

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [10.07 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

Order of Business - Adjournment Debate

Hon KIM CHANCE: Hon Ken Travers just read the second reading speech of the Wood Processing (Wesbeam) Agreement Bill 2002, a very important Bill. It is my intention to bring on debate on that Bill as early as Tuesday next week. That might not be possible, but I hope that members will seek the briefings they need to enable them to engage in that debate. This is early warning.

Hon Norman Moore: Are you going to try to ram it through?

Hon KIM CHANCE: The Leader of the Opposition may have noted the date that is contained in the Bill.

Hon Norman Moore: I also note the date today, which is a long way down the track.

Hon KIM CHANCE: The legislation is required by 26 September 2002.

Hon Norman Moore: Why didn't you bring it in six month ago?

Hon KIM CHANCE: That was beyond our control; it has come in tonight.

Hon Norman Moore: It is not beyond your control.

Hon KIM CHANCE: It is a very important Bill that will create 140 jobs.

The PRESIDENT: Order! We are not involved in a debate at this stage. I do not think the minister is using his speaking time on this formal motion.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Thank you, Mr President. It is a very important Bill. As a courtesy to members I thought I would make them aware of our intentions. If members have a writing implement available, information on the proposed order of business for tomorrow might be useful: Orders of the Day Nos 1, 9 and together 54, 55 and 56; 22, 10, 12, 17, 15, although obviously we will not reach that stage.

The PRESIDENT: I see that a number of people think they have won the \$30 million jackpot on those numbers!

Newdegate and Dowerin Field Days - Adjournment Debate

HON FRANK HOUGH (Agricultural) [10.05 pm]: I will take only 10 minutes to finish the speech I began on Wednesday last week on the Dowerin Field Day and Newdegate show.

Hon Simon O'Brien: How long does the Dowerin Field Day last?

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich interjected.

Hon FRANK HOUGH: The people of Dowerin appreciate that I am using the adjournment debate to continue speaking on this issue. If the member opposite will allow it, I will continue. I prepared a media statement headed "People Reject Genetically Modified Crops" released on 13 September, which reads -

According to One Nation . . . people who are not comfortable with the introduction of genetically modified crops outnumber those who are by two-to-one.

The figures were obtained as a result of a questionnaire handed out during the Dowerin Field Days and the Newdegate Show. A clear third of respondents were from the metropolitan area.

Somewhat surprisingly the two-to-one ratio held true for both country and metropolitan respondents. A quarter of all respondents were 'Undecided' on the issue.

Irrespective of whether respondents indicated 'Yes', 'No' or 'Undecided' to genetically modified crops, some qualified their choice by commenting that the technology required more research.

"The overriding fact that came out of the exercise was the need for more public education - not only about the perceived benefits and dangers of food produced from genetically modified crops, but what genetic modification actually entails," . . .

"People deserve the choice of whether to eat food made of genetically modified products or whether to eat organic foods," . . .

That was a press release on genetically modified organisms. A couple of interesting by-products of the conversations with the people interviewed in the survey related to what would happen to a wheat truck carrying genetically modified wheat and later carrying a non-genetically modified crop. The truck would have to go through a very intricate process of cleaning because the two crops would not be able to be blended together. A

truck carrying GMO grain and then carrying non-GMO grain would have to go through the same cleaning process as Customs use, including steam cleaning and God knows what.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Why?

Hon FRANK HOUGH: Because the crops would be mixed up. The Canadian exercise proved that point. Many other factors, such as the birds and the wind, can cross-pollinate genetically modified crops. Monsanto in Canada sued a non-GM crop farmer whose crops had been cross-pollinated with GM crops for using its technology and won the case. That fellow in Canada who did not want GM-contaminated crops had his crops contaminated and he was sued successfully. There are other factors that arise with GM crops which I believe are important to raise. Another important factor arose at a water show I attended at Spencers Brook last Friday. One question asked in the survey was whether Western Australians should pay more for water. In Newdegate, 36.5 per cent said yes, 55.6 per cent said no and 7.9 were undecided; whereas in Dowerin 40.1 per cent said yes, 54.5 per cent said no and 5.4 per cent were undecided. Dowerin and Newdegate were therefore of the opinion within 0.1 percentage point of each other that Western Australians should not pay more for water. People suggested various remedies for overcoming the water shortage, such as a quota system in that anyone using more than their quota should pay more for additional water used. Many options were suggested but those were the figures that came from the survey. Another question was whether the cost of metropolitan fuel should be increased to ensure equal fuel prices for rural and regional Western Australia. Ironically, in Dowerin, which is visited by 40 per cent of city people, 65 per cent said yes, 27 per cent said no and 8.1 per cent were undecided; whereas in Newdegate, 79.4 per cent said yes, 19.1 per cent said no and 1.5 per cent were undecided.

