

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 19 August 1980

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## STOCK: TRANSPORT

### *Method: Petition*

**MR SKIDMORE** (Swan) [4.33 p.m.]: I have a petition from 267 citizens of Western Australia. It is couched in the same language as a petition I have already presented to the House. I paraphrase it merely by saying that it deals with the question of the transport of animals to the market place. I certify that the petition contains 267 signatures, and that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Swan for the manner in which he presented the petition. I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 12.)

## STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION: BILLS

### *Motion*

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [4.34 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable Bills listed in the following schedule to be introduced, without notice where necessary, and to pass through their remaining stages in one sitting, to enable messages from the Legislative Council to be taken into consideration on the day they are received, and to enable the aforesaid business to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

### THE SCHEDULE

Constitution Amendment Bill.

Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Amendment Bill.

Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill (No. 2).

At the time when I gave notice of this motion, I was not certain whether we would need to have a similar arrangement in respect of a matter which has received some publicity in recent days, and particularly in the last 24 hours. I refer to the City of Perth Endowment Lands Amendment Bill. When I resume my seat, one of my

colleagues will move an amendment to incorporate this Bill.

If I might explain briefly, the purpose of the motion is self-evident. It means that these Bills can be dealt with ahead of the Address-in-Reply. The first three Bills in the schedule have been introduced into the House. Notice has been given in relation to the fourth Bill today. The fifth Bill I have just mentioned is one in relation to which, with the approval of the House, we would like to proceed with its introduction as soon as this motion has been dealt with.

Most members will appreciate the reason it may be necessary for some of these Bills to be passed before the Address-in-Reply has been dealt with formally. In relation to the Constitution Amendment Bill and the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 2) members will have had a chance to study the explanations given. Rather than having these Bills remaining indefinitely on the notice paper, it is preferable that they be dealt with before the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. There is no intention to rush them through. Certainly it is not intended that they be dealt with this week.

The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Amendment Bill is a measure which has a degree of urgency because it affects the accounting and the rates income of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board.

The Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill (No. 2) is one which calls for early discussion. The need for such amendment will be explained by the Minister for Cultural Affairs when he introduces the Bill.

The City of Perth Endowment Lands Amendment Bill is probably the most urgent of all. It is an attempt to resolve a problem between the Perth City Council and the Coast Ward Ratepayers' Association. I should advise the House, as will be confirmed by the Minister for Local Government when she introduces the Bill, that the association and the Perth City Council accept the legislation proposed. No doubt the Minister will read the letter from the ratepayers' association which confirms their unqualified support for the legislation.

If the measure dealing with the endowment lands is not passed this week, it could place the Perth City Council in serious difficulties financially, and in relation to the issue of proper rate notices. Now that the matter has been resolved between the Perth City Council and the Coast Ward Ratepayers' Association, the legislation should be dealt with speedily.

I commend the motion to the House.

*Amendment to Motion*

**MR O'CONNOR** (Mt. Lawley—Deputy Premier) [4.37 p.m.]: In accordance with the suggestion made by the Premier, I move an amendment—

That the schedule to the motion be amended by adding the City of Perth Endowment Lands Amendment Bill.

**MR DAVIES** (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [4.38 p.m.]: Are we allowed to talk to the whole motion, or only the amendment?

The **SPEAKER**: I think the Leader of the Opposition can speak with a little freedom.

**Mr DAVIES**: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

This is a splendid example of why we should have had two sessions of Parliament this year. Had there been an earlier session in which the Address-in-Reply could have been dealt with, we might have been able to proceed with the business of the Parliament. We realise that the Address-in-Reply takes a considerable time. Generally, it has gone on for something like six weeks. I have been here long enough to know that; and I am quite certain the Premier would know that as well.

Now we find ourselves in the position where matters need to be dealt with urgently. One matter has to be dealt with to prevent the Perth City Council from going bankrupt. There are various reasons in relation to the other Bills. The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Amendment Bill has to be dealt with because of the incompetence of the department and the lack of acumen on the part of the Cabinet when it dealt with applications for increases in rates.

The other two Bills, of course, have some degree of urgency, although they are perhaps not as urgent as the two Bills I have mentioned. We do not know what we will be dealing with in regard to the Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill (No. 2), although the Premier has said that, when the Minister introduces the Bill, we will know exactly what is in it and we will know why it is urgent.

That is rather an amazing statement. Naturally we will know what is in the Bill when it is introduced and we will judge for ourselves whether or not it is urgent. Although the matters in the schedule and amendment are considered to be urgent, I have noted the Premier said they will not be dealt with until after the week's break. That will be acceptable to the Opposition with the

exception, of course, that the City of Perth Endowment Lands Amendment Bill needs to be dealt with as soon as possible, because of the financial difficulties which may ensue as far as the Perth City Council is concerned if it is not able to send out its 1979-80 and 1980-81 rate notices by 31 August.

We have no argument about that, except that it may create some difficulties when assessing the position properly and offering an effective counter to it, if such a counter is necessary. We can deal with that only when we know what is in the Bill after the Minister has introduced it. I am quite happy for the Minister to introduce the legislation as early as possible after this motion has been carried.

We do not oppose the motion, but, had we had two sessions of Parliament this year, the Address-in-Reply could have been dealt with earlier and we would have been able to get down to the "real business" of Parliament during this session.

**MR STEPHENS** (Stirling) [4.42 p.m.]: The National Party is not very happy that this provision is being used on this occasion. To some extent, I should like to reiterate the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition in that, had Parliament been called together earlier, there would have been no real necessity to move this motion at this stage. The use of this provision further erodes the influence of back-bench members, inasmuch as if the Bills contained in the schedule take precedence over the Address-in-Reply, the amount of time available to back-bench members on private members' day will be reduced.

During the last parliamentary session, from memory 12 Bills were dealt with in this fashion prior to the completion of the Address-in-Reply. This reduces seriously the amount of time available for private members' business. Therefore, I see this provision as a further erosion—and, after all, it has been eroded too far already—of the power and influence of Parliament.

We accept the need for a provision such as this, so that Standing Orders may be suspended for the despatch of business when the matters to be dealt with are very urgent. However, of the five Bills mentioned in the schedule—four Bills in the motion and one in the amendment—in my opinion the only one which could be regarded as urgent is the City of Perth Endowment Lands Amendment Bill. But, had the House been called together at an earlier time, the matter could have been dealt with, without the necessity to suspend Standing Orders.

I, and the National Party, feel that this provision should be used only sparingly and this is not an occasion on which it is justified. The excuse cannot be advanced that we have a completely new Ministry. Had there been a change of Government, with new Ministers getting to know their portfolios, perhaps there could have been some excuse for the late calling together of Parliament; but that is not the case. The Ministry has remained substantially the same, and I see no real reason that the House could not have been called together earlier.

We in the National Party feel that the Premier may not have wanted this House to sit for any more than a few days and that he was in favour of minimising the time it was necessary for him to spend here and during which debate could take place. Certainly some of the Bills contained in the schedule—the Constitution Amendment Bill and the Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill (No. 2)—are matters which could have been debated at a much earlier time.

Amendment put and passed.

#### *Debate (on motion as amended) Resumed*

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [4.45 p.m.]: I appreciate the support given by the Leader of the Opposition and I have noted his comments.

I have noted also the comments made by the member for Stirling and I remind him that the Parliament has not in fact been called together late. It has been called together at the conventional time.

However, be that as it may, I want to raise one matter so that there is no misunderstanding about it. The City of Perth Endowment Lands Amendment Bill, as I have mentioned, is of the greatest urgency; but I mentioned also that a degree of urgency could exist with regard to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Amendment Bill, because that legislation involves the finances of the board. The other three Bills—the Constitution Amendment Bill, the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 2), and the Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill (No. 2)—will not be debated this week, but will be dealt with at the beginning of the week when Parliament resumes after the break. However, it may be that I shall talk to the Leader of the Opposition with regard to dealing with the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Amendment Bill some time this week.

Mr Davies: I was debating the information from the Whip, rather than your comments.

Question (motion, as amended) put and passed.

## **CITY OF PERTH ENDOWMENT LANDS AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Mrs Craig (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**MRS CRAIG** (Wellington—Minister for Local Government) [4.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I would like to indicate to the House that the proposals contained in this Bill have met with the agreement of the Perth City Council. This agreement was reached at a meeting of the full council yesterday. We have received also an indication from the Coast Ward Ratepayers' Association (Inc.), that it is in agreement with the proposals contained in the Bill.

The Premier received a letter from the Coast Ward Ratepayers' Association (Inc.) which reads as follows—

Dear Sir Charles,

This is to confirm that this Association accepts and supports without qualification the Government's Proposal put to a Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Perth on Monday 18th August 1980, at 4.30 p.m. by the Lord Mayor.

The Association welcomes the Proposal as the most satisfactory means possible to resolve the Rate Issue and to work towards development of the most equitable solution of the issues concerning the City of Perth Endowment Lands Act and Severance.

This Association will do its utmost to co-operate and assist in finally resolving the outstanding matters in the best interests of all parties involved.

That letter was signed by the president and vice-president of the association.

Mr Davies: What would you have done if they had decided not to vote in favour of the proposal? It is a hypothetical question, but it is interesting.

Mrs CRAIG: Members will no doubt be aware that the City of Perth has recently experienced difficulties in rating the endowment lands area of its district.

At present the City of Perth Endowment Lands Act requires that land in the endowment lands area be rated on the basis of unimproved values. The remainder of the City of Perth district is rated on the basis of gross rental values.

Because these different methods of valuations apply in the two areas it has been necessary for the council, when determining its rating for any year, firstly to decide the proportion of the total rates that each area should be required to meet. Having done so the council has determined a rate in the dollar for each area that will produce the respective proportions.

The difficulties confronting the council arose following an appeal by ratepayers in the endowment lands area against the method of apportionment used by the council to determine the different rating levels in the 1979-80 financial year. This appeal was heard by the Land Valuation Tribunal, which quashed the council's rates for 1979-80, both in respect of the endowment lands area and the remainder of the district.

In its decision, the Land Valuation Tribunal indicated that the City of Perth should reassess the 1979-80 rates by apportioning the rate burden between the two areas concerned on the basis of the relativities that would exist if the whole of the district were rated uniformly on unimproved values.

The City of Perth subsequently found that, by following the method proposed in the Land Valuation Tribunal's findings, it would have to set the 1979-80 rates for the endowment lands area at a level which would result in an overall increase in rates of approximately 57 per cent on the rates that had applied in 1978-79.

This was not acceptable to the council which sought to have the legislation amended to enable the rate relativities to be set on some other basis. This Bill will achieve that objective.

The Bill provides that for the 1979-80 and 1980-81 rating years the apportionment of the total rates shall be on the basis of the relationship between the gross rental valuations for the endowment lands area and the gross rental valuations for the entire district. However, individual properties in the endowment lands area will continue to be rated on unimproved valuations.

This method is acceptable to the Perth City Council although it had originally proposed that gross rental valuations be used for the rating of individual lots.

I wish to emphasise that the procedures that are set down in this Bill will apply for two financial years only—1979-80 and 1980-81. They are interim measures which preserve the principle already in the Act that the endowment lands be rated on unimproved values but which will provide for the rate increase in that area to be

commensurate with the increase over the balance of the district.

The Government intends to move quickly to have a comprehensive review carried out of the City of Perth Endowment Lands Act, and the question of separate municipalities.

This Bill provides that for 1979-80 the endowment lands area shall meet 8.8 per cent of the total rates required by the council. That percentage represents the relationship that exists between the endowment lands total gross rental values and the total of gross rental values for the whole of the district at July 1980.

For 1980-81 the Bill specifies that the percentage proportion of the total rates that the endowment lands shall meet will be equal to the percentage proportion that the total gross rental values in the endowment lands area bears to the total gross rental values for the whole district. That calculation will produce the same figure as is specified for the 1979-80 rating year.

The distinction has been made primarily because the 1979-80 financial year has concluded and the application of the specific percentage was seen as the most appropriate means of once and for all finalising the rating for that year.

It is essential that this legislation be dealt with as a matter of urgency in order that the rating position of the City of Perth can be resolved not only for this present financial year, but also for last year.

It is essential that the legislation now proposed be instituted as an interim measure to resolve the council's rating difficulties, until such time as the comprehensive review is completed.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Carr.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from 14 August.

**MR JAMIESON** (Welshpool) [4.54 p.m.]: Firstly, I compliment you, Mr Speaker, on having been returned to the Chair, although I believe those remarks could be beginning to sound like a record to you.

**The SPEAKER:** It is one I like to hear!

**Mr JAMIESON:** It was somewhat different for me, after being here for so long, to experience an election. The election was won by you, and it is something which does require a brief comment. To that extent, I congratulate you on succeeding easily in the ballot. Although no numbers were

disclosed, a wink is as good as a nod to a blind horse!

I will deal briefly with the matter of youth unemployment. We have heard the Government give lip service to what is proposed to overcome the problem, and we have heard the Federal Government talking about various schemes *ad nauseam*. There are training schemes for tradesmen, and all sorts of other schemes. The fact remains the greatest problem of unemployment in the community today is among the youth.

Not so very long ago, the local authority where I live, and in the confines of which a good part of my territory lies, saw fit to send out a letter to each of the unemployed youth between the ages of 16 and 21 years, in that district. Some 500 to 600 letters were sent out inviting the unemployed youth to attend an afternoon meeting. The local authority made it a pleasant occasion in its new administration building.

Approximately 80 young people turned up for the meeting, together with some observers. The observers included the local high school headmaster, myself, and other members of Parliament for the district. The observers did not take part in the discussions, but we were interested in what took place.

The local authority officers put a number of questions to the youth on various aspects of unemployment. One question concerned what was the advantage of being unemployed, and another question asked what was bad about being unemployed. It was interesting to observe the replies. Question papers were distributed, and the answers were correlated on a blackboard in order to arrive at a consensus of the thoughts of the young people. Indeed, they all seemed to think along the same lines.

A sad feature of the result was that while many said the advantage of being unemployed was that they did not have to get out of bed early—they could sleep in—in reply to the question with regard to what was bad about being unemployed, many replied that they lost their friends because they could no longer go out with them. No longer could they mix with their friends because they were not able to go to places where something had to be paid for.

While that attitude prevails in our community, we will have a very sad youth complement. More effort is required to overcome this problem. We have to look, perhaps, to a proposition put forward by the New Zealand Labor Party in its pre-election manifesto. The proposition is to the effect that youth will be employed during the first

four or five years of their working lives. That will be a guaranteed period, after which the situation should smooth out. Perhaps the youth will hold their jobs, and perhaps they will go somewhere else. However, they will have had experience not only over one year, but over a number of years. A future employer will know the position when he asks whether an applicant has had previous experience. Many young people are spending several years unemployed without gainfully obtaining experience in the work force.

It is very sad that this sort of thing should be occurring in this day and age in a country that seems to have plenty—although evidently not enough for its young workers. It is not good enough to assume that these people would prefer to be unemployed. From my experience, comparing unemployed young people with employed young people, I believe that if given the choice, most of the unemployed young people would rather work.

When a young person goes to the Commonwealth Employment Service, he may be sent to apply for a job. However, the CES will send another 15 or so people along to apply for the same job. The young unemployed worker thinks that perhaps this is his chance to obtain employment, but it is rather disconcerting when he gets there to find that he is one of many. It appears to me to be quite unnecessary to keep raising the hopes of these people and dashing them down again. It is not surprising that many of the unemployed become despondent. They feel that the world owes them some sort of a living, and surely that is so. Surely we have enough wealth in this country to ensure that employment is more readily available than it has been over the past few years.

Other organisations that help the unemployed have proliferated and they are to be lauded. Certainly organisations such as the Community Youth Support Scheme operate with the assistance of many wonderful people; but while we appreciate the role these organisations play, there is nothing like giving young people a job and letting them take their places in the community to build up their self-respect.

The Federal Government warns us repeatedly about the problem of inflation. We know that there are problems with our economy, but I reiterate again that although deflation has greatly damaged many people in the community, it has not killed any person on the Liberal Party side, and it has not killed any person on the Labor Party side.

Over the years we have heard many cliches from our Premier. At one time he ran around the community yelling at the top of his voice that he would solve the unemployment situation in six months. Suddenly, he realised he could not do that, and now he says, through his Ministers, that the problem cannot be solved because of all the people coming here from the Eastern States and from New Zealand. So what is new? Surely everyone knew of this problem, but the Premier made the outlandish statement that he could solve the unemployment problem within six months.

Another statement made by the Premier was that the problem of inflation could be solved substantially State by State. Surely that statement is just as stupid as his statement about unemployment. Inflation is a national problem, and it must be solved nationally. We will not get anywhere until we can plan effectively, and to do this we must have regard for all sections of the economy. It is no good applying plans to one part of it alone.

As I mentioned before, the eastern bloc countries leave us for dead in regard to economic planning because they control the work force, prices, and all related matters. Until we are prepared to copy their system of economic development and to ensure that the work force is used as effectively as possible, we will fail the people we represent.

If the system needs to be changed, let us change it. While we control only half the economy, we will not improve the lot of the people at all.

I would now like to turn to the Olympic Games in Moscow. I am sure, Mr Speaker, that you and other members of this Chamber enjoyed the media coverage of these games. Of course, the Federal Government was opposed strongly to an Australian team attending the games. However, a semblance of a team did attend, and probably it did much better overall than did the team which attended the Montreal Olympic Games. Some people would say, "Well, yes, but the athletes from West Germany, the United States, and other places did not attend." Nevertheless, from the point of view of times and records, it appears that the calibre of the competition was very high.

I would like to compliment the organisers of the games. The opening and closing ceremonies were better than anything we have ever seen before. Peter Waltham, the representative from Channel 7, in a behind-the-scenes commentary, told us that the excellent result was obtained because of the superb control the authorities had over the populace. No fault could be found with the venues

for the various sports, and certainly no-one could fault the excellence of the production of the opening and closing ceremonies.

Claims were made that a certain amount of cheating took place. I suppose cheating is always with us, and when the judges do not speak the language of the competitors, problems will always arise. In fact, the other night Mr Waltham failed to refer to an incident of cheating which had not been mentioned before. This occurred in the final of the high jump, and I am certain anyone who watched the replay of this event would have understood readily the frustration of the Soviet competitor. Every time he went to take off for the high jump, somebody walked in front of him. It is interesting that each person who walked in front of him was wearing a singlet of a different colour from that worn by the team from the Soviet Union. Eventually this poor fellow was so frustrated that he did not even go over the bar—he just flopped on the mat.

I suppose a fair bit of cheating takes place in all sports, and we can hope only that it can be minimised.

I would, however, criticise the Channel 7 network for using Herb Elliott as a commentator on the games. I felt that he was a disgrace to the sport he represented formerly. In the build-up to the games, he denigrated everything connected with them. Mr Elliott is now a Commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, and it was certainly incorrect of him to comment politically on the games. His comments were politically biased rather than athletically based. When the controversy over the games first arose, Mr Elliott was not sure of his stance on the issue, but somebody tickled him up and from then on all we heard was that our athletes should not go.

Mr Parker: He is a card-carrying member of the Liberal Party.

Mr JAMIESON: Certainly that seems to be the situation. It also appears that he is a card-carrying member of the SGIO. I do not know how he obtains all these favors, except that he seems to be in the right corner at the right time.

Perhaps Mr Elliott's condemnation of the games would have been acceptable had it not been for the fact that the Channel 7 network paid an enormous amount of money to telecast the games. The American television stations accepted that the money they had paid out would be wasted, and offered the American viewing public a six-minute-a-day coverage only. However, despite the fact that the Channel 7 network was prepared to let Mr Elliott denigrate the games and everyone connected with them every night, it sought to

recover the money it had paid for the right to telecast them. Certainly from the number of advertisements rolling over the screen while the games were on it would appear that Channel 7 made a substantial profit. In my opinion it was one of the most reprehensible actions ever taken by a section of the media.

Mr Davies: But the newspapers were still publishing reports of the games. Didn't the television channels have the right to telecast them?

Mr JAMIESON: Certainly sections of the media sent representatives to Moscow, but the Channel 7 network throughout Australia paid for the right to telecast them. I believe the fee was \$40 million. I could not see an Australian company foregoing a sum of money like that, and I knew that sooner or later a decision would be made to telecast the games. Everyone here knows the power of the mighty dollar. I am sure that the Channel 7 network made a packet out of the games.

The Channel 7 network sent representatives to the games and in a final summing-up, these representatives paid great tribute to the Russian technicians and said that they could not have been assisted more ably.

