mine. The girls at the front desk said, "Is he your older brother or your younger brother?" I said, "You can pick and choose. I don't mind." However, he is not a relation. Peter Farrell, the Chief Executive of the Government Employees Superannuation Board, probably had the most difficult job of all my CEOs. He was responsible for putting the West State superannuation scheme into place, as well as a number of other things over the years. It has not been an easy job. I thank him for his support.

Jan Stewart of the Lotteries Commission has done a marvellous job. She was appointed CEO when I became the minister. The results of her work and that of her team can be seen throughout Western Australia. Ray Bennett is another real success story with the Totalisator Agency Board. I appointed him Chairman of the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Authority. When Merv Hill left the TAB, Ray Bennett sought appointment to the TAB - I did not appoint him. He became the CEO of the TAB. He has done a marvellous job and is highly respected by his board. Alastair Bryant of the State Revenue Department has been a great worker. He has changed many things, and he accepted my recommendations to change legislation. Barry Sargeant probably had the hardest job. Before the 1993 election, a large number of highly contentious matters were raised in the racing, gaming and liquor industries. Barry handled those very well, with a lot of diplomacy. He knows the whole industry and is respected by it. Roger Williams, the recently retired Valuer General, was a great help to me on many matters, which I will deal with in a minute. I have been involved with a wonderful group of CEOs, and I thank them for their friendship over the years. I also thank their staff.

I have also been blessed with two wonderful electorate secretaries. Tina Wallace, who was my electorate secretary during the initial years when we were in opposition, and Paula Kennewell have looked after me very well. We all know how important our electorate secretaries are.

Why or how did I get into Parliament? I was a chartered accountant in practice for 28 years with Sir Charles Court at Hendry Rae and Court. I have been President of the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Honorary Treasurer of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President of the Perth Chamber of Commerce, Chief Commissioner of Scouts in Western Australia, chairman of the finance committee of Scotch College and an Australian and state champion athlete.

I have four wonderful children. I thank them for the support they have given me over the years.

How and why did I get here? I was not looking for this job. I might have thought it would be a good thing in my thirties, but not at the age of 56. I was in a well-established practice doing very well when in March 1985 Richard Court and I flew out to the aircraft carrier *USS Carl Vinson*. We were waiting around at Perth Airport and Richard asked me whether I had considered standing for the Metropolitan Province seat that Hon Ian Medcalf was vacating. I told him I was too old and that it was too late in my life to consider such a step. However, things change after being catapulted in a plane from the deck of an aircraft carrier. After two hours my views had changed. I thought about the criticisms Muriel and I had levelled at Governments during our time at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We found fault with financial management because there was no accrual accounting, decent budgeting and so on. When I arrived home for dinner that night I put the idea to Barbara and Richard. I am very grateful for their positive response. They said that it was reasonable given that I always want to help people and do things. That was the motivating factor.

My preselection was a colourful event. Hon Barbara Scott and Hon Derrick Tomlinson were there and I thank them for their support that night and the next night. We had two ballots because the scrutineers were not sure about the first result. It was a great thrill to have Derrick and Barbara join me in this place some years later.

When I arrived in this place I had seven staff at Hendry Rae and Court who were being paid more than I was as a parliamentarian. Hon Peter Foss suffered the same economic fate when he arrived here. It was even worse when the tax rules changed on 1 July 1986.

I was very conscious of the lack of government accountability at both the federal and state levels during my time as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I hasten to add that that has improved in recent times. My mission in life was to enshrine in government better financial management and budgeting. I cannot say that I have achieved a perfect system; I could have tried harder, but that would have taken me over the borders of other minister's portfolios. That is another story. I came into Parliament to do that, and I believe and hope I have done a good job.

The Racing and Gaming portfolio was great. I have heard that Hon Nick Griffiths asked Barry Sargeant to give him a list of all the places I have visited. When he is minister he wants to visit them too.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: It is a big list.

Hon MAX EVANS: Some other members will want to accompany him.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

All jokes aside, I have been to many race meetings and owned the back legs of a few horses. I visited those venues to become a better minister. I did not believe I could do the job properly unless I knew how it was done elsewhere. Travelling to Hong Kong, Stockholm, Paris and London proved very beneficial. On my first visit I met with those involved in totalisator agency boards and lotteries organisations. When Ray Bennett was appointed chief executive officer of the Totalisator Agency Board I told him that within his first six months in the job he must visit Hong Kong, Stockholm, Paris and London to find out what was happening. He knew enough about his own business, but I wanted him to find out about different ways of doing things. That has paid great dividends. We have had a nearly 75 per cent increase in turnover at the Totalisator Agency Board from 1992 to 2000, and we will experience another increase over the next year. In the same period, Victoria's turnover has increased by 14 per cent and New South Wales' turnover has increased by only 11 per cent. That would not have been possible if a minister had not visited those places first to open the doors for the chief executive officer.

My involvement with the Lotteries Commission has also been a great experience. We have even held a world lotteries conference in Perth. Many changes have been made in that area. Unfortunately, the Finance portfolio did not present many travel opportunities. In fact, that area is pretty dull and boring. I worked in that area as a chartered accountant for many years, but at that time I travelled to visit clients overseas.

When introducing me on one occasion in London, the Premier said that he made me the Minister for Racing and Gaming because I do not gamble, smoke or drink. That is pretty well true, too. It was good and worthwhile. I remember going to the Banque Nationale de Paris, the Commonwealth Bank and other banks in London. Deutsche Bank in Germany has also helped quite a bit since then, as has knowing the people. That was my aim.

What have I done? I have tallied all the things outside my portfolios. A minister is supposed to go the races and anyone can do that. However, one of the best initiatives was to stop the \$50 levy to be placed on every resident in Western Australia for the infill sewerage program, and Hon Peter Foss will remember that - he was the minister. A great story was put for putting a \$50 levy on every household in Western Australia - good, bad and indifferent. The Premier and others thought it was a great idea. Environmentalists said that it was a good idea and that it would cut out the septic tank problems. However, they did not ask the people who could not afford \$50. When I was the minister responsible for the Insurance Commission of Western Australia, there was a \$50 levy, and I used to sign dozens of letters every week to people who had written in and complained.