Many years ago, during the Keating era, a four cent subsidy was levied on fuel to assist country people. I cannot remember what happened but I believe the fuel companies started to cheat the system and the levy was subsequently removed. That aspect was raised by people in the survey, too. Finally, two questions were asked, which were both federal issues but still of interest. One question was whether means testing for age pensions should be abolished, to which 60 per cent in Dowerin said yes, 35 per cent said no and five per cent were undecided; whereas in Newdegate, 74 per cent said yes, 15 per cent said no and 10.6 per cent were undecided. There were therefore fairly large variables in those answers. The final question in which there were no great variables is also a federal issue.

Hon Ken Travers: Who conducted the survey?

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I suppose they were aged respondents.

Hon FRANK HOUGH: No, the survey was conducted on anyone walking past us, young people and old people.

Hon Ken Travers: Who conducted it?

Hon FRANK HOUGH: Three women and me. The women were qualified staff officers and so on. They knew what they were talking about. They were probably more versed on conducting surveys than I am and I thought they asked the questions very well. I felt when I asked the questions that I pressured people, whereas they asked the questions in a more impartial manner. I therefore stood back and let them do it. The final question, which I thought was interesting and is also a federal issue, was pinched from One Nation by Philip Ruddock and subsequently got the Liberal Party re-elected. The question was whether people agreed that Australia should immediately return illegal immigrants to their port of embarkation where their asylum validity would be determined. In Newdegate 89.5 per cent said yes, 4.5 per cent said no and six per cent were undecided. Believe it or not, to the same question asked at Dowerin, 89.4 per cent said yes - that is 0.1 per cent difference between Newdegate and Dowerin - 7.5 per cent said no and 3.1 per cent were undecided. There was therefore a strong feeling in the country on the issue of illegal immigrants.

Hon Jim Scott: Did you ask them about genuine refugees?

Hon FRANK HOUGH: No, the question was about illegal immigrants. I could have asked about illegal crims, but I tried to water down the question to make it as soft as I could. I did not want to push the point because I did not want to have to stand in this place and have the Greens (WA) squawking in the bleeding heart choir that I had loaded the dice to get the numbers. I tried to be as bipartisan as I could be. When I asked the questions, I pretended that I did not care one way or the other about their answers. I said, "I don't care how you mark the box. It's of no interest to me. All I am interested in doing at the end of the day is tallying up the numbers to get the percentages, so how you answer is totally irrelevant to me."

Hon Ken Travers: Do you have a list of the questions that you asked that you can table?

Hon FRANK HOUGH: Of course I have. I increased the size of the questionnaire so that members could read the figures and I will table them, if required.

I believe the questions were asked in a bipartisan manner without high pressure on people to answer them. Members might think that someone dealing in motor cars would use high pressure, but I took the Labor Party's

soft-sell approach and massaged them through the whole performance. Subsequently, I say - without standing in this place congratulating myself - without question and with all honesty that it was a very well conducted survey.

Freycinet Collection, Auction - Adjournment Debate

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [10.28 pm]: The matter I want to raise is probably best suited for an urgency debate but the next available opportunity is next Tuesday and the matter cannot wait until then. I therefore raise the matter tonight. There will be an auction of the Freycinet collection next Thursday, 26 September, at Christie's in London. This collection is vitally important to Western Australia and I urge the Government to take an active interest in it. I go even further and urge the Government to purchase the collection, or the parts of it that are most relevant to Western Australia. For the benefit of the House, the blurb available on the Internet states -

This unique archive follows the development of a major scientific voyage undertaken by Louis-Claude de Saulces de Freycinet and provides a narrative to the French cartographic examination of New South Wales and Terre Napoléon from 1802-1819.