At a function I attended last week on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, I spoke to one of the gold medallists from the swimming relay team. He confirmed that the venues, accommodation, etc., were top class. It was unfortunate that many competitors had to return home immediately they had competed. Our Western Australian entrant in the women's high jump flew out of Moscow practically on the next plane after competing because our generous Government made the decision that she must take leave without pay to attend.

The Parliamentary Labor Party was able to assist the water polo team in a small way. This team finished in the top eight, and so its expenses will be paid when it competes in world events in the next year or so. Had this team not competed in the Moscow Olympic Games, the people of Australia would have been called upon to contribute money to send the team away to compete in the next two sets of international games. Members will be aware that Western Australia is always well represented in the Australian water polo and hockey teams, and it is up to us to see that our players are supported.

America, of course, led the boycott. I believe it was a Carter stunt; I do not think the Americans intended to go to the Olympic Games at any time.

Their reason for not going was the situation in Afghanistan, to which they took exception.

The boycott was supposed to humiliate the Russians in some way. However, to my mind the greatest way of humiliating the Russians would have been to send their best team to Russia and win as many gold medals as possible in front of the Russian people. It would have been far more effective to have the American flag raised many times during medal presentation ceremonies. However, because the Americans were not there, they were not missed. I am sure that had they been there, they would have made quite an impression upon a very impressionable people. One could see from the support given by the local people at the various venues that they liked to see their champions winning—and what nation does not? When the Olympics were held in Australia, Australian athletes received the loudest cheer. We were all backing our own team; that is the advantage enjoyed by the host nation.

The Winter Olympics were held earlier in the year at Lake Placid in the United States. No boycott was suggested then. Of course, the American television media had sold rights to the programme all over the world, and they would not have liked to miss out. It is true that when the Russian team arrived, they received a bit of a "rhubarb". However, the Americans were not likely to ban them, or object to their presence because without the Russians at the Winter Olympics, there would be virtually no competition; because of the nature of their weather, Russians excel at many cold country sports. As a consequence, the Winter Olympics went without a hitch.

Mr Davies: They were held after the Afghanistan problem, were they not?

Mr JAMIESON: Yes, that is correct.

If any country should bow its head in shame, it is the country from which the Premier comes. The Premier has never been an Australian to me because he will not stand for an Australian anthem; that is very wrong.

Sir Charles Court: I always stand for the Australian anthem.

Mr JAMIESON: The Premier always says Australia is an appendage of the United Kingdom.

Sir Charles Court: I have never said that. I always stand for the Australian national anthem.

Mr JAMIESON: The Premier has never stood for the Australian anthem.

Sir Charles Court: I always stand.

Mr JAMIESON: The Premier has never worked towards the establishment of a proper Australian anthem. I have been on about this *ad nauseam* in the past. Australia is the only country in the British Commonwealth of Nations which does not have its own national anthem.

Sir Charles Court: We do have our own anthem—God Save the Queen.

Mr JAMIESON: That is not our national anthem. We are not entitled to take the anthem of another country and claim it as ours. Australia must consider itself as part of the international community. We do not take orders from the United Kingdom in matters relating to national politics, so why should we feel obliged to use the United Kingdom's national anthem? What right do we have to use their anthem? It is their anthem, not ours; they had it first.

Canada has its own national anthem, and I guarantee that the most recently-declared independent island out in the Pacific has a national anthem of its own lined up. It is arrant stupidity for people like the Premier to go on with this nonsense. It would show no disrespect to the Monarch to use our own national anthem.

Sir Charles Court: They still play God Save the Queen in Canada.

Mr JAMIESON: Only when the Queen or her representative is present.

Sir Charles Court: That has not been my experience in some States, like Saskatchewan.

Mr JAMIESON: Through the stupidity of people like the Premier, it is still insisted upon that race clubs and RSL clubs use the United Kingdom national anthem. It is high time we grew up and took our place as a mature country in the international community. It is high time we took steps to ensure people overseas regarded us as a separate country, making its own, separate determinations as to its own affairs. The Premier may claim to be an Australian, but he never shows it. He has never been a sporting type of person, and he is very bad in defeat; he does not lose graciously.

Sir Charles Court: That is your opinion, of course; it is not the opinion of others.

Mr JAMIESON: I have been watching the Premier for a long time, and he always displays petulance when things do not work out the right way for him.

Mr Davies: I think you were blaming the British for something they did in Afghanistan before you got off the track.

Mr JAMIESON: It is interesting to note that in the last 150 years, the United Kingdom

invaded Afghanistan on no less than two occasions and slaughtered many of the people. The United Kingdom cut them to pieces because they were really a bit of a nuisance.

At one time, Afghanistan made overtures to join with the Czar of Russia as part of his kingdom. The people of Afghanistan have always had an affinity with the Soviet Union. I do not deny that when Russia went into Afghanistan, it went in very heavily; however, Russia was invited in by the ruling Government of Afghanistan.

The last time there was a skirmish between Afghanistan and the United Kingdom was in 1919 when Afghanistan declared war on the United Kingdom. However, at that time, the United Kingdom was preoccupied with India and Afghanistan won the war by default. So, one must examine one's own history before throwing muck at other people.

Members may have noticed during the telecast of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games that the people from the southern parts of the Soviet Union were almost indistinguishable from some of the Asian races, particularly Afghanistan. No lines of distinction are drawn between the different races in this area. The Asian influence has been handed down over the centuries. Therefore, it is not unusual that the people of Afghanistan should feel some sort of affinity with the people of southern Russia. If they choose such an association for their salvation and future, that is their business. If they make the wrong choice, it still is not up to us to try to sort things out. We tried to do that in Vietnam, and what a mess we made of that situation! Of course, we were induced to send troops to Vietnam by the United States and others. This all goes to show that things do not always turn out the way we want them to.

While on the subject of the Olympic Games, I draw the attention of members to Lord Killanin's closing address when he said that the athletes of the world should combine before a holocaust descended on the world. I would like to see the only physical contact taking place in the world to be at the Olympic Games every four years. I realise the games are not perfect, but at least they bring the athletes of the world together, and enable them to see how other people live.

Many people from Australia had made arrangements to attend the Olympic Games in Moscow but were influenced by the boycott decision. Had they attended the games, they would have seen new concepts in sports stadiums and centres. While the Russians are quite open in admitting these marvellous venues were



established from the point of view of international prestige, they point out there has been a spin-off benefit in terms of improved community health.

They believe that, by providing the youth of their country with adequate sporting venues, they will be less inclined to take to alcohol and tobacco, which they are very prone to do. Russia is a nation of heavy drinkers; there are many alcoholics in the Soviet Union. The Russians believe that if they can improve the general health of the community, they will receive a spin-off benefit in terms of reduced health costs.

Australia gradually is coming around to this point of view. We hear suggestions that sporting facilities should be established by Government departments and businesses to enable their employees to indulge in sporting activities during their lunch breaks. We see hundreds of people every day, jogging along the Esplanade in their lunch hours. This sort of thing is to be encouraged. Any nation which embarks upon such a programme will receive the added benefit of reduced health costs.

I could see very little difference between a huge factory workshop system in Russia and the system of the big Japanese steel mills. Equally, the sporting facilities in Russia are very similar to those provided in Japan. Both countries look after their workers through their employment authority, the only difference being that the worker in Russia is incumbent to the State, while the worker in Japan is incumbent to the business proprietor. This similar attitude towards sport and community health undoubtedly has contributed to the calibre of Japanese sportsmen.

It would seem to me that Australia has a long way to go. We must spend a great deal more on sport in this country. I do not make these statements simply because I am shadow Minister for Recreation; I make them from my personal observations over the years.

The Americans rely on a system of sporting scholarships. I was talking to young Peter Evans the other day at a function to promote a charity venture at which contestants from the games were present. He has accepted a four-year scholarship to an American college which will enable him to do a business administration course. He has not been offered the scholarship because he is a wonderful scholar, but because of his sporting ability. No doubt, the American college wants to build up its swimming team, and it has offered Peter Evans this opportunity to further his studies. However, only very few people can be accommodated under this American system; there must be thousands more people with natural

sporting ability whose needs are not being met. If the Americans were to concentrate on training young people, rather than offering them sporting scholarships later in their life, they would find many more athletes reaching the top echelons.

One might be accused of sour grapes if one said that America boycotted the Moscow Games because it did not expect its athletes to win many medals. In fact, I do not think America would have done as well as it has done in past years.

I turn now to another subject. I was amazed that the Prime Minister became so upset at the remarks of the Governor of New South Wales when opening the New South Wales Parliament. The Prime Minister objected to the nasty things said about him and his Government by the New South Wales Governor. Prime Minister Fraser made a lot of statements to the effect that a Governor's Speech when opening Parliament should not be used for the purpose of denigrating a Federal Government.

That caused me to refer back to our own records in 1974 and 1975. Of course, these speeches were written basically by the Premier and his Ministers. They considered the first draft, the second draft, and so on, before the poor old Governor had a look at it. In the final draft there were severe attacks on the Whitlam Government, and what it was doing. Therefore, the attack on the Federal Government in the speech by the New South Wales Governor is nothing new. If the Prime Minister cannot accept a little criticism, he should not be in politics.

Mr Bryce: Hear, hear!

Mr JAMIESON: That sort of thing has gone on for a long while, although I have not had much experience of it in this State. We have not heard many such comments made. I have looked through the last few opening speeches by the Governor, and there has been no reference made to the mess-up of the economy by the present Government in Canberra. Apparently the present Government acquiesces in what the Federal Government is doing. Otherwise, surely the State Government would have included a few comments in the Governor's Speech.

I want to say a few words about prisons, as I have a watching brief over them at this time. Although I have been a member for many years now, I was disturbed to discover recently that I must obtain ministerial approval to visit a prison. In the past, when a member for Parliament has had reason to visit an institution or a person in an institution, it has been sufficient to telephone the institution to inform the officers of the visit. However, from what I can fathom out, the

Government has issued an order that visits to such institutions must gain ministerial approval.

If the Premier is paying his Ministers to make those sorts of decisions, they are being overpaid. Surely a lesser person down the line could make such decisions. A Minister has the right to know if the member for Welshpool is entering a prison, or somewhere else. However, all he need do is to ask the director of the institution what members are visiting it. He may be issued with a list, or something like that. However, it is unnecessary for a Minister to be involved in giving his personal approval in such circumstances.

If there was only one Minister concerned in this type of action, I would have thought the Minister might be a little "collar proud"; but there seems to have been a general instruction throughout all departments, "No statements. No persons in without permission."

When I inspected the new remand centre with other members of this House, I mentioned to Mr Kidston that I would be moving around the State later in the year, and that I would ask permission to enter the various prison centres. He said, "No trouble. Just give me a call." When I gave him a call, I found that the position had been changed, and the Minister required a request in writing. It is becoming patently absurd when members of Parliament have to make a written request. After all, they are not likely to go into prisons with files or hacksaw blades to enable the prisoners to escape.

For many years, members of Parliament have been visiting the prisons regularly, because that is part of their job. The parents of a prisoner might be concerned about their child, for instance. The same thing may occur in relation to mental institutions. I have been into mental institutions goodness knows how many times since I have been a member. I have never stayed in, like some people; I have been allowed out. However, I have wandered in to see certain people, and to discuss matters with them. There has never been any hassle.

Mr Bryce: Very good!

Mr JAMIESON: That was my mistake; but there has never been any problem at all.

Mr Bryce: That is because there was no Hassell.

Mr McIver: You have to be in Federal politics before you are kept in.

Mr JAMIESON: The Premier and the Government have to face up to this situation. If the Ministers have enough time to spend on details of this kind, we do not need 15 Ministers.

We should cut the Ministry down by a few, because there is not enough work for the Ministers.

The reason I always ring an institution before making a visit is that if somebody sees me there and knows I am a member for a district, he may wonder, "What is he doing there?" If the person in charge knows I am there and my purpose in being there, he is able to give an explanation to his senior officer, if it is necessary to give it at any time. Very often it is not necessary.

I will agree there has been no great holdup when I have made these requests, unless I have run into a brick wall that I did not expect. It does happen that one finds to one's dismay that one has to deal with new regulations. If the Premier wants it this way, let him make a public statement that all members of Parliament have to seek permission in writing from the Minister before they enter an institution. Then we will all know where we stand. There would be a lot of unnecessary paper work if that was the case.

Mr Harman: Does this apply to hospitals?

Mr JAMIESON: I do not know if that applies to hospitals, because the Minister for Health is not here.

I will finish by dealing with the matter first raised on this side in the Address-in-Reply debate—electoral districts. The Premier has not shown much inclination to do anything about them. As a matter of fact, he merely said, "The constitutional requirements or the necessary legal requirements for a redistribution have not occurred. Therefore we do not need to bother." However, the relevant section of the Electoral Districts Act clearly indicates that a change may be made by resolution of both Houses of Parliament or—and then it deals with the other provision.

There is nothing barring the Premier from adopting the first option, and having a decision made by the two Houses of Parliament. Surely when the newspapers which are not politically motivated towards the Australian Labor Party have criticised the electoral system repeatedly, the Premier and other members on his side of the House should give some consideration to the matter. If they do not, the community will experience some sort of revulsion. That leads to action that is not necessary, if the democratic line supposed to be followed by the Parliament is not taken.

It would be appropriate for the Premier to give a clear indication to us before very long that he is prepared to go ahead with the suggested inquiry. Since the McLarty-Watts Government introduced

the Electoral Districts Act, there has never been an inquiry into its provisions. Prior to the introduction of the Act, the redistribution of electoral districts was a "bun fight" in this House every time a change was required. Members may imagine what a shemozzle that would be.

I have no argument with the machinery for the changing of electoral districts; and I do not think any party has an argument with it. However, I will argue incessantly about the fact that the commissioners are instructed what areas they have to define as "metropolitan", what areas they have to define as "country", and what areas they have to define as "statutory". That is a wrong situation. There should be no requirement for an elector to change his vote value when he changes his job and lives in another town. If he moves from North Beach to Mt. Magnet or from Mt. Magnet to North Beach, he is the same person. His vote should have the same value wherever he lives. The Labor Party will demand incessantly a change in this system.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Bateman.

*(Continued on this page.)*

### QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR SKIDMORE** (Swan) [6.05 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I wish to add my congratulations to those expressed already in this Address-in-Reply debate and I congratulate you upon your reappointment. Maybe we have disagreed on certain issues in the past, but the decisions you have made have been fair and just and as far as I am concerned perhaps I deserved the treatment I received.

However, I do not intend changing my views, and it may be that in the next three years you may have the opportunity to deal with me in the same manner again. If there are matters that I believe in, I will make a stand, as I have clearly done in the past. I do congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on securing your position, but I will not do as the member for Subiaco did and declare how I voted. I will leave it to those who may wish to conjecture on the matter.

I shall refer to some issues that have been of concern to me in recent times. The first issue is that of the dubious contracts which are taking

place in the real estate industry in Western Australia.

This matter was brought to my attention by one of my constituents and it concerned the purchase of a property in the Swan electorate. This is a typical example of the ruthlessness and unscrupulousness of real estate agents who are jacking up the selling price or offers received from people for the purchase of a residence. It seems to me that this practice is quite common in the industry and I am very tempted to name the firm concerned. The firm is located in Midland. Those who wish to protest to me and say that I ought to name the firm may do so in public outside this House. They may let me know the objections to what I am about to say and then, maybe, I will announce the name of the company concerned. The company did take some action—albeit, only after a rap over the knuckles—which seemed to me to be some effort to right the wrong.

In the case to which I am referring a young couple who were engaged to be married sought to purchase a home which was up for sale. A representative of the company asked them whether they would like to see over the home. They inspected it, and the vendor was present at the inspection. The young couple evidenced a great deal of interest, to the extent that they signed a form which is referred to as an "Offer and Acceptance". When they signed they were requested to make a holding deposit of \$100, which they did not have with them but which they subsequently paid. The offer and acceptance form showed that the purchase price of the home was \$31 250. The deposit was made up of \$100 as a holding deposit, with the balance of \$3 150 to follow.

The salesman who negotiated the deal indicated to the young couple that he had to go back to his office to complete documentation, and to discuss the transaction with another salesman who also was handling the same house. When he returned to the office he found that the other salesman had likewise signed up the property, and had been requested to present the offer to the vendor.

One would believe that as a matter of ethics when two offers to purchase are received both of them should go to the vendor, with a recommendation by the salesmen with regard to which offer was most advantageous to the vendor, and which one should be accepted.

The second salesman, realising that he would not make a sale because his offer was not as high as the other offer, suggested to the second purchaser that he find a greater sum of money as a deposit. The deposit on the offer and acceptance

was shown as \$6 000. As I have said, the first offer included a deposit of \$3 250.

That is not all that took place. The events I have described occurred on a Saturday. On the following Sunday morning the second salesman went along to the vendor and told the vendor that he had an offer for the property. He talked the vendor into accepting the proposition. At no time did that salesman indicate that anyone else was interested, and the vendor—feeling that the original couple were no longer interested—signed the document to sell the property.

When the young couple were able to contact the first salesman, on the same day, they were advised of what had taken place. The property had been signed up by the other salesman at 8.30 on the Sunday morning. Of course, the size of the deposit influenced the sale.

The most remarkable event then occurred. When the chips were down, the person who had offered a higher deposit went to his bank to raise that sum of money, but he could not do so. He had no deposit whatsoever to put down on the home at that time, whereas the first couple who were not able to secure the house had a deposit of \$3 250 to put down. They lost the opportunity to purchase the house.

The offer and acceptance form is a useless piece of paper. It provides no security to anybody in dealings of this nature; it is no legal protection at all. I believe we are all aware of that, and that is one of my major complaints.

I will point out some of the other questionable things which take place. The company concerned is very well known in this State, and when the management was approached they were very noncommittal about what had occurred. They were rather prone to defend the attitude of the salesman who finally made the sale. I question whether or not that, in itself, is an ethical situation. It has been suggested by people who have been aggrieved by such actions that the signing of an offer and acceptance by an intending purchaser does not mean that the offer will be presented to the vendor. That is true.

It seems basically unethical to me that salesmen are able to sign up numerous offers to purchase without presenting those offers to the vendor. A salesman could sign up half a dozen people and increase the price of a house from \$30 000 to \$35 000 by playing one offer against another offer.

Another remarkable side of this unethical conduct was that the young couple offered to purchase the home at a cost of \$31 250. However, the actual price received by the vendor was

\$30 500. So, it cannot be said that the company acted in the best interests of the vendor. Such was not the case.

The proposition I wish to put to the Government is simple. I believe that the offer and acceptance form associated with real estate deals should be examined closely, and the relevant Act should be amended to make sure that the form is actually an "Offer and Acceptance". The Act should be amended so that if more than one offer is made, all offers should be presented to the vendor, and the responsibility for acceptance should be on him.

Notwithstanding my remarks, I am aware that some salesmen have a much more ethical approach to this sort of problem than the two salesmen to whom I have referred.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr SKIDMORE: I want to conclude my remarks about the real estate industry by saying I believe it is time a degree of security was given to those who sign such forms as the offer and acceptance form, and that the practices of those engaged in the industry should be watched very closely.

The next matter which is causing me concern was brought to my attention by one of my constituents. It relates to the advisory committee which has been set up to look at inventions with a view to some sort of assistance, financial or otherwise, being provided by the Government, to ensure that any benefits which those inventions might bestow upon the State are not lost to us and may remain here.

I particularly refer to an invention in relation to solar energy which has been sent to the committee by the inventor in the hope of some assistance being provided to him. The invention differs from the usual plain mirror type solar energy collector which has been developed and which has some limitations because the energy is collected in a concentrated form and has to be carried away in a pipe before it can be used. Heat is lost while it is being transported to the heat storage unit.

Mr Peter Radine's invention uses a series of parabolic mirrors which concentrate a tremendous amount of heat directly onto the storage tank itself, so that there is no loss of energy in transportation to the collector. It is an invention which merits some assistance. I am not especially pleading for Mr Radine's invention but I use this case as an illustration of what appears to me to be the inadequacy of the committee.

Mr Radine's device is new. The device which the State Energy Commission is considering is as

old as the hills. It is a plain mirror-type device which collects the energy resource. It has been around for a long time. In fact, it is actually in operation in France. Something was said about that during the last Parliament.

