

# Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 26th October, 1977

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## APPROPRIATION BILL (GENERAL LOAN FUND) (No. 2)

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House), read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [4.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

It is customary for the Leader of the Government in this Chamber to deliver substantially the same informative speech relating to the Appropriation Bill (General Loan Fund) as that given by the Treasurer when introducing the Bill in another place.

Of necessity it is a very lengthy speech detailing measures to appropriate from the General Loan Fund the sums required to finance certain items of capital expenditure which are given in the printed Loan Estimates.

These Estimates together with the Treasurer's Loan Estimates speech have been available to members of this House since the 22nd September and this aspect has been pointed out on the last two occasions by members opposite with the result that the House has agreed to the speech to be taken as read and incorporated in *Hansard*.

Taking this matter a step further, and as the relevant papers and speech have already been tabled in this House, I personally can see no particular reason for such lengthy details to be incorporated in *Hansard* a second time.

I would imagine that members of this House by this time would be thoroughly conversant with the content of the Loan Estimates and any further remarks on my part must constitute unnecessary repetition.

I therefore intend to depart from previous custom and confine my address on this Bill to those particular points it contains.

The purpose of this Bill is to appropriate from the General Loan Fund, sums required to carry

out works and services detailed in the Loan Estimates.

Supply of \$65 million has already been granted under the Supply Act, 1977, and this Bill seeks further supply of \$87 306 000.

The total sum of \$152 306 000 is to be appropriated for the purposes and services as shown in schedule B to the Bill.

In addition the Bill seeks to ratify amounts spent during 1976-77 in excess of the Estimates for that year, details of which are shown in schedule C.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

## BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

### 1. Electoral Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. R. Hetherington, and read a first time.

### 2. Marine Navigational Aids Act Amendment Bill.

### 3. Adoption of Children Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.

## APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) (No. 2)

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 25th October.

THE HON. GRACE VAUGHAN (South-East Metropolitan) [4.54 p.m.]: As the Leader of the House said in his second reading speech, we have had the opportunity to have a say on the way in which the moneys in this State are to be disbursed and therefore I do not wish to take up the time of the House very much today in speaking to this Bill.

I did want to mention the matter of moneys for the unemployed and this will necessitate my talking for the most part about what the Federal Government and the Department of Social Security are doing in regard to the new approach to the payment of unemployment benefits. This entails a payment in arrears rather than in advance which is for people coming into the unemployment benefit scheme from the 1st November—next Tuesday.

A very serious matter has arisen. Thank goodness the Minister for Social Security did not decide to include in the new measure all people on unemployment benefits, otherwise we would have a major problem on our hands. This latest problem concerns new people coming onto the unemployment lists, and it is estimated that an additional 1 000 people every week go onto unemployment benefits in Western Australia. Hopefully, 1 000 people also get jobs so that we may keep the 25 000 unemployed figure stable; and hopefully it will be reduced.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It would be better still if 1 200 people got jobs.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: That is right; we would rather see the figure shrinking more quickly than just by a few tens or even hundreds per week. The problem here is one which is rather complicated. When a person finds himself or herself unemployed the first thing to do is to go to the Commonwealth Employment Service. However, a lot of people do not like to do this and they decide they will look around for employment by themselves. They are confident of their own ability and, whether or not there are 25 000 people unemployed, they consider they have more ability than other people. These people prefer to register as unemployed only after they have looked around first.

They do not realise they are doing themselves a disservice because what is going to happen from the 1st November means that if a person loses a job on Friday and goes immediately to the Commonwealth Employment Service it may be at least five weeks before he receives a full benefit. I reiterate that, contrary to many people's belief, most people are prepared to look around for a position as they are self-sufficient and want to help themselves.

When they go to the Commonwealth Employment Service they are in fact going merely to an agent for the unemployed to register their lack of a job; it is not an employment service at all. That information is then passed on to the social security office after it has been checked to see that they have left their jobs under the right circumstances.

These people are to be paid in arrears and because their application has to be in a week before they receive anything they receive nothing at all for three weeks after they have left their employment when they receive one week's benefit. It is not for another fortnight that they receive a full fortnight's pay. This means that for five weeks from the day on which they applied for unemployment benefit or become registered as

unemployed, they receive only three week's benefit.

In the past the Community Welfare Department in this State has helped people who were in dire circumstances. I think we must accept that most of our work force is made up of battlers. I have been a battler and I know what it is to have to budget from week to week; having to count every last cent in my purse so as to make the best economic choice for my family between pay periods.

People are driven on by advertisements to buy the things considered necessary in this society and very often these people are mortgaged up to the hilt. The day they hear the words of doom, "Sorry, we cannot keep you on; here is a week's pay on a week's notice and we are sacking you," they are in dire financial straits because very often, as I have said, they are mortgaged to the hilt.

In the past it has been their wont to go to the Community Welfare Department for assistance because it could be several weeks before they receive a full fortnight's unemployment benefit.

The Department for Community Welfare was then able to pay some assistance money, up until the time the person concerned received his first social security payment. The money paid out was then recouped from the Commonwealth Social Security Department.

The situation at present is that because those people are to be paid in arrears they cannot receive any money from any source other than perhaps earning up to \$6 per week, and if they receive money from the Department for Community Welfare, and the department applies for that money to be returned, the Social Security Department will deduct the money from unemployment benefits paid to the recipient.

So there exists a terrible bind. The Department for Community Welfare cannot help people, because to do so would put it in the position of not being able to recoup money paid out. It is the responsibility of that department to report that the people concerned are receiving money; it is income.

The position is very serious and it should be discussed by the State Government and the Federal Government, particularly as the two Governments are of the same political philosophy. Surely they could come to some agreement. At the moment, with an election in the offing, the Prime Minister has been quite magnanimous in handing out gifts and concessions to the Premier. This might be an apt time for the Premier to

discuss this matter with the Prime Minister in an effort to overcome this very serious anomaly.

If we had a Commonwealth Employment Service which was able to help people to find jobs, and if it had the personnel to handle these problems, there could be some liaison between the State and the Commonwealth social welfare departments in order to reach some compromise. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient staff to do that sort of thing. The staff cannot instigate work programmes; they are simply the machinery to register the unemployed and recommend them for unemployment benefits—a sausage machine procedure.

It is a misnomer to call the department the Commonwealth Employment Service. To exacerbate the situation—and I am sorry that the Hon. Norm Baxter is not here at the moment to hear me use that word—we have the fact that the Social Security Department is not publicising the change. Whether or not it is because it does not want to, or whether it is economising I do not know. However, that department has done nothing to advertise and publicise the present situation. As a result, those people I have mentioned could be reluctant to go to the Commonwealth Employment Service and register when they lose their jobs because they might want to do their own thing. They are not aware of the trap they are falling into by not registering immediately. They should be advised that as soon as they are unemployed they should go straight to the Commonwealth Employment Service and register immediately, because they will have to wait for five weeks to receive a full fortnight's pay.

It is necessary for me to mention that matter, because unless it is publicised it will cause a great deal of inconvenience to Western Australians who become unemployed. It could cause people to find themselves in an indigent situation which could lead to further expenditure by the Department for Community Welfare in other directions. As an example, I refer to the situation where a person finally feels he cannot afford to feed his children, or cannot afford to pay the rent. He would then have to approach one of the community welfare institutions such as Bridgewater, in which it costs somewhere between \$150 to \$200 per week to keep a child. It is false economy. People should be helped over a rough period of poverty. Poverty is not usually enduring; it is usually a temporary situation when people find themselves in dire straits.

If we can devise an amelioration fund which could be appropriated, in order to avoid situations which may be very stressful, and in the long term

cost more money than in the short term handing out money to help people, then we should do so. I support the Bill.

**THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON** (North Metropolitan) [5.05 p.m.]: The Bill we are considering will appropriate a sum of some \$600 million to the Government to carry out the services set out in the Budget. The total expenditure during the next financial year will be \$1 329 903 000. That is an increase on the 1975-76 Budget—two years ago—from \$980 673 000.

Over the last five years there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of funds handled by this Government. One might say, in fact, that this Government has been more flushed with funds than any other Government in our history. The situation is almost as though the money were running out of the ears of the Government. It seems to be able to conjure up funds for particular purposes at the drop of a hat, and one of those matters we will debate later relates to the Government suddenly finding a sum of \$250 000 for solar research. It was also publicised in the Press that a sum of some \$4 million has been made available for the provision of jobs. That sum of money was suddenly conjured up, and made available.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The member would not think that was undesirable, surely.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: No, I do not think it is undesirable, but coming from a Government which is operating on very stringent financial restrictions it seems somewhat surprising that these funds should be so readily available for any purpose that seems to take the fancy of the Government.

I do not want to debate the Budget at length because we will have another opportunity to talk on the Budget papers. I want to draw attention to the matter of expenditure by the Minister for Health and Community Welfare. I want to draw attention to the number of vacant positions which are listed in the current papers, and compare them with the vacancies which were listed in 1975-76. It seems extraordinary to me that at a time when there is a considerable number of people unemployed this situation should exist to the extent that the Budget papers show.

In the 1975-76 Estimates, the Public Health section showed there were 139 unfilled jobs or vacant positions. In the Estimates now before us there are 196 vacancies—almost 60 more positions than were vacant in the previous period to which I have referred. In the Mental Health Services there were 126 vacancies at the end of 1975, and at the end of 1977 there were 199

vacancies—an increase of some 70 positions. In the Department for Community Welfare there were 29 vacancies at the end of 1975, and 54 at the end of 1977. That is an increase of 25 in the number of unfilled positions.

Altogether, there are roughly 150 additional positions unfilled in the Department of Public Health and the Department for Community Welfare. I fail to see why the Government has allowed that situation to occur. Those vacancies are quite apart from the new positions which are also provided for in the Budget.

I thought the Government would have made stringent efforts to ensure that where funds are actually provided in the departments, the level of unfilled vacancies was as low as possible in the current atmosphere of high unemployment. I would like to hear some comment from the Minister when he replies on that particular aspect.

I have mentioned the situation of extra funds being found for job creation. The Australian Government has provided a sum of \$100 million for job creation, so we were informed in *The West Australian* of the 21st October. This State will receive a share of those funds.

Apart from what this State receives from that source, it was further announced in October that an additional \$2 million would be spent on job projects. On the 28th September, it was announced that \$4 million would be spent on job creation, but I believe that is part of the same scheme.

These allocations recall to my mind the scheme undertaken by the former Whitlam Labor Government, known as the RED scheme—the Regional Employment Development scheme. That scheme was roundly criticised by our opponents at the time, yet here we see the same people undertaking very much the same sort of scheme.

