



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT  
THIRD SESSION  
1999

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, 10 August 1999

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Thirty-fifth Parliament

*Parliament was prorogued on 6 August 1999 to 10 August 1999, where it met for the dispatch of business.*

*Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, AC, MC).*

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OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 10 August 1999

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 11.00 am.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon George Cash) took the Chair, and read prayers.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT - VISITORS WELCOMED

**THE PRESIDENT:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Legislative Council of Western Australia. We are delighted that you can join us today as guests of members of Parliament. By way of procedure, the Governor of Western Australia will shortly join us in this Chamber and summon members of the Legislative Assembly and, once they arrive in our Chamber, His Excellency will deliver the throne's speech.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr L.B. Marquet) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and deputy of the Governor (the Honourable David Kingsley Malcolm, AC) summoning the third session of the thirty-fifth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor entered the Council Chamber at 11.08 am; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech -

*Mr President and honourable members of the Legislative Council.*

*Mr Speaker and honourable members of the Legislative Assembly.*

In accordance with a time honoured tradition, today's proceedings begin with a brief tribute to former Members of this Parliament who have passed away since we last met here, they are George Henry Yates and the Honourable Margaret McAleer.

George Yates began his service to his country in the Australian Imperial Force. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in March 1947. During his nine year term, he held the seat of Canning and later the new seat of South Perth. In 1952, he was ahead of his time in arguing for Government assistance to develop more industries in the north west. He was also an early advocate for an international airport on the site of the Guildford aerodrome and for building the Narrows Bridge. He is remembered for giving generous service to the community throughout his life, both in Western Australia and in New South Wales, where he spent his later years.

The Honourable Margaret McAleer, represented the Upper West Province and later the Agricultural Region between 1974 and 1993. During that time she also held the position of Whip, both in Government and in Opposition. She broke new ground by succeeding in a rural seat previously seen as a male preserve. Throughout her time in Parliament, Margaret McAleer maintained strong links with her rural constituency and vigorously represented its interests for seventeen years.

I am sure that members of both Houses join me in offering sincere condolences to the families of George Yates and Margaret McAleer, and in recognising their years of service to the Western Australian community.

HISTORICAL REFLECTION

While the opening of any parliamentary session is an historic event, today's is a little more historic than most. It is the last of the nineteen hundreds.

When members gather here again for the Fourth and final session of this Thirty Fifth Parliament, it will be the year 2000 and the eve of the next century.

Also adding to the significance of this occasion is the celebration of Western Australia's centenary of suffrage and the

contribution of women to public life. This is graphically recorded in the Constitutional Centre's current exhibition, which is aptly titled "With a Vote of Her Own".

It is sad, that with her passing, the Honourable Margaret McAleer, who served as a member of the Centenary of Women's Suffrage Committee, has been unable to witness all the celebrations of this milestone. However, she has her special place in political history as the first Liberal Party woman in the Upper House and the second longest serving woman in either House.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES**

As Western Australia approached the turn of the last century, constitutional issues were very much to the fore.

A Bill enabling Her Majesty Queen Victoria to grant a Constitution to Western Australia received Royal assent on the 15th of August 1890, with an announcement to this effect being made in Perth by a proclamation dated the 21st of October 1890.

The new era of responsible government began on the 30th of December, 1890 with the official opening of the First Session of the First Parliament of Western Australia.

Before the decade of the 1890s was over, the State had its own constitution, embodied in the *Constitution Act 1889* and the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*. Also by the end of 1899, the five other Australian colonies had voted to accept a draft Constitution for the new Australian federation.

Following a State referendum in July 1900, Western Australia was included in the Commonwealth of Australia, formed on the 1st of January 1901.

Almost one hundred years later, history is repeating itself. A referendum on constitutional change is again preceding a new century.

If the national referendum in November supports an Australian republic, a State referendum will be needed to clear the way for links to the monarchy to be removed from the Western Australian Constitution.

Legislation to allow this State referendum would, therefore, become one of the landmark Bills of this parliamentary session.

Since coming into office in 1993, the Government has done much to educate the community about our constitutional arrangements. This includes holding Constitutional Forums throughout the State, and creating Australia's first Constitutional Centre.

In considering constitutional change, the community needs to reflect on the checks and balances in the current system and how they might be retained, or improved, in a new system of governance.

### **TAXATION AND COMPETITION POLICY**

Other national issues shaping the Government's legislation program include taxation reform and competition policy.

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Relations, the States will receive all the Commonwealth's GST revenues from the 1st of July next year.

A package of Bills to support this Agreement will produce the most significant change in Commonwealth/State financial relations in decades.

In the longer term, the new tax regime will give the State a growing and assured source of revenue to fund its services, something it has not enjoyed in the past.

Also of national significance is legislation to increase competition, where this is in the community's interest.

The *Repeal and Amendment (National Competition Policy) Bill* is the first in a series of omnibus Bills to remove unnecessary regulations affecting a range of activities, including poultry farming, land valuing and the sandalwood industry.