It is disturbing to find that the advisory committee does not evaluate the inventions. They are forwarded to other bodies for investigation and then referred back to the committee, which does not go out into the field to endeavour to find out for itself the value of them. The committee sits in its office and is guided by other people who say whether or not the inventions are worthy of support. To me, that is a terrible thing, because those who consider an invention like Mr Radine's are the very people who are saddled with the present investigation into solar energy, and it is obvious that they will not toss aside everything they have and say, "This one has advantages over the present system."

Mr P. V. Jones: Have you had a look at the place at East Perth where the experiments are done? If not, would you like to go down and see it?

Mr SKIDMORE: Does it have parabolic mirrors?

Mr P. V. Jones: I am asking you whether you would like to go down there and talk to the people who make the assessment.

Mr SKIDMORE: In order to keep the Minister quiet, I say I will go down.

Mr P. V. Jones: Good on you, Jack!

Mr SKIDMORE: The question which people have put to me was the subject of a petition I presented to the House recently, which said that the inventors want only a fair hearing. It usually takes an inventor a long time to work out his invention before he can proceed with it. The assessment panel makes its evaluation on the evidence it receives. The evidence received by the panel members may be insufficient to enable them to make a thorough evaluation of the invention.

Mr Radine and 20 or 30 others are critical of the committee because it does not go out and make itself knowledgeable about inventions which are referred to it. It relies on facts supplied by other so-called experts in the field, who may not be engaged in the particular field of the invention. They may be experts in one form of energy but not in another, and they may make judgments which are not favourable towards inventions.

Confidentiality is another aspect which was mentioned by the signatories to the petition. They want their inventions protected from pirating. The

inventor needs to know the identities of those who assess the details of his invention. There appears to be a breakdown in communication between the inventor and the committee in regard to the confidentiality of the invention and the report on it. It discourages inventors from referring their inventions to the committee when they think their inventions may be pirated or made known to rival interests. This is disturbing. It is suggested that leaks are occurring. The inventor himself will obviously do all he can to ensure his invention or methods are not disclosed to competitors. It leaves one with the thought that perhaps a leakage from the committee or its advisers is occurring somewhere along the line.

Mr MacKinnon: Have you any evidence to show that is the case?

Mr SKIDMORE: I am quoting from a documentation which was handed to me. It is sufficient for me to feel that confidentiality may have been breached. I will be quite happy to endeavour to obtain some definite evidence of it, and if I find any I will present it to the Honorary Minister.

Mr MacKinnon: A letter is on its way to you, but if you have any proof I will follow it through.

Mr SKIDMORE: There also needs to be a right of independent appeal so that inventors can appeal against any criticisms, assessments, or reasons which are demonstrably invalid. I do not think that is unreasonable. An inventor can become wrapped up in his own ideas to the extent of thinking his invention is better than anything that has ever been invented before. I recognise that, but it seems to me that when an invention has been rejected the reason for the rejection should be sent to the inventor so that he can look at his invention again and perhaps send it back to the committee saying, "The assessment is wrong, based on what you had before you."

Mr MacKinnon: The committee can call the inventor in and give him an assessment on the spot.

Mr SKIDMORE: I understand that is so, but the evaluation of the invention is made by an outside expert who is not necessarily a scientist in that particular field. It would be very difficult for the committee to have available to it experts from all of the sciences but at least an effort should be made towards that end so that better assessments can be made of the inventions placed before the committee.

That proposal has been put forward. It seems to me there is some ground for concern, and I thank the Honorary Minister for his advice. I look forward to receiving his letter, and if I obtain any

definite information to justify the claims which have been made, I will send it to him.

I am disturbed about the amount of money that is being spent on solar energy research. It is totally inadequate. It seems to me no real effort is being made to come to grips with the use of solar energy in the true sense. I am aware of the proposed plants which will come into operation in the north, but they are not a complete answer. My very limited knowledge of solar energy devices indicates that more thought should be given to the invention submitted by Mr Peter Radine. It appears to have some merit and I think the committee would be well advised to have another look at it.

The next aspect of the general attitude of the Government which I want to take up is the present situation in the Technical Education Service and the technical education colleges, particularly the Midland Technical College. Some students recently came to me protesting about the fact that some of their classes had been discontinued.

I asked questions of the Minister regarding these classes and in his reply he told me 10 classes in Midland were closed, and that action was pending in respect of three others. The classes affected were those with very low student numbers. One class had averaged seven students throughout its entire history. That seemed to me to be not unreasonable; I thought that was quite a good class average.

The difficulty is that when these classes were discontinued the students were placed in a most awkward position because a class taken by teacher A could require textbooks different from those required for the same class by teacher B. It means that when a student transfers from one class to another at the wish of the Education Department which is disbanding a class and amalgamating it with another one, he might find the work he covers in the last term is that which he covered in the first two terms. In other words, he could find himself in the situation of failing exams at the end of the year.

That is not a figment of my imagination; it is an established fact in respect of classes known to me. Some students were doing certain lessons in the first term which others were doing in the last term; and if a student transferred to a new class he could find it did not cater for his needs. That happened at Midland, and other schools must have been affected by the overall picture painted by the Education Department in its attempt to save money by cutting down on classes.

The other difficulty concerns part-time students who have taken up part-time work to fit in with their courses. They now find themselves being unable to continue in the part-time employment where it impinges upon the time they must spend at school to further their education. It is not right, nor is it fair, that this should happen, and the department should have a darned good look at the matter.

Some students had to leave the Midland college and go to other colleges, and they were put to additional expense. It was said in the answer given to me that four classes were amalgamated with other classes of the same day and time. It seems to me rather strange that suddenly there is a need to rationalise four classes, and I wonder whether we do not have a hotchpotch of classes which will not achieve the same objective as the old classes.

Let us consider the savings. I asked whether or not any teachers would be displaced, and the answer was that one teacher on secondment from the Technical Extension Service had been displaced, and one part-time teacher had his hours reduced. In respect of the staffing at the Midland Technical College, I doubt whether the saving would be \$5 000 a year, yet some 30 students have been disadvantaged by the closing of the classes.

This is most disruptive because those students are trying to better themselves and to further their education. The seven who came to see me wrote a letter of complaint to the Minister at my suggestion; those students are actually seeking admittance to tertiary institutions. They want to further their education at a university or at WAIT, and they have been placed at a very grave disadvantage by virtue of the classes being closed down. I see no need for this, and it appears the Government has adopted a very poor attitude; particularly in respect of the Midland college, but it applies also to other technical colleges.

Another matter I wish to deal with concerns tourism. We have heard many times of the slump in tourism and the effect it has had on the well-being of Western Australians in the tourist catering industries. I recognise that there has been a slump brought about by the increased cost of petrol, and the number of people travelling with cars and caravans to Western Australia has slackened quite considerably. Therefore, we must look at the broader aspect to see where we can fill the gap.

I saw a snippet in the daily Press which indicated to me that some booklets were available at the Tourist Bureau which would put a tourist

well in the picture in regard to tourism in Western Australia. I thought I would get a copy of them to see what was in them. I went to the Tourist Bureau as John Citizen; I did not tell the people there that I was a member of Parliament. I was told that the books were printed, but that I was not going to get a copy of them. I produced the article I had seen in the Press and caused a hassle for about 20 minutes. When I finally told them I was a member of Parliament, the change was dramatic and I got the books. I could not get them quickly enough then.

Mr Sibson: They usually table them in the House.

Mr SKIDMORE: Yes, they probably would. I am glad to see that the Honorary Minister for Tourism is almost in the Chamber, because this is a matter I discussed with him the other night.

I wanted the books from the Tourist Bureau to help me plan a trip I intend to take to the north in the August holidays. I was appalled at the waste of money that has occurred in the production of the books. They are supposed to cater for the tourist industry—for the Eastern Stater or anybody from overseas coming to our State in an endeavour to find out what is happening in it. They represent the greatest "sell" I have ever seen in this State.

The book I am holding up has two complete pages containing absolutely nothing other than the contents. The pages are brightly coloured in about four colours, but they do nothing whatsoever. Inside the book we find headings like "Strike it rich", "Put a couple of dollars on Saucy Sue in the third", "Come home with the milkman", "Live in the past", "The big city without the big smoke", and "The Mid West where the sun never stops shining".

Then we come to the first part of the book, which covers the Geraldton region. What do we find? We find an incomplete and inaccurate map of the area. It shows no mileages, and no distances at all. It does not tell us what type of road is involved, whether there are hotels and motels in any of the towns; in fact it tells us absolutely nothing.

Mr Laurance: That is just to whet the appetite.

Mr SKIDMORE: If that is all it is meant to do, it represents the most costly whetting of appetites I have ever seen in my life. The cost must have been astronomical; I do not know how much it is, but I imagine it is fairly high judging from the quality of the article.

Mr Laurance: There are three books. Have you got all of them?

Mr SKIDMORE: I managed to get only two.

Mr Laurance: There is one on the north, one on the south, and the latest one deals with the metropolitan area and has only just been printed. The last one is presented with a tourist map of Western Australia. These books replace a whole host of brochures that have been available in the past. They are expensive productions, and this is a rationalisation of the other system. When you get to the area you are visiting, the individual Tourist Bureau will give you a detailed map.

Mr SKIDMORE: I appreciate the Minister's concern, but let me get back to the fundamental issue I am putting forward: If these publications are to take the place of the small brochures which previously were available—and I admit they were a damned disaster—then they will be a disaster.

Mr Laurance: Turn over the page and get to the bottom of it.

Mr SKIDMORE: Yes, let us look at some of this book. It refers to Cue. A tremendous amount of the history of mining areas was available in the brochures. This is what the book has to say now—

In its prime, the Murchison goldfields produced over 1 000 000 ounces of fine gold. Now, many of the towns on the fields are deserted, only shells of their old buildings remaining. A few towns such as Cue and Mt Magnet have been kept alive by the surrounding pastoral industry. From these towns you can set off to explore the ghost towns and fossick for gold and gemstones.

Nothing at all about the actual physical attributes of Cue and the places people can see. At Cue visitors can go to the Austin Downs Station, then to Walga Rock, the Big Bell open cut, the Day Dawn mine, and they can see the old buildings in the Cue townsite, including the Masonic building which is one of the oldest Masonic buildings in Western Australia. None of that is included in the book. People looking at the book would simply think there is not much at Cue, so why should they bother travelling all that distance when they know that a great deal of fine gold was mined there, but nothing is happening at present?

This is what the book has to say about Meekatharra—

One of the few gold mining towns with a mine still in operation. The mine at Nannine and the ruins of the old post office and forge are fascinating places to explore.

Do you know, Sir, that in Meekatharra there would be some 15 sights for tourists to see which do not rate a mention in this book? Many water holes and pools in the various rivers would be

filled with water because of the recent rains and would be well worth viewing.

If a tourist wants to go from Gascoyne Junction to Meekatharra, according to this book he cannot because Meekatharra does not even get a mention on the map. The road peters out after Gascoyne Junction, disappearing into the saltpan or whatever else is there. In fact, there is no indication as to where the road might go.

I say to the Minister that this book represents a damned waste of money which will achieve nothing for tourism and which certainly does his portfolio no good. Whoever drew up the book should go out and find out what people want to know.

People coming to Western Australia as tourists do not want to be wowed by glossy magazines; they want to look at outback places and to see things of historical significance. They want to do as much as they can as cheaply as possible, and are not interested in all this glossy presentation which, to my mind is an absolute waste of money and will do nothing for tourism in this State.

Mr Laurance: You are being uncharitable.

Mr SKIDMORE: I am sorry, that is the way I see it.

Mr Laurance: Detailed maps are still available.

Mr SKIDMORE: They had some failings, too. That is another area which should be looked at. In fact, the whole matter needs to be looked at and revised. I presume this glossy publication is supposed to keep us going for about five years; it would have to do that to justify the cost, but the map on it is already outdated.

Mr Laurance: I hope you have a good trip.

Mr SKIDMORE: I will have a good trip, because I will use the map put out by the RAC, which has more idea about tourism than the Government is ever likely to have. The RAC produces good maps which tell one about the features of the area. That is what the Government should be doing; it should be providing a service. For that service by the RAC one has to pay a \$17 membership fee, just to get the maps. Those maps are available to the public at a certain cost. The Department of Tourism could well take a leaf out of the book of the RAC in regard to tourism.

I wish to raise another matter briefly, because I have only five minutes of my time left. This relates to changes to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which is presently under consideration. A draft Bill has been forwarded to the Chief Secretary; and that draft Bill was distributed by the RSPCA. One of the clauses the RSPCA sought to amend was the one which said,

in effect, that the RSPCA and other associations with like objectives shall be able to prosecute under the terms of the Act.

The RSPCA suggests that it should be the sole arbiter, and that no other society should have the right to appoint rangers and to police the Act. It was brought to my attention that the Chief Secretary's Department has issued instructions that all the associations interested in animal welfare be notified. However, I had to write to the Chief Secretary's office to seek the amendments that were proposed. The Animal Protection Society, which has seven volunteer rangers, five of whom work full time, was not advised of any of the changes. If I were not a member of Parliament as well as the President of the Animal Protection Society, the society would not have known it was to be "sliced" out of the new Act, and that the RSPCA would be left in the field.

I do not wish to criticise the RSPCA other than to say that a lot of the people who formed the Animal Protection Society were disenchanted members of the RSPCA who felt that not enough was being done for animal welfare. They formed the society, and it is going from strength to strength.

I had the Animal Protection Society submit a very brief document to the Chief Secretary and to the committee considering amendments to the Act. However, I note the answer to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition indicated that Mr Bill Carter, the Secretary of the RSPCA, was a member of the committee. I suggest that other people could be seconded onto that committee from other organisations like the dogs' home at Shenton Park, the Cat Haven, the Animal Protection Society, and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. Those people should be able to play a part, apart from merely making written submissions to the committee.

I believe that the time is long overdue for changes to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. I do not believe that increased penalties are the answer to the problems presently being experienced. I believe that increasing penalties is only "shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted"—no pun intended! The present Act has done nothing at all to strengthen the position of those who are trying to do something in this field.

As an illustration of that, the Act does not give rangers any right to remove an animal from a position in which it is at risk of injury. That power is not bestowed under the Act.

With those few remarks, I conclude my speech.

**MR SHALDERS** (Murray) [8.05 p.m.]: As I support the motion moved by my colleague, the



member for Mundaring, I want to congratulate the new members elected to this House. On this side of the House, I congratulate the member for East Melville. Unlike the member for Balcatta, who was reluctant to congratulate our new member, I have no hesitation in congratulating the members for Kimberley, Kalgoorlie, and Fremantle on their election to the House. We may not see eye to eye in relation to our respective platforms; but it is a privilege for them and for us to be elected to this House. Unequivocally, I offer my congratulations to them. In addition, I congratulate the new members on their maiden speeches.

Mr Jamieson: You will not get any more pairs that way.

Mr SHALDERS: I would also congratulate the Minister for Labour and Industry on his election to the position of Deputy Premier, succeeding the former member for East Melville. That is an honour for him; and I am sure he will follow in the footsteps of Sir Desmond O'Neil in his role as Deputy Premier of this State. Who knows what lies ahead of the present Deputy Premier?

I congratulate my colleagues on this side of the House, the member for Gascoyne and the member for Murdoch, on their elevation to the Ministry. I offer my congratulations to the member for Warren on his re-election to the position of Deputy Leader of the Opposition; and I offer condolences to the member for Ascot.

Mr Bryce: Commiserations, yes.

Mr SHALDERS: It seems the Opposition is playing musical chairs with the position of Deputy Leader. I suppose it is not beyond the realms of possibility that we will see the member for Warren and the member for Ascot change places again. Anything could happen over there.

Most of all, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the Premier on his successful campaign and the return of a free-enterprise Government in Western Australia.

Opposition members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SHALDERS: It is perfectly obvious that the policies of the Government parties and the way they were presented by the Premier were key factors in our re-election, taken, of course, with the record of the past six years of sound economic and financial management. The people of this State have grown accustomed to that. Another factor, of course, is the number of jobs which have been created in Western Australia. There is no need for me to rub salt into the wounds of the Opposition regarding the number of new jobs

which have been created in Western Australia during the past six years of free-enterprise government.

This Government's record is a proud one; and it must embarrass the members of the Opposition when they look at the record of someone like Neville Wran, who is Premier of a State in which the number of jobs has gone down, and down, and down. Opposition members must be really embarrassed.

Mr McIver: Tell us where the fish are. Never mind all this.

Mr SHALDERS: When one considers the election campaigns, the only bright spot for the Opposition was the performance of the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Ascot. I congratulate him on the way he promoted the Opposition's policy on small business. I cannot say I agree with it; but I congratulate him on the way he presented it. There is absolutely no doubt that he was the shining light in the Opposition's campaign.

The performance of the Leader of the Opposition was very mundane. I imagine members of the Opposition absolutely cringed when they saw their leader on "Nationwide" only three or four days before the election. That programme on ABC television was beamed across Western Australia—

Mr Davies: Went to the Eastern States, actually.

Mr SHALDERS: He said there are policies of the Labor Party with which he did not agree. One can imagine the Leader of the Opposition, the party attempting to gain government, telling the people of Western Australia that he was going to the people with a platform he could not support and did not support 100 per cent. He refused to say on that television programme which policies he did not support.

Mr Parker: Do you support your platform 100 per cent?

Mr SHALDERS: Absolutely.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat.

There are far too many interjections. In particular, there are too many at one time. From time to time we do have some excellent interjections; but the constant interjections deny all of us in this House the opportunity to hear the excellent ones if three or four people are interjecting at the same time. There are some members who think they are giving a speech when they are sitting down. Members will understand I cannot accept that. I will not tolerate it. I ask

members to remember that there is a difference between the interjections which are rejected and those which are accepted. A speaker a little while ago was not prepared to accept an interjection from one member. That is something that has been accepted in this House over the years. When a member repeats the same interjection continually, it is highly disorderly. I ask members to take notice of this.

The member for Murray.

Mr SHALDERS: In relation to the interjection made by the member for Fremantle, I say I was not the leader of the party. I was not presenting my party's policies.

Mr Parker: Not likely at all.

Mr SHALDERS: Surely it would be bad enough for a back-bench member not to support his party's policies; but when the leader of the party says on television in a programme probably seen in most homes in Western Australia that he does not support the policies he is putting forward as the leader of an alternative Government—

Mr McIver: He could not have done too badly. He was only a couple of hundred votes out.

Mr SHALDERS: The member for Avon should remember that Government members were returned with the second largest majority on record.

Mr McIver: They nearly had a heart attack.

Mr SHALDERS: Even the member for Avon did not have much of a majority up his sleeve.

Mr McIver: Only 1 000. That is not bad.

Mr SHALDERS: Although the member for Avon is a friend of mine he has to look very carefully at the constituents in his electorate.

I turn my attention now to the problems which face small businessmen in Western Australia. There is no doubt the small business sector is a vital factor in the economy of this State. It employs the largest number of people.

There is no shadow of doubt that small businessmen throughout Western Australia, and in fact throughout Australia—I am more concerned about this State—are experiencing a great number of problems.

Mr T. J. Burke: They are going broke at a fast rate.

Mr SHALDERS: Those problems are caused by a variety of factors. I will tell the member for Perth some of those reasons. I do not want to over-simplify what is a very complex problem; but certainly the majority of reasons small businesses are having difficulty are related to overheads in the conduct of their businesses.

I make no secret of the fact that I recognise the charges of public utilities are causing a problem. I do not believe many small businessmen are overly concerned at the cost of electricity, because they have had demonstrated to them that the charges for electricity are related to the cost of providing it.

Mr T. H. Jones: Related to the mistakes made by the Liberal Government.

Mr SHALDERS: Certainly they are most unhappy at the charges being levied upon them for water and sewerage rates. Unlike domestic consumers, the small businessmen have no maximum rate. Their rate is devised by multiplying the valuation of their property by the rate per dollar. They are forced to meet those costs for water and sewerage. The costs bear no relationship to the use they make of water and sewerage facilities.

I am aware that during one year many businesses use less than \$10-worth of water. In fact, in many cases they use less than \$1-worth. However, they are paying rates of several hundreds of dollars for water. In relation to sewerage rates, if they are using only a small amount of water one can imagine that they are not utilising the sewerage facilities to any great extent.

Mr Bryce: Have you represented this situation to your own Premier?

Mr SHALDERS: Indeed I have.

Mr Bryce: What is the answer?

Mr SHALDERS: I will tell the member for Ascot the answer.

Mr Bryce: The answer is that nothing will be done.