I thought the Government would have felt its credibility was being somewhat strained in coming forward with this sort of arrangement, particularly when the Government in this State is claiming that it is doing very well in providing employment. I thought this Government would have had nothing to do with such a socialistic operation as job creation simply for the sake of providing jobs. I thought that this Government would have preferred the money to go to the private sector for job creation. However, it seems that an election is in the air, and on such occasions the principles of the Government go out the window and we get this sort of thing—this *ad hoc* arrangement which will seek to provide more employment to avoid any backlash or sting which

might arise when the election comes up—on the 10th December, as we all expect.

The Australian Government is also implementing what it calls the community youth support scheme, which is designed to help some of the young people to undergo a form of training, so as to turn them into more attractive employment prospects. This is directed particularly at the young people who have just left school.

I wish to make one comment on that scheme. It is not really my comment, but one that has been prepared by an officer who is responsible for ensuring that this scheme is put into operation. I would like to quote part of what he has said. This is a scheme carried out under the auspices of the Commonwealth Employment Service through the agency of local government. His comment is as follows—

Programme appeals mainly to those who have just left school or who have had only 1 job—C.Y.S.S. through work experience programmes offers opportunity to broaden outlook. The main group we meet have had several jobs—only 55 contacts have come straight from school.

Programme does not permit job placement or job creation activity, irrespective of possible co-operation with C.E.S. in this field.

Programme assumes that there are jobs for everybody. This expectation is unrealistic.

The programme has the inherent danger of focussing entirely on the unemployed; which may prevent them from being part of the Community.

In other words, it regards those people as a group apart from the community. It separates them from the community, and as a result there is a possibility of making it more difficult for them to fit back into the community.

This is one of the panic schemes being introduced by the Fraser Government to ameliorate the serious consequences of its economic policies. I see from this evening's newspaper that pressure is being applied by Liberal Party members in Canberra to change a number of the Government's policies in view of the forthcoming Federal election.

I emphasise again that this scheme is like the former RED scheme introduced by the Whitlam Government. As far as I can see it does not have the advantages which the community has derived through the application of the RED scheme. At the present time there exist, throughout the length and breadth of the State, community facilities

which would not have been established but for the RED scheme. Having attended the opening of some of these projects, I noticed that Liberal Party members in country areas were very keen to take the credit for the facilities provided by what they call the terrible socialist Labor Government! We know that under the RED scheme great benefits have been provided to the community, and they will have a lasting effect particularly on the rural communities.

There is hardly a town in this State which has not benefited from the RED scheme. All sorts of projects have been brought into effect which, were it not for the Whitlam Government, would not have had any hope of seeing the light of day.

However, the community youth support scheme of the Fraser Government seems to be directed at the job crisis, to provide jobs such as cleaning streets and straightening footpaths. These will not have any lasting effect. The Government is merely taking some people off the streets over the period of the forthcoming election.

I would like to make a small reference on the proposal to produce sugar in the Ord irrigation area. I drew some shadows across that proposal when it was first mooted. It seems to me that the prospect of success will be slight, in view of the existing sugar production areas located throughout the world, and the way in which these interests in Australia are entrenched in Queensland.

The Australian Government assures us it has a very good understanding with the Queensland Government, and that it has gained very close co-operation from the Queensland Government.

Since the proposal was first mooted there has been a very serious downturn in the prospects of sugar exports from Australia. In particular this has been influenced by the re-entry of Cuba into the world sugar market; and by the attitude of the European countries which are able to produce sugar almost at will, depending on their view of the benefits to be derived from such production.

Australia had a five-year agreement with Japan. When it was drawn up the prices fixed in the agreement were below the ruling world prices. However, with the fall in world prices, the prices in the agreement with Japan were markedly above the world level. The Japanese are very keen to bring about some reduction in the prices. Most members will be aware that ships have been baled up in the harbours of Japan, being unable to unload the sugar while the negotiations on the contract take place.

We have been told there is a new sugar agreement in operation in which the prices are

fixed at levels that are below those in the original agreement between Japan and Australia. The agreement will also result in a lower level of sugar exports from Australia; in other words, there will be a shrinking market. The lower levels of exports and the reduced returns confirm the doubts I expressed earlier this year about the Government's encouragement for the production of sugar in the Ord irrigation area.

I shall not read the figures I have before me, but I have a statement by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Anthony) dealing with this matter. It will be readily available to members who wish to interest themselves in this matter.

In regard to the Ord irrigation scheme we have not yet found the answer to a successful crop. I would not like to think that people should be encouraged to invest in the growing of a crop which is subject to violent price fluctuations, as sugar is.

In a number of developing countries, such as Cuba, sugar is the major crop. This is the crop on which Cuba relies for its export income. There are some newly developing countries which want to get into that field also when the prices are satisfactory. For those reasons it is a very risky operation to induce people to produce sugar in the Ord irrigation area. We have to look at other prospects for such capital investment. I am sure that in future the Ord irrigation area will bring great benefits to the people of Western Australia, but that will not be achieved by the production of sugar.

Yesterday Mr Hetherington spoke on Aboriginal art in Western Australia. He had been approached by a person with whom I became friendly on an expedition which was undertaken by overseas archaeologists in the Pilbara recently. All those people were most concerned about the future of these Aboriginal sites.

I am pleased that Mr Hetherington saw fit to bring the matter to the attention of the House. I want to add force to the comments he made. What I saw was a very great surprise to me. I had no knowledge of what existed in the north. In the main we saw only the rock art in the Pilbara; and we did not examine the paintings in the Kimberley region, which are also extremely rich.

Most members of this Chamber would be unaware of the richness of Aboriginal art to be found in this State, particularly in the Pilbara region. As Mr Hetherington indicated, the art dates back to at least 18 000 years. Currently an excavation project is being undertaken, and as a result of this work the period of Aboriginal occupation of this land might be found to extend

considerably beyond the 18 000 years. At this stage I do not wish to indicate what date it is, because the people undertaking the project would like to get the credit for the results of their work. I am sure their work will indicate that the period dates further back in time, when the Aboriginal people first inhabited this land.

When we examine the Aboriginal sites, it is quite incredible to think that they have existed as long as they have. The art is prolific and the engravings have been etched deeply into the rock. Perhaps the explanation is that these engravings have a particular significance in the ceremonies of the Aboriginal people.

When the ceremony was conducted again, new engravings were not made but the original engravings were deepened. This may explain the depth of the engravings into the rocks. Apparently the same situation applied with painted rock art.

The Aboriginal groups to whom the paintings had significance have completely disappeared from a number of these sites. We had with us on the trip an old tribal elder by the name of Sam Wilagulga, and Mr MacKinnon may be familiar with this gentleman from the Oombulgurri Settlement; he may have met up with him on his travels.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think I have.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I brought this matter up because the Leader of the House referred to the Aboriginal carvings which are being exhibited currently at the university. These carvings are being looked after by a woman.

As I said, Sam is a tribal elder and responsible for the preservation of his tribe's rituals. He was at pains to give the members of the party, both male and female, all the information he possessed about the art we came across on our travels and particularly the art at the sites from where the original Aboriginal tribes had gone. He was most anxious to see that the records of these tribes were retained.

His belief is that unless people who are interested and expert in these art forms have access to the information, then it will be lost forever. He was concerned that the people should be informed of the Aboriginal culture and this attitude had the agreement of other tribal elders. He had no hesitation in informing us about the art we saw, but obviously he would not tell us of some secret matters.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think you would have to be careful. I know some tribes allow women to see corroborees and other tribes do not. As a matter of fact, some tribes allow women to participate, but these are few in number.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Yes.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is not usual. I know some very advanced churches that do not allow women to become priests!

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Very well informed churches!

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I mentioned that because Mr Hetherington went on to speak about the potential of the sites as tourist attractions. Obviously where no inhibitions relating to Aboriginal beliefs exist, no conflict arises about tourists visiting these sites, and this was the case with most of the sites we visited. We travelled a great distance, but we had time to visit only a few sites. However, I believe the same situation applied to many other sites in the area. In Woodstock Abados some 85 sites have been recorded and it is stated that there are up to 100. The Government has agreed to station a field officer in the area to give some sort of protection to the sites. Because of the wealth of material there, a number of sites could be open to the public. By allowing access to these sites, the other sites are protected.

It is necessary to visit these sites on a conducted tour as great distances must be travelled over rough roads. The Victorian Government permits tours to selected sites in that State and in this way the public is kept away from sacred areas. The European population pressures are much greater in Victoria, but the Victorian Government has managed to solve the problem in this way.

I suggest the Government should take a great deal more interest in these sites. I was extremely impressed with what I saw and I believe there is great tourist potential.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We must consider the other point of view that by encouraging tourists there will be a greater degree of vandalism. The authorities are most anxious to ensure some areas are not destroyed. It is a great shame that we must worry about vandalism, but it is one of the facts of life.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Mr Hetherington pointed out that by leading tourists to some sites we can keep them away from others.

I do not want to state publicly the number of sites we visited. If we are to follow the policy adopted in Victoria, significant sums of money must be spent to provide the necessary supervision to protect the sites that are open to tourists.

The other point that Mr Hetherington mentioned, and which I would like to emphasise again, is in relation to the Commonwealth allocation for certain officers. The most important

of these positions is the Conservator of Rock Art and at present this position is held by a Mr John Clark. The funds for these positions are limited, and none of the research can be undertaken nor can any methods for protection be developed until other appointments are sorted out.

The Government should find out from the Commonwealth whether it intends to continue with this assistance, and if not it should look at what alternative arrangements can be made from the State's point of view. The conservator holds a key position, and without a conservator the whole thing falls apart. The way to best control the sites and the type of legislation that should be adopted are matters currently under consideration by the Museum Board. I imagine eventually the board will make a recommendation to the Government about these matters.

Referring now to the Art Gallery, just recently the Government has relaxed taxation provisions in regard to gifts to the gallery. Such contributions are now tax deductible, and it is hoped that greater benefits will flow to the Art Gallery as a result of this scheme. That is a welcome move. For some reason the Australian community has not been generous in its support of the arts and it is hard to understand the reason for this. While the tax move is to be applauded, I do not believe it is likely to change the attitude of Australians towards the arts. This attitude has existed for a long while and it will take many years to alter it.

In an earlier debate the Leader of the House interjected with a reference to the painting "Blue Poles". He was rather disparaging about that particular work of art.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I do not think I was; I do not think that is an accurate reflection of my attitude. I tried desperately to see this painting. My son saw it and he was quite impressed.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: From the tone of his remarks, I thought the Leader of the House was rather disparaging about it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I have not seen it.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: And neither have I.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The last two occasions I have been in Canberra I tried to see it but it was in storage.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: The Minister did sound dismissive—perhaps we gained the wrong impression.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: He was talking about the price.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That was in the context you were referring to, the waste of money.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The Minister's attitude was that rather a lot of money had been paid for it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: But I have not seen it.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: It was a pity the decision was made not to purchase the "Baroque Nude" which was also fairly costly. I believe the decision was made as a result of political pressure, or perhaps Government members feared the reaction to the purchase. The National Gallery has "Blue Poles" and a large number of other works of art that the Minister has not seen, that I have not seen, and that most other Western Australians have not seen.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We will see more of these when our Art Gallery is finished.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: That may well be so. Because of the controversy surrounding its purchase, the painting "Blue Poles" is the hottest art property in Australia.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Probably in the world.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: When this painting was shown in Melbourne, thousands of people flocked to see it.