Further legislation linked to new access regimes under the National Competition Policy is included in part of the *Rail Freight System Bill 1999* and the *Gas Corporation (Business Disposal) Bill 1999*. Both these Bills will be reinstated on the Notice Papers.

The *Gas Corporation (Business Disposal) Bill 1999* will establish mechanisms for the sale of one hundred per cent of AlintaGas and will ensure safety and community protection in the context of the planned private ownership.

The *Rail Freight System Bill 1999* will enable the sale of Westrail's freight business and the lease of the railway track and land corridor. It will allow for the State's third party access regime to apply to the new track operator in the interests of encouraging on-rail competition.

### **ACCESS TO LAND AND ENERGY**

Even more important than these access regimes is the issue of access to land and affordable energy, as they are crucial to securing major new investments.

Despite setbacks with its native title legislation, the Government remains committed to establishing a workable native title regime and removing uncertainties on land access.

As a first step, the Government will again introduce legislation to ensure maximum security for leaseholders, in accordance

with the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. Greater certainty will also be provided with regard to land required for public works.

Fortunately, access to energy is less problematic.

Expressions of interest for new gas reticulation in regional Western Australia will be sought following proclamation of the *Energy Coordination Amendment Act 1999*.

However, given the wealth of oil and gas resources in Western Australia, the supply of energy is much more than a domestic issue.

Later this year, the North West Shelf Venture will deliver the one thousandth cargo of Australian liquefied natural gas to Japan under its existing twenty year contract.

Competitive energy will underpin the next generation of major resource projects. That is why the Government is working tirelessly to increase shipments of clean energy into the Asia-Pacific region.

## **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

The traditional primary industries of agriculture and fisheries are also tapping into new overseas markets.

One exciting initiative is the special promotion of Western Australian seafood, meat, wine, fruit, vegetables and processed products being held in the prestigious Selfridges department stores in London and Manchester for two weeks from the 22nd of September.

The promotional value of this venture, which arose out of a proposal from the Western Australian Agent General, is estimated at more than two million dollars.

Events such as this highlight the diversification and expansion of our primary industries. One example of this growth is in viticulture, where plantings this winter are estimated at around one and a half million vines.

The other important aspect of viticulture is the extent to which it fosters other industries. For evidence of this, we need look no further than our historic Swan Valley, where grape growing is the catalyst for tourism and a whole range of food related enterprises.

Legislative support for our primary industries will be provided by the *Horticultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill*, which will create the Agricultural Produce Commission.

Through the new Commission's specific powers on pest and disease control in all agricultural produce, including that of non-commercial producers, the Government will enhance Western Australia's reputation for "clean" primary products.

Horticulture, viticulture, and agriculture are just some of the industries strongly connected to a range of landcare issues, the most notable being salinity and the protection of native vegetation.

Rural Western Australia has recognised the benefits of re-planting and protecting vegetation in the farming landscape.

Its efforts are strongly supported by the Government, which contributes approximately twenty million dollars annually towards landcare.

The Government's commitment to maintaining Western Australia's place at the forefront of the world's quality producers of agriculture, food and fibre products is demonstrated in many ways, including its strategies to reduce land degradation.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The State Salinity Action Plan is at the forefront of the Government's efforts to deal with salt-affected farmland and to prevent the further degradation of agricultural land. This is a major issue requiring the commitment and support of the whole community.

In this regard, the work of the Government agencies, local government, the one hundred and forty two Land Conservation District Committees, the State Salinity Council, and everyone else involved in improving our catchment management and landcare practices, is to be commended.

A revised Salinity Plan, reflecting community input and community expectations, is expected to be released later this year.

The search for better environmental management is also reflected in an exciting development using deep rooted and salt tolerant mallee trees.

This joint enterprise between Western Power, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and private interests, has seen five hundred farmers plant ten million mallee seedlings to produce fuel for a one megawatt demonstration power plant.

Through periodical cutting, the mallee will be a renewable resource, a permanent carbon sink, and a source of eucalyptus oil and annual yields of timber.

Cultivating such alternative sources of timber is consistent with the Government's commitment to the Regional Forest Agreement and its recent decision to end the logging of old growth karri and tingle from 2004.

The Government is doing all that it can to deliver a fair outcome under the Agreement and a range of new opportunities for the people and communities most affected.

It will also introduce amendments to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* to separate the administration of the conservation estate from commercial forest production and associated regulatory functions.

Other environmental benefits will flow from the Government's decision to introduce regulations to make Perth the "clean fuel" city of Australia.

This will be achieved by banning lead in petrol and requiring lower levels of other substances, such as benzene, from the 1st of January next year. The sulphur content in diesel will also be reduced and a safe substitute for lead will be added to some petrol to meet the fuel needs of older engines.

### **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Other legislation relevant to public sector administration will include a new *Housing Bill* to create a single authority, the Western Australian Housing Authority, to consider all aspects of housing. The new Authority will replace the State Housing Commission and the Government Employees' and Country Housing Authorities.