Mr SHALDERS: Last year the Government came forward with an interim measure which was a short term answer. Of course, the problem is accentuated when there is a revaluation after three or four years, and the rates jump by the percentage increase in the valuation.

I congratulate the Government on taking action to limit the increase to 50 per cent in any one year. That was of considerable value to many small businessmen. Nevertheless, they are still expected to pay for their water in a manner which bears no relation to the system of payment by domestic consumers.

Mr Bryce: It is still a pretty hefty increase.

Mr Wilson: Your Minister has justified this.

Mr SHALDERS: The time has come when we should consider a proposal whereby small businessmen operate under a user-pay system for

their water. It is clear that water costs are passed on in overheads to the consumer.

Mr Bryce: Would you extend that to large businesses as well?

Mr SHALDERS: I would like to mention another matter in relation to small businesses and that is the worker's compensation payments they are obliged to make. I do not argue that workers genuinely injured in their employment should not receive workers' compensation payments. However, there is absolutely no justification for an employee to receive workers' compensation when he suffers a heart attack whilst driving his car to work. Had the heart attack occurred five minutes before he left home or five minutes after he returned home, it would be classed as a natural death. I do not believe compensation paid in such cases can be considered to be legitimate.

Mr T. H. Jones: The "to and from" clause is generally accepted.

Mr SHALDERS: I did not hear the interjection made by the member for Collie; but he could not extend an argument in this regard.

Mr T. H. Jones: The "to and from" clause is generally accepted by everybody.

Mr SHALDERS: I do not accept it, because it militates against those people who suffer heart attacks away from their employment. It is clear the majority of people suffer heart attacks away from their employment; therefore, in the present situation a privileged minority is eligible for workers' compensation.

Mr T. H. Jones: How can you say that? Where is your source of information?

Mr SHALDERS: I am saying it and I mean it.

Mr T. H. Jones: You are talking for the sake of talking.

Mr SHALDERS: I would think the member for Collie would be the last person in the world to accuse me of talking for the sake of talking.

Mr T. H. Jones: At least I know my subject.

Mr SHALDERS: If that is not a case of the pot calling the kettle black, I do not know what is.

Mr T. H. Jones: You have never been a worker anyhow.

Mr Sibson: Yes, he has.

Mr SHALDERS: I have never been a union official.

One matter which falls within a different category, but relates to small businesses, is the situation in regard to bad debts. Some people buy goods or obtain services, but refuse to pay for them. This situation does not affect every type of business; but it certainly affects a great number. I

am sure all members would agree that credit buying has increased greatly in recent years and it has created many problems for small businesses.

Generally speaking the individual amounts involved in bad debts are very small. They might amount to \$20 or \$30 for a tyre, \$30 for a battery, or \$10 or \$15 for a toaster. This problem affects a great number of small businesses. Although the individual amounts are quite small, over a period of a year they add up to a considerable sum.

I intend to set out the action a small businessman may take in an endeavour to obtain payment for services rendered. Firstly, he may employ a debt collection agency to pursue the debt for him. Secondly, if the agency is unsuccessful, he may take legal action. If in fact the debt collection agency succeeds, it is inevitable that the small businessman will lose a significant amount of the sum involved. In fact, the amount he may receive is probably less than the cost price of the article sold. However, at least he will recover a portion of it.

If the small businessman finds it necessary to take legal action, the solicitor involved will send a letter to the person who has incurred the bad debt, with a threat that legal action will be taken. In some cases, that produces the desired result; but in other cases it does not. Nevertheless, the businessman is required to meet the fee charged by the solicitor for writing the letter. If the solicitor is unsuccessful in obtaining payment of the bad debt as a result of writing a letter, the small businessman may decide to continue with legal action and take the debtor to court. In that case the costs involved are usually greater than the amount of the bad debt. Therefore, in some cases a small businessman does not bother to take the matter that far and many people realise this.

Recently I spoke to a man who admitted quite unashamedly that he never paid an account for a sum less than \$10, because he had never known anyone to take him to court in an endeavour to obtain payment for such an amount. This person took advantage of the people with whom he dealt.

Members are aware that some years ago consumers faced problems when they experienced difficulties in dealing with retailers. Not all business people are strictly honourable and some sharp businessmen take advantage of their customers. As a result, the Small Claims Tribunal was set up so that consumers who felt aggrieved could have recourse to it. That tribunal has been very successful over the years and I hope it continues in that vein. It has helped a number of

consumers, because matters may be dealt with fairly, quickly, and inexpensively.

Unfortunately, a similar facility is not available to small businessmen. They are prevented, by Statute, from pressing through the Small Claims Tribunal their claims for debts against people who owe them money. In my opinion, there is an urgent need for a similar type of facility for business proprietors so that small debt claims can be settled. The time is now appropriate for the Government to establish a small debts tribunal. It would provide a similar service to business people as that provided to consumers by the Small Claims Tribunal.

It would be necessary for a limit to be set on the amount of a debt dealt with under the jurisdiction of a small debts tribunal. As I have said, generally, the individual amounts involved in bad debts are relatively small. Therefore, a ceiling of \$200 or \$300 on debts dealt with under the jurisdiction of a small debts tribunal would be satisfactory.

The amounts over which the Small Claims Tribunal has jurisdiction have been increased and it is possible the same situation might occur in regard to a small debts tribunal.

Mr Bryce: Have you put this proposition to your Minister?

Mr SHALDERS: I am putting forward the proposition to the House now.

Mr Bryce: Do you expect him to pick it up from your words of wisdom tonight?

Mr SHALDERS: Initially the jurisdiction of a small debts tribunal could be in the vicinity of \$200 or \$300. It would operate on similar lines to the Small Claims Tribunal, and it would offer real advantages to both small business people and consumers. Claims would be settled relatively quickly and cheaply. It is obvious that, if such a tribunal existed, the people who refused to pay small debts until the very last minute, would be forced to make payment much earlier. Those people who bank on the cost and time involved in collection of the debt, if it were necessary to take legal action, would be forced into court much more quickly and the whole procedure would be less costly to the small businessman.

A tribunal of this nature would provide a service also to people who genuinely dispute the fact that they owe the money claimed. They would not be deterred from defending a case, because the costs involved would be much lower than in a normal courtroom situation. They would not be concerned that, if they lost the case, not only would they be responsible for meeting the judgment as to the debt, but they would also be

responsible for meeting the costs involved in defending the claim and the costs to the small business person making the claim.

Such a tribunal would offer great advantages to both parties involved in the matter. I hope the Government will give favourable consideration to establishing a small debts tribunal. I subscribe to the free enterprise system favoured by this Government and I believe the time is ripe for it to establish the type of tribunal I have mentioned, because it will give positive advantages to the small business people whom we support, and who see us as their life support system.

Mr Bryce: A Labor Government would have done it sooner and better.

Mr SHALDERS: I am not sure of the motives of the member for Ascot and his policy in regard to small businesses; but many members opposite have no time whatsoever for them. Perhaps the member for Ascot falls into a different category.

I want to draw the Government's attention to what I consider to be the most unsatisfactory actions of what could be called a "quango", and I refer to the Motor Vehicle Dealers' Licensing Board. I have discussed this matter with the Minister already, but I want to draw it to the attention of Parliament.

A short time ago I became involved in a situation in which a small businessman in my electorate applied to use his business premises to sell used vehicles. He was already using the premises for the purpose of operating an automatic transmission business. The premises were licensed for the purpose of used car sales under the Shops and Factories Act.

However, when this person applied to the Motor Vehicle Dealers' Licensing Board for registration of the premises, the approval was not forthcoming. He received a letter from the board setting out its reasons for rejecting the application. It said the application was rejected because the premises would not be used solely for the purpose of a used car sales operation. We must be realistic about the matter, because in country areas it is impossible for a small town to support a used car dealership business which does not have some other business attached to it. It needs some other outlet to make it a viable business. However, the first reason given by the board for rejecting the application was that the premises would not be used solely for the purpose of a used car sales operation.

The gentleman concerned wrote again to the board and asked it to review its original decision. The board did so and replied, once again rejecting the application, but for a different reason. A letter

was sent to the man—all these letters are available to members—saying that the premises were simply not suitable for such a business. No mention was made of the fact that two businesses would be operated from the one premises. The letter simply said that the premises were not suitable. It did not say the premises were not suitable, because they had a red roof, rather than a green roof. The letter simply said that the premises were not suitable.

At that stage this gentleman approached me and I wrote to the board on his behalf. I pointed out that, in fairness to the gentleman concerned, the board should set out the reasons that the premises were not suitable. I asked the board also to review the situation once again.

The third time the board wrote to this man it advised him that the premises did not conform to the guidelines which had been adopted for registration of premises for used car sales operations. The gentleman concerned showed me the letter and I thought that perhaps we were getting somewhere and I could find out the details of the guidelines.

I telephoned the secretary of the board (Mr Hardwick) who is a very courteous gentleman with whom I have no argument. I asked him to send me a copy of the guidelines which were referred to in the letter by the board. I was told simply that that was not possible because the guidelines had been agreed to at the last meeting of the board. After the two applications had been rejected, the board decided it wanted some guidelines. Those guidelines were sent to the Minister for Labour and Industry for his approval and in no way could they be disclosed. Only the Minister had seen them, and he approved of them. I felt that was a disgraceful situation, and I still do. The fact that the action followed my approach shows it to be very poor.

Before I resume my seat I want to refer to an incident which occurred in this State recently and which affected my electorate considerably. Of course, I am referring to the prolonged dispute which occurred at the Pinjarra Alcoa refinery when the members of the craft unions decided that, unlike 1 000 or more workers from the Australian Workers' Union, they were not prepared to put the 35-hour week part of their claim on a reserved log of claims. They were determined to pursue with all endeavour; to bludgeon Alcoa to agree to a 35-hour week at that level.

There is no doubt that dispute is a black spot on the actions of those unions in Western Australia. There equally is no doubt that the

prime mover behind the craft unions was the chairman of the shop stewards' committee, a gentleman by the name of Mr Dave King. He just happened to be, coincidentally, the Labor Party candidate for Murray at the last election. In my opinion—and certainly in the opinion of the majority of unionists at Pinjarra—Mr King has caused considerable hardship by the hard line he took during the dispute and the encouragement he gave to those members of the craft unions who took part in the dispute. In some cases, it was not always encouragement; there was a great deal of coercion involved.

Unfortunately, I would be disclosing confidences and possibly endangering members of those craft unions if I were to disclose the information I have with regard to some of the events which occurred during that dispute. Believe me, Mr Deputy Speaker, many of those craft union members who were on strike came to see me personally, and many of them telephoned me at night, because they were most concerned that I should be aware of what was happening. They were equally concerned that I would treat the information they gave to me in confidence, and certainly I will respect that concern. I can only hope the day might come when all that information can be released, and when people will be able to see and know the pressure and threats Mr King, and certain other trade union officials, applied during that dispute.

It absolutely amazed me that many of those unionists were prepared to give Mr King any credibility whatsoever. During the election campaign Mr King proved he could not handle the truth very carefully.

I will refer to an article which appeared in the *Coastal Districts Times* of 8 February 1980, during the last election campaign. Mr King had his photograph in that paper, together with the Leader of the Opposition who was in Mandurah at that time. Mr King made the statement—

A Labor Government had built the traffic bridge and it would take a Labor Government to build a new one.

He was referring to the existing traffic bridge in Mandurah. Of course, the second traffic bridge will supplement stage two of the by-pass road. The claim was that the Labor Government had built the first traffic bridge.

That claim was quickly refuted by a letter in the next issue of the same paper, written by a gentleman—Mr John Perry. He provided some facts, and pointed out the true position. His letter states—

The McLarty Government was in office from 1947 until defeated in the election held on February 14, 1953.

That Government had been in office for six years. The letter continues—

Mr John Tonkin became the Minister for Works in a Labor Government on February 23, 1953, and officially opened the existing bridge less than eight weeks later, on April 17.

Mr Jamieson: That was quick work; he opened it within eight weeks.

Mr McIver: That is how we operate.

Mr SHALDERS: The letter continues—

Does Mr King expect us to believe that Mr Tonkin organised the planning, designing, financing and building of the bridge in less than two months?

Of course that did not happen.

To all intents and purposes, the bridge was built during the six-year term of the Liberal Country Party Government . . .

Mr McIver: A bit like the Narrows Bridge.

Mr SHALDERS: That is an example of how the Opposition candidate was prepared to say anything at all, irrespective of the truth of his statements, in order to try to gain some credibility.

I could quote half a dozen other similar examples. He received support from only one place—the work force of Alcoa. I can assure members opposite that he has now upset three-quarters of that work force, and they have absolutely no time for the man who caused them almost to lose their jobs—or caused their jobs to be threatened because of the actions of the craft unions.

It was only the action of Alcoa that kept the men on the pay-roll when really there was no work for them to do. I give credit to the company which was prepared to look after its loyal employees. Certainly, it was of no concern to Mr King that 1 000 or more Australian Workers' Union members might have to be stood down because no work was available for them.

The action which the Government took in moving to use legislation available to it was the soundest possible move. It forced the unions to the negotiating table. The settlement was in exactly the same terms as those available a month earlier—that the claim for a 35-hour week would be continued with the ACTU. Settlement along those lines had been negotiated, virtually, by Mr Peter Cook of the Trades and Labor Council

when he went there to participate in the discussions. It was the men in the craft unions led by Mr King who rejected that offer. Four weeks later they settled on the same terms.

The workers who were on strike lost four weeks' pay. I can assure members that those workers know what happened, and many are upset at the actions of those leaders of the craft unions involved.

With those remarks, I support the motion moved by the member for Mundaring.

MR CRANE (Moore) (8.38 p.m.): I add my support to the speech delivered in this House by the member for Mundaring in support of the Speech made by His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator. There are one or two points concerning my electorate on which I will touch, and I will also refer to the affairs of the State in general.

First of all, it would be appropriate also to offer my congratulations to those new members in this House. I can remember the first time I came here, when the Hon. John Tonkin congratulated the new members and he commented to the effect that many of the new members would be "birds of passage". I suppose he was right, but some birds last longer than others! That brings me to the point that it would be easier for me to name those people who said I would be here for this session rather than those who said I would not be here. Almost every person I spoke to in this House said I would not be returned. However, I was fortunate and I have been returned to annoy members for another three years.

Mr T. H. Jones: I told you that the other night; but I will not mention the incident here.

Mr CRANE: It is rather painful to recall, but I can remember one individual assuring me, in the members' bar, that I would not be here. He also assured me he had no problems. However, something must have gone wrong because I am here and he is no longer in another place.

Mr Stephens: Probably he did not have a Liberal candidate who ran dead.

Mr CRANE: I heard somebody's ears flapping on the starboard side. It was the same sort of noise made by the gentleman who said he hoped I had not forgotten how to drive a tractor. I can assure him I have not forgotten, but probably I have forgotten more about farming than he will ever learn. However, back to the job in hand.

Mr T. H. Jones: That is a good idea.

Mr CRANE: I add my congratulations and support to the Speaker. He is not present at the moment.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): I will pass your remarks on to him.

Mr CRANE: His election was a rather unusual procedure—a planned procedure—and many of us had to travel some miles because of it. However, without any doubt at all the Speaker retained the position. He earned his return to the Chair, in which he has shown a great deal of dignity. We have considerable respect for Mr Speaker. The manner in which he conducts this House and the respect he commands from both sides is commendable, and we are proud to be guided by him in his moments of wisdom.

There are several points concerning my electorate which I would like to bring forward. Most of them concern the fact that the Government has been as generous as it possibly could be in the circumstances. I have made many requests for assistance in my electorate, and I have been able to obtain extensions to schools for which the people are very thankful.

My electors are thankful for the extensions to hospitals, and for the building of new hospitals. The hospital at Moora was extended, and I thank the Government for appreciating the need for those extensions. They mean a lot to the people in the Moora area.

The new hospital at Wanneroo was opened only a few weeks ago. It is very important to the northern suburbs of the metropolitan area. I did raise a question in the House recently which has caused some concern with regard to operating tables. I drew the matter to the attention of the Minister for Health, and I understand he received some criticism from the surgeons at the hospital. The complaint concerns the operating tables. The criterion governing those tables was that of cost. However that criterion did not apply to efficiency.

Mr Davies: What was the answer to that question?

Mr CRANE: The reply was along the lines I have just stated. The tables were cheaper, and they were considered to be satisfactory for the hospital. They met with the approval of the Medical Department. However, they did not meet with the approval of the doctors. The surgeons who operate at the Wanneroo Hospital have expressed their preference for the Denyer operating tables. They have requested that the Japanese KTK Omni tables be replaced by the Denyer tables. The Omni table is not easy to clean, and it cannot be manipulated easily. There are many other reasons for the doctors preferring the Denyer-type table.

I agree with the doctors that in a hospital where there is a consistent throughput it is

necessary to have the best equipment possible. I am sure the Medical Department will keep this matter under review. As a matter of fact I am confident it will because I will continue to bring it to the attention of the department.

One problem causing considerable concern in country areas is the constantly rising costs of country high school hostels. I brought this matter to the notice of the Government in a question I asked in the House last week and I was reminded that the Government had increased its contribution this year by \$100. I am very thankful for this, and so are the people who are forced to send their children to these hostels. However, it is not really enough in view of the escalating costs in country areas.

For the hostel with which I am associated, the term fee is \$480 a child. This works out at \$1 440 to send one child to a country high school hostel for a year. The State Government makes a contribution of \$250 for a year, and the Commonwealth Government makes a minimum contribution of \$500, depending on a means test. The State and Federal Governments subsidise the hostels by \$750 a child a year, and so parents must still pay \$440 a child a year.

Some people will say that it would cost that amount of money to keep a child at home, but I do not agree. Particularly where there are two or more children of the same family staying at a hostel at the one time, the parents must find a considerable amount of money. The result of the increases is that a number of families are seriously considering leaving the country so that their children may be educated in the city. Certainly we cannot blame these people.

So I would remind the Government—not that it really needs reminding—of the need to give as much assistance as possible to the people in the country who wish to send their children to country high school hostels.

Sir Charles Court: Have your local hostels had a word with you about the threat of the new awards?

Mr CRANE: Yes, they have. In fact, the threat of the new awards has been hanging over our heads for some time. Indeed, if payments must be made in retrospect to the workers at the hostels, that will be an additional burden on the people in country towns.

Mr T. H. Jones: Is that the unions again?

Mr CRANE: I serve on the board of the Moora Country High School Hostel. I am well aware of the problems faced and the member for Collie hit the nail on the head—problems have arisen because of pressure from the unions.

Mr T. H. Jones: I have never yet known a union to apply pressure.

Mr CRANE: Perhaps it is the hostels and boards saying we should pay the workers extra.

Mr Parker: It will be the Industrial Commission making the awards—not the unions.

Mr CRANE: It is the woman who has the baby, but it is not always her fault.

Mr McIver: Which hostel are you referring to?

Mr CRANE: Moora.

Mr McIver: Are the numbers down?

Mr CRANE: No, our numbers are up. The same situation applies at Esperance.

Mr McIver: Is it run by the church?

Mr CRANE: Yes, it is run by the Anglican Church.

Mr McIver: They will have to put more in the plate!

Mr CRANE: When I have finished my address, perhaps I can take the plate around; by the smiles on the faces of members on the other side of the House, obviously it would be well received. It would appear that many Opposition members have not had a plate put under their noses for a long time.

Mr Davies: Are you not in favour of workers being paid an adequate wage?

Mr CRANE: Yes.

Mr Davies: Then what are you grizzling about?

Mr CRANE: I am talking about cost increases at the hostels. At the present time this money can be recouped only by putting up the fees.

Mr Davies: The Premier says the user must pay.

Mr CRANE: Members will see that I did not complain about the action taken, and I did not take umbrage with the people concerned. I have merely spoken about the effect of any rise.

Sir Charles Court: I think the main problem is the incidence of hours and the circumstances under which overtime becomes effective.

Mr CRANE: That is a very serious problem.

Sir Charles Court: I do not think it was ever intended, but that is how it is developing.

Mr T. H. Jones: You are getting on well with the Premier.

Mr Parker: Have you put before the Industrial Commission your problems with overtime?

Mr CRANE: I have not done so personally.

Mr Parker: What about your hostel?

Mr CRANE: I am a member of the board, and at this stage I am not prepared to reveal what the hostel has done.

Mr T. H. Jones: You know all about it, don't you?

Mr CRANE: I do know all about it.

Mr T. H. Jones: Give us the whole history.