The collection features, among others, the original artwork from Freycinet's voyage around the world in 1817-1820 and ten previously unknown and unpublished autograph manuscript charts of Western Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania from Nicolas Baudin's historic voyage of 1800-1804.

Some of the most notable maps offered in the sale is the earliest detailed mapping by Heirisson, dated 1801, of the Swan River including the site of the city of Perth; and Louis de Freycinet's own chart of the Hunter River and the Roads of Port Jackson.

There is some information available on all the lots. Lot 1, which is estimated at between £40 000 and £60 000, is the chart of the Swan River. Lot 2, which is estimated at between £5 000 and £7 000, is a chart of the north and north east coast of Garden Island. Lot 3, which is valued between £5 000 and £7 000, is a chart of Ile Depuch also showing Sable Island and coastline by Ronsard. Lot 14, which is valued at £4 000 to £6 000, is a complete set of the historical part of the official narrative of this important voyage and is a drawing of an indigenous person. Lot 17 is of importance. Lot 35, which also is of importance, is a striking landscape by Pellion of the distinctive red colours of the cliffs and dunes of the Peron Peninsula. Lot 33, which is estimated at £3 000 to £5 000, is some drawings of Shark Bay. Lot 34, which is valued at £40 000 to £60 000, depicts the *Uranie*'s encampment at Shark Bay. The *Uranie* was de Freycinet's ship in 1817. Lot 37 is a pictorial depiction of Shark Bay. Lot 38 is a pictorial depiction of the Peron Peninsula. Lot 39 is Aboriginal artefacts. Lot 40 is a marsupial rat. Lot 41 is the black oystercatcher, a fish. Lot 42 is a gigantic nest seen during the expedition to Dirk Hartog Island. Lot 43 is Taunay's fish, which was named in memory of Ayraud, one of the complement of naval doctors who died of yellow fever at Mauritius. Lot 44 is Timor, which was closely involved in the voyage.

Western Australia has a relatively young recorded history. This collection must rate as one of the most unique and important collections of manuscripts in the form of charts and drawings of our coastline. It is historical because many of them come from the Baudin expedition of our coastline 200 years ago. The Baudin expedition is one of the great stories of the world and has a very close relevance to Western Australia. It was the greatest scientific and geographical voyage of its time. It was conducted during the Napoleonic wars, which made it unique in its own right. The Baudin expedition came to the shores of Australia and, on 9 April 1802, encountered Matthew Flinders coming the other way in Encounter Bay; hence the name of the bay, which is near Victor Harbor in South Australia. An interesting part of that was that England and France were at war and each of the expeditions carried an indemnity that they were scientific voyages and not ships of war, so they did not blow each other out of the water on the high seas. They spent a few days together and exchanged information and charts on their explorations and then went their separate ways. Much of our mapping history comes from those two voyages, which produced maps of the Australian coastline. Some of them are probably still used today.

The French connections with Western Australia are vitally important and have been largely ignored in Western Australian history. About 250 French names are used along the Western Australian coastline. I grew up in an area that has names like Geographe, Naturaliste, Hamelin, Vasse, Leschenault and Peron. They all come from the Baudin voyage from 1800 to 1804. Many more names have been used along the Western Australian coastline. It is a fascinating story. This collection of artefacts from that era is vitally important to Western Australia. I have a particular interest in this, not only as a sixth generation Western Australian who can trace my direct relationship back to people who came here in 1829, the first year of European settlement, but also I am Chairman of Terra Australis, a committee formed a few years ago to assist with the coordination of some events to commemorate the bicentenary of the Baudin expedition to the shores of Western Australia. That committee, along with other people and organisations in this State, has tried to raise the awareness and appreciation of the French connections and involvement in our early history. Last year we conducted a mini re-enactment by organising school students to be on the training sailing ship *Leeuwin*. They went on a voyage from Fremantle

around Geographe, Naturaliste and Hamelin Bays on the exact date 200 years after the date of the Baudin expedition and took part in the unveiling of a monument at Eagle Bay, which was attended by the Governor and a French warship. That commemorated the Baudin expedition's first landing spot in Australia. We are also putting together an education kit consisting of a book and a series of work sheets aimed at a year 9 level. That is almost ready to go in electronic form, which we hope to get distributed. Busts of Baudin and a plaque have been presented to a couple of local authorities in Perth and the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle. However, we are also placing them at six other destinations around the State: Bunbury, Busselton, Augusta-Margaret River, Albany, Shark Bay and Broome.