Luckily for me, I could read a balance sheet. That was referred to earlier, and I thank members for their comments. I knew the Water Corporation balance sheet very well because it had received a gold medal award in the preceding couple of years. The balance sheet covered everything; it was great. It indicated how much money it had. It was a very liquid organisation; it had money coming out of its ears. The developers put in \$100m. It had a double rate of depreciation, and I will tell members about that one day; the tax factor is quite interesting. It depreciated on a reducing balance and then depreciated it on a replacement cost, so it was a double whammy. The total was \$150m, when it should have been \$75m. I knew that the cash was available, and Peter and I changed all of that even though it was seen to be a very good idea. It has borrowed some money in the end, but it will have spent the \$800m. That was one of the good achievements. It happened and it was not a great impost on people.

Hon Peter Foss: It was all done out of cash reserves.

Hon MAX EVANS: That is right; it was.

Then we wanted to establish a government property register. Roger Williams, the Valuer General, was a very creative person. I asked Roger to bring the government property register when he came to see me. He said, "I don't know whether it exists." I said that for 10 years the Labor Government had criticised Liberal Governments for never having created a property register. John Horgan was there - he is now growing grapes down south - and he never created a property register. Both Treasury and the Government Property Office should have been kicked very hard for not creating one. Do members know why they did not do it? They were scared of failure. The biggest trouble with government departments these days is the fear of failure. If people say no, they will never make a mistake and will get promoted. If they say yes, they might make a mistake. Some members will have heard of Stormin' Norman from Desert Storm. He said that the biggest thing he learnt in his early years after the Vietnam War was that soldiers had to be taught to have a go; they might make mistakes, but they should not be punished if they did. We must do a lot more of this.

An amount of \$200 000 was put aside for the government property register by the previous Government in January 1992, but no-one was game to start it. Roger and I put it together in about 12 months, no trouble at all. They had only a small personal computer, etc. We had a bit of misinformation, which is typical of Governments sometimes. The President was the Minister for Lands then. We were told that the Government owned 60 000 blocks of land at that stage. God, was that wrong! It had 180 000. We had 136 000 certificates of title and all

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

that information was put on the register. It added up to about \$12b. At least we were solvent then, and we brought it into the balance sheet. During the past five years, all these places have been inspected, and a mass appraisal-valuation was undertaken initially.

Hon Murray Criddle inherited a bonanza. When the register was created for Westrail - it was in its annual report one year - it found it had \$91m worth of land that it did not even know it owned. We should not have told it about that. Westrail owned 22 000 blocks of land. The Education Department is in much the same situation. I do not think any other State in Australia has a government property register yet. I do not know how a business can be run without one. A Government must know what it has and what it will do with it. I was very grateful to Roger Williams and his team for doing that, and it became very valuable to us.

Very soon after we came to government, I was invited to a talk for senior chief executive officers at El Caballo in Wooroloo. They all had a common theme; they wanted to see me and speak to me. I met Kerry Sanderson and people from Agriculture Western Australia, the Department of Marine and Harbours, etc.

The common theme was their dealing with Treasury. Treasury wanted to control them and made life very difficult for them; things have not changed much!

I discovered from Agriculture Western Australia and the former Department of Marine and Harbours that they wanted something called net appropriations. I never knew what a net appropriation was. Hon Helen Hodgson, a tax expert, would not have known about that either. In Valuer General's language it meant that \$10m of expenditure with \$200 000 of product sold produced a net expenditure of \$9.8m. Before net appropriations were introduced, agencies would get \$10m, sell \$200 000 of product and Treasury got it all. It was no good making \$300 000 because Treasury would take it all. It never provided money from the budget to expand the ability of agencies to increase sales of a product, whatever it might be, but it took all the revenue. So, with net appropriations an amount was deducted from the agencies' budgets and they got the benefit from it and the incentive to make more money to get better equipment to serve the public a lot better. Net appropriations revenue for the Valuer General has now been lifted to \$1m. The former Department of Marine and Harbours - Hon Murray Criddle would know of this - had the problem of getting \$2m to dredge harbours two to three years down the line. Treasury would accept the money in the first year and there was never any money in the budget when the department wanted to dredge two to three years later. Agriculture Western Australia was afforded grants for research and so on that went to Treasury.

A few months after I became Minister for Finance, I told Hon Ian Taylor, a former Minister for Finance, that I had introduced net appropriations. He said that it was probably one of the best things we had done in government. Obviously, prior to that, Ian had been told that it could not be done. As he is not a bully like I am, he did not know how to belt Treasury over the head and make it do things. I had confidence in what I was doing. I had a lot of trouble with Neville Smith in Treasury as he did not want me to do it. The first legislation in 1993 was wrong and it came back in 1994 in the right form. Now Treasury thinks net appropriations are so marvellous that every agency must comply. However, the initial fight I had for them was amazing; and it was not the only fight I had.

Another interesting thing occurred in this House. One day in 1991 Hon Joe Berinson and I discussed the limitations of professional liability. I motivated chartered accountants to write to Joe about the issue, which had been around for some time. Joe, in his wisdom, looked at the problem and set up a select committee, comprising Hon Peter Foss, Hon Fred McKenzie, Hon Jim Brown and me as chairman, to look at the issue of the limitation of professional liability. Insurance premiums for chartered accountants, lawyers and engineers had gone through the roof because they were being sued because they had insurance cover for large amounts. It was better for them to practise asset-bare so that they would be protected. It was a very interesting committee, which did not conclude before the 1993 election. After the election, Hon Mark Nevill and Hon Nick Griffiths joined the committee and made a great contribution. Hon Peter Foss re-wrote the legislation that we started off with, which was legislation designed by Hon John Dowd of New South Wales. The NSW Government asked us to hold back our legislation before it was passed on the last day of the previous NSW Liberal Government. A national standards council is now working on the problem right around Australia. I record my particular thanks to Hon Peter Foss for his work on the legislation. His professional knowledge and experience was great, and this is reflected in so much other legislation he has written in the past two to three years. I believe Hon Nick Griffiths, being a lawyer, would also agree with me. Working on that legislation was an interesting experience. It will be a long time before it gets improvements made from it. It was something that we all had to do together. I have contacted the Attorneys General in Queensland and Northern Territory but I am uncertain about if and when they will do anything.