Mr CRANE: That is not what I rose to speak about.

Mr McIver: Come to Northam.

Sir Charles Court: I think you all ought to take an interest in what is going on. It could result in the closing of the hostels.

Mr Davies: Why don't they go before the commission and explain their position?

Mr CRANE: That would not really worry the Opposition because its members have shown very little concern for country people.

Mr Davies: What an insulting thing to say. That is untrue.

Mr CRANE: I do not mean all Opposition members. Some members on the other side have shown an encouraging concern for country people. I must be fair about that.

Mr McIver: Come up our way and I will show you how to improve hostels.

Mr CRANE: Yes, I know the problems in that area.

Mr McIver: Yours is not an isolated problem.

Mr CRANE: I am concerned about the recent increase in rail freight charges.

Mr H. D. Evans: What Government did that?

Mr CRANE: I appreciate that with costs escalating as they are, we must have increased charges. I cannot argue that this increase is or is not justified because I do not know the relevant facts and figures. My concern is that increased charges will cause hardship to many people.

I am concerned particularly at the manner in which the increases are to be introduced. In many instances the short haulage freights are to be reduced by up to 33 per cent, and long haul freights are to be increased by up to 20 per cent. We should look at a system in which there is no increase over a certain distance. The charge should be spread more evenly over the whole of the farming community.

I do not know whether it was by accident or by design, but with the introduction of these new charges the Minister has effectively divided some of the farming community, although not quite down the centre. I do not say he did it deliberately, but it is an old ploy to divide and



conquer. I have the courage to stand here and say that in the circumstances I doubt whether a reduction should have been made. If this action were not taken, some of the increases would not have been necessary.

Mr Cowan: Will you have the courage to support the motion to be moved by the member for Mt. Marshall?

Mr CRANE: I have not seen it yet.

Mr Cowan: Look at the notice paper.

Mr CRANE: I fear that the member for Mt. Marshall is not considering the good of the industry, but rather he will move it as a political ploy.

Mr McIver: Could you be more specific when you refer to the long haul freight? Do you mean, say, from Moora?

Mr CRANE: No, much greater distances than Moora to Perth.

Mr E. T. Evans: Wanneroo?

Mr McIver: Would you be more specific?

Mr CRANE: The honourable member can visualise the State and the areas from which grain is carted. I do not think I need elaborate any more than that.

Mr Davies: Some people reckon Northam is a long haul.

Mr CRANE: I have already voiced my disapproval of the increases. My concern is about the effect the increases will have on the coming harvest. I ask members to forget for a moment the added freight costs for some and the reduced costs for others and look at the real problem which is, as I see it—however, I could be wrong—

Mr McIver: You are; no doubt about that.

Mr CRANE: —that there will be chaos in the wheat industry this coming harvest. Because of the reductions and increases over differing distances, many of the farmers will be chasing the lower freight rates. They will cart their wheat over many miles to gain an advantage. In my own particular case, Bindi Bindi will be the best terminal. I believe Bindi Bindi will receive most of the wheat from Ballidu. The Miling bin will receive most of the wheat from Dalwallinu. Farmers in those areas commence harvesting at least a week or a fortnight before we do because they are further north in the drier areas. By the time our machines are ready to go, the bins will be half full. I believe problems will arise, and I have brought this to the notice of the Government repeatedly. I hope it will act in the matter.

Mr H. D. Evans: Are you not part of the Government?

Mr CRANE: I want to say something also about the preservation of our railway system.

Mr McIver: Could I rudely interject to say: You are going to bypass the facilities you have provided.

Mr CRANE: The only way to preserve the railways is to ensure that they operate, and to do that we must regulate grain onto rail transport. I know we do not like too many regulations, but I remind members that we are already regulated in many ways. When I leave here I drive home in my motorcar, and I am regulated to drive it only on the left-hand side of the road. There is a reason for this, and a very good one.

In the long term the only equitable way to preserve our railways is to regulate the grain to rail transport. That will not meet with approval in some areas, I know, but I have the courage to stand up and say it. I have spoken to farmers throughout my electorate, and the consensus is that they want the railways retained. So I hope the Government will give serious consideration to the problem. If I am proved to be wrong—

Mr McIver: This is wishy-washy—a dollar each way job.

Mr CRANE: It is not wishy-washy. I have said what I would do.

Mr McIver: You are advocating closure.

Mr CRANE: One does not advocate closure by seeking to regulate grain onto the railways.

Mr McIver: Then you want the freight reduced? Someone has to pay for the haulage.

Mr CRANE: I know that, but a great deal of the grain has been bypassing the railways.

I would like to make another point about Westrail. Except in areas where there is no rail, I believe that Westrail transport should be—as the name implies—by rail. At the present moment a great deal of duplication occurs with Westrail trucks travelling alongside the railway line. We should seriously consider this situation. It may well be that the present situation is the most economical, but I am not satisfied that that is so. One sees countless numbers of Westrail vehicles travelling on the roads, and this must cost the taxpayers a lot of money.

I am trying to be constructive; I do not wish to pour a bucket of cold water over our Minister. For many years I have held him in high regard, but I do not agree with him on our rail policy and I believe this is the place to say so.

Another matter causing concern to the farming industry over the past 12 months or so is the constant niggling by the meat employees' union about live sheep exports. Recently, we have seen

other people jumping on the bandwagon, using the argument that they are concerned with the health of the animals. We all should know the sheep which are exported live have no saleable market in Western Australia as slaughtered animals and not a very competitive market overseas. In the main, they are big, fat four-year-old wethers—full mouth wethers and sometimes broken mouth wethers—which have served out their lives as wool producers. So, there is no market here for them as meat, but we have built up quite a good market overseas. I do not believe the meat employees' union has any right to dictate where we should sell our commodity, any more than we have the right to dictate where they shall work, if they want to work.

Mr H. D. Evans: Does this apply to wheat as well?

Mr CRANE: It applies to meat. Recently, these people, including the RSPCA, jumped on the bandwagon and said we should be more concerned about the health of our animals. The overwhelming majority of farmers are concerned about their animals. Of course, there are always people who make mistakes and do not show sufficient care.

As to how badly these animals are treated, I am sure the member for Warren would well recall our visit to Arabia in 1973. We viewed sheep from Western Australia at a place known as "The Farm of the Smiling Sheep". They were in a compound of about 10 acres, surrounded by a galvanised iron fence.

Mr H. D. Evans: The person we were talking to said they were the wrong sheep.

Mr CRANE: It is true that there was a stranger in the mob; I will come to that allegation in a minute.

The people had provided shade for the sheep in the form of date palm fronds; however, most of the sheep were lying in the sun. The member for Warren no doubt would recall this; in fact, I took a photograph of the sheep.

It is not unusual for sheep to choose to lie in the sun. Anyone who has anything to do with sheep would know that, with the exception of rams, sheep will always lie out in the sun during the summer. It does not matter how hot the day is; the wethers and the ewes will always lie out in the sun in the hottest part of the field. They prefer a sandy spot where they can dig holes and throw a bit of sand over themselves. Only the rams prefer the shady spots. Therefore, for people to suggest we should provide shade for our sheep is a clear indication they do not know what they are talking about. It is a little like the old adage, "You can

lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink." We can provide a sheep with shade, but we cannot force it to lie under the shade.

I appeal to members on both sides of the House to support our farming industry and allow the meat producer the option of exporting live sheep and write finish to these arguments. They do not help the economy of this State, the meat producer or, in fact, anybody except perhaps the newspapers who make a little print out of them.

I raise again the matter of vehicle emission controls. With the fuel shortage growing, and with fuel prices rising dramatically—particularly over the last six months—I believe we should give serious consideration to removing emission controls. The great majority of vehicles in Western Australia are operating in areas where there is no chance of pollution becoming a problem.

Mr McIver: Do you not realise we must have unanimity in all States regarding this matter? You blokes talk like this, yet you do not do your homework. New South Wales would not have a bar of it; nor would GMH.

Mr CRANE: We are not worrying about New South Wales. We should not be dictated to by people in other States. I am here representing the citizens of Western Australia.

People are also suggesting we remove lead from petrol—I understand it is called tetra ethyl lead. It supposedly is a pollutant. I believe that if other additives can do the same job as lead in petrol, we should consider its removal. It probably would go a long way to solving the pollution problem and may even lead to a reduction in the level of emission controls which have been pushed on us over the last two years.

I am disappointed with the member for Avon, because I am sure many of the people in his electorate would be concerned at the extra fuel their vehicles are using as a result of these arbitrary emission controls.

Mr McIver: The member for Avon is trying to use a bit of sense, and is trying to see the overall situation.

Mr CRANE: That is very encouraging, because the member for Avon does not always do that. I must congratulate him on his change of tactics.

The matter of fuel prices is one of the most pressing problems facing us today. The increases as a result of the world parity pricing policy have been felt very seriously by country people.

Mr Parker: You support those policies. Doug Anthony was the first person to suggest it.

Mr CRANE: Doug Anthony did suggest this in 1974. He said that, because of the need to encourage additional exploration for oil in Australia, the well-head price of oil should be increased. He was ridiculed at the time for his suggestion, but subsequent events have proved he was not far from the mark and that in fact, an incentive was needed to encourage companies to go out and find more oil, thus enabling Australia to become more self-sufficient. Perhaps his timing was wrong, in that an election was due; however, there is still nothing wrong with his idea.

Mr Hodge: How much new oil have they found?

Mr CRANE: I think quite a lot of new oil has been found.

Mr H. D. Evans: What percentage of the extra money has gone into new exploration?

Mr CRANE: I cannot give the member for Warren the exact figures.

Mr Parker: None.

Mr CRANE: The member for Fremantle apparently is an authority on most things; certainly he gave us that impression when he first spoke in this place. However, as we say to many new members, "We tame lions in this place." I do not think we will worry too much about the member for Fremantle in the future.

Mr E. T. Evans: They have certainly tamed you.

Mr CRANE: No, they will never tame me.

Mr Skidmore: You were born into captivity.

Mr CRANE: Mr Speaker, as you are back in the Chair, could I repeat the congratulations I gave earlier in my remarks. We are very thankful for the standard of conduct you insist upon in this place, and for the manner in which you earn the respect of all members, most of the time. I think that is probably a nice way of putting it. It is only fair to say, "most of the time" because there are times when some members become a little obstreperous.

In supporting the Address-in-Reply motion, I thank the Government for the help it has given me in my electorate over the last three years.

Mr H. D. Evans: Including rail freights.

Mr CRANE: I do not thank the Government for rail freight increases. However, I do thank the Government for its announced intention of having a long hard look at the matter, and for the solutions which undoubtedly will flow from that examination.

Mr Davies: Is the Wanneroo Hospital now taking patients?

Mr CRANE: I believe it commenced last Monday.

Mr McIver: Do you realise the matron is from Northam?

Mr CRANE: If she is from Northam, and now resides in Wanneroo, she will enjoy a tremendous improvement in her parliamentary representation. I must have a word with her and find out whether that is indeed so. She will be well and truly looked after.

I have mentioned before and I say again that I believe, with the population explosion which has been experienced in Wanneroo over the last few years, it is time we looked seriously at constructing a rail link to Wanneroo, and further north when required. This is not a gimmick as far as I am concerned. The area could well support such a link and in view of the high fuel costs and transport costs generally, a rail link through the northern suburbs to Wanneroo, with extensions to Yanchep and Two Rocks and a line to Muchea could serve the area well. I have reason to believe that deposits of lime at Yanchep could well be used to advantage in industry in Muchea in the future.

Mr Parker: What about a rail service to Fremantle?

Mr CRANE: Perhaps after we have constructed the line to Wanneroo and electrified the Perth-Midland line we could then look at doing something for Fremantle. However, I will allow the member for Fremantle to worry about that one. From his interjections tonight, I do not think he will be looking to me for support. If he is, I suggest he change his tack.

Mr Davies: What is the feeling on nuclear power up there? You are right in amongst it. Be honest—tell us what is happening.

Mr CRANE: I will be honest. In fact, I attended a meeting in Wanneroo called by a group known, I think, as the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy. In the main, it was attended and supported by people from Fremantle. The same group held a meeting at Lancelin some time later. They held a pantomime which some of the local people described as an insult to their intelligence.

Mr Watt: Did they dial "Rent a Crowd"?

Mr CRANE: They could not have done that at Lancelin, because there was not a crowd there! They tried to set me up at the Wanneroo meeting. I believe an invitation was extended to members of Parliament to attend this meeting. However—members opposite will correct me if I am wrong—I was the only State member of Parliament to attend the Wanneroo meeting.

Mr Davies: I did not receive an invitation.

Mr McIver: Nor did I. Otherwise I could not get up there quickly enough!

Mr CRANE: I attended the meeting because it was held in my electorate. A great deal of noise was made by all political parties. I put my own view which was, and still is, that I would prefer we did not use nuclear power if alternatives were available. However, if we arrive at a situation where it is necessary to use nuclear power in order to prevent a decline in our industries and our standard of living, I would accept there was no alternative. I did not tell them at the time that it was the Leader of the Opposition who had actually signed an agreement to allow for a nuclear power station to be built.

Mr Davies: That has never been hidden; that is not an astounding point.

Mr CRANE: The Labor representative who was working against me did not even get to his feet to speak; he had to get his Federal leader, Mr Hayden, to speak for him.

Mr Davies: A far better person.

Mr CRANE: Perhaps he was, but he did not seem to impress many people.

The first thing to happen was that the organisers of the meeting attempted to set me up by having me speak first. I told them in no uncertain terms that I considered it would be ungentlemanly for me to speak first! One might say that I made them an offer they could not refuse. The organisers arranged for a tape recorder to be used at the meeting to record what was said, and perhaps one day I will hear excerpts from it.

In my contribution I did comment on the possibility of a referendum on the nuclear issue. There has been much talk about the idea of holding a referendum. I refute an article which appeared in the *Daily News* about a fortnight ago with a comment by a member of the Democratic Party. He stated that the member for Moore had said at Wanneroo that he would support a referendum in Western Australia on this issue. The tape of that meeting will prove that that is not so. I was asked whether, if my electors wanted a referendum, I would support them. I said I would support them. I said I would help them conduct the referendum if that was their desire.

Mr Davies: That could not be fairer.

Mr CRANE: What I said was very different from that which was reported in the newspaper. We should not have to put up with all these visitors coming into our electorates to stir up the

possums. We have enough problems without their interference.

Mr McIver: Would that be Doug Anthony?

Mr CRANE: Whilst knocking on doors in Wanneroo—and I knocked on almost every door—I found there were very few people who raised the question of nuclear power. I might add that I did have someone in the area who called himself a member of the National Party who tried to stir up as much trouble as he could. He said to the people, "You do not want nuclear power in Wanneroo." He made a fool of himself on the dais at the meeting to which I have referred because he said, "You can have nuclear power if you like, but you cannot have it in Wanneroo." He was having two bob each way.

Mr T. H. Jones: Where do you think it should be?

Mr CRANE: I said some time ago that Wiluna would be a possibility as there is plenty of water there and only a small population. But, really, it has to be sited somewhere that will not be difficult to supply to the community at large the energy produced by a nuclear power station. This is an issue which many people are trying to blow up out of proportion.

Several members interjected.

Mr CRANE: I would prefer to use coal from Collie.

Mr T. H. Jones: I am glad you are not following the lead given by your late leader, Sir Crawford Nalder, who said that Collie would not last.

Mr CRANE: One chap on whose door I knocked did mention the subject and said he would not support any member of Parliament who would support nuclear energy. I said it would be very easy for me to say I agreed with him entirely. However, that would not be honest.

I said I could not say I would not support it, because the day may come when it is necessary for us to have it. We would have no alternative unless we were prepared to put people out of jobs. He said he would never support it. I said the alternative was to sit in the dark and freeze and to swelter during the summer months. I said to him, "See that fuse box on your verandah, why not go to it and pull out the fuses? In that way you can give it a trial run. For instance, that stubby you have in your hand would be hot." That is the answer I gave him. I suggest that anyone who does not want nuclear power should give the alternative a trial run. All people need do is to pull out their fuses. I do not intend to do that.

I would prefer to have a situation where we do not need to use nuclear power. However, I am not convinced there will not be a need for it. As members can see, I am not having two bob each way.

We need to have all the facts on nuclear energy before us. How many members who speak against it have ever called for a report from Nagasaki or Hiroshima about the victims of the bombings and the cancer which may have been caused so far back when the bombs were dropped? Do members ever see that evidence produced? I have not seen it produced once.

Mr McIver: I will show you some photos next week.

Mr CRANE: I have seen photos of the bombings; they were horrible. There is no doubt that atomic bombs are horrible; but apart from the radiation, their effects are not much different from other types of bombs if a person is close to them when they explode. The main difference is the radiation. An ordinary bomb is not much less horrifying; it is just that the atomic bomb is so much bigger.

Mr Bateman: There is a grave genetic problem.

Mr CRANE: Perhaps, but let us get the figures from Japan.

Mr Bateman: There was a good documentary on Channel 2 last week.

Mr CRANE: I am prepared to read anything on this matter. At the same time, I am not a person who is easily brainwashed. I have the ability—little as it may be—to make up my own mind. I resent people coming from Fremantle into my electorate trying to make fools of my constituents, which is what happened at Lancelin.

Mr Davies: When you could do it very well.

Mr CRANE: I know who is in my electorate; that is one of the reasons I still hold the seat.

Mr Blaikie: The same people were in my electorate on an eco-trip; they were also in Albany chasing whales.

Mr CRANE: I did not intend to speak this long.

Mr T. H. Jones: Finish it off with a prayer.

Mr CRANE: I drew the crabs and enjoyed doing so. The member for Canning asked me to fill in time, and I think I have done so.

MR WATT (Albany) [9.23 p.m.]: I almost feel as if I am starting off at a disadvantage.

Several members interjected.

Mr WATT: Firstly, without wanting to repeat everything already said, I associate myself with all those remarks which have been made offering

congratulations and felicitations to yourself, Mr Speaker, on your re-election, and to all the new members and members who have obtained new positions in the Parliament.

In this Address-in-Reply debate, in which I support the motion, I wish to comment first on matters affecting my electorate. Unfortunately, Albany has been the victim of a fair amount of bad publicity in recent times, and some of it has been rather misleading. Just last week there was a report in the *Daily News* and in *The Albany Advertiser* which was based on a report issued by the Trades and Labor Council after it had visited Albany to look at what it saw as being the unemployment problems in the town. The report the TLC made suggested a number of remedies which it saw as being at least in part a fair solution to the problems.

I shall comment on the various matters suggested. Before a delegation came to Albany to make an on-the-spot assessment of what the position really was, the TLC wrote to numerous people in the town, including myself, to seek opinions. I wrote back quite a lengthy reply and concluded by saying, in response to a specific request, that I would be happy to meet any officers of the TLC to discuss these and other issues. I thanked them for their interest.

I was a bit disappointed at the way they then arranged a meeting, notwithstanding the co-operation I had shown them. I feel the way they carried out their visit to Albany had all the characteristics of a group simply playing politics. They did not contact me and I did not know the meeting was on until just a few days before it was to be held. As it turned out I could not have attended, because the meeting was held on the day Parliament opened.

Mr Stephens: Perhaps they didn't know where the boundaries were and thought they were going to the Stirling electorate.

Mr WATT: From that interjection I gather they invited the member for Stirling.

Mr Stephens: No.

Mr WATT: In that case, I cannot see the point of the interjection. The TLC delegation made a number of comments and I shall touch on several of them. The first related to live sheep exports. The article in the *Daily News* carried a rather bold headline of, "Live sheep export blamed for jobless". I would have some sympathy for their arguments if it could be demonstrated to me that the live sheep which are being shipped overseas do have a market in Western Australia. It was suggested by the member for Moore just a moment ago that that is not the case.

Nevertheless, I have to listen to the advice of experts in these things because, quite frankly, I do not profess to be particularly knowledgeable about sheep sales and all the associated problems.

The manager of the local abattoir in Albany suggested to me that live sheep shipments do affect the abattoir's performance and that the air freight backloading restrictions also contribute to the problems. The main problem which has caused the shut-down of the Thomas Borthwick & Sons abattoir has been the inability of farmers to supply livestock to the market.

Mr Blaikie: The abattoir should pay high enough prices.

Mr WATT: I do not believe that is the problem. There are certain times of the year when the Western Australian farmers are not able to supply the market—at any price. That is what I am told.

Mr Blaikie: I do not have a great deal of sympathy for the abattoirs, because I do not think they pay enough.