Hon Ken Travers: Have you raised this with the minister or the museum?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: We have raised it with the minister. That is another matter. The museum has been heavily involved. I urge the Government to take this rare opportunity to purchase this collection.

Climate Change - Adjournment Debate

HON JIM SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [10.38 pm]: I did not get an opportunity to speak during the urgency debate, but I found a number of issues that were raised by members rather extraordinary. The first is the comment by Hon Norman Moore, who apparently believes the issue of climate change is virtually unimportant when compared with extracting more resources. I find that extraordinary, because Hon Norman Moore must realise that the impact of climate change on Western Australia will be the most severe of any State in Australia; in fact, it will be one of the worst impacts in the world. Western Australia's south west area will suffer a great deal. We will see pastoralists and farmers in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate grossly disadvantaged and possibly forced out of their occupations by that climate change. It seems that we should get a more serious appraisal of these issues than has occurred. Hon Norman Moore was backed up by Hon Frank Hough, who does not seem to worry about his constituents being affected by climate change. In fact, Hon Frank Hough does not believe that it is really happening. He would rather listen to Peter Walsh, somebody with an emotional point of view on many of these issues, than the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation or to any of the scientific bodies around the world who have scientists working on this.

Hon Peter Foss must be well aware that the water catchment in this State has gone down by 45 per cent and we are struggling to supply not just the city but surrounding areas with adequate water. Significant areas of the south west have suffered a great deal. Areas that are normally very wet have been going through a long period of drought. These have significant economic impacts that cannot be disregarded. These are not just environment impacts, but economic impacts. The cost of doing nothing is greater than the cost of doing something.

Part of my concern is that these stories are still going around; stories like those of Hon Frank Hough, who talked about satellite measurements showing that there was no global warming. That was disproved some time back when the people who made that statement realised there was a problem with their calculations. When they readjusted their calculations, they found they had made an error and warming has been occurring; it has been measured and is continuing to be measured. We have receding glaciers and larger and larger blocks of ice breaking off Antarctica.

Hon John Fischer: The figures to which Hon Frank Hough referred relate to 2001; it was not a long time ago. It was up to September 2001, so it is quite recent.

Hon JIM SCOTT: They found there was a problem with their figures in 2001. They have now pulled back on that particular story. Any person who looks around would see that the climate is changing.

Hon Paddy Embry: It always has been; there was an ice age before man was here.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Hon Paddy Embry does not understand that there is a difference between the normal variations that occur and the variations that are caused by human impact, which is measurable. If the member went along to any of the workshops that are held which involve a raft of agencies, including the Water and Rivers Commission and the CSIRO, he would have seen graphs showing measurable changes of human impacts and CO₂ rises, alongside climate change; there was a match. There is a direct correlation that is very clear now. Very few people would doubt that human activity is causing climate change.

It is ridiculous to disregard that and say nothing is going on. People who disregard that are not looking after their electorates. They are saying, "Let us not care about the level of greenhouse emissions that we are producing." They are saying there is no problem, when clearly the vast majority of world scientists say there is a problem. Most of the scientists who say there is no problem are consultants for the coal industry and other high energy users on this planet. They seem unrepentant of the fact that they are doing this. There is truth in the saying, "He who pays the piper picks the tune." That is the case with those scientists. Where scientific bodies are not being driven by the person who pays the piper, we get true science.