In addition, the Government will pursue enhanced accountability and public scrutiny in financial management through the *Government Financial Responsibility Bill 1998*, which will be reinstated on the Notice Paper.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SECURITY**

In my opening speech for the previous Session, I announced the new Safer WA partnership between the Government and its public sector agencies, the community, the Police Service and local government.

Twelve months on, it is pleasing note that the network of Safer WA Committees has expanded to forty-two Committees and is still growing. With the assistance of officers from key government agencies, these Safer WA Committees are finding effective local solutions to local crime problems.

One example of the innovation inspired by Safer WA is the Karratha Gurd's Cafe, which I visited recently. Developed as a response to the problems of substance abuse and anti-social behaviour, the Cafe serves as a drop-in centre and a place where young people can participate in nationally accredited training in the hospitality industry.

In other communities, Safer WA is focussing on safety for seniors and getting truants to school by providing transport and following up on unexplained absences.

In view of evidence linking poor educational attainment with an increased risk of anti-social behaviour and reduced employment prospects, such efforts can deliver significant benefits, not only for the children, but for the community as well.

Encouragement for this partnership approach to crime prevention is offered by the latest Police Service crime statistics, which show an overall drop in reported crime and an improvement in the clearance rate of offences.

However, there is no room for complacency and the Government will continue to push ahead on the legislative side of Safer WA with a package of Bills to reform the *Police Act 1892*. Along with a *Criminal Investigations (Covert Operations) Bill*, this legislation will give the Police the powers they need to deal with modern crimes and modern criminals.

In addition, the Government will proceed with a number of other Bills designed to improve community safety and security. Included among them will be the *Prisons Amendment Bill 1998*, the *Court Security and Custodial Services Bill 1998*, the *Sentence Administration Bill 1998*, the *Sentencing Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 1999*, the *Sentencing Matrix Bill 1999* and the *Acts Amendment (Fines Enforcement) Bill 1999*.

These Bills will secure major reforms to the prison service and its accountability, court security services, sentencing in line with community expectations and the enforcement of fines.

The Government is also pursuing effective alternatives to imprisonment, where that is appropriate, as in the case of juveniles and less serious offences.

Juvenile Justice Teams now involve offenders, their parents and their victims in face to face meetings. This program has won overwhelming support from all involved, with juveniles reporting it has helped them understand their victim's point of view.

In a similar way, a new integrated criminal justice response to illicit drug use is being developed to place the emphasis on treatment rather than imprisonment. The diversion of drug offenders to compulsory treatment will form an important part of a comprehensive range of options, which will include a drug court.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Drug abuse is also being tackled by the Health Department's drug treatment program. Three million dollars have been provided to expand the program and conduct four alternative treatment trials to help people beat their heroin addiction.

This program is a significant part of the education, health, law enforcement, support services and community-based measures in the soon to be released, WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse Action Plan for 1999-2001.

Another new initiative is HealthDirect, a six million dollar, around-the-clock telephone health service. This Commonwealth/State program is a national first, offering triage and health counselling.

Patients are also benefiting from the establishment of the Central Wait List Bureau, which has resulted in waiting lists for elective surgery dropping to their lowest levels in more than two years. By facilitating transfers to alternative hospitals or surgeons, patients can have their surgery performed much earlier.

Further improvements to the operational management of health services in the metropolitan area will flow from the passage of the *Hospitals and Health Services Amendment Bill 1998*, which formalises the Metropolitan Health Services Board.

Access to doctors is also being improved with overseas doctors being eligible for unconditional registration and permanent residency after working at least 5 years in designated rural or remote areas.

Since March 1998, the Government has opened three new health campuses and work will start this year on the new forty eight million dollar Armadale Health Service. In addition, a fifteen million dollar development at the Broome Hospital has dramatically lifted the level of health services in the Kimberley.

Other regional areas are benefiting from a nineteen million dollar, three year, Multi-Purpose Services development program. As well as offering medical care, which is responsive to local needs, the Multi-Purpose Services promote the collocation of health and aged care services in smaller country towns.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

In this International Year of the Older Person, particular attention is being paid to planning services for our ageing population and to challenging the stereotypes and attitudes towards ageing.

The Western Australian Government has a vision of a society where age is no barrier and where ageing is a positive and valued stage of life.

The launch of the "Positive Ageing Centre" in November this year will fulfil a Government commitment to establish a research institute to focus on all aspects of ageing, with the aim of improving the quality of life for seniors.

At the other end of the age spectrum, quality of life issues for families with troubled and vulnerable young people will be addressed through the Adolescent and Child Support Service. The Service will provide specialised intervention programs in residential and foster care settings.

Family members with disabilities will benefit from the Government's in principle commitment to funding a second five-year Business Plan for disability services to meet future needs. A *Disability Services Amendment Bill*, will also be introduced to give effect to recommendations from a Ministerial Review of the *Disability Services Act 1993*.