Mr WATT: I am concentrating my comments on the inability of farmers to supply the stock, and I believe this is something we have to look at closely. I suggest it would take an organised and co-operative effort on the part of the farming fraternity to see if it were possible to supply stock to the market over a longer period so as to avoid shut-downs of the type we have experienced in Albany.

It is rather interesting to note that despite all the publicity Albany has received, the unemployment peak this year did not reach the same as for last year. Yet, Albany did not receive the same publicity last year as it did this year.

I will quote part of my letter to the TLC on 3 July. I made the comment that—

The unemployment rate in Albany is still lower at 6.3 per cent than that of the State average at 6.8 per cent and also, in both the Bunbury region with 7.7 per cent and the Geraldton region with 8.7 per cent.

That would suggest that the comment in the newspapers regarding Albany's unemployment problem may have been exaggerated. Another suggestion was that the Education Department should build a second high school in Albany. All the world and his dog have been screaming for a second high school for Albany for some years. I have done a lot of work in that respect. When the now Minister for Resources Development was the Minister for Education he visited Albany in December 1979 and promised the commencement of a high school in 1981. It was to be built in 1981

and opened in 1982. I have no reason to doubt that will happen. I think the TLC's suggestion is rather unfair when the work has been proposed.

Mr Stephens: When the actual building starts, will be the time. I think that is the point the TLC was attempting to make and everyone else was attempting to make. Let us get the building started; after all it is many years overdue now.

Mr WATT: That is probably fair comment but my answer to that is all one can do is start the planning. I am sure the member for Stirling is well aware that one does not suddenly say, "We will start next week." The planning time for a new high school is approximately the same as the building time. One cannot say we will start next week or next month.

Some of the other proposals put forward by the TLC—whilst they are desirable and I would welcome them—they are not likely to achieve any lasting result. The subject of decentralisation incentives was raised but something has already been announced in this vein.

The TLC also suggested that a branch of the Department of Labour and Industry should be established in Albany. I am not sure of the reason for that suggestion unless it was that it would help the unemployment position. That move would also require an expert officer to be attached to the office, so an officer would have to be transferred from Perth. It could perhaps add one secretarial job.

The TLC also suggested that an exercise should be carried out to ascertain whether some alternative use could be found for the Borthwick & Sons abattoir during its shut-down period. I think that suggestion is most unlikely to be successful. Firstly, during that shut-down period the company carries out its maintenance programme and, secondly, the shut-down period is unpredictable. This year the shut-down was much earlier than it was in other years and sometimes the shut-down is for a shorter period. So, it would be difficult to find a useful operation for that period because any capital outlay would be hard to justify.

There was also a suggestion that a marine science branch of the University of Western Australia be established in Albany. This would be most welcome, but again I am not sure that it would be of any benefit to the employment situation in Albany because most of the people to be employed would have to come from the university. These people would have to be transferred to Albany and, of course, that would generate a greater economic stimulus in the region and that in itself would be of benefit.

The suggestion that Westrail build a new bus terminal in Albany would really only provide short-term relief in the building industry for the duration of that project. At best, six people may have a few weeks' work. There has been no mention made of the positives—the things that are already happening in Albany.

Probably, the success story at the moment is that of Hunts Foods Pty. Ltd. That company has recently received assistance from the Government which together with its own incentive—and I would not want to rob the company of due credit—has enabled it to undertake an expansion programme to provide 160 new jobs. My hope is—and it is the hope of the company also—that the jobs which have been provided will be permanent because so much of the work done at Hunts Foods Pty. Ltd. is seasonal. The work depends upon the supply of fish and vegetables.

Albany Woollen Mills was forced to retrench 40 men some time ago. However, some have now been re-employed. The Premier, the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce and I have all made representations to the Federal Government with regard to the ratification of the NAFTA. An agreement has been renegotiated to provide for dramatic increases in the amount of carpet to be exported from Australia to New Zealand. However, unfortunately the carpet manufacturers will not confirm the orders until that agreement has been ratified. As soon as it is, the future of the company looks most promising.

The Albany Brick Works has been closed twice. The first time it was closed for a few months, and then it was purchased by a Perth businessman who found he could not "make a go" of the operation and had to close again. At the moment the brick works is under active negotiation for a further sale and I am hopeful that the works will open again soon. The Government has expressed a desire to see the brick works open again, and has offered to help wherever possible.

Another expansion underway in Albany is that of the OD Transport Company which is erecting new premises to improve the local handling and storage of its goods. The Mandurah and South-West Fishermen's Co-op is erecting a process plant at a cost of \$100 000 to enable it to receive and process local fish catches. Again, this will provide more jobs. Of course, the abattoir is due to reopen within the next week or so, and that will have a dramatic effect on the employment position.

There are several other small businesses which are being planned or are under consideration and

are receiving active assistance from the Department of Industrial Development regional officer. Other Government agencies have also been providing assistance. For some time efforts have been made to establish a contact in Europe or Great Britain with a company which would be interested in establishing a wool processing works. That matter is being actively pursued both in Australia and overseas. My latest information is that the Agent General in London is engaged in negotiations with one European firm at the moment and they are showing promise.

There is also reason to be encouraged by the prospects of mineral development in the great southern region. If minerals can be found in commercial quantities there will be even more opportunity to increase the activities of the Port of Albany. It will increase the import and export tonnages of the port as well as the number of ships using the port. The Government has spent \$7 million on making sure the port is capable of keeping up with shipping developments. The results over the last 12 months have reflected the value of that expenditure.

Furthermore, in March of this year, the Government announced it would be spending \$40 000 in conjunction with the Albany Port Authority on a study to determine the best utilisation of the port.

It is interesting to examine the statistics of the Port of Albany to make a comparison between July 1978 and July 1979. In that period the number of ships using the port increased by 34 per cent and gross tonnages increased by 29 per cent. Imports increased by 28 per cent and exports increased by 83 per cent, showing a total port usage increase of 68 per cent. That clearly demonstrates some of the positives of economic activity in Albany. It also demonstrates that the scare-talk that has been bandied about is perhaps unwarranted and undeserved.

Recently the Premier was quoted—when addressing the annual WACSSO conference on the subject of community use of schools—as saying that there should be greater co-operation with the community in the planning of new schools. I have discussed this matter briefly with the Minister for Education and he will obtain further information on that policy implementation for me. I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity to have that information before I spoke on this debate. However, I will be interested to see how the new policy will be implemented.

It has become a common occurrence to see tripartite agreements between the Education Department, the local authority, and the

Department of Youth, Sport, and Recreation on the use of certain school buildings. This is an important concept provided it is done to the advantage of all three. I think all three organisations should have a considerable say as to how the building should be planned or designed and what uses the building should cater for. I am concerned about the management of the buildings. I would like to see during school hours, say up to 4.00 p.m., the school under the exclusive use and control of the school itself. During out-of-school hours perhaps the administration or the management should be in the hands of the local authority. Perhaps it could be a management committee or board which would make the policy decisions.

It seems to me that too often we put up a building then work out how it will be managed. The management programme should be worked out as part of the planning of the building, so once the building is constructed its management is properly administered.

Unfortunately the extent to which the school buildings are used by the community at present depends almost entirely upon the attitude of the school principal. Fortunately most are reasonable and certainly the principals in my electorate have been very good. The areas where problems could arise may be in respect of the cleaning, maintenance, gardening and other associated matters.

A good example of what I am talking about is a large hall which was built as a youth centre on the Albany Senior High School property. It was built by the Apex Club of Albany, with tremendous community co-operation. From memory, 71 organisations contributed in some way—many not in a significant way, but they contributed—with finance and voluntary labour. Although the hall was built primarily as a youth centre it was not necessarily intended to be used only as a sports pavilion, but to a large extent that is what it has become.

Occasionally problems arise about whether or not it can be used during school holidays and at weekends, and quite often bookings cannot be made at short notice, perhaps because it is impossible to find somebody who has a key to it or for some other reason. It is also used exclusively during the examination period, and for a couple of weeks at the end of the year the centre is not available for the regular basketball fixtures and other sporting groups which use it. The fixtures are therefore disrupted and it is necessary to find another venue or postpone the fixtures for a couple of weeks.

Another example involves the Albany Arts Council's use of the buildings for a summer school which has been conducted for just on 20 years and has become a very popular event with people from all around the State. They look forward to coming to Albany for a week or 10 days, and the summer school has become recognised as a major event in the art calendar.

For the last two or three years the Education Department has been telling the Arts Council that its days are numbered. The school caretaker has always arranged to split his holidays so that he can be there for the summer school. He does this willingly and happily, but he was told he could not do it this year, and the reason given was that it is not Education Department policy. I found that a very flimsy reason, especially as the caretaker is happy to be on duty at that time. The summer school uses a considerable number of the school's facilities and resources, and if they are to be put back in their proper places, or at all, it is obviously necessary to have someone who knows where they go and who can supervise the distribution and use of the facilities.

I contacted the Minister for Education and he agreed that there seemed to be no good reason for the policy. He has decided that the Albany Arts Council can use the buildings again for next year's summer school. I am very grateful to him for that. The whole question of community use of schools needs to be looked at very carefully. A great amount of money is expended on the buildings and it makes good sense to maximise their use for the community.

I want to make a few comments about the situation at Noonkanbah. I have been rather disturbed to note that some new developments have taken place since the debate in this Chamber a week ago. I refer especially to the involvement in the situation at Noonkanbah of some of the clergy. I am particularly interested in the activities of a group of Uniting Church ministers who have made a number of statements and organised a prayer meeting in Forrest Place.

Mr Skidmore: It was very well attended, too.

Mr Bryce: Do you, like your leader, think they are subversive elements?

Mr WATT: As I happen to be a member of the Uniting Church, I am disturbed about the ministers' use of such words as, "We have no option but to make this a national issue for the whole body of the church", which give the impression that they are speaking on behalf of the church. I am amazed at the number of people who have spoken to me or taken the trouble to



contact me saying that they dissociate themselves from the statements made by those ministers.

Mr Parker: What about the moderator?

Mr WATT: He is overseas and has not made any comment about the situation. Church policy clearly states that no person or group of people is permitted to speak purporting to represent the voice of the church. As no consensus has been taken to ascertain the views of the members of the church, clearly it is not competent under church law for anybody to make such statements. To be fair, I suppose the ministers did not literally do that, but the way their statement was worded it certainly gave the impression that they were speaking on behalf of the church, and it is clear to me from the reactions of many people that they took that to be the case. I would like to think the church always teaches obedience to the law, and I find it somewhat difficult to understand how—

Mr Bryce: The church supported Hitler and Mussolini.

Mr WATT: That is going back a few years.

Mr Bryce: The principle is the same.

Mr WATT: I still believe that the church teaches obedience to the law, and the actions of those ministers in deliberately arranging that they be arrested does their image and the image of the church no good. I am especially concerned that some members of the clergy have made statements which are quite incorrect. One statement attributed to the Reverend Martin Chittleborough who is an Anglican priest working for the Australian Council of Churches, referred to drilling on Aboriginal sacred sites and compared it with the desecration of Christian sacraments. Clearly, that is not correct.

Mr Davies: Why is it clearly not correct?

Mr WATT: I will state why in a moment. Another statement by the Reverend Winston O'Reilly of the Uniting Church called on the Government to reconsider its decision to allow drilling at Pea Hill and other sacred sites. That perhaps demonstrates more clearly for the Leader of the Opposition the incorrectness of such statements; he knows as well as everybody else knows that for a long time there has been no intention of drilling at Pea Hill or on any other sacred site.

Mr Davies: I am not arguing about that. Get back to the relationship between their sacred places and our sacred places. You were saying there was an analogy. How do you say such a thing?

Mr WATT: The Leader of the Opposition is taking a tack which is different from mine, and I

do not intend to be sidetracked by it. As far as I am concerned, either these people are deliberately distorting the truth or they have been deliberately misinformed by the ALP or the trade union movement, which is hand-in-glove with the ALP.

Mr Davies: That is not correct.

Mr WATT: They have also been misinformed by other members of the clergy over here who have had much to say and several of whom, as the Leader of the Opposition well knows, are hand-in-glove with the ALP.

Mr Davies: Why don't you name them?

Mr WATT: Their names have been in the newspaper.

Mr Davies: Name them now. Do not say they are over here or over there. Speak up and name them.

Mr WATT: I have no intention of mentioning names, because they know who they are and members of the Opposition know who they are. Their names have appeared in the newspaper.

Mr Jamieson: That is a nice old coward's castle.

Mr WATT: I will name two of them: the Reverend John Gilks and the Reverend Robert Stringer.

Mr Davies: Who are they? I have never heard of them.

Mr WATT: The member for Karrinyup and the member for Whitford know very well who they are.

Over the years many of us have seen statements which purport to be Communist goals. A statement was published recently which claimed to be an extract from a book entitled *The Naked Communist*, which was written in 1958. It is interesting to look at some of those goals.

Mr Davies: We do not want any of your pornography here.

Mr WATT: It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition should mention pornography because it is included in the goals. Some of the goals of the Communist movement at that time were—

Do away with all loyalty oaths.

Get control of the Schools.

Gain control of all student newspapers.

Infiltrate the press.

Get control of key positions in media.

Grant recognition to Red China.

Break down cultural standards of morality.

The interesting one is No. 27 as follows—

Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with 'social' religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasise the need for intellectual maturity which does not need a 'religious crutch'.

Mr Davies: Do you believe that? Is it happening in your church?

Mr WATT: This was written in 1958, which is not so long ago. It is interesting to see how many of those goals have since been achieved.

Mr Bryce: Who wrote it? It sounds like B. A. Santamaria.

Mr WATT: It was written by an American, W. Cleon Skousen, which probably does not mean any more to members opposite than it does to me.

Mr Bryce: It sounds like W. W. Mitchell.

Several members interjected.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr DAVIES: I give notice that at the end of the honourable member's speech I will ask that a document he has just quoted be tabled.

The SPEAKER: At the end of the honourable member's speech I will ask that it be tabled for the information of members. That does not mean it will be tabled as Ministers' papers are tabled.

#### *Debate Resumed*

Mr WATT: It is one of the many publications which were forwarded to all members.

Mr McIver: What relevance has that to Parliament?

Mr WATT: Much more relevance than most of what the member for Avon has to say.

There is no doubt that the union movement is also using its power in the Noonkanbah dispute. It is interesting to note that in relation to the convoy of trucks which took the drilling rig to Noonkanbah, very few rank and file unionists were involved in the protests which took place along the way. I have been told that in most cases the protestors comprised only union secretaries, organisers, and bosses. It is encouraging to see signs that perhaps the rank and file of the union movement are starting to stand up to the bosses, as they appear to have done in this particular case.

In a number of instances recently rank and file union members have bucked the system within their own unions. I refer to the bank employees, the Commonwealth public servants, the recent GMH dispute at Pagewood where workers decided not to accept the recommendation of their union executives, the 35-hour week dispute, the

Latrobe Valley power workers, and many others. The most recent instance of the success and influence of the trade union movement is the announcement of the impending closure of the business known as Paddy's Market or Bourke's Store in Melbourne. I heard on the radio that had been caused by big financial losses.

To top off the union movement's attitude in relation to Noonkanbah, what price Bob Hawke? He decided he would have an each way bet. He said, "We will wait to see what the people of Western Australia expect of us." I think that is cute. The editorial of *The Sunday Times* of 10 August sums up my feelings on the situation very well, when it says—

Mr Hawke, as a Western Australian, should know that the people of WA expect drilling to be carried out on Noonkanbah station, which has the same rights and responsibilities as every other pastoral lease cattle station.

Mr Hawke should also know that most Western Australians realise the whole affair has nothing to do with drilling at Noonkanbah, or land rights, or racism. It is purely a left versus right skirmish in an ideological war.

I believe that sums up the situation very well.

Mr Davies: It is a sad thing for a responsible newspaper to say.

Mr WATT: Rather interestingly, on the weekend a television programme called "Countrywide" contained a segment dealing with the establishment of a coalmine in the Hunter Valley. Many people were very upset about what was happening to their properties; and some beautiful properties were involved. The coal is required for power stations, for aluminium smelters which are being planned, and for export. The development of the mine and power stations is estimated to cost \$3 billion, with a further \$6 billion being required for the aluminium smelters and associated works. That amounts to a great deal of investment.

It is rather interesting that the Muswellbrook Shire, which is in the middle of the area, claims that it has been ridden over roughshod by the State Government, and no consideration has been given to the rights of land owners. I found it interesting to make a comparison with that situation and the one at Noonkanbah. Many examples were given of the way people would be disadvantaged in the Hunter Valley. A creek which once flowed one metre deep and was used for domestic and stock watering purposes has disappeared, and it is likely that huge dams will

be constructed which will flood rural properties and valleys.

People have complained they have not even been advised of what will happen; they say they are learning what is going on by hearing and seeing it in the media. Homes are to be acquired compulsorily without negotiation. Generally speaking, the Muswellbrook Shire claim that it has been ridden over roughshod appears to be correct.

Mr Shalders: They have a Labor Government there.

Mr WATT: Yes, it is interesting to note that all this is being done by a Labor Government. In the programme a gentleman by the name of Adrian Poole, when being interviewed, said, "Well, one can't stop progress." As the member for Murray said, this is a very similar situation to that which we have at Noonkanbah, but it is being handled by a Labor Government and there seems to be no nationwide reaction to its actions. I wonder what is the difference?

Mr Bryce: They don't wear jackboots.

Mr WATT: Grow up!

Mr Davies: They haven't got sacred sites.

Mr Bryce: It is a question of the *modus operandi*.

Mr WATT: It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition should again say they have no sacred sites because the Western Australian Government has made it abundantly clear that drilling will not be carried out on sacred sites. I think the reason the Noonkanbah situation has received so much more exposure and been the subject of so much more emotional reaction is that the persons concerned happen to be Aborigines. Clearly, the situations I have described have a great deal in common, with one receiving national and international exposure while the other receives barely a passing comment.

With those remarks, I indicate my support for the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bateman.

*House adjourned at 10.04 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### TRAFFIC: DRIVERS

#### *Breathalyser: Random Tests*

224. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Is he aware of the effects of intensified random breathalyser tests in Victoria, which showed up to a 60 per cent reduction in road deaths at night?
- (2) What consideration has been given to the introduction of random breathalyser tests in Western Australia following publication of the Victorian experience and what is the Government's attitude towards its introduction?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) An intensified random breath testing programme carried out in Victoria was found to be associated with a 54 per cent net reduction in Thursday to Saturday night time (6 p.m. to 3.59 a.m.) fatalities when compared to the previous year. (The net figure is the observed change adjusted for reductions found when comparing the period before the intensified random breath testing with the previous year). This reduction would result from the increase of 1 150 per cent in man hours spent on random breath testing and extensive publicity associated with the programme. Other factors which may have had some effect were advanced publicity of increased penalties for drink driving offences which were introduced on December 20, 1978 and a petrol tanker drivers' strike for one week during the intensified random breath testing which may have reduced vehicle travel.
- (2) The evaluations available of the use of random breath testing have been studied. Further evaluations are being awaited which should indicate the likely long term effects of random breath testing. The Government always gives careful consideration to both the advantages and disadvantages of any measures which may improve traffic safety.

### LIQUOR ACT

#### *Inquiry: Report*

227. MR WILSON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is the report of the committee enquiring into the liquor licensing laws to be made available to the public?
- (2) If "Yes", when is it anticipated that it will be available?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The Committee is a Government Committee appointed to report to the Hon. Chief Secretary and Cabinet. It is unlikely that it will be made public.
- (2) Answered by (1) above.

### HEALTH: TOBACCO

#### *Sales to Minors*

274. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Are the police responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Sale of Tobacco Act 1916-1964?
- (2) What action is taken to enforce the provisions of the Sale of Tobacco Act 1916-1964 that prohibit the sale of tobacco in any form to children?
- (3) Does the Government have plans to review the penalty imposed for breaches of the Sale of Tobacco Act?
- (4) How many convictions have occurred in the past five years as a result of charges laid under the Sale of Tobacco Act?
- (5) Does the Government consider that the Sale of Tobacco Act provides sufficient protection for children against the proven health hazard of tobacco smoking?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Any complaint received is investigated.
- (3) No present plans.
- (4) No statistics of this type of offence are kept, but it is believed no charges have been laid in the last five years.

- (5) The Tobacco Act only deals with the sale of tobacco products to young people. Many other factors affect their usage of tobacco, particularly parental attitudes and controls. It would not be acceptable in our community for the police to be given the responsibility generally to stop young people from smoking, as the question seems to imply.