When I came into the House, Hon Norm Kelly was talking about my and Hon Helen Hodgson's interest in tax. It was a very sad day on 1 July 1986. Members wore black armbands on that day because a tax on our electoral

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

allowances under substantiation laws was introduced. Hon Norman Moore cried for days! He and Ian Lawrence were the best paid members of Parliament. They got about \$28 000 tax-free electoral allowance, being representatives of the north of the State. They lived in Perth, it was not taxed, and they did not have to substantiate its use. They then had to substantiate the expenditure. It was a sad day for a lot of members. Unfortunately, I knew too much. Members of Parliament had to substantiate the use of their cars. The Government kindly gave us \$1 500 a year for a replacement car. It decided to double that to \$3 000 which, after tax, left \$1 500. There is no way that \$1 500 a year would ever replace a car. However, there was no way that members could claim running costs, such as petrol and repairs, because at that stage under substantiation laws our home was not a place of business but was regarded as private. Hon Mick Gayfer used to drive 200 miles to his office in Parliament House but that was to be regarded as private running. Every time he drove to his electorate it was regarded as private running. We had gone backwards. Therefore, I spent some six to nine months dealing with the Australian Taxation Office in Canberra and got it to make a major change so that our home was regarded as our place of business.

Another problem was that country members had to substantiate the money they got for living away from home against their per diem rate. Some lived at the Country Women's Association, the YMCA, or at their son's, daughter's, uncle's, aunty's, boyfriend's or girlfriend's homes - I do not know, I did not worry. How did a member substantiate his costs against what he was paid? The tax department did not know. I got the tax department to accept the per diem allowance as tax free - which was like the old electoral allowance - so that members could offset the per diem rate with an equivalent amount of expenditure. Therefore, the amount received was not subject to income tax. It was a difficult time. Once I sorted out the problems concerning the home as the place of business matter and the per diem allowance, it was of great benefit to country members.

The next big problem that members probably would not all realise - some of the older ones on this side of the House might remember - was that many members were driving rust buckets. Members were given \$1 500 a year with which to replace their vehicle, but with their cars going up in value by \$4 000 or \$5 000 a year they could not afford to buy a new car. Members' salaries were not that good. At that time, 11.5 per cent of the salary went to superannuation. There was a tax deduction before 30 June. If the employer made a contribution to superannuation it was not tax deductible. Prior to 1986 Hon Norman Moore paid all his superannuation - and he got a tax deduction for it. That does not happen now. He was crying every night when he went to bed.

Hon N.F. Moore: I live like a church mouse.

Hon MAX EVANS: I put the idea to Peter Dowding that all members should be given a government car. The cars were free of sales tax and I proved that the Government would make a profit on them. Governments were all making a profit on cars in those days. Peter Dowding and I had a bit of a tiff - he did not like the proposal the first time and tore it up. What happened was that ministers - who are always like this - became annoyed when the backbenchers, to boost their remuneration, were to be given cars to close the gap between theirs and ministers' salaries. The ministers could not accept that and also wanted another car. A second deal was done - our Liberal leader would not let us have a second car but most of the others in the previous Government had a second car. That was provided in the terms of employment. From that date, all members had a car or could access a \$5 850 allowance plus a petrol allowance - that was the way it worked out. Things have since changed because of fringe benefit tax, sales tax and other things that have come in. Members were allowed \$5 850 for a car; however, the current benchmark price of a basic car is around \$17 380. Members should not be silly enough to own their own cars. That is why I went back to a government car.

A guy called Rod Kemp, who is in Canberra, does not understand tax. He allowed the Australian Tax Office to reverse the whole system about a home being a place of business. However, it does not affect Western Australia and Victoria, where every member has a government car. Other States have not caught up. Members of Parliament in other States will have real problems when they do their tax returns this year and have to substantiate their business mileage allowance. I wrote and warned them, and tried to get the tax department not to change it. It will be a serious problem.

Hon Peter Foss: They always do that Max.

Hon MAX EVANS: Yes, the tax department always has.

I have already talked about Merv Hill, the former CEO of the TAB, who left Western Australia and went to the South Australian Jockey Club. Did any members watch *Business Sunday* last week about directors with self-interest? The Totalisator Agency Board had the Trotting Club and the Turf Club directors with self-interest. These directors are breeders and owners who are running a business in which they are trying to help their own as much as they can. There is nothing wrong with that - they are helping an industry. However, every time the TAB got a million dollars in the bank, it had to pay it out to the codes so that they could spend it to increase stake money. This had gone on for years and there were no reserves. I had to change the board after I got the

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

right CEO in Ray Bennett, who has been marvellous, as Hon Norman Moore would have discovered. That new board has changed the face of racing industry revenue in Western Australia. This State does not have the benefit of slot machines to assist racing, which Victoria enjoys.

The Government sold off the State Government Insurance Office, which was also interesting. It was a very good decision by Geoff Gallop to appoint Ron Cohen to flog off - I mean, float - the SGIO. Thank God we had long delays in that 12 months it took to get to the workers compensation legislation, which made things a lot better. Instead of getting \$65m for a \$100m asset, the Government got \$135m for a \$100m asset. Ron was the luckiest employee in this world. He was in a business with huge revenue and he was the only employee. He pinched all he could from the insurance commission and then went out and set up a very good business.

There was Paul Aslan from the CSA and another two unionists who met the Premier and me. They thought no-one should leave the Insurance Commission to work for the SGIO. The Premier has said this publicly a few times since then. I said that those fellows must be mad; they would be much better off working for a hard-nosed person like Ron Cohen than working for the Government. It turned out to be true; they have done very well. They took over the SGIO in South Australia. I had known Ron all my life; we were in athletics and we trained together. He is a very good business man. It was a good decision to get him to float the State Government Insurance Office. A new board was set up; we put on Peter Eastwood, Graeme Reynolds, Frank Merry and Frank Daly, all from different parts of the community. I did not know Michael Wright, who was on the board, so I asked Peter Foster about Michael Wright who was a former partner of the member. I knew he had been very sick at that time; Peter gave him a great build-up and he was a hundred times better than the member said he was. He has been fabulous. There were all these court cases and he was chasing all this other money.