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE**

Fortunately, the majority of our young people will not require the specialised help of Family and Children's Services and Disability Services.

They will face the challenges and opportunities of life in a caring home environment, without major health concerns and with the benefit of a wide range of educational opportunities.

The Government's outstanding early childhood education program is giving all children access to a kindergarten and pre-school year. This helps in identifying and dealing with learning difficulties at an earlier age and sets children on a firmer path towards employment and a fulfilling life.

As part of the ongoing monitoring of educational standards, all government school students in Years Three and Five are to have literacy and numeracy tests later this month. The results will be provided to parents and schools so that appropriate help can be given where needed.

Some of that help may come from the School Volunteer Program, which pairs up seniors who volunteer as tutors with students who have reading difficulties or physical and intellectual disabilities. This interaction across the generations is a great way of improving literacy and using the skills of our talented seniors.

The *School Education Bill 1997* will be reinstated on the Notice Paper so that next year our schools can begin operating in a new administrative environment. Implementation of this legislation will provide a comprehensive and flexible framework for the governance of schooling in this State, not just for the present, but well into the next century.

A further important development is the increased emphasis on post-school options, with Western Australia having the nation's highest school leaver participation rate in vocational education and training.

Within the next few months nearly twenty five thousand young Western Australians will be leaving school. Under the Government's TAFE 2000 program, every eligible school leaver will be guaranteed the offer of a place at a TAFE college.

That will give them access to four hundred courses, in a variety of career paths, and a head start towards the job of their choice in a State which has consistently recorded one of the lowest, if not the lowest, unemployment rate in the nation.

A significant initiative in regard to employment is the Government's commitment to employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the public sector.

So far, under a new agreement with the Commonwealth, twenty four Aboriginal people have commenced as trainees or cadets and seventeen have taken up field officer positions with the Department of Family and Children's Services. They will join the ranks of indigenous people making their marks in a variety of careers, and provide important role models for their people.

Further opportunities for Aboriginal people will stem from the Government's recently released *Aboriginal Vocational Education and Training and Employment Policy for Western Australia*. This policy is designed to provide Aboriginal people with opportunities to negotiate with training providers to determine their own training needs and priorities.

Employment related legislation for this session will include amendments to the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1981*. These amendments will be the first step in returning balance to a system which is experiencing serious problems due to premiums having risen dramatically in recent times.

Many of the employment opportunities of the future may be in careers yet to be predicted, as we face unknown changes in the workplace.

It has become something of a cliché to speak of the increasing pace of change. But, whether or not change is happening at a faster rate is not really the issue.

What matters is people's capacity to cope with change, whilst retaining purpose, happiness and fulfilment in their lives.

It is, therefore, pleasing to see more emphasis being given to school chaplaincy services and to note that values education is now an integral part of the curriculum framework.

The values we share as a society, and our important role as responsible global citizens, are two of the keys to our future wellbeing as a nation.

While our natural resources are abundant and important, it is our human resources which will guarantee our future.

Through a range of Government programs including Cadets WA, Leadership Western Australia, WA Rural Leadership and the Leadership Centre, people of all ages are being equipped to take greater control of their destiny.

From what we know at present, it appears that destiny will be linked very closely to information, communication and technology.

Western Australians are already "tapping" into this future. For example, we are producing the next generation of Smart Card technology and our ongoing success and ingenuity in the shipbuilding industry sees our computerised stabilising system being marketed worldwide.

The Government's investment in a network of telecentres is opening new doors for people in many small communities. Shortly, it will be complemented by the Statewide Telecommunications Enhancement Program, otherwise known as STEP, which will make advanced digital data services available throughout Western Australia.

STEP will provide a platform for Government agencies to deliver new electronic services, such as Telehealth and Telelearning to regional and remote areas.

These are the areas where projects worth twenty five billion dollars, including the North West Shelf expansion, the Pilbara petrochemical plant and the Ord Stage Two Project, are under consideration.

Bringing these resource projects to fruition will require the same inventiveness, ingenuity and imagination that inspired investment in the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme and the Ord River Dam.

The history of Western Australia is full of such examples where the human spirit has triumphed over adversity.

This year, flooding in the communities of Esperance, Exmouth, Carnarvon, Moora and Busselton has provided them with much adversity. However, as Cabinet saw on its visit to Moora yesterday, there is a great deal of resilience in such communities.

I commend the citizens of these towns, the Government's emergency response teams and volunteers from across the State for the speed with which these communities have been rebuilt.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

This is the sixth occasion on which I have had the honour of officially opening the Parliament of Western Australia and it will be the last before I retire in March or April next year.

I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to compliment honourable members on their performance and to pay tribute to the institution of parliament, the standard of debate and the wisdom behind the laws you have made.

Too little credit, in my view, is given to members of both Houses for their contribution to making and improving the body of law which both underpins and strengthens our democracy.

In this regard, the Committees of the Parliament do a particularly good job, much of it behind the scenes and unheralded.