As I understand it, the Art Gallery is anxious to start a fund to acquire paintings for the gallery when it opens for our 150th anniversary celebrations. At a recent function at the Art Gallery, Mr Shimmon mentioned a figure of \$500 000. I do not know whether he had the authority of the board to speak about that because I understand the board has not yet made a decision. I believe a meeting is to be held this week and a firm decision will be made then.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think there was \$100 000 for the Rodin sculpture and the board hoped for another \$100 000.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I am talking about currently; we have a marvellous new art gallery being built, but only a limited number of works to display. It was mentioned by Mr Shimmon that an amount of \$500 000 might be required, but I heard later the acquisition funds required by the Art Gallery could be as high as \$1 million to enable it to build up an adequate collection so that when the gallery opened it would be something of which the people of Western Australia could be extremely proud.

I am sure members on my side who have talked with the shadow minister for the arts (Mr Taylor) about this matter would be pleased to co-operate

with the Minister and the Government in efforts to bring to Western Australia the painting "Blue Poles" and a suitable proportion of the national collection so that the people of this State could have the opportunity to view the national collection.

It is not everybody who wants to go to Canberra; in fact, some people have a positive hatred of going there. But unless people travel to Canberra, they have no opportunity of viewing the national collection, which is now of international importance. I hope the Leader of the House takes up my suggestion with the Government. The exhibition of the national collection could be on the basis of a fund-raising activity.

The Hon. O. N. B. Oliver: Insurance companies may not underwrite the collection because of the possibility of damage.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The honourable member may be quite right, but this could be one of the activities to raise the funds necessary to acquire works for our State gallery so that when it opens in 1979 we have something of which Western Australians can be very proud.

I would have thought Mr Oliver would be very gratified that, for my part, I am being co-operative with the Government. It has been suggested that the venue for such an exhibition could be the Entertainment Centre. I do not want to canvass it in great detail here; the proposal did not come from me but from another person. He suggested that the Entertainment Centre could be used, and that the business world could be asked to co-operate for the benefit of Western Australia.

When it comes to providing indemnity for the works to come to Western Australia, I do not think it is beyond the bounds of possibility to approach the Australian Government. After all, it is a national collection, so why should not the national Government provide indemnity against damage, incurred in bringing the collection to Western Australia? Surely we in Western Australia are not to be denied the opportunity to view these works simply because of the lack of insurance cover. I am sure the Leader of the House and his colleagues would not be incapable of putting a forceful case to their counterparts in Canberra.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: As a member of the State Parliament, does the honourable member not think he should refer to it as the Commonwealth Government rather than the Australian Government?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: When Mr

Pike has been here a longer time, he will know that "Australian Government", "Commonwealth Government", and "Federal Government" are synonymous terms.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: I do not accept the term "Australian Government".

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Mr President, it is of no interest to me what Mr Pike accepts. I accept the Australian Constitution as it presently stands, although I would like to see it changed. However, if those terms are provided for in the Constitution, I will use them. There are times when I refer to the Government as the "Commonwealth Government"; at other times I use the word "Federal", and many times I use the term "Australian Government". I do not know what Mr Pike thinks he is, but I accept myself as an Australian; I am proud to be an Australian.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He is a Commonwealth.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Mr Pike might belong to some funny little province like Hutt River, ruled by someone like Crown Prince Leonard. But I am Australian and proud to stand up and admit it. I have no inhibitions about using the word "Australian" and I would hope Mr Pike comes to use the term with as much pride as I do.

I wish to refer now to a matter raised recently in another place, when the Premier offered some criticism of the St. John Ambulance Association for its purchase of an aeroplane with which the association believes it can improve the services it offers, but which the Premier believes will result in competition with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and in a duplication of services, and thus increased costs.

For a start, the aircraft was purchased by the Apex clubs of Western Australia, so it cost the St. John Ambulance Association nothing.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Do you think that is the right outlook? Do you think the Apex clubs were in a position to make an assessment?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I wish the Minister would not be so impatient. If he allows me to carry on, perhaps I will cover the view he presently holds.

Until quite recent times the St. John Ambulance Association covered an area within a radius of 300 miles from Perth, with its road vehicles. There has been a tacit agreement that the Royal Flying Doctor Service will operate beyond that area. However, I am informed that in more recent times the Flying Doctor Service has tended to cross the boundary and compete with the St. John Ambulance Association.



The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: So you think it was of a competitive nature?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: It would seem to be, but I hope that is not really the case. There has been some slight suggestion that the Royal Flying Doctor Service has impinged on the territory of the St. John Ambulance Association.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: It is nice to think they are fighting over the work.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is very hard to define. The Royal Flying Doctor Service takes a doctor out to the patient and—

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I do not want to be too long; I wish to cover all the items as quickly as I can. I am not being critical of either service. It has been pointed out to me that the acquisition of the aircraft is extremely important to the St. John Ambulance Association. The association receives payment for the services it provides and if it is denied the opportunity to take a patient from, say, the Three Springs station to Perth, that represents a loss to the association. If the Three Springs station does not receive the benefit of the income it would be in danger of closing down. In fairly brief terms, that is the situation in which the St. John Ambulance Association has found itself of late.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Surely putting an aeroplane into service would make the association close down quicker.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Naturally, people want to get patients to hospital as quickly as they can and, if possible, they would opt for the Royal Flying Doctor Service; therefore, the payment does not go to the St. John Ambulance Association, and its service starts to run down. What is the association supposed to do? Should it leave towns without adequate service? If the association had not taken action to purchase an aeroplane, that would have been the situation in some towns within the 300-mile radius.

In 1974, the St. John Ambulance Association was 75 per cent dependent on the Treasury; however, in the last financial year it was only 49.9 per cent dependent. In other words, some 50 per cent of the costs of running the service is provided from sources other than the Treasury. I am sure the Government would be very appreciative of this fact, and would not like to see the operations of the association endangered.

Therefore, I believe the Premier was not fully informed about the situation when he criticised the acquisition of an aircraft by the St. John Ambulance Association when in fact an aircraft now is essential to the association's continued efficient operation. In fact, if it had not purchased

an aircraft, the people most likely to suffer would be the country people.

I refer now to the Doubleview Primary School which has become one of the most disadvantaged schools in the metropolitan area. I have spoken previously in the Chamber about the way in which the school has been denied an adequate facility for pre-school children. Recently I asked questions of the Minister representing the Minister for Education about the provision of guarded crossings in the Scarborough electorate. All the other schools in my electorate, both Government and private, have guarded crossings, but Doubleview Primary School does not have such a facility. It stands out like a lonely little Cinderella amongst all the other schools in the community.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The phrase is, "A lonely little petunia in the onion patch".

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: That is right. The school has no resource centre, although it has been agitating for one for some time, and its library facilities are quite inadequate. I raise this matter in the hope the Government will examine the position at the Doubleview Primary School, relative to the other schools in the locality, and look sympathetically at the disadvantages presently being suffered by the children at the school when compared with the facilities enjoyed by their near brothers and sisters, and do something to relieve the situation.

The provision of a guarded crossing to protect the children as they go to and from school would be a fairly insignificant cost to the Government, and I urge its consideration.

The last matter I wish to raise affects only a tiny group of students who are undertaking a physical education degree course. This matter was raised by way of question on the 5th October. In his reply the Minister referred to students who had failed and said that the successful students rather than those who failed deserved consideration. Really that is not the correct situation.

The parents who approached me explained that their son had failed a unit in his first year at university, but the unit was not really necessary for teaching purposes, and he had succeeded in all the other units. It is not uncommon for a person to fail one subject in the first year. I myself missed a unit in my first year. However, because of this, and despite the success he had since that first year, he was not allowed to continue into the secondary teachers' college to complete the requirements for teaching, and he was placed in an invidious position.

Why should students who have not missed any subjects be allowed the benefits of being able to continue full time, whereas students, such as the lad who had failed only one subject, and if allowed to continue would successfully complete his course—his record would show that—while studying the subject he missed part time, are not? If he were allowed to complete the course and study the other subject part time, at the end of the year he would be a fully qualified physical education teacher.

There are not many students in that category, and the Government would be lacking responsibility if it did not study the situation again to ensure that the people who fail a subject have an opportunity, the same as their slightly more successful colleagues, to enter college the next year. It is a waste of training if they are not allowed to continue at college in the following year. They must find work and as they would not be able to teach, all the training they had would be wasted.

With those remarks I support the Bill.

*Sitting suspended from 6.03 to 7.30 p.m.*

**THE HON. R. HETHERINGTON** (East Metropolitan) [7.30 p.m.]: Mr President, I will be brief. I have remembered what I did not say last night, so I want to refer to it. Before I begin on what I will be brief about, I want to add to what Mr Claughton has said about the Aboriginal Sites Branch, because I did not have the exact figures last night. There are 16 members on the staff, of whom seven are funded by the Commonwealth—five research officers, a technical assistant, and cataloguer. If this money cuts out and we lose these people, we will have lost nearly half of the staff, and I suggest they are about one-third of the number we need. I hope the Minister will take this matter seriously and do something about it if he can.

One of the things which rather surprised me when I first came into this House was the cavalier way in which Ministers—particularly the Minister for Transport, and I am not blaming him because he was replying for a Minister in another place—dealt with questions I asked. The Minister just tossed them to one side and I still do not know the criteria on which the Government chooses people for the board of the Art Gallery. This might explain why some of the problems have grown up; but it is not what I want to dwell on tonight.

Last week I asked the Minister about proposals for teachers in community-based pre-school centres, and I got the usual offhanded put-off. The answers should have gone as follows, because

these are the proposals which have been put forward by the Minister for Education—

During 1978 only, these teachers may elect to apply for permanency which will be granted in terms of the Education Act and Regulations as from 1/1/79, but with the following conditions.

That such teachers continue to be employed in "Community Based" centres. This means that these teachers will not be eligible to apply for promotional positions within the Education Department, nor will they be considered for transfer to Education Department centres.

If, however, a "Community Based" centre transfers to the Education Department after 1978, the permanent teacher will have the option of transferring to another "Community Based" centre and retaining her existing status, or automatically becoming part of the Permanent Teaching Staff of the Department with all rights and obligations of promotion and transfer, etc.

Subject to the aspects of promotion and transfer mentioned above, all other conditions of service pertaining to Permanent teachers of the Education Department will apply.

I mention this because when the relevant Bill was before the House I asked for certain assurances from the Minister. He said he thought they would apply but in his reply to the second reading debate he did not give them to me. He could not do so because the Minister in another place was not prepared to give them.