I have mentioned the WA Inc exposure. One has to be lucky in opposition to have some fun. We deal with Bills, I know that, but I had fun with WA Inc. I thank Brian Burke and all the people who created WA Inc. It was a great experience. I have boxes of stuff in my office to give to Martin Saxon for when he eventually writes his book. He is coming in next week to pick it up from me. One had to read the eastern States papers to find out what was happening with WA Inc; all the information was published over there. Because Burke was a journalist, the journalists' union would not publish anything here, but if one read the *Sydney Morning Herald* or *The Age* one learnt all about it. A lot of the stories came from my office. Ms Hewett and Brad Collis came across to write their stories. It was quite amazing. The Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust had put the compulsory third party fund together. The SGIO had cash-based accounting and did not have a clue; it did not have a balance sheet and did not know what its assets or liabilities were. It was pay-as-you-go at SGIO.

I must get this in the record too. The compulsory third party Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust had \$38m interest earned but not put in the accounts. How would members like that as an asset? An amount of \$38m was interest earned and it was not brought into the accounts; it did not want a big profit. Years ago the Perth Mint would buy all the gold it could at the end of the year - gold was about \$500 an ounce in those days - and at the end of the year the Auditor General would let the Mint value it at \$50 an ounce. So the Perth Mint purchased enough gold to create a loss and on 1 July it was sold again and the Treasury did not take half the profits. It was great. No-one realised what was happening. That is why they did it. It was creative accounting. When they brought the two insurance companies together they had \$790m-worth of investments and by 25 April 1988, Anzac Day, next year when Kevin Edwards agreed to a deal, Robert Holmes à Court had received \$791m - \$1m more than they had the previous June. Now Janet Holmes à Court is one of the wealthiest women in Australia and we are broke. Daryll Jarvis, an old friend of mine with whom I worked for some years, rang up and said, "Max, that Max Trenorden is saying some terrible things about Janet." I said, "Daryll, it's true." He hung up after that.

Over the years, and particularly in 1989, a number of speeches have been made about WA Inc; they are recorded in *Hansard*. They included speeches on account reporting and financial accountability, with comments about the Rothwells scenario - 11 April 1989; and the Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill, Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd, Rothwells Bank, SGIC, Teachers Credit Society etc - 12 April 1989. In those days we only got unlimited time on a Treasurer's advance Bill or another Bill. I spoke for two and a half hours on that one - I might do that today. Another debate took place on the Western Australia Petrochemical Industries Authority Bill and a report by the Burt Commission on Accountability - 13 April 1989; the Acts Amendment (Accountability) Bill, the need for government financial accountability - 19 April 1989; the State Government Insurance Commission, on major investment decisions, which tells all that they did, and the gambles they took were worse than going to the races - 27 June 1990; a comment on the business dealings of the State Government with emphasis on the SGIC - 28 September 1989; the WA Inc Royal Commission - the royal commission we had to have - 1 May 1991; WA Inc, was it for profit or power? - 10 May 1990.

I must tell members a joke about the Clerk. I made a request to Hon Joe Berinson for information to be tabled. I wanted the details of all the deals between the SGIC, Warren Anderson and Alan Bond. The initial request ran to about two pages. Laurie Marquet came to see me and told me that I had asked for too much. The next day I

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

put the request in again and it was half the size. The wonderful thing was that the first request went to the State Government Insurance Commission and I got all the information I wanted. Laurie never found out! I do not know why he said that; maybe he did not want me to have it. It shows that the system did not work well, because he sent down the wrong request. The files became very important for the royal commission. That is how it found out about the option that had been given to Warren Anderson on the Westralia Square site.

Another good thing I did in recent times involved Homeswest's financial management. Homeswest had 40 000 houses and several hundred blocks of flats, but it had no idea of the value of the properties, the rents that should be charged or the cost of repairs, rates and taxes. Information on the 40 000 properties was stored on computer, but it could be extracted on only one property at a time. I got Homeswest to change its systems and it can now print out on a region-by-region basis information about rents, the ratio of maintenance costs to rent and so on. It is operating much more like a business. All regional managers must now submit a "Max Evans report". They also have exception reports, which relate to homes that need repairs worth more than 80 per cent of the rental income. I told Homeswest that it would go broke allowing that to continue. Another exception report lists all the properties valued by the Valuer General at more than \$200 000. Homeswest uses it to decide whether the properties should be sold and the revenue used to buy cheaper properties.

Hon Peter Foss will remember trying to get a \$25m budget for a lyric theatre. He did not get very far. Everyone in the community told him that a big 2 000-seat theatre was needed. Several years later I approached the Burswood Resort Casino, which had a fabulous auditorium. After I convinced it, the resort operators spent \$5m replacing all the seats with theatre seats, extending the balcony and installing lighting and pulleys. We got a lyric theatre for nothing, whereas before there were further costs for parking, land and other items and it would have been in competition with Burswood. It is a far better lyric theatre than Star City in Sydney, which has a few hundred seats from which people cannot even see the full stage. People in the audience cannot look over anyone's shoulder as the seats are too wide; they must take a cushion to sit on to see what is going on.

I have a few reflections on why I want better financial management. I have already talked about net appropriation, property registers and other things. I remember working with Hon Muriel Patterson on the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations. Hon Eric Charlton and I taught her all the tricks of the trade. She has carried on from there.

Hon Muriel Patterson: I remember you doing all the talking.

Hon MAX EVANS: I remember asking Treasury for four-year budgets. I was told that we could not have four-year budgets because the Federal Government would know what we were doing. I said that I did not care about that - I wanted to know what I was doing! Treasury just would not do it - maybe it did not know how to! It was scared that the chief executive officers might be able to run their businesses properly - maybe that is the reason it did not want them. Ministers in this Chamber know it is important to get some certainty so that the agencies know what they will be doing four years down the line. I wanted to give them certainty so that they could plan without changes being made every year by Treasury. A good job has been done on four-year budgets, but Treasury had to be dragged screaming to do it.