Most extraordinary were the comments by the Premier on television this evening in which he said he was opposed to the signing of the Kyoto agreement. It is amazing that this occurred at the same time that the Leader of the House in this place was delivering a speech that clearly showed the Government was concerned about greenhouse emissions. He was worried that we would miss out on greenhouse credits for our gas projects and the sale of gas to China because we would not be eligible for rebates as non-signatories of the Kyoto agreement. It was extraordinary to hear the Premier say that he is totally opposed to signing the Kyoto agreement. Looking at Labor policies and so on, it seemed to be a sudden conversion by the Premier. I wonder whether the Premier has consulted with his colleagues. It does not sound as though he has. It sounds as though this is a unilateral decision on the spur of the moment. The Premier has said he will take the money and run. He is not worried about what will happen to future generations; that he cannot keep up the supply of water to the city; that the north of the State could see temperature rises of around nine degrees; and that the forest he was elected to save will die because of climate change. The Premier is only worried about grabbing the money and running. He does not seem to worry about what his colleagues or his party think. It seems as though the Premier has become a law unto himself. In Parliament today we have an independent Premier who is making unilateral decisions on greenhouse gas emissions. We need some real clarification from the Labor Party on its policy and whether the Premier will abide by party policy or will bow down to the coal burners and polluters.

Police Royal Commission - Adjournment Debate

HON JOHN FISCHER (Mining and Pastoral) [10.48 pm]: I wish to comment on the operation of the police royal commission and the extent of the parameters of current inquiries. I find it a bit rich that Deputy Commissioner Brennan has been attacked over a case in which it is apparent that there is a clear conflict of evidence and unless there is a confession, there will probably be not much chance of a conviction. This is going on while there are other sworn allegations of apparent cover-up by government authorities that one would conclude are much more worthy of investigation by the royal commission. I refer once again to the case known as the Murphy interest.

The Premier, the Attorney General and the minister with responsibility for mines are all aware of the allegations involved in the cover-up of what may be Australia's biggest ever gold robbery. Ministers of the Crown do not have the luxury of being able to ignore crime or the allegations of crime. If the police royal commission achieves only a few exposures among the lower echelons of the Police Force and ignores the behaviour of the powerful in government and the judiciary, it will be a waste of money and will be seen as such by the public at large. There is conclusive evidence of a major crime in the Murphy case. The Premier and the Attorney General should both be aware of it. It also appears that the prosecution of those involved was stopped at the last minute without good reason. In the commissioning of this crime, it was necessary to falsify records lodged with the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, yet, despite overwhelming evidence, the minister insists that the records are genuine. I have tried to expose this in Parliament and by personal letters to the minister, all to no avail, and to date I have not received any response to my correspondence. I will quote a paragraph from one of the letters sent to the minister. It states -

I asked you for details of a report that you say your Department of Minerals and Energy prepared in relation to this matter. I want to know who was responsible for the report, and what facts were considered. I can see no reason why you should be secretive about this matter, unless of course the report was so flawed or superficial that its release would be an embarrassment.

Three weeks after sending that letter, I still have not received a reply. All those involved will say they are acting upon the advice of the Solicitor General; and, if this is so, it is a sorry day for justice in this State. This crime is so big and so serious it should be a matter for the royal commission. The royal commissioner says it is outside his terms of reference and has sent it to the Anti-Corruption Commission. Unfortunately, the ACC does not have a very good track record at achieving anything. Surely the theft of millions of dollars from the Murphy interest is big enough in anyone's language to warrant top priority and thorough investigation. It is of special interest because there could be a common factor in all the major gold thefts, and any effort made by senior people to subvert any investigation leaves the general public asking why, understandably. At this time, the investigation is being held up because the ACC has taken the file. I suspect that its interest is not the gold theft, but a desire to see if it can pin some irregularity on the police. In the meantime, the trail gets cold, the crooks fly the coop and the evidence is destroyed. This crime should come within the scope of the royal commission and, therefore, the terms of reference should be expanded as required to expose all aspects of this case. If the money spent on this royal commission is to be relevant to its achievements, this inquiry should be conducted along the lines of the Fitzgerald inquiry in Queensland.

I believe the Labor Party promised a royal commission prior to the last election when it did not believe that it could win that election. It is all very well calling for something when in opposition, but now the promise has come home to roost, it is a very different story. The Labor Government has taken over 12 months to try to

effectively work out how it can orchestrate this royal commission, with the guidelines becoming so limited that it is ultimately completely non-effective and a waste of taxpayers' money.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.53 pm