We are at present in the position where parents associated with community-based schools are very angry; and the teachers in community-based schools are very apprehensive because if they decide to stay in community-based schools they will not be promoted. If they become redundant or the school is absorbed and they want to stay in a community-based school, they have to go somewhere else; but if they want promotional opportunity they must be employed by the Education Department. It is felt by many of the parents that this is an attempt to get teachers to pressurise parents to have community-based schools absorbed into the Education Department empire. They are very worried and annoyed, and I think the proposals put forward by the Minister—which are not acceptable to the union as far as I can discover—are not good enough.

I hope we see something better and that this sorry mess we have got into as a result of the premature abolition of the Pre-School Board will be sorted out before very much longer.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South West—Leader of the House) [7.36 p.m.]: I thank members for their comments on this Bill. We have had the opportunity to debate the tabling of the papers and most members have availed themselves of that opportunity and have allowed the Bill to proceed with not a great deal of discussion, except for a couple of minor matters.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan spent a considerable amount of time speaking about the unemployed, and the payment of arrears of unemployment benefits; and she made a very good case for the hardship which is engendered by that system. We can all do that.

The problem is that like most rules, rules associated with the payment of unemployment benefits are made for the "baddies", and the "goodies" get caught up in them. Were we all well behaved, we could go through life with very few rules.

I remember some fellows in the army complaining about the "AMR & O" and all the rules in the army, and one fellow said, "I did not know there were any. I have just behaved in here as I behaved outside and I have not had any trouble." The same applies in ordinary civilian life, I suppose: if one lives by the golden rule one does not need a lot of other rules.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It depends who makes the rules.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is because of those who will not abide by the norms of the society in which we live that we need so many rules; and because so many people have taken advantage of the generosity of their fellow citizens and tried to work the system or, indeed, swindle the system, it has become necessary to create all kinds of rules with regard to social welfare payments.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: But that does not change the swindle system.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Unfortunately, I think what the Leader of the Opposition says is quite true. It does not change the swindle system, although one hopes it will.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We have a market economy situation but your party will not accept that the majority of Governments with a market economy situation must also have a social conscience.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is an

attitude of mind which I find totally unacceptable.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You do not believe in a social conscience?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is the kind of smart question which is utterly ludicrous. One cannot divorce man from a social conscience. The idea of a social conscience was not invented by the socialists.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I did not say it was.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The socialists gave it a fancy name but long before—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I have never heard a socialist talk about the social conscience.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Long before these people started to talk about it, there were poor laws back in the time of Queen Elizabeth I. Man was born with a social conscience, and it is not an outcropping of a market economy capitalist system or whatever the Hon. Des Dans is trying to talk about. He is talking utter nonsense when he says things like that—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Why?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: —because most of the ideas with regard to social welfare, as distinct from socialism—social justice, if one likes—were not invented by socialists but by capitalists—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is quite correct.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: —and implemented by capitalists. The socialists have tried to get on the bandwagon to such an extent that they have almost bankrupted all the countries they have touched. I did not want to enter into this kind of discussion, which Mr Dans is trying to drag us into.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You followed.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am trying to give a few facts in reply to what the Hon. Grace Vaughan spoke about.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: She said the sins of the few have been visited on the needy many.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: And she is absolutely right. In the same way, the sins of the few are visited on every one of us with regard to driving motorcars, drinking liquor, and anything else one cares to name, without the slightest shadow of doubt. We have laws covering murder but none of us here has murdered anyone.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How do you know?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: None of us has been caught, anyway. The statement made by the Hon. Robert Hetherington is totally in line with

the nonsense spoken by Mr Dans. It has no relevance to the argument I am putting.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: What are you talking about?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am talking about what the Hon. Grace Vaughan said.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: What did she say?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Anyhow, the speech she made has been made a dozen and one times and we are fully aware of the problem, no less than the people who implemented the system.

The Hon. Roy Cloughton began by telling us we had conjured up funds. Of course we have not. We have seen a change in the last four years. We have seen a bit of good management. We have been able to save a few bob and spend it. I had to ask him if he had any objection to our paying out \$4 million in order to create special employment opportunities in a number of areas. He hastened to hop off the bandwagon he was on and said he did not object to that. It was not a matter of conjuring up money; it was a matter of good management.

Mr Cloughton asked about the 150 unfilled jobs in the Department for Community Welfare.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Not in the department but in the Civil Service.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I was listening to his speech; the Leader of the Opposition was not. If he reads it, he will find that Mr Cloughton referred to the Department for Community Welfare.

Provision has been made for the employment of 123 new staff to provide improved services at two new hostels to be opened this year; namely, the Duncraig Hostel at Applecross, 14 beds, and a replacement hostel for Kareeba Hostel, approximately 32 beds. So apparently the department is a little ahead of Mr Cloughton and is already doing what he asked it to do. He has not read the Budget papers very well. I am pleased to be able to give him that information; he will be highly delighted that we have taken what he was going to speak about so seriously, and that we have done it already.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I hope he is not furious!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I listened with interest to his remarks about the RED Scheme. I suppose one should be charitable and say that it did actually give some unfortunate people a job. By any method of examination it was a bad scheme but it did arrange for some money to be spent here and there.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I think the scheme was good until it started to build inverted pyramids; the sort of thing that usually happens. Had it stayed with the local authorities it would have been all right.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: No-one who starts to work out a scheme from a socialist basis can ever succeed because he starts on a poor foundation.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: That is just a prejudice on your part.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Of course it is a prejudice of mine, but it was born out of very careful consideration of socialism over a long time. One of the very good examples of a socialist plan is the RED Scheme. One day someone will write a history of that scheme and it will be yet another example of a scheme which started on the wrong footing.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: All over the State, councils are asking for the RED Scheme to be restored, even councils in your own area.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I took some notice of what Mr Cloughton said about Aboriginal art. He built on to what Mr Hetherington had said, and Mr Hetherington had built on to what Mr Cloughton said.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: It is very important.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I do not know anything about Aboriginal art, so I will not interject.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr President, you do not mind if I just talk over the top of Mr Dans, do you?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I have said that I know nothing about Aboriginal art so I will not interject.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We are hoping for some support from the Leader of the Opposition on this.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: There are many difficulties of course. Quite apart from vandalism, our climate is particularly harsh on Aboriginal art.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Some of it has lasted for 18 000 years.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The sheer weathering process of our harsh climate is bad. We are then faced with another problem. If an Aboriginal painting is showing signs of wear and tear and we "touch it up" then it is no longer original. That is just so obvious that it is silly, and yet if we do not take some steps the weather will destroy these paintings and engravings. If we

scrape out some of the engravings and recolour the painting, it then becomes more obvious and attracts more vandalism. I was at Dumbleyung the other day and I had occasion to say something about vandalism. I have said that I consider vandalism to be the worst crime that man or woman commits.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And socialists too!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, even socialists. Vandalism is worse even than a crime committed against another person because usually one can see some reason for such a crime, but vandalism is utterly without reason and it is completely stupid. Vandalism of something which is centuries old like the Aboriginal art we are discussing is really the bottom of the bucket. These works of art cause no offence to anybody and yet some people scrape around them, chip them, or paint their names alongside them.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It is amazing that the communist countries, the socialist countries, do not have any vandalism.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: What rubbish! It is just that any vandal who is caught is shot, so no-one does it more than once.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is right; I hoped you would make that comment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: By interjection I have answered the questions raised by members. Within the limits of the time and money available, the Museum has done a very good job and in my opinion it has done this job with a great degree of sensitivity.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: An excellent job.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I disagree with the attitude of the University of Western Australia, however. Even from the little I know about Aboriginal customs, I would have avoided photographing Aboriginal artifacts being handled by a female. I have been told by anthropologists that Aborigines do not appreciate women being allowed to handle their relics.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Was that really someone from the university? I do not think it was.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The Press report stated that it was someone from the university.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I hope it was not.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The Museum has handled these artifacts intelligently and with sensitivity. It was entrusted by some of the elders of different Aboriginal groups with some extremely valuable relics, things of great

anthropological value. The staff of the Museum have treated these relics with great respect.

Frank Norton, until recently the Director of the Art Gallery, received several grants of money to record and paint Aboriginal burial posts and the like. He did a great deal of work on those things, and he commenced a catalogue which will be extremely valuable for future archaeologists and anthropologists to work with.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: One of the problems is that part of the anthropological bias comes about because we still have Aborigines from these tribes living. I do not blame the Museum because it is doing valuable work, but other sections are being neglected.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is important that these relics should be tabulated and catalogued before they disappear. Many of these items are so fragile that they will be destroyed anyway quite apart from vandalism. As the member pointed out, it is hoped that there will be sufficient money to record and perhaps photograph these artifacts. I am sorry that Mr Withers is not able to enter into this debate as he has been unavoidably detained, because he has a great interest in this matter. He has got very close to many of the Aborigines in his area, the Kimberley.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I am sure he would have a lot to contribute on this.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I was interested to hear his point of view. I was interested also in the remarks about the Art Gallery collection fund. I believe the grant this year is only \$20 000, and the gallery is anxious to build up a fund to buy paintings for the time when the new gallery will be opened.

Mr Claughton mentioned the possibility of staging a collection in the Entertainment Centre. According to the information I have received, I am afraid this would not be possible. One of our reasons for building the new Art Gallery is that shortly after I became the Minister for Cultural Affairs, it was brought to my attention that there was great interest in this State in regard to the staging of art exhibitions; I carried out an investigation into the possibilities, and one of the few suitable places we found was a floor of the Sheraton-Perth Hotel. The lift was large enough to take the paintings and the walls were long enough and high enough. Also, the security was good enough—I must stress that point—and the air-conditioning was adequate.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: The air-conditioning is there in the Entertainment Centre and the security could be looked after.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We looked at many places but this was all we could find.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You could get "Blue Poles" in there too.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I gleaned an idea about air-conditioning that is used in Japan.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: The humidity is the problem as well as the temperature.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We thought this proposition was worth looking at. Rather than controlling the climate in a whole building, a case could be built to hold an artifact. Reflection-proof glass is put on the front of the case and it is air-conditioned from the bottom. In other words, it is easier to air-condition a model in a case than a whole building.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: What sort of model are you talking about?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: A wax one!

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You had me worried for a minute.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We are talking in terms of millions of dollars for such an art show, and there are some serious problems to solve.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: It is good to know that at least we had mutual goodwill to investigate the possibility.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I had this matter very thoroughly investigated. Because of the difficulties involved I was able to persuade Cabinet and the Treasurer that the time had come to build a new Art Gallery to save our disintegrating art collection.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: That is true about a permanent collection, but we are talking about putting on a show.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We will have to wait for that. I am quite sure the present Minister will investigate the possibilities.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: I hope you have given an assurance that you will at least examine the proposition seriously because I believe it is worth while for Western Australia.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, well worth while. I still believe implicitly that minorities must be catered for and there is an appreciable group of people who like looking at art shows. The current Art Gallery does a first-class job within the limitations involved.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Tens of thousands of people went to look at "Blue Poles".