I also wanted to work on accrual accounting after coming into government. I did not know anything about government property or net appropriation before I occupied the Treasury bench. We had to bring in the assets and Neville Smith told me that accrual accounting was not possible as there was no fixed assets register - he had done nothing about it. That did not bother me, and I said we could do it without the register. Long service leave, sick leave and annual leave are now included in the accrual accounting. Debtors and creditors are also included. It is an attempt to make the accounting more meaningful. It does not really make the accounting any better; accounting is only good if people analyse expenses each month to see what they are doing. I may be giving away secrets here: Most people list expenses in alphabetical order; that is, A,B,C expenses and so on. Agencies' accounts were not grouping accommodation, communications, travel, etc. Our accounting firm never set out accounts in alphabetical order. The accounting fees are always at the top, and clients read that first. The biggest expense is now always at the top, which is wages!

I had to get my agencies to break the accounts up into sub-departments. We then started analysing the accounts. Every month agencies were still putting out "balance left to spend". This was still happening last year. The computer worked it out for them. Chief executive officers said, "My God, we have that much to spend! Let's go!" Most of them had not even broken down their wages between higher duties allowance and other components. In my day, we performed the higher duties for no extra pay to gain more experience. The components were higher duties allowance, sick leave, annual leave - 48 from 52 weeks and other ratios - and agencies did not have them broken down.

The agencies worked out actuarially how much long service leave they should have. Instead of bringing in the amount paid out each month, they brought in the actuarial figure for each month and the pay debited to

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

provision, so we could not measure how they were going. We found that the provision for long service leave and annual leave was getting bigger and bigger, which is correct! The Government told agencies to reduce that figure by 10 per cent. There is nothing as simple as that, so I spent some time on the figures. We needed a ratio benchmark of long service leave and annual leave as a percentage of total wages. Strangely enough, the two biggest budgets of Health and Education had the best ratios because their staff take their leave every year. In some of the other agencies in which the chief executive officers had not taken their leave for years, the ratio was up to 60 or 70 per cent of wages. We now have mechanisms in position to identify the problems.

Another aspect was to carry forward expenditure. I had clients who used to build cyclone fences at the end of the year. The Government would spend a fortune issuing them cheques on 30 June to build the fences two or three months later. If people did not spend the money by the next 30 June, the Treasury would take it away from them - even this Government used to do that before I changed the policy. We changed the system so that agencies could carry forward under-expenditure to the next year. It is the simplest thing in the world. With accrual accounting in business, one did not worry about that sort of thing because it increased the profit on which one paid the tax, etc. The Government had worked on a cash accounting basis, and then the carry forward of under-expenditure was agreed to.

Treasury had said that on 19 March, agencies must advise what their bank balance would be at the end of the year and how much they would carry forward. Roger Williams told me that it was absolutely ridiculous. I asked John Langoulant if he could tell me precisely what he and his wife would have in their bank account on 30 June. He said he could not and asked me why. I told him that someone in his office said that all the CEOs must tell Treasury on 19 March exactly how much cash they would have at the end of the year, because they were still working on a cash accounting basis.

Those are the sorts of traumas I had to go through. It was a very hard life for me when I was handling these matters. However we sorted it out. The next year Treasury said that agencies could carry forward only 3 per cent of their budget. Three per cent of the Education or Health budget is huge. The Valuer General's Office budget is not very much but probably far more meaningful when one thinks what the agency might want to do with it. We removed the 3 per cent idea as well and came back to commonsense.

Those who know anything about accounting would have loved the government accounting system because one could not do any journal or stock entries; it was merely a cash accounting system. How much agencies had spent and how much money was left to spend was summarised. Andrew Weeks said that in New Zealand one branch of Wespac managed all the Government's accounts and every agency had subsidiary accounts. Every night they would sweep it off and know exactly what was in the bank. They did this 20 years ago when the government accounting system was set up. The Government wanted to get all the interest and not lose it because of money left in other accounts. Thank God for Rob Hurrell, who was the State Manager of the Reserve Bank. He made Treasury move on this one because his bank had the technology and was the only bank that could do it at that stage. It did it very well for three years before the tender went to the Commonwealth Bank. He then transferred his staff to the Commonwealth Bank, and the system has worked very well. The other States are following with something similar. It is commonsense and ensures that government does not lose the interest earned and maintains some control. I was very grateful to Andrew Weeks for giving me the idea in 1993, but it took three or four years to get it through. Rob Hurrell's involvement was the key. While I was dealing with this matter, I heard on the grapevine that government was calling for expressions of interest on a new accounting software system at a cost of \$4m or \$5m - this was for the accounting system I was trying to get rid of!

The problem with getting money out of Treasury was that agencies such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association had to write each month for another \$1 000 or \$2 000. If money was left over at the end of the year, it was to be paid as levies to Westminster. I said, "For God's sake; give them one cheque a year and just trust them." The Clerk is nodding as he knows what I am talking about. The attitude had to change. I hope that if I have done anything, I have caused a lot of that attitude change.

Presenting the budget to Parliament arose as an issue in 1993 for 1994. We had problems after the budget meeting - Hon Peter Foss was present - and I told Treasury that the budget would be presented to Parliament before 30 June 1994. Ron Hazell said that it could not be done. "You cannot do 12 months' budget in nine months." I said, "Do it in eight months and you'll have a month to spare." I had never heard of a budget taking 12 months to prepare. If one takes 12 months, the budget is out of date before it is finished and one must start again. The budget was in by 8 or 9 June that year. I said two years later that we must get the budget passed before the end of June. That was sacrilege. The Premier would not go along with it. John Langoulant convinced the Premier that I was wrong. He did not know how to cope with it. If the budget is passed before 30 June, one knows what capital expenditure will be and the new capital expenditure can start on 1 July. We used to pass the budget on 24 December on occasions, and under the Westminster system no new capital expenditure could be entered into until the budget was passed. It backfired in the first year because of earlier expenditure. I

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

spoke to John Langoulant for a long time, and eventually we convinced the Premier it was a good idea. It worked out well and is now accepted as normal practice; it is expected that the budget will be passed before the end of June. It dragged on until the end of the year in the old days.