Far from being a rubber stamp, Executive Council plays a critical role in considering and giving approval to regulations which flesh out and support the Acts of Parliament, along with the hundreds of other important matters that come before the Council.

I thank members of Executive Council for their interest and wise advice.

While the reporting of parliamentary proceedings tends to focus on the controversial, in general, and from my observations, and very interested observations, Parliament performs its work nobly and harmoniously and mostly in a spirit of very good cooperation.

I place my appreciation of the Parliament, its members and the parliamentary officers, on record and wish you well in your coming deliberations.

I now declare the Third Session of the Thirty Fifth Parliament of Western Australia officially open.

[His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.]

**[Questions without notice taken.]**

**NATIONAL RAIL CORPORATION AGREEMENT REPEAL BILL 1999**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon N.F. Moore (Leader of the House), and read a first time.

**GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

*Distribution of Copies*

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon George Cash): For the sake of accuracy, I have obtained copies of His Excellency's speech which will now be distributed to members.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

*Motion*

**HON RAY HALLIGAN** (North Metropolitan) [12.08 pm]: I move -

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:

May it please Your Excellency -

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

We in Western Australia are indeed fortunate to have people of the calibre of His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Jeffery, who are known not only as tireless ambassadors for our State, but also as people who make a significant contribution to the needs within our community. It has been my pleasure to encounter His Excellency and Mrs Jeffery at many functions, and I have found that we have something in common in having served in Papua New Guinea at the same time. While we would both be considered servants of the public, my role did not involve the military forces. It is obvious that we also share a further interest - concern for the youth of this State.

Much has been said about so-called problems with our youth in general. These generalisations give people the impression that our young people are running amok, and that everything wrong with society is being caused by a rampant, unruly mob of drug taking youth who have no respect for the community or the law. However, it is well documented that 95 per cent of young people are law abiding. While that leaves 5 per cent of young people who could be termed hard core offenders, there are still some problems to be found within the 95 per cent. There is an expectation that young people will perform at a learning institution to an extent far in excess of the requirements in my day. Everyone nowadays is expected to leave a learning institution with a degree or diploma and this, coupled with society's misconceived perception of the younger generation, creates an enormous burden for them to shoulder.

Some of the difficulties encountered by our youth could be said to be caused by a number of things: Lack of jobs; access to illicit substances - tobacco, alcohol and drugs; peer pressure; and a breakdown of the family unit. Each of these concerns could be spoken about at length, but in the time allocated to me today I will concentrate on but one aspect. I refer to jobs or, as I like to describe it, income generation. If training were encouraged from an early age, it might help to reduce the problems associated with the other three. The present unemployment rate for youth is high, and much higher than anyone wishes it to be. While there is no panacea to correct this situation, we continually hear that more jobs need to be found, more jobs need to be created, and more training is required to make young people job ready. It is a simple matter to make bland statements and try to convince people that one has the answers to these problems. We hear these statements every day on the radio. We read them in the newspapers under different banners, such as editorials and contributions from television and radio presenters, some people from business and others who write to newspapers purely in an effort to create a profile for themselves. All too often the effort is a waste of everyone's time because of a lack of substance in the presumptions presented.

It is important for the youth of today that something meaningful be developed that will provide a path for them to follow, and that what is gained from the exercise assists in making them skilled in the many facets of life's endeavours and holds them in good stead in their future years. I am talking about training in enterprise. I refer to enterprise in its broadest sense, and not only in a commercial sense; that is, they need to be proactive about the things they need to do in this life, which will provide for their future needs and those of their families. For as long as I can remember, whenever anyone spoke to school leavers about how to make their way in the world, the message, more often than not, was to find a job. This often meant sitting back and waiting, either for *The West Australian* to arrive to look for the few jobs that were advertised, or for someone else to find or create the jobs that people may or may not want. People have developed a mentality over the years that a job will mysteriously appear at some stage, but that in the meantime it is all right to sit back and wait, or undertake



training that will make them better prepared for that job when it arrives. Then they can either sit back again or undertake some more training. Unfortunately, this can become a revolving door of insecurity and hopelessness.

What seems to be ignored all too often is that self-employment is a form of employment, along with full-time employment, part-time employment and casual employment. People should be asked to consider self-employment. Once again, there is the perception that the jobs that become available will place the employees in a position of comfort until they retire. Often no preparation is made for the unforeseen redundancies, caused through a host of things such as amalgamation of divisions within businesses, liquidation of companies, or even competition, whether it be locally, nationally or internationally.

We again see the revolving door syndrome at a later stage in life, because of lack of training in developing enterprise and finding ways around or over obstacles. Far too many people believe that entrepreneurs are born and not made. While there is no doubt that it helps to have been born with certain traits, many that are required to make a success of self-employment can be learned. I now quote from *The Practice of Entrepreneurship* which was published by the International Labour Office. I ask members to reflect on some of these quotes, when they think about what young people will require in their future years.

Many people go through life wishing that they were someone else or that they were doing another type of work.