## POLICE

### *Interrogation of School Children*

301. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Is he aware of the practice whereby police are assigned in pairs to interrogate minors at school concerning matters not related to the school and without another adult present?
- (2) What attempts are made to contact parents in such cases?
- (3) Why are such interrogations not conducted at home in the presence of a parent?
- (4) Is he concerned about the possible use of undue pressure in such situations where a minor is being interrogated by two adults, i.e., police officers?
- (5) Is his department perfectly satisfied with all aspects of this practice by the police and, if not, what measures are in hand to bring about a change in this practice?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (4) No.
- (5) Interviews of students are conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Police Routine Orders and the Education Department's Teachers' Handbook. If the Hon. Member wishes to peruse the Police Routine Orders, I will make the same available.

## ROAD

### *Fremantle-Midland-North Beach Ring Road*

302. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Can he confirm information contained in an article in *The Sunday Times* of 22 June, 1980 entitled "Ring Road to skirt

the City", to the effect that the Western Australian Government will spend \$60 million between now and 1984 to build a ring road system linking Fremantle with Midland and Midland with North Beach, which will include a major artery from Gosnells to Beechboro?

- (2) Within any such timetable, what is the anticipated extent of work on the Beechboro-Gosnells freeway by 1984?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) The \$60 million quoted in the article is not to build a ring road as suggested by the article by 1984 but is made up of \$35 million for the Kwinana Freeway Southern Extension, \$13.7 million for Mitchell Freeway Stage 4, \$3 million for the Redcliffe-Bushmead project and \$8 million for the Foothills Route. Of this latter amount, \$4.7 million refers to works on the Beechboro-Gosnells Highway from Albany Highway, Gosnells to Hardey Road, Kewdale.

## REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS AGENTS ACT

### *Fees*

303. Mr WILSON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the current prescribed annual fee for a licence as
  - (a) an individual; and
  - (b) a firm,
 under the Real Estate and Business Agents Act?
- (2) What was the former annual fee in each case?
- (3) What is the current prescribed fee for a triennial certificate for—
  - (a) an individual; and
  - (b) a firm,
 under the Real Estate and Business Agents Act?
- (4) Does the current rate of the fee for a triennial certificate in the case of firms comply with the original intention of this provision in the Act?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Licenses issued under the Real Estate and Business Agents Act are continuous (Section 32). The prescribed fee payable on the issue of a licence to:
  - (a) a natural person is \$200.
  - (b) a firm or body corporate is \$200;
 in each case the fee includes the issue of a Triennial Certificate.
- (2) Licenses under the Land Agents Act were issued on an annual basis at \$50 per annum.
- (3) Prescribed fees for issue of a Triennial Certificate:
  - (a) \$180.
  - (b) \$180.
- (4) Yes.

#### WILDLIFE OFFICERS

##### *Trainees*

304. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that it was a practice in the past for the department to offer a number of apprenticeships or traineeships to young people wishing to train as fisheries and wildlife officers?
- (2) If "Yes"—
  - (a) when were these apprenticeships first instituted and when was the programme wound up;
  - (b) at what age were apprentices taken on and what was the length of training provided;
  - (c) why was the programme terminated?
- (3) (a) Has any consideration been given to the re-introduction of such a training programme in view of the increasing attention being focussed on the need for the protection of native fauna and flora and the environment generally and the problem of youth unemployment;
- (b) if not, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) First appointments as cadet inspectors were made in 1951. The programme is still carried on but under the title of "trainee inspector".

(b) The first two cadet inspectors appointed were aged 18 and 19 years. The age appointment has varied from age 16 to age 20. The period of training continued and still continues until such time as it is judged that a trainee is capable of discharging the functions of a fisheries inspector as required by the Fisheries Act.

(c) See 2(a).

(3) (a) and (b) See 2(a).

#### FUEL AND ENERGY: STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

##### *Agreements: Coal Supply*

305. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Referring to question 156 of 12 August 1980, are both Griffin and Western Collieries supplying coal to the State Energy Commission under contract?
- (2) If "Yes", will he advise of the tonnages involved in the contracts?
- (3) What is the additional amount of coal required for the 2 x 200 MW units under "C" stage construction?
- (4) What is the present individual price of coal supplied by both companies to the commission?
- (5) What are the reasons for Western Collieries being left out of the coal orders for the "C" stage power production?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) For the current financial year Griffin Collieries will supply 1 600 000 tonnes and Western Collieries 1 185 000 tonnes.
- (3) Coal requirements for individual power stations vary considerably, but the Energy Commission's total coal requirements will increase to approximately 3 500 000 tonnes of coal when the Stage "C" extension is in full operation.
- (4) Coal prices are a commercial matter confidential to the Energy Commission.

- (5) Negotiations are currently being conducted between the Energy Commission and Western Collieries leading to a long term contract which will define the coal to be supplied by Western Collieries for Muja Stage "C" and other Commission power stations in the future.

## RAILWAYS

### *Electrification*

306. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the Government's programme for the electrification of our railway system?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Westrail has recently completed a preliminary study to test the economics of electrifying the Perth-Bunbury and related branch lines involved with heavy haulages and also the Perth-Kalgoorlie main line connection to the Eastern States. The work done on these studies has been used as input to the Australian Railways Research and Development Organisation (ARRDO) for a submission to the Commonwealth and State Governments on the potential for national main line electrification.

The report that has been produced by ARRDO indicates that in particular the Perth-Bunbury line should be considered for immediate electrification and the Kalgoorlie line at a later stage.

The Government has approached the Commonwealth Government to fund a comprehensive economic engineering study of the Perth-Bunbury and related lines on a similar basis to the Sydney-Melbourne Study.

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

### *Art Gallery: Board Members*

307. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs and Recreation:

- (1) (a) Further to question 140 (1) of 1980, will he list the works of art purchased from members of the Art Gallery Board;

- (b) the purchase price of each work; and  
(c) the members from whom the work was purchased in the last five years?

- (2) Further to question 140 (2) of 1980 will he list

- (a) the names of members of the Art Gallery Board who have received payment for overseas trips;  
(b) the amount of payment for each trip;  
(c) the destination(s) of the trips;  
(d) the purpose for which the trips were undertaken;  
(e) the dates of the trips; and  
(f) the dates on which expenditure on these trips were approved by the board?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) Greco  
Lipchitz  
Vogel  
Renoir  
(b) \$2 085  
\$7 696  
\$4 074  
\$31 500  
(c) Dr D. W. Zink has been reimbursed for his purchase of the above works of sculpture, after their appraisal by the professional staff of the Art Gallery and approval by the Art Gallery Board.
- (2) (a) Dr D. W. Zink  
Mr M. R. Saunders  
(b) Dr D. Zink—\$7 701.40  
Mr M. R. Saunders—\$3 912.50  
(c) Europe and North America.  
(d) To obtain essential information on the availability of works of art for the Art Gallery and current market values, and to negotiate some acquisitions for the Art Gallery Board. Also to negotiate a major exhibition for the opening of the new Art Gallery building.  
(e) January, 1980, and December, 1977/January, 1978.  
(f) Mr M. R. Saunders—27th April, 1978  
Dr D. Zink—24th April, 1980.

## EDUCATION

### *Aborigines: Assistance*

308. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Education:

How much financial support do Aboriginal families receive per child where they attend primary schools?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Aboriginal children qualify for Aboriginal Secondary Education grants once they reach secondary school or in a bona fide secondary school programme in a primary school.

There is no financial support specifically available for Aboriginal primary school pupils in Government schools. However, Aboriginal children are eligible for similar financial support to that available to needy families in general.

(b) how much is it proposed to spend for these purposes in the 1980-81 financial year?

(3) What is the total cost of operating the animal breeding institute property expected to be in 1980-81?

Mr OLD replied:

(1) \$410 000.

(2) (a) \$136 000.

(b) This will depend on budgetary provisions.

(3) \$139 000.

## SEEDS: OIL

### *North of State*

## FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

### *Generating Cost*

309. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Will he please advise the latest costs the Government has obtained per MW for

(a) coal fired power units;

(b) nuclear units?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

(a) and (b) The cost of power plants varies widely, as the Hon. Member should realise, and depend upon the actual site, the size of the units and many other factors. It is not possible to provide the cost estimates of the nature of those requested by the Hon. Member.

311. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is oil produced from seeds grown in the north of the State of sufficient quality for use in—

(a) polyunsaturated food oil;

(b) polyunsaturated margarine;

(c) margarine which is not polyunsaturated?

(2) What particular oils can be used for each of the three purposes indicated in (1)?

Mr OLD replied:

(1) and (2) At present, only sunflowers are grown commercially in the north of the State.

For sunflower oil to be directly suitable for polyunsaturated margarine and food oil production, the amount of linoleic acid present must exceed 62 per cent. The average crop from the Ord is likely to be below 62 per cent linoleic acid. It is possible to blend safflower and sunflower oil to raise the linoleic acid level to 62 per cent.

Sunflower oil from the north of the State, and soyabean oil when it becomes available, should be suitable for manufacture of margarine which is not polyunsaturated.

## STOCK

### *Animal Breeding Institute*

310. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What was the cost of the property purchased near Katanning for the establishment of an animal breeding institute?

(2) (a) How much was spent on buildings, equipment and for any other purpose for the property in the 1979-80 financial year;



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Sheep*

312. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

How many sheep does the Department of Agriculture possess on each of its research stations, experimental farms and other institutions at the present time?

Mr OLD replied:

Numbers excluding 1980 lamb drop which is incomplete.

Location	Sheep
Avondale Research Station	2 907
Badgingarra Research Station	3 868
Bramley Research Station	106
Chapman Research Station	1 355
Denmark Research Station	547
Esperance Research Station	3 003
Manjimup Research Station	347
Merredin Research Station	1 099
Mount Barker Research Station	6 068
Newdegate Research Station	2 106
Northam Research Station	30
Salmon Gums Research Station	1 254
Wokalup Research Station	586
Wongan Hills Research Station	4 744
Animal Breeding & Research Institute	
Katanning	2 150
Animal Health Division (South Perth)	97
Albany District Office	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30 288</b>

## AGED PERSONS

*Emergency Call Equipment*

313. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has an examination of the possibility of providing aged people with electronic emergency call equipment been held?
- (2) If "Yes", what were the results?
- (3) If "No", when will the examination be held?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A number of types are being examined. When this is complete, the question of supply and maintenance of units will be examined.
- (3) Not applicable.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

*Child Life Protection Unit*

314. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) How many staff are employed in the child life protection unit operated by the Department of Community Welfare?

- (2) What are the qualifications and classifications of the staff employed in the child life protection unit?
- (3) Are there sufficient staff employed in the child life protection unit to ensure that in every case that comes to the department's attention, where there is the possibility of child abuse, an immediate and thorough investigation is made?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The field staff complement employed in the Child Life Protection Unit is 16, consisting of 9 full-time staff and 7 part-time staff.
- (2) Six Social Workers have tertiary or post-graduate qualifications in Social Work. One Graduate Welfare Officer has a Social Science Degree. Two Clinical Psychologists have post-graduate tertiary qualifications in Clinical Psychology. Seven staff are part-time Welfare Assistants and Homemakers and have no formal tertiary qualifications.
- (3) Staff resources are generally adequate to ensure that prompt and appropriate attention is given to cases involving pre-school children in the metropolitan area. Cases involving older children are dealt with by staff at divisional offices in the metropolitan area. Staff in country divisions are responsible for the protection of children of all ages. Every case of possible child abuse that is referred to the Department is investigated promptly and thoroughly by either the Department's Child Life Protection Unit or in country areas, by the Department's field staff.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

*Child Welfare Act*

315. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

When will the Child Welfare Act be amended to give parents more responsibility for children who come under departmental notice?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Proposed amendments to the Child Welfare Act will not focus in particular on giving parents greater responsibility for children who come under

departmental control. There are already ample provisions in the Act relating to parental responsibility. In addition the aspect of parental responsibility received special emphasis in the amendments to the Child Welfare Act which came into effect on 1 January 1980.

## HEALTH:

### *Promotion: Assistant Commissioner*

316. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

Has an assistant commissioner for health promotion been appointed?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Yes, the list of duties of an Assistant Commissioner of Public Health has been altered and tailored to ensure a co-ordinated programme for the improvement of personal and family health.

## AGED PERSONS

### *Hostels*

317. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the private sector been invited to provide hostels for the frail aged on a subsidised basis?
- (2) If "Yes", what will the arrangements be?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government recognises that the care of the aged generally must be a major consideration for the next decade. The department of Health and Medical Services and the public hospitals are studying the implementation of extended care programmes throughout the State, including the provision of hostels for the frail aged on a subsidised basis.

## HOUSING

### *Granny Flats*

318. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has an examination of the provision of transportable granny flats on a rental basis been carried out?
- (2) If so, will he table the results?
- (3) If not, when will it be completed?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The State Housing Commission, the Department of Local Government and the Department of Health and Medical Services are presently considering implementation of the proposal. It is not possible to indicate when consideration will be complete.

## HEALTH

### *Rehabilitation Engineering Institute*

319. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he approached the Federal Government with plans to establish an institute for rehabilitation engineering?
- (2) If so, what were the results?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I have been advised that Western Australia is well ahead of other States in this field and it seems likely that any Commonwealth money made available will be used to help to raise the standard in other States. I have not given up hope of obtaining funds.

## NOONKANBAH STATION

### *Transport of Drilling Rig: Armoured Cars*

320. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Did the Commissioner of Police suggest to the Government or any agency of government that they should use armed ferret scout cars to assist a rig onto Noonkanbah Station?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The police have no armed ferret scout cars. It is not usual for the police to discuss with Government the detailed implementation of normal police duties. No unusual practices in this regard applied in relation to Noonkanbah. If the Hon. Member will indicate the basis of the suggestion contained in his question, I will have the matter further investigated.

321. *This question was postponed.*

## TOURISM

*Nullarbor Plain*

322. Mr BARNETT, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is he aware of complaints from interstate visitors about the state of roadside reserves along the Nullarbor plain?
- (2) Is it a fact that on occasions it is difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain fresh water at the points provided for this purpose?
- (3) Does the Government have in mind any legislation which would be designed to assist in the decrease of litter at rest points and on road verges throughout the State in general?
- (4) Does this legislation include an opportunity for cool drink and beer cans to be made of suitable recyclable material?
- (5) Is it possible to arrange for the return price on a beer bottle or stubby to be increased and thus bring about a possible reduction in the numbers disposed of on verges and roadside reserves?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) There are occasions during the peak summer period, when fresh water becomes scarce as roof catchment water tanks become low or dry. However, conditions and facilities in general along the Eyre Highway are of a very high standard, as has been evidenced in a recent survey by two senior officers of the Department of Tourism. As with any long distance motor travel it is, however, always advisable to carry a supply of drinking water as a precautionary measure.
- (3) The Litter Act was enacted last year. I will ensure that this matter is referred to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council which was constituted under that Act.
- (4) One of the functions of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council is to promote awareness of, and encouragement of, litter re-cycling.
- (5) The Litter Act does not contain provisions for this purpose and I am not aware of any legislation that does.

## WOOD CHIPPING

*Expansion*

323. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Resources Development:

Will he table a copy of the Environmental Protection Authority's letter giving their advice to him on the woodchipping expansion which was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority by the Minister under section 51A of the Environmental Protection Act?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

No. My Press release of 27th May was fully informative. I do not intend to release copies of correspondence, particularly where it has a bearing on other issues.

The ERMP being conducted to examine the longer term increase in exports will include the environmental impact of continuance of exports utilising jarrah sawmill waste.

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*Aluminium Smelter*

324. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Will the Environmental Protection Authority's final report to him on the proposed aluminium smelter be made public?
- (2) Will the public be permitted a period of time to assess the report before final decisions are made to go ahead or otherwise?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) I need to point out that the ERMP to be prepared by the proponent will be subject to public review before EPA reports to Government on the proposal. It has been the practice of the Government to release such EPA reports.
- (2) The public will be able to inquire and comment during the course of assessment of the development proposal.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT***Aluminium Smelter*

325. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Will the feasibility studies which are being done by the two likely applicants for a Western Australian smelter, constitute the environmental review and management programme when the decision to accept or reject is made?
- (2) What would be the smelting capacity that this State could cope with?
- (3) When will the ERMP on the smelter be made public?
- (4) How long will the public review period be?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The feasibility of a smelter with capacity in the order of 230 000 tonnes metal per year is under consideration.
- (3) 1981.
- (4) This will be considered after EPA advice in 1981 when ERMP is available.

**MINING***Western Mining Corporation Baldyis*

326. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Mines:

Would he provide details of the "noxious" wastes which are disposed of by Western Mining Company in its disposal pond in Scotty Millar Road, Baldyis?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The wastes disposed by Western Mining are contained in two separate streams. Details of these streams are as follows:—

**(1) Effluent stream**

Volume — 1 600 cu. metres per week containing the following:

	grams per litre
Nickel	0.07
Copper	0.01
Cobalt	0.01
Sulphur	1.5
Ammonia	1.7
(Total)	

**(2) Tailings liquor stream**

Volume — 1 000 cu. metres per week containing 1 000 tonnes per week of solids that analyse as:—

	%
Nickel	0.76
Copper	0.11
Cobalt	0.22
Iron	44.00
Sulphur	11.30

The solution carrying the solids analyse as:—

	grams per litre
Nickel	0.29
Copper	0.04
Cobalt	0.01
Sulphur	0.50
Ammonia	12.60
(Total)	

**PARKS AND RESERVES ACT***Boards*

327. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Since coming into effect, apart from the Kings Park Board and the Rottnest Island Board, what other boards specifically constituted under the Parks and Reserves Act, are still existing?
- (2) Which boards specifically constituted under the Act have been disestablished since 1974?
- (3) (a) Who are currently the chairman/president and members of the following boards; and  
(b) what are the dates of their appointments:  
(i) Kings Park Board;  
(ii) Rottnest Island Board?
- (4) Who is the responsible Minister for the above boards?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The vesting of a reserve in an appropriate Authority constitutes that Authority as a Board of Management under the Parks & Reserves Act 1895. Due to the hundreds of reserves which have been vested in different authorities since 1895 it is not possible without lengthy and costly research to provide the information sought.
- (3) (a) and (b) Current appointments are as follows:

	Date of Appointment
<b>King's Park Board</b>	
President—Sir Thomas Wardle	16.10.78
Members—	
Hon. Sir Ross Hutchinson	16.10.78
Mr Justice P. F. Brinsden, Q.C.	16.10.78
Mrs Ann Cullity	16.10.78
Mr W. H. Eastman	16. 1.79
Mr J. W. Robertson	16.10.78
<b>Rottneest Island Board</b>	
President—Hon. D. J. Wordsworth	2. 4.80
Members—	
Sir John Parker	17. 2.66
Hon. A. D. Taylor	21. 7.78
Mr J. B. Fitzhardinge	21. 7.78
Mr H. A. Solomon	17.10.77
Mr E. P. O'Callaghan	17.10.77
Mrs P. Barblett	17.10.77

- (4) Minister for Lands.

#### PARKS AND RESERVES ACT

##### *Emu Point (Albany) Reserve Board*

328. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Since 1974, for what years have the following boards published annual reports:
- Kings Park Board;
  - Rottneest Island Board;
  - Emu Point (Albany) Reserve Board?
- (2) (a) Further to (1) above, to whom have these reports been presented and, in the case of each board, have the annual reports been tabled in Parliament on each occasion and copies provided for public approval in the State Library;
- (b) if "No" in one or more cases, for what reasons have annual reports not been published, tabled in Parliament or deposited in the State Library?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) There is no statutory requirement for these Boards to publish annual reports. The Emu Point (Albany) Reserve Board ceased operations as a Board of Management on December 31, 1975.

The Lands and Surveys Department's Annual Report which is tabled in Parliament has, for many years, included a report by the President of the King's Park Board.

It is intended that this year the Rottneest Island Board will publish a report.