I talked about the financial reporting of agencies. A disappointment is not converting them to adopt 13, four-week accounting periods. I said that we should pay all government employees on a monthly basis, as most of the real world does. Blue-collar workers could remain on a two-week pay period. Treasury said it was too hard and did not know how to cope with the notion. If people are to be paid fortnightly, why not have 13 four-week periods? It was too hard. They had not thought of that, as they were all economists. Every four-week period is the same today and 10 years down the line with the same number of days involved, and wages need not be adjusted. Otherwise, one has three two-week pay periods for two months of the year, which throws people out.

Hon Peter Foss: Or have 27 pays.

Hon MAX EVANS: That was the problem. If I had still been the responsible minister in January, I would have given written directions to my agencies to make them adopt this system, and told Treasury to go to hell. The officers could not work out how to cope with a quarter if one has four-week periods. They had reported, since the Niemeyer statements and the beginning of time, on a quarterly basis. What is a quarter? It is three moons, which has nothing to do with the real world. I will work on it. The Auditor General, Westrail and most mining companies operate on that basis. I wrote to the Premier and indicated that his old man had four-week accounting periods in the financial management system in Brown and Burns Bakery in 1948, which was better than that in most government agencies today. It is a matter of getting people to change.

State Revenue has achieved a lot of changes. Chrissy Sharp spoke about legislation. There were many anomalies in the stamp duty and payroll tax legislation, and I wanted to put them right. Mr Fellowes, who was at the State Revenue Department before me, did not write one letter to the minister in 10 years telling him to rectify the anomalies in the system - not one. State Revenue was hated more than the Australian Taxation Office at the time I joined because it was so difficult to deal with. I will give members an example. A group of doctors would get together and share their overheads. The Commissioner of State Taxation grouped them together and charged payroll tax at the maximum rate and penalised them retrospectively for up to five years. That amounted to a lot of money. It took me a long time to convince the commissioner that a medical group was not a group of doctors avoiding payroll tax.

Another area involved discretionary trusts. When he was in Opposition, Bill Hassell endeavoured to have passed an amendment on discretionary trusts in the Assembly. A beneficiary of a brother's or father's discretionary trust has no financial relationship; however, if the person dies, the department wants the money to go to the family. The commissioner considered that a beneficiary of a discretionary trust should have his business grouped for payroll tax purposes with the discretionary trust. One family was hit with a \$124 000 payroll tax bill, including penalties, because it was supposed to be grouped with the others, yet there was no financial interest in it whatsoever. We had to change that legislation. I know of a similar case right now which I cannot do much about.

I turn now to intergenerational farm transfers. Hon Peter Foss will have found that this happens. Members have all seen what happens with country people - dad gets to 60, 70 or 80 and marries the local barmaid, and the kids ask when will they get the farm. The father tells them that he is sorry but they might not get it. We brought in intergenerational farm transfers. The family would get it free of stamp duty when the old man died. That stamp duty on the family transfer could be \$20 000, \$30 000 or \$40 000. That is one of the good things. State Revenue created problems by bringing in discretionary trusts, but that is another story.

We amended the land tax scales. We have scaled back the land tax every year for the past five years. Self-funded retirees were to benefit on properties valued from \$200 000 to \$700 000. They would pay less tax if the value of the land had not increased. There have been few objections over the five years. We introduced a land tax exemption for hobby breeders and hobby owners in the racing industry. Commercially, they could not get a tax deduction from the Australian Taxation Office, but we gave them the land tax exemption.

The State Revenue Department needed funds to develop the state revenue collection information system. Mr Fellowes did not have any clues about it. When one complains to the Commissioner of the State Revenue Department, one writes an objection, and he knocks it back. An appeal can then be made to the minister. I asked Mr Fellowes what happens next and he told me that I should take his advice. I told him that his advice was wrong and that I would get legal advice against him. He saw Mr Digby Blight the next week and quit. That is a true story. I asked how much the state revenue collection information system would cost. I was told \$10m but it actually cost \$14, which worried me.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Mr Fellowes left and I spoke to Alistair Bryant. I told him to bring in Martin Thomas of Deyken Industries for help. My advice was to keep a database for the payroll stamp duty and land tax simple. That is the way he designed it. It has been so successful that the licence has been sold to New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. State Revenue officials have visited Washington, Japan and Switzerland to give briefings on the system. It is the type of system that can be designed for larger populations. I was pleased to be able to do that. I have had a lot of fun.

The Insurance Commission is suing the banks for the losses that were incurred. Originally it was suing for the rorts that occurred. I will put members in the picture. The banks were owed about \$270m by the Bell Group. They found out when the group went broke that they had no security. They took the security and after six months sold all the assets. The lawyers have found all the letters containing different legal advice telling them it could be a fraud. That is why it has is no longer a case of suing for \$270m; it is now a fraud case. The current directors of those banks are now becoming aware of what it was all about. That is why the liquidator is suing the banks for \$1b on behalf of the ATO, Belgian dentists and the Insurance Commission.

I entered Parliament to make many changes to the government on financial matters; these are some of the extra things I was able to do which made my job a lot of fun. I have helped many ministers and I have enjoyed that.

Although I have enjoyed my time here I am looking forward to a break. I thank everybody here for his or her friendship, particularly the class of 1989. I keep asking Cheryl how many more days we have to go.

Hon Cheryl Davenport: There are 178.

Hon MAX EVANS: Hon Cheryl Davenport has the dates worked out.

Life in Parliament has been fun and we have done some great things. I always thought that if knighthoods came back Eric Charlton should be the first to be knighted because of his stand on the Western Australian Petrochemical Industries Authority Bill. I can recall the occasion on which I had been stirring up the debate on the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Bill, because the Labor Government was assuming it could give a government guarantee to the PICL financier. The PICL authority Bill had to come before this House to allow the Government to guarantee the money. In its wisdom, the other House had passed that Bill; no-one had fought against it. The National Party was told that the petrochemical industry project would be good for the State, so it should agree to it, but the Liberal Opposition was dead against it and argued accordingly. Sandy Lewis sat behind the Labor Party and the National Party members were just to the left of Sandy on the other side. The bells rang and while Sandy was slowly wandering across he said, "You guys should be over there; you are voting for it." They duly went across the Chamber. Then in rushed Eric, who was frantic about the possibility of losing hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars on the PICL project. He convinced his members to vote with the Liberals. Joe Berinson crossed the floor and sat next to Eric to demand the reason for the change of mind. The bells stopped and we instantly said, "Claim him" because he was on our side of the House. So we claimed him. The then President was pretty weak and let him go. I have always said to Eric that he should receive a knighthood for saving the State hundreds of millions of dollars.