The biggest asset to sustaining entrepreneurial ability is a positive attitude.

Good habits are difficult to master, but once acquired they become important assets.

You must be willing to learn from experience and change with the times.

Being an entrepreneur is more than a job or a career: it is a life-style, . . .

You are responsible for everything in your life, including your successes and failures.

This publication encourages entrepreneurial training and highlights -

many of the personal aspects of entrepreneurs with which most people can identify, and which can be developed over a period of time.

It refers to -

. . . the understanding that you can take control of the personal aspects of your life to make your work more productive and more entrepreneurial. Understanding that the personal aspects of your life can have positive effects on your business activities should give you the incentive and motivation to develop your personal entrepreneurial characteristics to the fullest extent.

As I said at the beginning of my speech, with this type of training our youth would be better prepared for that great unknown where they are expected to find ways to generate sufficient income to satisfy their needs. At the same time, with the additional skills of leadership and the ability to make decisions and use time effectively, youth would not only be in a far better position to keep out of harm's way by not submitting to peer pressure, but also would be better placed to make a positive contribution to society.

One may also ask what type of business the young people might start, particularly when they have had little experience in the workplace. With appropriate training, they would be able make a decision on the basis of market research and business planning. Of course, sufficient demand in the community would need to be identified, in relation to what can be supplied at a price known to be acceptable to the customer. This demand could be for something that already exists or an entirely new product. Although a new product may be a rare occurrence, it is not impossible for people to find something totally unrelated to their field of employment or experience. It should be remembered that the safety razor and the modern fountain pen were invented by salesmen. Many other inventions found the light of day because a need was identified.

It is also often felt that large amounts of capital are required before anyone should think about starting his or her own business. This, of course, is not the case and many businesses are started with second-hand equipment and little cash. Also some form of support and guidance is often required to assist people who are starting a business for the first time. Fortunately this form of assistance appears to be readily available through service clubs, community organisations and some government agencies, to name a few. Some will say this whole exercise would be difficult to achieve. Cynics will say it cannot be done. However, I have had 13-plus years proving otherwise. We are moving towards a time of immense change when the types of employment enjoyed by our parents will no longer be available to our youth.

It is important that our teaching institutions place themselves in a position to provide the type of training necessary to better prepare our young people for a new way of life which involves different forms of income generation. This must occur in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. With this type of training, our youth will be better placed to show the strength of character to overcome peer pressure, demonstrate initiative and decision making, create a clear pathway for their future income generation requirements, be a role model for those who follow them, acquire good habits and develop a lifestyle of which they and others can be proud.

I thank members for their indulgence and commend the motion to the House.

**HON MURIEL PATTERSON** (South West) [12.23 pm]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.

*House adjourned at 12.24 pm*

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## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, DEPUTY PREMIER'S COMMENTS

#### 1. **Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Tourism, and Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the minister's previous observations on the importance to his portfolios of Tourism, and Sport and Recreation of the belltower, the Barrack Square redevelopment, the Fremantle Maritime Museum, the motor sports complex, the soccer stadium and the convention centre.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the reported comments of the Deputy Premier and Leader of the National Party to the effect that these projects should be scrapped?
- (2) What has the minister done to persuade the Deputy Premier to his point of view or is the Deputy Premier just not listening to him?

#### **Hon N.F. MOORE replied:**

(1)-(2) I have heard the comments of the Deputy Premier and I must say publicly that I do not agree with him. I have argued in this House on a number of occasions, as I have argued in Cabinet, that there is a very significant justification for the projects that the member has outlined. It was rather interesting that the Leader of the Opposition, when speaking on the radio yesterday, did not make a comment about the soccer stadium. He said, "It is not budgeted for, so I will not tell you what I will do with that. The speedway has not been budgeted for, so I will not deal with that." In fact that has been budgeted for. He said, "I will get rid of the convention centre because the private sector will pay for that." Let me advise the Leader of the Opposition and the House that nowhere in Australia has a private sector operator provided a convention/exhibition centre. I refer members of the Opposition to Queensland where Mr Goss was the last Labor Premier to build a convention/exhibition centre at taxpayers' expense. The Victorian Government funded the last convention/exhibition centre built in Victoria. Both sides of politics around Australia recognise that Governments build convention/exhibition centres. In Western Australia we are looking to get something that will be provided partly by government and partly by the private sector. On the basis of the submissions made so far, I am very confident that we will get a significant development in Western Australia based upon an investment of up to \$100m of taxpayers' money.

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member is correct; I cannot. However, that does not faze me. The development will create 600 permanent jobs and the exhibitions and conventions it will attract to Western Australia will be very important. I will continue to try to convince the Deputy Premier of that.

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I hope I will convince the Leader of the Opposition, but I suspect that will take longer.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! A number of members have indicated they would like to ask questions. Obviously the leader must complete his answer without interjections if that is to happen.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Leader of the Opposition asked a number of questions and it will take some time to answer them.