#### ROTTNEEST ISLAND BOARD

##### *Revenue and Expenditure*

329. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- For 1979-80, what are the sources and amounts of income available to the Rottneest Island Board?
- For the same period, would the Minister please provide a breakdown of the board's expenditure?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) As advised the honourable member in answer to part (5) of question 297 of 14 August 1980, the figures in relation to the question are awaiting audit. They will be made available to the member when the audit has been completed.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE, AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

##### *Legislation*

330. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

- Under what legislation was the former Department of Industrial Development established?
- Under what legislation have the new departments of Industry and Commerce, and Resources Development been established?
- What are the functions of each of these two departments?
- (a) What are the titles of the permanent heads of these two new departments; and  
(b) under what legislative provisions were they contracted, engaged or employed, in each case, their respective terms of employment and present annual salaries?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The former Department of Industrial Development was established by the Government under the authority of the Public Service Act 1904.
- (2) The two new departments referred to were established under the authority of Section 21 of the Public Service Act 1978.
- (3) To assist the Government in implementing its policy in the areas of industry and commerce, and resources development.
- (4) (a) Co-ordinator, Department of Resources Development.  
Director, Department of Industrial Development and Commerce.  
(b) Employed under the Public Service Act. The Co-ordinator is a permanent position, Item 0001, Grade S5, salary \$45 572. The Director is a 5 year contract position advertised both inside and outside the Service, Grade A-1-II, salary \$37 126.

# DEPARTMENTS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE, AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

## *Annual Reports*

331. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

- (1) (a) In what years since 1974 did the former Department of Industrial Development produce an annual report;  
(b) on what dates were these tabled in Parliament for public perusal;  
(c) are copies available in the State Library for public perusal?
- (2) (a) Is there a legal requirement for the new departments of Industrial Development and Commerce, and Resources Development to produce annual reports;  
(b) if so, will these be tabled in Parliament and copies deposited in the State Library?
- (3) (a) If there is no legal obligations for these departments to produce annual reports, is it the Government's intention to ensure that they are produced and also made available for public perusal;  
(b) if not, why not?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) The department has not, and is not required to produce an Annual Report.  
(b) and (c) Not applicable.
- (2) (a) No.  
(b) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) Not considered necessary.  
(b) I believe that industry and the public generally are well informed on the activities of the departments and the services they render, by means of regular departmental publications on a range of subject areas.  
The respective Ministers responsible for these portfolios are periodically bringing matters to the attention of the House through Agreement Acts, and in a number of other ways, and to the public through announcements and press releases, plus a wide range of contacts with the department, and from the department to industry, commerce and the public.

# COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT

## *Establishment*

332. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

- (1) Under what legislative provisions has the Council for the Advancement of the Rural Youth Movement been established?
- (2) Does the council produce an annual report and was a copy—  
(a) tabled in Parliament last year; and  
(b) deposited in the State Library?
- (3) Who is the responsible Minister for the council?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Junior Farmers' Movement Act, 1955-58.
- (2) (a) and (b) No.
- (3) Minister for Education.

## MINING ACT

### *Draft Regulations*

333. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What was the advertised closing date for the receipt of public submissions on the Mining Act draft regulations?

- (2) How many organisations/people made submissions?
- (3) Are submissions received after the above closing date being considered by the Mines Department?
- (4) Were submissions received from the following bodies—
  - (a) the Environmental Protection Authority;
  - (b) Department of Conservation and Environment;
  - (c) National Parks Authority;
  - (d) WA Wildlife Authority;
  - (e) Department of Fisheries and Wildlife;
  - (f) Department of Local Government;
  - (g) Town Planning Department;
  - (h) Metropolitan Region Planning Authority?
- (5) (a) Did he or the Mines Department specifically solicit comment or submissions from any person or organisation;
- (b) if so, would he please list them?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) 31 March 1980.
- (2) 83.
- (3) Yes. Submissions received to the 30th June, 1980 were included for consideration.
- (4) (a) to (h) Of the Departments and instrumentalities listed, only the National Parks Authority made a submission.
- (5) (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.

## WATER RESOURCES AND SEWERAGE

*Rates: St. Patrick's Primary School*

334. Mr PARKER, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he received a letter from St. Patrick's primary school in Point Street, Fremantle, complaining of increases in their water and sewage charges of over 60 per cent?
- (2) Has he given consideration to the request by the school that they be given relief from these increases?
- (3) If so, what has been the outcome of that consideration?

- (4) If not, when will he give the matter consideration?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) The property referred to is not rateable under the provisions of Section 72 (d) of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909-1979. For such properties, a minimum charge for water and sewerage connections is required. For the current 1980-81 year, the minimum charge is set at \$40 (\$25 for 1979-80) per water service plus \$40 (\$25 for 1979-80) per water closet. In addition, this property is required to pay \$4 meter rent. No charge is made for metropolitan main drainage. The proposed amending legislation to the above Act currently before Parliament is to peg the increase in charges to 50 per cent to that of the previous year only with value based rates in the Metropolitan Water Board area and does not extend to the minimum charges on non-rateable properties.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

### *Deaths*

335. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

Of the "widely varying estimates of deaths attributable in some way to smoking" referred to in his answer to question 161 (2) of 1980, what—

- (a) is his present estimate; or
- (b) does his department believe to be the most reasonable estimate as to how many Western Australians on average are killed each week as a result of smoking?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (a) and (b) The honourable member will know that it is absolutely impossible to estimate such matters with any real accuracy. Smoking is the major factor in lung cancer, a very important factor in chronic bronchitis and emphysema and a significant factor in a number of other diseases. However, it is not the sole factor in any of these. In replying to question 1086 on August 15, 1979, it was stated that

it had been estimated some 1 300 deaths occurred in Western Australia each year in excess of those that would occur in the absence of smoking. This remains the best estimate.

## TRAFFIC: DRIVERS

### *Negligence: Insurance*

336. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Further to his answer to question 137 of 1980, what are the aspects of a compulsory insurance scheme which are said to render it unacceptable in respect to property damage but acceptable for personal injury as evidenced by the Motor Vehicle Third Party Insurance Act?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

As a compulsory scheme would benefit only a very small proportion of the population, many of whom can obtain protection voluntarily under the present insurance scheme, it is considered that the additional costs of administration are not warranted.

The object of compulsory motor vehicle (Third Party Insurance) is to ensure that there are sufficient funds available to meet the larger personal injury claims which may arise and which can have a much greater effect on both the victim and the motorist.

## ROAD

### *Mitchell Freeway*

337. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

What and/or who is causing the delay in the commencement of construction of stage 4 of the Mitchell Freeway?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

There is no delay in starting construction of Mitchell Freeway Stage IV. Preliminary work will commence this financial year and the main works will start on schedule in the 1981/82 financial year.

## PRISONS: PRISONERS

### *Death Row*

338. Mr BERTRAM, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is he able to state the time equivalent to the "due course" expressed in his answer to question 220 (2) (b) of 1980?
- (2) (a) If "Yes", will he do so;  
(b) if "No", why?

MR HASSELL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Not applicable.  
(b) Because it is a matter for the Cabinet and the Governor in Council.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

### *Criminal or Police Records*

339. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

How many persons with criminal or police records have this year become Justices of the Peace either *ex officio* or upon nomination?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Justices of the Peace are not appointed if they have recent or serious criminal records. Each case is considered on its individual merits. If the Hon. Member desires information concerning the circumstances of any particular nomination, the Attorney General will endeavour to be of assistance.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

### *Representations to Government*

340. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he or his Government received representations from Amnesty International or any other overseas organisations touching on—  
(a) the hanging of the three persons in "death row" or any of them; and/or  
(b) the Noonkanbah question?
- (2) If "Yes"—  
(a) will he name the organisations which have made these representations and on which of these matters; and



- (b) to the extent that these representations are written, will he table them?  
 (c) if "No", why?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) No.  
 (b) Yes.  
 (2) (a), (b) and (c) With permission, papers herewith are tabled.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 192.)*

## POLICE

### *Lactrile*

341. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Has he noted the answer to question 221 of 1980 in particular to part (i)?  
 (2) If "Yes", is it his intention to have the police investigate this matter and to take appropriate action?  
 (3) If "No", why?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) No.  
 (3) There is no suggestion that any offence was committed, or that the events referred to in the answer of the Minister for Health to question 221 occurred, in Western Australia.

## HEALTH: DRUGS AND TOBACCO

### *Sickness and Deaths*

342. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

Of the following which will in this year—

- (a) cause pain and suffering and disease to most Western Australians; and  
 (b) kill or be a significant cause of the death of most Western Australians—  
     (i) hard drugs;  
     (ii) motor vehicle accidents; or  
     (iii) smoke from cigarettes?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (a) and (b) The hard drug problem is still a relatively small one in numerical terms in Western Australia. In 1978, to use the most recent figures available, motor vehicle accidents resulted in 360 fatalities and approximately 5000 hospital admissions for non-fatal injuries. Lung cancer and bronchitis and

emphysema in 1978 totalled 677 and were indicated as the main diagnosis for 7440 hospital admissions.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

### *Eastern States*

343. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What is the estimated annual value of imports from and exports to the Eastern States from the State of Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Statistics provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics are as follows—(in \$ million)

W.A. Imports from other Australian States:

1977-78 .....	1828.5
1978-79 .....	2048.8

W.A. Exports to other Australian States:

1977-78 .....	355.2
1978-79 .....	446.2

## RAILWAYS

### *Freight Rates: Costs Incurred*

344. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Transport:

For 1978-79, what was the difference between incremental costs incurred by Westrail on the revenue obtained by Westrail, expressed as a percentage of the total fixed costs incurred by Westrail in 1978-79 for:

- (a) grain freight;  
 (b) bulk freight, excluding grain;  
 (c) LCL freight;  
 (d) livestock freight;  
 (e) passengers on rail—suburban and country;  
 (f) road services?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (a) to (f) In conformity with the answers to similar questions, I cannot release information on Westrail's costs which would hinder that Department's efforts to place itself on a more commercial footing.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### POLICE

#### *Commissioner: Statement*

76. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

I have given notice of part of my question, which is as follows—

- (1) Was the Commissioner of Police reported correctly in his statement appearing on page 1 of *The West Australian* of Saturday, 16 August?
- (2) Is W.W. Mitchell employed in any capacity by the Police Department to prepare Press releases for the Commissioner of Police?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) In general I cannot vouch for the accuracy of any report on anyone's statements other than mine. However, I am informed by the office of the Commissioner of Police that, in the main, he was reported correctly.
- (2) To the best of my knowledge, no.

### EDUCATION

#### *Schools: Pupil-teacher Ratio*

77. Mr CLARKO, to the Minister for Education:

The following statement appeared in *The West Australian* of today, 19 August 1980—

An Australian Teachers' Federation survey showed that Western Australian primary classes averaged between 36 and 38 children.

This quote has been associated with a statement from the President of the Teachers' Union which indicates that the union will continue to press the department to reduce class sizes. Are the figures quoted accurate? Do they reveal the real situation regarding pupil-teacher ratios in Western Australian primary schools?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. Either the survey is incorrect or the quotation in the Press is inaccurate.

Staff are provided to primary schools in Western Australia by a formula which allows sufficient staff for—

- (i) no class containing year one pupils to be greater than 30 pupils;
- (ii) no other class to be greater than 35 pupils,

In schools with enrolments exceeding 104 pupils, additional support staff are provided to allow the class teacher to subdivide classes for special purposes.

It is clear that the average size of classes which are of maximum size 30 and maximum size 35 must be somewhere between 30 and 35.

It is certainly the case that some principals will form classes larger than 35 in order to achieve certain educational outcomes; but in so doing the remaining students are automatically grouped into smaller units. Thus, even in these situations the average class size must again be less than 35.

Support teachers and specialist teachers modify the basic class grouping during the day and principals are given certain flexibility in organising their pupils. For example, for part of a day a class of 33 students may meet as a single group and for part of the day the class may divide into one group of 15 and another of 18 or groups of five and 28. The groupings will depend on the programme of work being undertaken.

The Education Department no longer keeps records of class size because the organisation of primary schools is no longer a simple one-teacher one-class relationship. Instead a more meaningful statistic, the "pupil teacher ratio" is used to compare staff student numbers.

The pupil teacher ratio is obtained by dividing the total school enrolment by the number of teachers including the principal assigned to a particular school.

The pupil teacher ratio for primary schools in Western Australia is about 22. Ten years ago the pupil teacher ratio was about 32. The drop in this statistic reflects the additional staff resources which are now available in schools.

## POLICE

*Massage Parlours*

78. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Will he check the accuracy of his answer to question 182 of Wednesday, 18 August in which he stated that the Police Department does not keep a record of massage parlours and the people operating them in the Perth metropolitan area?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I will check upon the accuracy of the answer, but I have no reason to doubt that it was accurate. The member has not put forward any reason to show that I should doubt its accuracy.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

*Dealings with Commissioner for  
Community Relations*

79. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Can he confirm that earlier this year an administrative instruction was circulated to all staff of his department directing that no departmental officers were to have any dealings with the Commissioner for Community Relations or anyone of his staff?
- (2) If he can, why was the instruction issued?
- (3) Is he aware of the concern expressed by social workers and welfare officers in the department that as a general instruction, this requirement infringes on ethical

practice and may undermine the effectiveness of their counsel and advice?

- (4) Has any consideration been given to reissuing the instruction in terms specifying that its intent is to ensure the control of information about the department's activities by the Minister so as to make it more acceptable in the framework of bureaucratic and parliamentary accountability?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The administrative instruction to which the member refers—I think there was only one—was issued as a result of discussions I had with the director of my department. As a consequence, the instruction was issued indicating to the staff of the department that they should not have dealings with the office of the Commissioner for Community Relations.
- (2) The answer to this question is quite simple. The Commissioner for Community Relations has not been elected by the people of Western Australia to govern this State—the Government has. It is our determination as a Government to govern the State as elected, and not to have it governed by bureaucrats from Canberra or from anywhere else. Before that time, the Commissioner for Community Relations had established a record of dealing with my department largely on an informal basis of ringing up when he wanted to deal with certain people and by writing voluminous letters about matters directly within the jurisdiction of the department and the Government—in fact, raising issues of policy. I made it clear to the director of my department—and I might say to the Commissioner for Community Relations himself whom I saw for some hours—that we were not going to continue that kind of arrangement and that I would not have my department subject to his scrutiny, because he had no right to scrutinise a State Government department in Western Australia. I made it absolutely clear to him and the department and, subsequently—because someone deemed it appropriate to make the matter public—to the media.

(3) In the next part of the question, the member used the word "ethical". Firstly, I question the ethics of those officers who ran off to the media to complain about a lawful direction given to them by their employer. If the member wishes to refer to ethical matters I suggest he refer to both sides of the ethical question. I do not see that an officer who is given a perfectly proper and lawful direction by his employer should have any concern about ethical consideration, if, as I say, the direction is proper and appropriate, as it was. What I think was questioned by some people—and not officers of the department—and particularly by a former officer of the department who is not entirely happy with the department, was whether we should have dealings in the way we had in the past with the office of the Commissioner for Community Relations. All I can say is that if those officers do not want to work for this Government, if they want to work for Mr Grassby, they may do so. But they happen to be employed by the elected Government of this State and they will carry out the requirements of the elected Government or they will not be employed by the Government. Surely that is quite simple; surely that is quite clear; and surely that is quite proper. I had cause to see some people who expressed concern about this matter. Some groups wrote letters to me. One wrote an offensive letter and I responded briefly and pointed out that they had misunderstood the basis of the instruction being given. A group representing officers of the department wrote a reasoned letter to me.

Mr Bryce: We promise not to ask any more questions on this subject.

Mr HASSELL: They wrote a reasoned letter expressing their concern. I invited them to meet me. They came along and we had a perfectly amicable discussion and I explained the reasoning behind the instruction.

When one reads the terms of the administrative instruction, I do not see how one could misinterpret it. I think they were led to misinterpret it by a particular former officer of the department and by people who wanted to make mischief. Having explained it to

the officers of my department they left feeling it had been issued on a perfectly satisfactory basis. They left without any complaint.

(4) I do not have any intention of reissuing the instruction.

## GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES

### *West Australian Mushroom Company*

80. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Treasurer:

Is it intended to give a Government guarantee to West Australian Mushroom Company of Pingelly for the amount of \$316 000 which the company seeks to expand its operations?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I cannot claim to have any detailed knowledge of the particular matter raised—that is, the \$316 000 guarantee. I will certainly have a look at it for him. I understood that in view of the information available at the time, the officers concerned and the Minister concerned were not prepared to make any recommendations. I have not seen the case personally, so I cannot make any considered reply.

## WATER RESOURCES AND SEWERAGE

### *Rates: St. Patrick's Primary School*

81. Mr PARKER, to the Premier:

My question relates to question on notice 334. Do I understand from his answer to that question that his decision is not to make any relief available to the St. Patrick's Primary School in relation to the impost of charges pursuant to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I thought the answer to the question was quite explicit. It was intended to explain to the member the system which prevails in respect of the charges that have been raised. I cannot see any case for any reduction in this particular instance. If there is anything different from what has been represented in his question, I would be pleased to hear it. I have yet to answer the letter received, but I will do that at an early date.

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

*Art Gallery: Board Members*

## 82. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

My question follows on from question on notice 307 and is as follows—

- (1) Does he see a conflict of interest in the Art Gallery Board purchasing from one of its own members art works at a cost in excess of \$45 000?
- (2) Can he explain why, in the case of over \$11 000 for overseas trips, two particular members received approval for the expenditure after the time the trips were completed?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Questions which cast doubt on the propriety of certain purchases from members of the board by the Art Gallery Board and trips taken by members of the board on behalf of the Art Gallery are absolutely reprehensible to the nth degree. They are scurrilous by any standards as can be amply demonstrated. They certainly do no justice at all to the member for Gosnells, who has made a number of statements along these lines. Indeed, one such statement was published in the *Daily News* the other day.

Dr D. W. Zink has been reimbursed for his purchase of works of sculpture—listed in a previous question—after their appraisal by the professional staff of the Art Gallery and approval of the Art Gallery Board.

In January 1980, Dr Zink visited Europe and North America to obtain essential information on the availability of works of art for the Art Gallery and current market values. About 40 items were referred to the professional staff of the Art Gallery and its Acquisitions Committee and six ultimately were acquired at favourable prices.

In three cases, Dr Zink was able to obtain options for the Art Gallery without cost or deposit. In three other cases sculptures could be held only by making an immediate

purchase, which Dr Zink did not have authority to do on behalf of the Art Gallery. He therefore advanced his own funds and, on his return, offered the sculptures to the Art Gallery as a long term loan with the option of purchasing them at the price he originally paid free of interest. The Art Gallery subsequently exercised these options.

It should be noted that three of the above purchases have since been funded by donations from Western Australian business firms totalling \$70 200, which have been personally negotiated by Dr Zink for the Art Gallery.

In 1978 Mr M. R. Saunders visited the United States at the request of the Art Gallery Board to negotiate a major exhibition for the opening of the new Art Gallery building. There was no Director of the Art Gallery to undertake this duty at this time. The visit was approved in advance by the Minister and the Treasury. Reimbursement totalling \$3 912.50 was made to Mr Saunders. Later, Mr Saunders revisited the United States twice for the same purpose without receiving reimbursement.

This will indicate the true nature of the inferences that have been made—

Dr D. Zink was reimbursed \$7 701.40 for his actual travel expenses in January 1980 for the purposes detailed above, this sum being provided from the Zink Foundation, which was established by Dr Zink by monetary gifts to the Art Gallery, which, to date, totals \$75 000. The Zink Foundation is available to the Art Gallery Board for the purchase of works of art or to defray the costs of other activities related to the acquisition of works for the Art Gallery collection. Some of these funds have so far been utilised to acquire sculptures by Chris Constable, Maris Raudzins, Campbell Cornish and Peter Vogel.

Dr Zink visited Europe on another occasion on behalf of the Art

Gallery Board, in August 1979, to negotiate some acquisitions for which he received no reimbursement at all.

The exceptionally generous contributions by Dr Zink, in addition to his extensive voluntary service to the Art Gallery as a member of its board and by many other representations on its behalf, are particularly commendable.

I once again deplore this question which has cast doubts on the propriety of transactions such as those I have detailed.

### COMMUNITY WELFARE

#### *Child Welfare Act*

83. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

My question follows a question I asked on notice tonight. The Premier, on

behalf of the Liberal Party, during the election policy speech gave an undertaking that the Child Welfare Act would be amended to give parents more responsibility for children who come under departmental notice.

I asked the Minister when he intended legislating to put that promise into effect. His answer was that the proposed amendment to the Child Welfare Act will not focus on that aspect and in fact he said there is already adequate provision in the Act relating to parental responsibility.

Does that mean that the Government is going back on that election undertaking?

Mr HASSELL replied:

It is obvious that I will have to check the context of what was said in the policy document. I will do so and then come back to the member.

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