I have enjoyed my time in Parliament very much and I have been happy to help members with queries on tax or racing issues. I have done exactly what I wanted to do in Parliament, which was largely to sort out the State's finances. However, there is much more to be done; I could have done a much better job. We will see what happens next year.

[Applause.]

THE PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): On behalf of the parliamentary staff I thank all those members who have made very generous comments about the people who work in Parliament House. It is pleasing that the hard work they do is acknowledged by members. The staff are here to serve members and I am sure members will all agree that they do a tremendous job in their daily work.

I also acknowledge the work of the Chairman of Committees, Hon John Cowdell. He has been very supportive of me, particularly over the past year. He has a professional manner and demands certain standards in the Chamber, which I strongly support. Working at lifting the standards of this House can only add to the dignity of the place. I thank the Deputy Chairmen, Hon Bill Stretch, Hon Derrick Tomlinson, Hon Murray Montgomery and Hon Nick Griffiths, for always being available to take over the Chair when required. They are long-serving members of the House who have considerable experience and who have always been very willing to accept their responsibilities.

I express my appreciation to members for their support of me as President during the past year. As I have said on a number of occasions, in the end they set the standards in this House. They are able to either lift or reduce

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

those standards. In the past four years we have maintained, if not improved, the dignity of this Legislative Chamber.

There was much speculation four years ago about how the House would develop, given its changed composition after the last election. I am pleased to say that the House has matured in its consideration of legislation. It has very much relied on the support of the leaders of the House. In particular I thank the Leader of the House, the Minister for Transport and leader of the National Party in the Legislative Council, the Attorney General, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the Australian Democrats and the leader of the Greens (WA) for their support. Without their support as leaders of their respective groupings, this place would not be the place that it is. I was interested to hear Hon Cheryl Davenport's comments, in respect of the debate on the social reform issue she introduced, as to which House she would prefer to be a member of.

As for the parliamentary staff generally, on behalf of all members I thank our senior officers in the Parliament - Laurie Marquet, Ian Allnutt and Malcolm Peacock - for the tremendous job they continue to do and the assistance they will always offer us as parliamentary members. I said earlier that we have a very high standard in this place, and that standard is supported by the very professional way in which our senior officers handle their respective jobs. I also thank Janeen Robertson and Val Di Giusto from the Clerk's Office; Lorraine Coogan, my personal assistant; and Stephen Sceats from my office for their great contribution in making the President's Office function efficiently and effectively.

I also recognise Chris Hunt, Jason Skinner, Peter Gale and Brian Conn for the work they do in this House. Members will know that Peter Gale and Brian Conn are new additions to the Legislative Council; as has already been said, they are officers from other areas within the Parliament who wanted to make a change in their career and asked to serve in the Legislative Council. I wish them well in their secondment to this Chamber.

I certainly have not forgotten our good friend Donna Artingstall. Donna came to us seven years ago as Donna Brady. She was a young, vibrant lady, and during that seven years she has always had a cheery smile and a pleasant word for members as we meet and talk to her in the corridors, and certainly as we go about our work within the House. Donna leaves us today, after more than seven years' service in the Legislative Council, as an expectant mum who will deliver her first child in February next year. Donna, on behalf of all the members of the Legislative Council, we wish you all the best with the birth of your first child. I know you will be a very experienced mother and will be well able to bring up your child, because you have had seven years' experience of dealing with 34 members who often acted as children, so you are well skilled in that area.

I express the support and appreciation of all members for the work that is done by Mia Betjeman, Nigel Pratt and the other staff at the Legislative Council Committee Office. The committee office comprises very committed parliamentary staff. I think members will agree that the quality of our reports has improved significantly over time, and all members can be proud of the committee reports that are now on the Internet and available to the world.

I also express my appreciation to Russell Bremner, Executive Manager, Parliamentary Services and leader of the parliamentary services team, for the work that he has done. Russell has demonstrated great leadership and support for all members of the Parliamentary Services Department. Russell is now well respected by his staff because it is obvious that he adopts a particular style that indicates that he listens to all sides of an issue before making a decision, but once he has made his decision, it is decisive and he insists that it be carried through.

As other members have mentioned today, we are blessed in Parliament House with many dedicated and friendly staff. On behalf of members, I want to record in *Hansard* that we acknowledge the great work that Chris Hall and the Hansard team carry out as part of their parliamentary duties. All members have said from time to time that they admire the great work of Hansard. I need to relate only to the past 24 hours in this place, where yesterday the House sat for about 17 hours. The House got up at about 3.30 this morning. However, Hansard staff did not finish at 3.30; they had to finish their work. Many of them would have been here at 4.30 this morning, but they were back on deck at 11 o'clock this morning for the resumption of the House, and continue to refine the comments of members so they are understandable - in English terms.

We recognise the tremendous job Enno Schijf and the catering staff have done in recent years. As I look around the Chamber, the condition of some members is a clear indication of the great food served in the dining room.

We say thank you to Judy Ballantyne and the library team for their support and the research they do on behalf of members, and to Jane Gray and the team in the parliamentary education office. It is always a pleasure to see young students in the Parliament learning more about the parliamentary process in Western Australia. I hope the Parliamentary Services Committee considers providing some additional support in that area so that we can expand our activities and get the parliamentary message further out into the wider community.

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

Vince Pacecca and Peter Pascoe lead our building services department. I express our support for the tremendous work Vince and Peter have done in recent times. Significant building works have been carried out in Parliament House over recent years. Given that they have only the mid-year and end-of-year break in which to do heavy construction work around the Parliament, those two members of the staff do a fantastic job in having the Parliament back in working condition after tearing it to pieces for repairs and renovations.