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: As a matter of fact I even investigated bringing that painting

here, but too many problems were involved. As well as the cartage, it would have required a two-ton air-conditioner, a very big one, to cater for it. However, I believe we could have paid for the air-conditioner and still made a profit by displaying "Blue Poles".

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I am sure you could.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We could have transported it here, insured it, purchased the air-conditioner, and still made a profit from displaying it.

I will not go into the matter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the St. John Ambulance Association because it is a very complicated one. However, I will mention something about Mr Hetherington's remarks in regard to teachers.

One of the problems that was encountered very soon after the establishment of the new system—and I will come back to that in a moment—was that a teacher could be told, say, that a position was available at Laverton. The teacher might then say, "I will not go to Laverton". He would then dash down to the Pre-School Board and the board would say that a position was vacant at, say, the community school at City Beach. The teacher might then say, "Is there not a position closer to where I live at Scarborough?" In short, two systems were competing for the same people and the situation became very awkward.

The Hon. Norman Moore will probably remember the trouble we had to find a teacher for Laverton. The school was due to open on the Monday, but it was only at 5.00 p.m. on the Friday that we finally arranged for a teacher for that pre-primary centre. I am almost positive that I am correct when I say that. Some teachers switched around a few times in an endeavour to work at a pre-primary centre almost within walking distance of their homes. A difficulty was that if we gave people the right to promotion within the system after they had taught at a community kindergarten, nobody would have gone to the pre-primary centres.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I find that hard to believe.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Who suffers when this happens? Not the people in the city whom Mr Hetherington represents.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: And for that matter the people whom the President represents also.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The people who really suffer are the country people who are

really disadvantaged and whose children need pre-primary schooling or kindergarten training.

This brings me to the reason that we introduced the system, and the best speech made in this place on that subject was made by the Hon. Margaret McAleer some years ago. There is no doubt that the scheme was brought in too late, rather than brought in too soon. I am convinced that the most advanced country, educationally, that I have seen is Canada. That country has deputations from Russia and from other countries in the world, visiting its embassy to find out more about its education system.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The Canadians must have some socialist tendencies.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: In fact, two States of Canada have socialist Governments, but they are starting to regret it bitterly. In that country pre-primary centres have for a long time been part of the total education scene. When I mentioned the system we had here I was told, "How ridiculous that is, because you are an advanced country." Indeed, many schools in Canada have not only a kindergarten pre-primary centre as part of the school, but also a junior kindergarten and a creche. If members want to know more about that system, at least as it applies in British Columbia in respect of handicapped and the very young children, the best person to ask is the Hon. Claude Stubbs whose daughter works in that system—a system which I happen to think is probably a shade better than any other system in the world.

That is why Dr Mossenson and I initiated the system of exchanging teachers with Ontario, Canada, on a walk-in-walk-out basis in which they leave their house and car and just move out, to come here and move into almost identical conditions. This exchange of teachers has given us some good ideas.

So Mr Hetherington is wrong, and as he is a fair man I am sure he will come to admit it—I should live that long—because this will prove to be one of the best steps that has been taken in education in this State.

The Hon. R. J. L. Williams: I take it the wives are included in that walk-in-walk-out basis.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: They bring their whole families with them; the only things they leave behind are their cats and dogs, and the incoming people look after them.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I knew there was a drawback.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I know some members have met these exchange teachers—Mrs

Skilling and Mr Johnson are two of them—and I understand some of our teachers have returned from Ontario. However, I am not in that department now.

There were very real promotional problems; however again, as I have found is the case with 99 people out of 100, these problems were not tackled by dictatorial bureaucrats. They were tackled by understanding and experienced men and women who happened to be in positions of authority. I have no doubt whatsoever that people here who have found themselves in a similar position have been referred to as dictatorial and arrogant at times when all the while they have been behaving in a kind-hearted, considerate, and humanitarian fashion. I am sure that would apply to the Hon. R. Hetherington in exactly the same way as it applies to Dr David Mossenson.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Just the same, I would expect some checks and balances. I would not trust myself with power.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: One has to learn to trust oneself.

Again I express my appreciation for the views expressed by members. They will be noted, as will the views expressed on the motion. I thank members for their interest, and commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House), and passed.

## BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Wildlife Conservation Act Amendment Bill.
2. Railways Classification Board Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

## POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 25th October.

THE HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [8.09 p.m.]: The Opposition agrees to this Bill which is not designed so much to increase the powers of the police as simply to tack something onto

section 43 of the Act. I have only one query in my mind, which I would like the Minister to clarify when he replies to this debate, or in the Committee stages. I understand the amendment contained in this Bill was agreed to by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General and by the 1975 conference of Ministers for Police. The argument was that the States would have uniform legislation in respect of the powers of arrest.

The Victorian Crimes (Powers of Arrest) Act provides that a member of the Police Force may at any time, without warrant, apprehend any person he believes on reasonable grounds has committed an indictable offence in Victoria or has committed an offence elsewhere which, if committed in Victoria, would be an indictable offence against the law of Victoria. When one reads the Police Act of this State one finds it says most of those things, but it certainly appears not to give the police this power at the moment in respect of a person who has committed an offence outside the State.

For example, if a policeman were to recognise a person as someone who had committed a capital offence—I might be stretching the bow a bit taut by using that example—in another State, he would not be able to apprehend that person there and then; however under this Bill he can do so. We have a great number of problems in respect of the extradition laws of the various States; problems which normally exist only between one country and another.

The matter in respect of which I would like clarification is the use of the words “on reasonable grounds”. That phrase in itself is a mouthful, because what may appear to be reasonable grounds to one police officer may not appear to be reasonable grounds to another officer. Therefore, I feel the Minister for Police should give us some definition of “reasonable grounds” so that there is some uniformity.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: What about redress for wrongful arrest?

The Hon. D. K. DAns: That matter is not contained in the Bill, and the normal provisions would apply in such a case.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Where are the words “on reasonable grounds”?

The Hon. D. K. DAns: They are contained in the Victorian Crimes (Powers of Arrest) Act, and we are attempting to include them in our Act in section 43. I am saying that “reasonable grounds” should be more clearly defined. This is something like the word “serious” because what appears to be serious to one person may not appear to be serious to another. I am not trying to hinder the

police in the execution of their duty because they have a hard enough job to perform now. However, it appears that our points of view sometimes differ according to the hour of day or night and how we feel about the situation; and we could either applaud or upbraid the police in respect of action they take.

What I am saying is that the job of police officers would be made far easier if the term “reasonable grounds” or simply “grounds” were more clearly defined. This is an area which creates a great deal of problem for law enforcement officers.

To return to Mr Ferry's comment, he seems to have some kind of opposition—although it might not be opposition—

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: It isn't.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: —in respect of the matter of wrongful arrest. However, that is another matter altogether and there are ways of obtaining redress, although I realise it is difficult.

With those few comments, the Opposition supports the Bill.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON** (South Metropolitan) [8.14 p.m.]: I have listened to the Leader of the Opposition, but nowhere in the Bill can I find the words “reasonable grounds”.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They are contained on page 2 of my speech notes.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Minister's notes are not part of the Bill.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I made that quite clear to the Minister.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Of course, from time to time we deal with Bills which have included in them such terms as “on reasonable grounds” and even the “state of mind” of people.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: And we should not have them.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I have sat on both sides of the House in Government and in Opposition, and both parties have introduced legislation containing this type of wording.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: There is reason for it.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is reasonable in the sense of the word. What is said in the notes means nothing to me; what counts is what is contained in the Bill.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It depends on what is in the mind of the judge at the time.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I have explained I did not mean the Bill.



The HON. R. THOMPSON: The judge or the magistrate might have had a heavy night or had a plateful of weetbix thrown at him during breakfast.

If we have a look at what is contained in this Bill we find its intention is not new. This idea has been bandied around for something like 10 or 12 years to my knowledge. It has been discussed at meetings of police unions, Ministers' conferences, and now it has been looked at by the Attorney-General. The problem is there has been no interest by State Ministers to implement this idea on a uniform basis. If we refer to the Minister's speech we see he still does not say it will be on a uniform basis; I could not care less whether it is agreed to on a uniform basis.

We have three States in Australia with international airports; namely, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia. I would like to quote from the last few lines of the Minister's speech as follows—

... apprehension of a person pursuant to this subsection shall not be taken to be unlawful only by reason that it subsequently appears or is found that the person apprehended did not commit the offence alleged.

This is a question that worries me as we have an international airport and an international harbour. If a person is wrongfully arrested he has to take action for compensation through common law.

I indicate now that I am supporting the Bill, but this is a question on which I would like some clarification. Mistakes have happened throughout the world in regard to wrongful arrest. Fortunately this has not occurred too often in Western Australia but it has happened that a policeman has recognised someone as being a criminal and he has made an arrest, and at times the policeman has been proved wrong.

The person concerned can be seriously inconvenienced and he could miss his aircraft, hotel or travel bookings. It is for cases like this that I would like some explanation. I would like now to quote section 43 of the Police Act.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I want to remind members and particularly the member who has just returned to his seat, to comply in future with Standing Order No. 67. I call the member for South Metropolitan province.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Section 43 states as follows—

Any officer or constable of the Police Force, without any warrant other than this

Act, at any hour of the day or night, may apprehend any person whom he may find drunk, or disorderly, or using profane, indecent, or obscene language, or who shall use any threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour, with intent or calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, in any street, public vehicle, or passenger boat; and also any person who shall ride or drive on or through any street, so negligently, carelessly, or furiously that the safety of any person may thereby be endangered; and also any person who shall cruelly or wantonly beat, illtreat, overdrive, overload, abuse or torture any living thing, or cause the same to be done, and also any person who shall convey or carry any living thing in any street, in such a manner or position as to cause unnecessary pain or suffering, and all persons whom he shall have just cause to suspect of having committed or being about to commit any offence, or of any evil designs, and all persons whom he shall find or who shall have been lying or loitering in any street, yard, or other place, and not giving a satisfactory account of themselves, and shall detain any person so apprehended in custody, until he can be brought before a Justice, to be dealt with for such offence, or until he shall have given bail for his appearance before a Justice, in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

We have accepted that in Western Australia; I think all people will acknowledge and accept it. All this Bill is doing is putting a new section into the Act—something that has been carried out for many years by the Western Australian Police Force. It has not needed this amending legislation before and the Police Force has carried out its obligations admirably. Now we are putting it in and it would appear that we are taking the right away from any person who is mistakenly apprehended and who could be faced with great financial embarrassment because he was unable to meet a deadline overseas. This aspect is what is worrying me.