I support the construction of the belltower. It is a shame - in fact, it is an embarrassment - that the State was given the bells by the United Kingdom and that they were stored in an industrial backyard by the Government that accepted them.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: If it did not want them in the first place, it should have sent them back. They must be housed somewhere and a \$5m investment is justifiable. As Professor Callaway stated, the belltower will become the world's biggest musical instrument. It will be a significant attraction for people who are interested in music.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is the opening day and members have guests in the gallery. Perhaps members will show a little restraint.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I hope that a soccer stadium will be delivered at minimal cost to the Government through the development of the convention and exhibition centre. If members of the Opposition are opposed to it, they should put up their hands now. Members opposite do not have the nerve to say they oppose it. They know very well that the public wants this, and the soccer fraternity desperately wants it. If members opposite are opposed to it, they should say so.

The speedway is being shifted because of a decision made by the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia. As a result, we must build a new facility. If members of the Opposition oppose that, they should say so now. We will then know where we all stand. Members opposite will not say where they stand. The Opposition is hypocritical about public works.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I support all these projects, because they are good for Western Australia. They will employ the people whom Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich purports to represent in this place.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Thousands of construction workers will be employed on these projects.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich on my list to ask a question. She has just dropped down the list three places. The leader should bring his answer to a conclusion.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am sure that you, Mr President, will appreciate the difficulty I am in. I am aware of the Deputy Premier's position, but I do not think he is opposed to projects per se. He has a view about priorities and I have said I do not agree with him. I have outlined to the House why the Government will proceed with these projects. I suggest that the Opposition tell the world which projects it opposes and which it supports so we know where it stands.

#### GORDON, MR STANLEY, DEATH ON BUS

### 2. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the minister explain why no written report was compiled on the death of Mr Stanley Gordon on a Transperth bus?
- (2) Is the minister satisfied that the circumstances of Mr Gordon's death have been adequately addressed and that Mr Gordon's death could not have been prevented by more timely medical intervention?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Is this matter the subject of a coronial inquiry?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Regrettably, not yet.

### Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(2) I am not aware that it is the subject of a coronial inquiry, but an inquiry has been conducted by Transperth. The driver could have rendered assistance earlier - he has some medical expertise. However, after a review of the situation, it has been decided that he can remain in his job. I pointed out in this place when the death occurred that there could have been an error. I have not seen any report at this stage, and I intend to follow up the Transperth report.

#### GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

### 3. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the State's finances -

- (1) Does the Government still have a budget committee?
- (2) Is the minister on it?
- (3) Who else is on it?
- (4) How often does it meet and when did it last meet?
- (5) What is it proposing to do about the reported underfunding of education, health and public safety?

### Hon MAX EVANS replied:

- (1)-(5) The Government has a standing committee which deals with budget management and which meets every two weeks. It met last Monday. It specifically discusses health and education issues. We are only five weeks into the budget year, with an estimated expenditure of \$7b. Members are well aware of the pressures on the budget, given the wage payments over and above what was expected. The committee meets regularly and always has.

The membership of the committee comprises the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Transport, the Attorney General and me.

Several members interjected.

Hon MAX EVANS: Ministers regularly appear before that committee representing their portfolio responsibilities.

The Government has developed a system of consolidated accounts for all agencies and authorities. It also presents one budget figure for recurrent and capital expenditure. That was not done previously, and agencies had to balance recurrent income against current expenditure. If that could not be done, the balance of recurrent expenditure is charged to capital expenditure. This Government has amalgamated those figures into one report. After the first year of that new system, we achieved a \$400m surplus, which went to capital expenditure. Until last year, all government capital expenditure was funded by that surplus. An increase in capital expenditure has been budgeted this year as a result of the increase in school populations and demand for hospital services. We could have a shortfall. However, that should be compared with the \$3b increase in debt during the 10 years of the Labor Government. It did not create a surplus to be spent on capital expenditure. The Government is very proud of its capital expenditure program, and it is keeping very tight control of recurrent expenditure by agencies.

JOB LOSSES, FORESTRY INDUSTRIES

**4. Hon NORM KELLY to the Leader of the House of representing the Premier:**

Some notice of this question has been given. On 28 July, the Premier stated that he received estimates of between 1 000 and 3 000 jobs being lost as a result of the Government's new forest management policy and revised Regional Forest Agreement.

- (1) Will the minister advise the exact figures used in the estimates?
- (2) Will the minister table the details of how the figures were estimated?
- (3) If not, why not?

**Hon N.F. MOORE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I ask that it be placed on notice.

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SPORTS COMPLEX

**5. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for Works and Services:**

In regard to the proposed international motor sports complex at Kwinana -

- (1) Have any contracts been awarded?
- (2) Has Adams and Associates Pty Ltd been awarded a site contract?
- (3) What tendering process was used in awarding the contract?
- (4) Who conducted the tendering process?
- (5) Is it subject to a state agreement Act?