I say thank you to Ken Craig and the security staff for their work. I say that because a number of security incidents occur around Parliament House from time to time about which members may not be aware. We parliamentarians would not be so secure without our dedicated security officers. I am pleased at the professional way in which Ken has lifted the standards of the security staff and encouraged better understanding and recognition of the perils that exist.

David Gilchrist leads the finance team in Parliament House and has done a great job over the 18 months he has been here. David is leaving the Parliament today to become a partner in an accounting firm in South Perth. None of us can object to someone wanting to do better things for himself and improve his career prospects. David has done a great job while a member of our finance department and I wish him well in the future.

I always want to stay onside with Cathy, Marilyn and the team on the switchboard because they often know more about the members and their activities than some members know themselves.

Charlie Di Giacomo has been the head gardener at Parliament House for a number of years. I think members will agree that when we bring guests to Parliament House, we are not always proud of the state of the building - that is obviously a reflection on the lack of funding that has been provided for maintenance for many years - but we can always be proud of the gardens. I thank Charlie and the team for the great job they do.

Teena Beale has been mentioned. She works for the office of the Leader of the House. I join with other members in thanking her for her great work in the Parliament, for not only ministers but also other members and me as President. Teena has served under four Leaders of the House, or four Leaders of the Government. She served under Hon Des Dans, Hon Joe Berinson, me when I was Leader of the Government and now Hon Norman Moore. There could not be a more dedicated and pleasant lady, who serves all members of the House irrespective of political parties. I am sure that Teena does not believe there are political parties, and all members of Parliament are the same.

One person who retired during the year who served the Parliament for many years, but did not want an official farewell at the time he retired, was Neil Burrell. Neil was the Editor of Parliamentary Debates when he left, and had been the Chief Hansard Reporter for a considerable number of years. Neil served the Western Australian Parliament for 34 years in the Hansard department, rising to the position of Editor of Parliamentary Debates. He led his team in a professional way over a long period. I take this opportunity to put on record the appreciation of all members of Parliament for the great work that Neil Burrell did for the Parliament of Western Australia. I know from advice that has been tendered to me that Neil is enjoying his retirement. However, after Neil's 34 years in Parliament, I would be remiss if I did not record in *Hansard* my appreciation for his work over that long period.

Five members of Parliament are retiring voluntarily. Hon Max Evans is a friend and colleague who joined the Parliament in 1986, when I was a member of the Legislative Assembly. However, that did not absolve me from Max's influence in the place. Hon Max Evans has made a tremendous contribution to the Parliament and the State of Western Australia, in not only in matters financial but very many areas. The comments you made earlier, Max, about the budget not having to be passed by 30 June is just one of a huge number of measures you implemented to make the finances of Western Australia not only more accountable but also more realistic in financial terms. You are right, that it would seem highly irregular for any company not to have its budget passed by 30 June, yet for 100 years that was the situation in the Parliament of Western Australia. I say to you, Max, as a friend, that your achievements are now part of the fabric of Western Australia and both you and your family are entitled to be proud of your contribution.

Hon Cheryl Davenport is a good friend of all members of the Legislative Council and all members of Parliament. You have clearly been a diligent member of Parliament, Cheryl. You set your goals before you came here. The good news is that you are able to stand up on the day you retire from Parliament and say that you achieved many, if not most, of the goals that you set. I take my hat off to you for the way in which you have carried out your parliamentary duties in your constituency and here in the Chamber. I wish you well in your retirement. The only thing I ask is that perhaps when you are in Italy you let us know where you are, because it is not always easy to get a bed in Italy, and we might be able to come and rent some accommodation for a short time from you.

Hon Bob Thomas has been the Whip for the Labor Party for a long period now. That has meant that Bob and I have worked together fairly closely - probably a lot closer than most members would know. Bob has adjourned

Hon Norman Moore; Hon Nick Griffiths; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Dr Chrissy Sharp; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Bob Thomas; Hon Cheryl Davenport; Hon Muriel Patterson; Hon Max Evans

more debates in this Parliament than any other person sitting in this Chamber. As a Whip Bob has sat through more debates than any other member in this House, perhaps with the exception of Hon Muriel Patterson, who is also required as the Government Whip to sit through debates. It is not an easy task to be the Whip. The Whips are required to listen - even though they appear to be resting their eyes at times - to what is being said, because when an opposition or government member does not jump at the required time the opportunity is there for the Chair to put the question. On a number of occasions Hon Bob Thomas has had to rise to advise the Chair in the first instance that he was not the lead speaker on a matter, but would address the Chair until such time as the member in charge of the Bill entered the Chamber.

I will digress a little to say that when I was an opposition member in the Legislative Assembly, Bob, if an opposition member did not jump at the right time, the question was put. That created some angst and anger in the Parliament. I think it is fair to say that Bob, Muriel and I have developed a good association, so that a question would not be put if a member was not here. I might have grumbled a bit, but I never tried to trick anyone into a question. Bob, I appreciate the way you have handled your job and supported me in the position of President. I wish you well in your retirement, and I hope your golf handicap comes down.

Hon Murray Montgomery is unable to be with us today because of parliamentary commitments. I join with others in wishing Murray all the best. Murray and I went to school together a long time ago. After leaving school, we did not catch up with each other again until we became members of Parliament. In Murray's retirement, I intend to visit his vineyard in the south west and remind him of the good times we had together at school, obviously in the hope that he will take the top off a few Montgomery's Hill bottles of wine.

To Hon Muriel Patterson, who is the Government Whip and a very close friend of mine, I say all the best. I trust, Muriel, that you will enjoy your retirement. It is about time you and Rol spent a bit more time together because he has been on the farm most times of the year and you have been here in Parliament. I listened to Muriel's advice when I was the Leader of the Opposition and when I was the Leader of the House, and I have certainly listened to her advice while I have been President. I appreciate the advice she has given me on a number of areas.

Members, we come to the end of this parliamentary session. Christmas is just around the corner, as we have been reminded. It is probably a little bit early to wish everyone a merry Christmas because, as members of Parliament, we have a huge amount of work to do between now and Christmas Day out in our constituencies. However, for those members and officers in the Parliament whom I do not see before Christmas Day, please have a happy and safe Christmas. I look forward to a hard-fought election in the new year and the resumption of Parliament some time during 2001.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.03 pm (Friday)