As a former Minister for Police I am aware we have plenty of people who have escaped the law and I realise it is a costly exercise to bring them back to Western Australia. They are brought back only if they have been involved in very serious offences. If we arrest someone in Western Australia who is not going to be extradited back to Queensland, who is going to pick up the tab?

I would say that currently there would be at least 500 people in Western Australia without extradition orders against them that could be enforced if the Minister thought it was warranted

and he was prepared to spend the money to bring them back. I have signed many of these extradition orders and I know that cases involving trivial offences often are not bothered with.

My concern is for someone who is wrongfully arrested and is forced to miss catching a ship or plane from either Fremantle or Perth Airport. According to this Bill a person so apprehended has no redress, I think that is very wrong. Every individual should have some redress if he has been wrongfully detained from leaving the State. I believe the police have acted judiciously in the past but there is the odd occasion when someone is wrongfully arrested. I do not want these people to be without some sort of redress merely because we have introduced a Bill such as this.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South West—Leader of the House) [8.26 p.m.]: I thank members for their support; that is, the members of the Labor Party and the Independent member (Mr Thompson). The query raised by the Leader of the Opposition was with regard to "reasonable grounds".

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The Bill says "just cause".

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: This has been discussed and explained in this place a great number of times. It is clearly understood by the police because they are taught what it means and it has been defined or clarified by judicial decision. Most people involved with these matters know what it means.

For example, when I was Minister for Fisheries on a previous occasion and we were using section 17 of the Fisheries Act a considerable amount because of the trafficking in undersize crayfish, I always used to demand that the inspectors had sufficient evidence. They had to have sufficient evidence to prove they had made an arrest on reasonable grounds so that it would stand up to a court case should I be taken to court on the grounds that I had not been reasonable.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I agree with you there. The problem arises when there is a wrongful arrest. There are ways to deal with this and I would like to see reasonable or just causes explained in the Bill.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If it were possible to do as the Hon. Des Dans is arguing it would have been done long ago. It is this very problem that makes it necessary for us to use it. In the same way it makes it necessary to use "state of mind" in legislation. It is clearly understood.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You can get redress for wrongful arrest.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: There is a difference here in that the policeman knows he has a very good chance of having to front up before a magistrate. The magistrate would ask the grounds or reasons for the arrest and if the magistrate did not think they were good and reasonable grounds the policeman would be growled at; he has that explained to him and he understands it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: What happens to the person who has been apprehended?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is the question raised by the Independent member and I wish members opposite would not growl at each other.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We do not.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I do not growl at him.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I would like the Minister to continue.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am sorry, Mr President, but I thought you might agree with me that they tend to get a little snappy with Mr Thompson. I do not think it is fair and I thought I would just mention it.

Mr Thompson read out section 43 and in all of the cases mentioned and in all of the Act it is possible to be arrested wrongfully.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is under common law.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is possible to be arrested wrongfully under the provisions of this Bill, so the situation is not changed at all. The recourse of the person concerned is, of course, at law.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I said that.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: And I am transferring the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition to Mr Thompson because I have the impression the Leader of the Opposition and Mr Thompson do not talk to each other any longer.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: No, that is not right.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Perhaps I was being facetious! Mr Dans has already explained that this legislation does not alter the question which Mr Thompson properly raised. The answer is that anyone who is improperly arrested has recourse to law.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I qualified that further.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The point raised by Mr Thompson was—

... the apprehension of a person pursuant to this subsection shall not be taken to be unlawful only by reason that it subsequently

appears or is found that the person apprehended did not commit the offence alleged.

A policeman is not personally liable, any more than Mr Thompson was personally liable if he had been summonsed and an action taken against him when he was the Minister for Police, because the various Acts make sure that the action which he takes renders him not being personally liable.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I made that point; it is under common law.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Then why ask the question?

The Hon. R. Thompson: Because we are an international airport and an international seaport. People cannot afford to waste their time under a common law case.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The honourable member is quite right and I suppose that is the risk we have to take. That is the only answer I can give; I do not know any other solution. There is a solution for each and every one of us if we are wrongfully arrested. If one was just about to fly overseas on an important business mission and was wrongfully arrested, and the amount of reparation through common law was insufficient to right that wrong, one would suffer. I have never heard of that happening.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It has happened.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is possible in theory, and I accept that it has happened. If the damages obtainable are not sufficient, that is one of those things we have to accept.

I believe this is a wise Bill, and I thank members for their support.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We are supporting it, but it is about time the Minister defined the situation a little more clearly.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House), and transmitted to the Assembly.

## STATE FORESTS

*Revocation of Dedication: Assembly's Resolution—Motion to Concur*

Debate resumed, from the 25th October, on the

following motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General)—

That the proposal for the partial revocation of State Forests Nos. 4, 22, 29 and 49 referred to in Message No. 44 from the Legislative Assembly and laid on the Table of the Legislative Council on 19th October, 1977, be carried out.

**THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON** (North Metropolitan) [8.35 p.m.]: This is a Bill to which normally the longer serving members advise the newer members to pay some attention, because very often it effects changes in the status of reserves within their provinces. In this case all the changes take place in or around the town of Collie, which is somewhat unusual. I believe the reason is the Government is conscious that for some months the Federal Liberal Party has been planning a December election, so it is cutting down on the business to be debated in this place so that it is able to get out into the electorate and conduct a campaign. That is just by the way, but it does affect what is contained in this motion. As I said, the changes affect the town of Collie.

The Hon. O. N. B. Oliver: One change affects a town in my province.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I am afraid I had missed that one.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: There is one change at Karragullen, in the West Province.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: That is not far away from the city of Perth, and it is quite a pleasant little town.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The majority of the alterations come about as a result of representations emanating from the member for Collie, Mr Tom Jones, and the first affects the establishment of a retirement village for elderly Aborigines. It is a model settlement, and it will have accommodation of the style of which the Aboriginal people themselves approve. It will be established within a forest setting, which will allow the Aborigines to feel very much at home. It is not placed miles away from the centre of the town, but on the outskirts of Collie and convenient to the town. It will allow the Aboriginal people to feel they have control of their own lives.

I have examined the other changes but I must confess I missed the alteration at Karragullen. My examination reveals that the alterations are sensible, and we support the motion.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

**SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH BILL***Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 25th October.

**THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS** (South-East) [8.40 p.m.]: When introducing this Bill the Attorney-General said its purpose was to create a solar energy research institute in Western Australia, and that it was proposed in its initial stages the institute would function essentially as a financing body to assist the Government with the aim of promoting and co-ordinating research into solar development and utilisation.

The Minister also said that a realistic time scale from initial research to large-scale commercial application of a new technology such as this can be anything up to 25 years or even longer. He said that with this in mind there was the need to commence research now to achieve any significant reduction in our dependence on liquid petroleum fuels.

I read recently that about 70 years ago it was suggested that an electric power station be constructed at Collie to provide power for the goldfields. The person who mooted that suggestion said that the transmission of electricity over a distance of 60 miles would be a wonderful achievement. That statement was made in New York only 75 years ago, but now we are transmitting electricity over hundreds of miles. So, it does augur well for the future, and I think we will achieve a breakthrough with solar energy much quicker than 75 years.

The Minister also says that the functions of the institute will be to encourage solar energy development; undertake research projects in its own right; carry out investigations referred to it by the Minister; co-ordinate solar research where appropriate in Western Australia; and receive funds from the Government, industry and other sponsors.

I hope that some of the research projects will be to the benefit of the goldfields, because there is a great need for cheap power and energy in that area and in other outlying places where mines are situated. The Government has evidence that Western Australia has a future in the use of solar energy because of our climate.

I have found nothing wrong with the Bill, and I indicate at this stage that the Opposition agrees with it. It is such an important innovation for Western Australia that it is appropriate we should say a little about it.

I will refer to clause 6, paragraph (k) which states that one of the functions of the institute is—

to promote public awareness of matters relating to solar energy research, to inform the public concerning the latest developments in the solar energy research field and to receive and consider submissions from the public as to the performance by the Institute of its functions or as to matters relating to solar energy research in general.

That is a very important provision and it will give the public the chance to participate in some way.

Clause 13 provides that the directors will be fully qualified and trained in physical and applied sciences, engineering, finance, marketing, and so on.

When this Bill eventually becomes law it will be a very good start. The proposed institute will receive finance to the extent of \$250 000 this year to set it up, and I take it for granted that additional money will be made available in next year's Budget.

The 1973 oil crisis triggered off the search for the means of providing additional energy. In the 1950s energy supplies—particularly oil—seemed to be inexhaustible and sellers were cutting prices in an effort to sell their products.

This action led to the use of more and more energy, but the day of reckoning came in 1973 when the OPEC countries surprised the world by cutting off energy to some countries and charging very much higher prices to the others. That caused a bit of a stampede. It was then realised there was a need for an alternative source of energy and it became apparent that it was necessary to look for further supplies of some kind of energy. In Australia we have coal, oil, natural gas, and hydroelectric power; we are talking about uranium, wind power, and tidal power; but I think solar energy is the power which has a great future. It distinctly appeals to me because I think it will be of a great advantage to inland areas and help to develop them cheaply.

A prominent professor said recently that the potential of solar energy in Australia could be 1 500 billion tonnes of coal equivalent in a year, the same as in the United States; with the rest of the world having a potential of 30 000 tonnes of coal equivalent in a year.

After the turn of the century more and more energy will be needed, because there will be an increasing population and more schools, transport, agriculture, and food production will be required. Greater amounts of money will need to be invested in solar energy. Only one organisation in Australia—namely, the Federal Government—can provide the huge sums of money required to

do the experimental work for the benefit of the nation.

I am pleased that the CSIRO and the universities will be represented on the committee; we can be very grateful for the many inventions and discoveries by scientific people.

There are two great requirements in Australia, particularly in Western Australia for the development of the inland and mining areas: we need solar energy for power and other purposes, and we need a method of converting salt water into potable water for man and animals.

A few years ago a survival kit was brought out with instructions advising people that by digging a hole in the ground and filling it with plastic, the condensation on the plastic from the heat of the sun would provide sufficient water in the plastic bowl to enable a person to survive in arid areas. When I was a child, my friends and I would use a mirror to reflect the sun on the back of someone's neck. We were punished for doing it but little did we know that in those days we were thereby using solar energy.

I have done some research into this subject. I have been up to the library, looking around, and I found that Western Australia has 8 exajoules of black coal, 0.97 exajoules of crude oil, 17.39 exajoules of natural gas, and 3.42 exajoules of gas liquids, making a total of 30 exajoules. That did not mean much to me until I found out that one exajoule represents 35 million tonnes of black coal, 100 million tonnes of brown coal, 22.5 million tonnes of crude oil, 0.95 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 19 million tonnes of gas liquids.