**Hon MAX EVANS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. Consultancy contracts have been awarded to Australia Pacific Projects as lead consultant; Yeomans Consulting for value management; Adams and Associates for project management; and Ralph Beattie Bosworth Pty Ltd for cost management.
- (2) No. Adams and Associates have been awarded a project management consultancy.
- (3) The 1998 period panel for project management.
- (4) The Department of Contract and Management Services.
- (5) Yes, the Alumina Refinery Agreement Act 1961.

NURSES, QUALIFICATION DOWNGRADING

**6. Hon KIM CHANCE to the minister representing the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Does the Government propose to downgrade the level of qualification for enrolled nurses from an associate diploma to a certificate 4?
- (2) If this is correct, can the Minister for Health explain why the decision to downgrade the qualification requirements has been made?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that the health system has a shortage of nurses at the qualification above that of enrolled nurses, and that the Health Department is committing significant resources to a recruitment and retention program in an endeavour to address this shortage?
- (4) If this is the case, why are enrolled nurses not being encouraged to pursue higher rather than lower qualification levels?

**Hon MAX EVANS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The current enrolled nurses associate diploma is classified under the old Australian Skills Framework. This framework is no longer available and the Associate Diploma for Enrolled Nurses will need to be translated to the new Australian Qualifications Framework. Associate diplomas from the old Australian Skills Framework can be classified within the new Australian Qualifications Framework at level 4 or level 5. The process of the translation and the assessment of the associate diploma against the Australian Qualifications Framework occurs within the policies and guidelines of the Australian Recognition Framework. The Health Department and private industry may be consulted during this process but do not make the assessment of the level of qualification. The entry level

for enrolled nurses throughout Australia with the exception of Western Australia is at the Australian Qualifications Framework level 4; that is, certificate 4. The existing qualification to support entry is under review and has not as yet been translated into the Australian Qualifications Framework.

- (2) The review of the Associate Diploma of Health Science Enrolled Nursing is occurring under the policy directions of the State Training Authority. All courses which were previously linked to the Australian Skills Framework must be realigned to the Australian Qualifications Framework. The associate diploma is no longer a recognised qualification within the Australian Qualifications Framework and therefore there is no direct linkage within the Australian Skills Framework and those available within the Australian Qualifications Framework.
- (3) Yes. There is a shortage of registered nurses in Western Australia. Similar shortages are being experienced throughout Australia and in many western countries. The Health Department has a number of strategies in place to address the shortage including -
- a marketing strategy to attract school leavers to the nursing profession;
  - nursing scholarships in clinical specialisation courses of midwifery, critical care, peri-operative, emergency nursing and mental health;
  - accommodation funding for nurses in the south west;
  - graduate clinical support programs; and
  - support for re-registration programs.
- (4) The Government Health Training Advisory Board is not opposed to higher qualifications for enrolled nurse courses aimed at preparing for entry into university and articulation into the registered nurse program. However, an appropriate-level qualification is required for entry into employment as an enrolled nurse. Given that national training reform is directed at achieving national consistency in skills development, the board believes this qualification should be at a level similar to that in all other States and Territories; that is, Australian Qualifications Framework level 4. The board is also supportive of an exit point at Australian Qualifications Framework level 3 for health carers.

#### COURT SECURITY AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES BILLS

##### 7. **Hon JOHN HALDEN to the Minister for Justice:**

- (1) Does the Government require the successful passage of the Court Security and Custodial Services Bill and the Court Security and Custodial Services (Consequential Provisions) Bill before the contract for the delivery of these services can be signed and the private sector contractor can commence operating?
- (2) Has the Cabinet and/or the contractor agreed on a preferred date for the commencement of the privatised court and custodial services?
- (3) If yes, what is that date?

##### **Hon PETER FOSS replied:**

- (1) The first question is seeking my legal opinion of the effects of the two pieces of legislation.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: No, it is not. It is a specific question.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Was the Attorney General addressing that comment to me?

Hon PETER FOSS: I will take that view.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Could the Attorney General repeat his comment? People on my left are trying to give me advice.

Hon PETER FOSS: The first question is asking me whether the passage of some legislation is required for the Government to enter into the contract. It appears to be requesting a legal opinion.

The PRESIDENT: I do not agree that that is a request for a legal opinion as such. Any minister can be asked whether a particular provision of a service is contingent on an Act being passed; I do not consider that to be a legal opinion as such.

Hon PETER FOSS: Therefore, the answer to the first question is yes.

- (2)-(3) I am not aware of the answer to the second and third questions. The member may place the questions on notice if he wishes.

#### GILLEECE, MR JACK, REDUNDANCY PAYMENT

##### 8. **Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to the recent resignation of Mr Jack Gilleece from his position in the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet and ask -

- (1) Did Mr Gilleece receive a redundancy payment upon resigning from his position?

- (2) If yes, how much was that payment?
- (3) What payments did Mr Gilleece receive upon his resignation?
- (4) What was the total amount of those payments?

**Hon N.F. MOORE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(4) Mr Gilleece was paid accrued and pro rata leave entitlements.
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