I investigated further and found there are other ways of looking at exajoules in the power and energy business. One exajoule of energy is equivalent to the Snowy Mountain hydro-electric scheme running at full blast nonstop for 50 years. One exajoule represents Australia's entire electrical energy consumption for five years. When the North-West Shelf natural gas consortium exports half the shelf's gas reserves—an export package of 7 trillion cubic feet of gas—it will be selling the energy equivalent of seven Snowy Mountain schemes each operating nonstop for 50 years. One exajoule of energy is also the equivalent of the total output for 15 years of the huge New South Wales electricity power station at Liddell.

I also looked up the *World Book Encyclopaedia* for more information. It contains a great deal of information on solar energy, including the following—

**Solar Energy** is energy given off by the

sun. This energy is produced by atomic reactions that take place inside the sun. During these reactions, the sun changes hydrogen atoms into helium atoms. Every second, the sun changes about 657 million tons of hydrogen into 653 million tons of helium. The missing 4 million tons of matter is changed into energy. The sun began to give off energy about 5 billion years ago. Scientists believe it will continue to supply energy for at least another 5 billion years.

It is difficult to imagine the huge amount of energy given off by the sun. Suppose that gasoline flowed over Niagara Falls at the same rate that water flows over the falls—5 billion gallons per hour. Now suppose that all the gasoline that flowed over the falls for more than 200 million years could be collected. If all that gasoline were burned, it would equal the energy that the sun gives off in an hour.

Scientists and engineers use a unit called a *kilowatt* to measure power. The sun continuously produces 390 sextillion (390 followed by 21 zeros) kilowatts of power. But the sun gives off energy in every direction. As a result, only about 1 two-billionth of the sun's energy ever reaches the upper atmosphere of the earth. Even so the earth receives more than 1,500 quadrillion (1,500 followed by 15 zeroes) kilowatt-hours of power each year.

It is interesting to know that energy was harnessed in the era before Christ. Archimedes, a Greek mathematician of the third century BC, set fire to Roman ships by concentrating the sun's rays on them with flat mirrors.

I apologise for keeping the House for so long but I thought the information was very interesting. In solar energy we are dealing with something new as far as Western Australia is concerned, and we know very little about it. The more one reads about it, the more one realises how little one knows.

We have much pleasure in supporting the Bill. We realise it is a step in the right direction; and, as with everything else, there has to be a start.

**THE HON. J. C. TOZER (North) [8.56 p.m.]:** I enthusiastically support the Bill. I believe the solar energy research institute has been set up with a great deal of thought and foresight and it can commence operation effectively from its inception. In the manner described by the Minister, it can make use of local researchers and correlate the activities of other institutions and private enterprise in its formative years. In

addition, it can marry the State endeavours with the interstate effort and the international effort.

I believe it is essential that the overall project be subject to constant review because the institute's task will change as we progress. Personally, I hope experience will prove we need to expand the function from the initial co-ordinating role. We must plan forward and move into an imaginative programme of research as time goes on.

In his introductory speech the Minister indicated that he recognised the task in front when he said—

Members will no doubt appreciate the formidable technical and cost barriers which stand in the way of widespread adoption of solar energy, but it is seen as an alternative energy form for mankind's long-term salvation. However, on present indications there are few grounds for supposing that solar energy can make a significant contribution before the next century.

A realistic time scale from initial research to large-scale commercial application of a new technology such as this can be anything up to 25 years or even longer. With this in mind there is the need to commence research now to achieve any significant reduction in our critical dependence on liquid petroleum fuels.

I concur in that. But when we read other authorities we realise perhaps the time scale mentioned by the Minister is somewhat ambitious.

When I was a student at school—and that was a long time ago—we always used the term “according to Hoyle”. I would like to quote from Professor Fred Hoyle's booklet entitled “Energy or Extinction?”. Professor Hoyle strongly advocates the development of nuclear energy generation and has a look at the alternatives. Among many other things, he says, in referring to the people who advocate solar energy—

When asked to provide precision engineering details of how an energy flow in excess of  $10^{14}$  kWh per year is to be obtained from ‘solar energy’ they blandly admit to having none. They say that sometime in the future the details will become available, and they then go on to demand that someone should take the trouble to prove them wrong, not just in regard to a specific proposal but for every idea which occurs to them. Of course, it is very hard to prove that some startling new technology will not become available in the future, but a reasonable

person would not gamble on it, particularly in view of the extreme gravity of the situation that would occur if the gamble failed.

Professor Hoyle is putting the argument of developing nuclear energy or facing extinction. To bring things into perspective, it is worth quoting a little more. Professor Hoyle explores the current research and experimentation which is going on into solar energy. Again I quote from his book—

During the past two decades a technique based upon what is known as the photoelectric effect (the ejection by light of electrons from a metal surface) has been developed so that solar energy may be used to help power the radio transmissions of space vehicles and satellites. The device is usually referred to as a ‘solar cell’. The recent edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (Vol. 2, 769) has this to say:

‘Little use has been made of (solar) cells in terrestrial operation, owing . . . to the poor efficiency of the cells, and their high cost.’

He continues—

To collect 0.06 per cent of all the sunlight not reflected by cloud (i.e. about  $6.10^{14}$  kWh per year) our cells would be required to cover about 1 per cent of all the land surface of the Earth, an area of about 1 million square kilometres, an area comparable in size to Western Europe. With each cell 10 square centimetres in area there would need to be 1 000 000 000 000 000 of them, and they would cost (even at our low price) 100 000 000 million.

By the way, he charges the cells out at 1p per square centimetre. He continues—

By now the imagination begins to reel. But we still have to collect all the minute quantities of electricity emerging all the time from each of our  $10^{15}$  cells. How is this to be done with good efficiency? It isn't, of course, and only irresponsible people would let the lives of 4 000 million people turn on such an expensive, untried idea.

Professor Hoyle continues—

We might think of focusing sunlight with mirrors, perhaps using the focused sunlight to boil water. But even if each mirror covered 10 000 square metres (larger than the radio-telescope at Jodrell Bank), and even if the systems were 100 per cent efficient, there would still need to be 20 million water boilers. Steam would need to be piped from each of them to central power stations,

without loss of efficiency, and an area of several hundred thousand square kilometres would need to be covered by mirrors. This project too is nonsense. Small-scale solar projects for the home may make sense, if you can afford one of them, but I have not yet seen any large-scale sunlight-collection project that would be likely in the foreseeable future to deliver as much energy in its use as it consumed in its manufacture.

Professor Hoyle is proving a point. He certainly does not condemn research into the use of solar energy; as a matter of fact, he was simply proving how necessary such research was.

He referred to its use for small domestic purposes. In this connection, I have a letter from the General Manager of the State Housing Commission (Mr Ken McKenna) which was written to me on the 24th October, 1977. I quote—

In the present state of technology known to the Commission, the capital and labour cost of installation, and future maintenance costs on solar hot water systems is very high compared with gas systems.

This letter came in response to my probing him as to why the commission was using gas and other systems which are expensive for the tenant to operate on a day-by-day basis. Of course, I suggested he should be using solar systems. Mr McKenna went on to say—

The Commission's estimate is that the cost of the unit installed could be in the region of \$900.

I was particularly referring to the town of Wyndham. He continues—

The question of maintenance also appears to be a problem, if not the main problem. In areas where hard water exists—and this is applicable to many North-west Towns although, admittedly, not to Wyndham—the life of the solar heater is comparatively short, and local Manufacturers of solar water heaters will not give any warranty on units where they are installed in such areas.

Later he says—

To this end, Commission Officers are currently involved in a series of discussions at senior level with Officers of the State Energy Commission—with a view to developing a programme of co-operation between the two Commissions in the field of solar energy.

Again, we are pleased to see the State Housing Commission taking this initiative. So, even as late

as 1977, and even in the field of small domestic solar installations we have a long way to go.

I thought I would end this contribution to the debate by quoting from a letter written to *The Age* by Sir Macfarlane Burnet dated Monday, the 12th August, 1977. The heading the newspaper has given to this letter is, "Uranium can bankroll solar power research".

Most of us will recall that Sir Macfarlane Burnet is one of Australia's most eminent scientists and a Nobel prizewinner in the field of medicine. As a biologist, Sir Macfarlane Burnet has always sought to protect the structure of living organisms. He wanted to see the reproduction and development of these living organisms evolve in an environment free from damaging radiation.

Thus it came as a surprise to most people when he came out publicly advocating the mining of uranium. Clearly, we all must be impressed by the opinion of a man of his stature. In his letter he discussed alternative energy sources such as hydroelectric, wind, wave, tide, photoelectric, and photochemical. He goes on to say—

... finally large scale physical collection of solar energy for the major electricity power stations of the future. Such research and development will be needed at national levels as well as in multinational co-operative projects, and it will be very expensive.

He continues—

... Australian Governments will need to ensure, first, that a large proportion of the royalties they will demand and receive—

That is, receive from the mining and sale of uranium. He continues—

—shall be used for research and development in the field of alternative energy sources appropriate to Australia's requirements. Again following the report, the most important of these would concern the various ways by which solar energy can be utilised.

The reports to which he refers are the Ranger reports. He continues—

It should also be axiomatic that companies mining and exporting uranium accept the responsibility for a major share in designing, building and operating appropriate alternative energy projects as they are needed.

Within 100 years the world must be firmly set on the road toward the use of solar energy as the source, by one technique or another, of all the industrial power that will be needed

for the whole foreseeable future of the world. It is surely appropriate that Australia's windfall profits from its uranium should be applied in both public and private sectors toward this most urgent of all long term objectives.

Sir Macfarlane Burnet has a good conception of the way he sees uranium mining should be developed and the revenue derived used to provide the solar energy requirements of the longer-term future. It is interesting to note his time scale. The Minister in his second reading speech refers to a period of 25 years before we see a material gain in this field. However, both Sir Macfarlane Burnet and Professor Hoyle believe we are looking at a time scale of 100 years before we can see any material, large-scale power availability from solar energy sources.

Certainly, at this stage of time we have not acquired the techniques we are going to need to develop in order to use those sources. But men of the calibre of Sir Macfarlane Burnet and Professor Hoyle clearly see this as a possibility for the future.

The Hon. G. W. Berry: When was Professor Hoyle's book written?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: It has only recently hit the stands in London and I asked my son to send it to me. The book was first published in 1977.

The Hon. Claude Stubbs gave the House some interesting illustrations of the power of the sun. I have an equally interesting local application of the colossal power generated by the sun. It comes from a little publication called "Background Notes on Dampier Salt Limited". This company held a small function a week or two ago, and one of the statements contained in this booklet really took my notice. The average amount of water evaporated per day over the salt fields—that is, the evaporating ponds and the crystallising ponds of the Dampier salt fields—is 350 000 tonnes.

The peak amount of evaporation in a day in summer is one million tonnes of water! That is a colossal amount of water that is pulled up from the Dampier salt fields on one hot day in summer. Clearly, it is an incredibly powerful force which is at work when this can happen.

I think all members will recognise we have a very long and hard row to hoe to effectively harness in a large and practical scale and manner the potential of solar energy. But we must get going and I believe this institute, and the appointment of a solar energy advisory committee present a good starting point. In the long term, it may well grow into the type of research

institution we seek for Western Australia in the future.

THE HON. F. E. McKENZIE (East Metropolitan) [9.12 p.m.]: I support the Bill, the principle of which is very commendable. In my view, all that can be said is that it is too little, too late. We now have before us the problem of uranium, which threatens to divide the nation.

The Hon. John Tozer said that Sir Macfarlane Burnet had altered his viewpoint about mining uranium. I believe if the letter was not taken out of context but was read right through, one would realise he has changed his mind very reluctantly.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: Surely that is exactly what I implied?

The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE: It is, but it is necessary to read the entire letter to gain an appreciation of what he was saying. My understanding of his letter was that he was not happy about the situation, but that he has come to the conclusion it is necessary to mine the uranium. That may be his point of view, but it certainly is not mine.

I believe if money had been expended earlier on solar research the present problems with regard to the mining of uranium would not be before us. The one important thing about solar energy is that it is a clean source of energy. If proper research is carried out into the development of solar energy sources probably we will find in time the sun can be harnessed economically, which will be of benefit not only to Australia but also to the rest of the world.

My main reason for entering the debate is that I am concerned about the manner in which the research institute is to be established. In his second reading speech the Minister stated the committee would have representatives from the Confederation of WA Industry, the Chamber of Mines, the Perth Chamber of Commerce, each of the two universities, the WA Institute of Technology, CSIRO, and the Department of Industrial Development, as well as any other persons the Minister may consider appropriate from time to time.

I hope the Minister would consider as appropriate a representative from the Trades and Labor Council. The Confederation of Western Australian Industry has a berth on the solar energy advisory committee and if the confederation has a berth, I see no reason that the trade union movement which supplies the labour for any solar energy industry should not have a berth on it also.

I know it was not included in the working party either, but the fact that it was not included in the



working party does not mean it cannot be given a berth on the solar energy advisory committee if one accepts what is said by the Minister in his second reading speech—

... such other persons, if any that the Minister considers appropriate ...

as being accurate.

The other point I am concerned about, and the Minister may answer this one, is clause 13 (1) of the Bill which states—

The Directors—

shall be appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister from amongst persons who appear to the Minister to be qualified by training or experience in the physical sciences, applied sciences, engineering, finance, administration, marketing, or any other field that is, in the opinion of the Minister, relevant to the functions of the Institute;

I have no argument with that and I think it gives the Minister a very wide range which would enable him to make a suitable selection.

I do not believe the retention of clauses 13(1) (b) and 13 (2) (a) and (b) is necessary. What concerns me is clause 13 (2) (a) which states—

the Energy Advisory Council established under Part IIIA of the State Energy Commission Act, 1945 shall, upon being so requested by the Minister, submit in writing to the Minister a panel containing the names of a number of persons (being a number not fewer than three times the number of offices to be filled) each of whom is willing to accept appointment as a Director;

Clause 13(2)(b) states—

the Minister shall select for nomination one or two persons (as the case may require) named in the panel submitted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection.

I cannot see any reason for the Energy Advisory Council to become involved in recommending to the Minister who the appointee should be. In fact, I believe the Energy Advisory Council would, therefore, have an unavoidable interest in protecting the *status quo*, because the Energy Advisory Council, which is established under the State Energy Commission Act, provides for a representative from the Chamber of Manufactures and a representative from the Chamber of Mines to be permanent members and they, in turn, as I read the Act—and the Minister may correct me if I am wrong—have power to make recommendations for representatives.

I am concerned about the interests of the

mining people and the fact that if they are making the recommendations to the Minister it would be in their own interest to ensure if uranium mining was under way that it continued. For that reason I would rather see the Minister act under clause 31 (1) (a). I see no reason for him to accept the advice of the Energy Advisory Council, because I believe the Chamber of Mines would have an interest in protecting the uranium industry. If the council is recommending a panel of people for appointment as directors and the Minister has to make a choice from it, the names submitted to him would be the names of those persons who it is known would protect their own industry. I do not know whether that would be a fact; but it certainly gives me some cause for concern. I do not think there is any need for it.

I think clause 31 is wide enough to give the Minister power to appoint whoever he desires without having to accept recommendations from the Energy Advisory Council. I will listen very intently to the remarks of the Minister when he replies and if I am still dissatisfied I may speak when the clause is discussed during the Committee stage.

I support the measure. I believe it is necessary. I know it will require large sums of money. It is essential, because nobody has yet convinced me there is a safe way of disposing of the wastes resulting from the use of uranium for nuclear energy. Until such time as a safe method of disposal is discovered, I believe money should be spent on research into alternative forms of energy.

I know it is difficult for Governments to allocate large sums of money. The amount of \$250 000 is not a large sum but it is the largest sum that the Government in its wisdom has decided to allocate at the present time. I would have preferred to see more money allocated; but at least we should be grateful that something is being done and a move is being made to proceed with research into solar energy. Western Australia has the right climate for that sort of exercise. I support the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Hetherington.

## BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Administration Act Amendment Bill.
2. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

# GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 25th October.

**THE HON. F. E. MCKENZIE** (East Metropolitan) [9.22 p.m.]: It is quite easy to support this Bill, because when one reads the three items which are involved in the alterations to the Railways Act one realises it is necessary to have these changes.

The first change on which I wish to comment is the formation of the Australian Railway Research and Development Organisation and I note the Minister on page 4 of his second reading speech stated as follows—

We have assurances from the Commonwealth Minister for Transport that the Commonwealth will finance 50 per cent of the cost of establishing ARRDO on condition that the States involved agree to sharing the other 50 per cent.

Therefore, it can be seen the Commonwealth has agreed to fund this venture on a 50 per cent basis. On page 6 of the Minister's second reading speech he said—

If the railway systems are to develop as an effective national industry it is essential they share in disbursement of Commonwealth resources to the transport sector.

Insufficient Commonwealth funds have been allocated to the railways in the past and consequently their situation has been gradually eroded over the years. The lack of national awareness of the financial needs of railways on an industry basis is a prime cause for this situation. It is also the prime reason for establishing ARRDO.

That statement is factual. I believe insufficient Commonwealth funds have been allocated to the railways in the past. I do not know the reason for this, but if it is as the Minister states in his second reading speech, then it is very necessary for the railway systems of Australia to come together and to set up this organisation in order that a properly documented case may be presented to the Commonwealth supporting the allocation of Commonwealth funds to the railway industry.

I believe that the roads lobby, a very powerful lobby, has for many years past had things very much its own way in respect of the allocation of Commonwealth funds, and as a result, the railways have suffered. The establishment of this research unit is in the interests of the railway industry throughout Australia and I support the amendment to the Railways Act which provides

for Westrail to become a member of the research unit and to assist in its funding. As a result, I hope in the future we will see more moneys allocated to the railway industry so that it can be viable and can serve the community as it ought to have been serving the community for a long time past.

I shall move on to the second feature which is the question of allowing the Railways Commission to remove vehicles which have been abandoned. I think it is necessary and it is sensible. In the present situation people may leave their vehicles on railway land and vandals damage them, creating all sorts of problems. These vehicles become an eyesore.

It is necessary that the commission be given the power to remove the vehicles and that the owners have some protection. If one looks at the amendment to the Act one can see the vehicle must be offered for sale by public auction if it has not been claimed after a period of two months. Alternatively it may be sold in another manner. However, prior to that an advertisement must be inserted in *The West Australian* or a newspaper circulating throughout the State in an endeavour to find the owner. Other action must also be taken to try to locate the owner of the vehicle.

It is only after this action has failed that the vehicle may finally be auctioned. Even after it has been auctioned, if the owner is located within one year the proceeds, after all expenses have been deducted, are then returned to the owner.

This amendment to the Act has been necessary for a long time. In respect of the final matter, which is the deletion of the words "death benefit" from the death benefit and endowment fund, I believe that is necessary because now there are only 26 members with an average age of 81 years in the death benefit section of the fund.

I shall comment on the endowment portion of the fund which will remain. The only matter with which I do not agree, but which I certainly would not try to upset, is the fact that any railway man is compulsorily required to belong either to the endowment fund or, alternatively, to the superannuation scheme. As I say, I am not sure that it ought to be compulsory; but I accept it as such.

Certainly the compulsion aspect was necessary when the fund was first introduced in 1934, because the economic circumstances under which people lived in those times were entirely different from the economic circumstances today. It ensures that if a person dies whilst he is a permanent employee of Westrail, some moneys

will go to his next of kin. It has proved beneficial on many occasions.

The officers who administer the endowment fund always endeavour, in cases of sudden death, to provide loans to the widow so she is not left destitute. It certainly has some advantages in that respect.

Furthermore, when a person retires, the endowment fund payments are made. The system of insuring one's life is similar to the endowment system operated by insurance companies, but I believe, from what I have been able to gather, that the returns are much greater than one would receive from the insurance companies.

Additionally people utilise the scheme to borrow funds for short-term loans so in itself the endowment fund, which will remain, certainly has its advantages.

There is nothing else I want to say on the Bill except that the amendments are necessary and we support them.

**THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH** (South—Minister for Transport) [9.31 p.m.]: I thank the honourable member for his contribution to the debate and his support of the Bill. The new organisation should be of great benefit to the general railway system. We have heard a great deal about the lack of interest the Government has shown in our railways and I have even heard some criticism of the commissioner. However, this particular item happens to be his baby. He has played a major part in its establishment and he is to be complimented for this. I am sure that as a result more funds will be set aside for that mode of transport. Undoubtedly the road transport group has a very large and strong lobby and there is a need for additional funds for the railways.

As members will know we have entered into a major rehabilitation programme for the Kalgoorlie line. We have already let contracts for sleepers for the full length of the line and we are currently finalising tenders for the fixing of rails to those sleepers. This will cost well over \$20 million and to date we have not received a cent from the Federal Government. To date it has all been done entirely with State funds. The proposal has been submitted to the Federal Government which has approved of it for inclusion in an updating programme at some time in the future, but to date it has not indicated any firm funding, and of course it will be vital that we get some Federal funds before we go into the next stage which will follow very soon.

Within a year some of the sleepers will be rolling off the production line and it is intended that new rail will be put directly on the new

sleepers; in other words, we will not just be replacing the sleepers under the old line.

Let us hope that the new organisation supports this programme and that more funds come from the Federal Government for the railways.

I am glad the honourable member and the Opposition support the amendments. I have not had a great deal of experience with the endowment scheme, but I hear from railway men that it is very well administered and is a good scheme indeed.

I thank the Opposition for its support of the Bill which I commend to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

## **APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) (No. 2)**

### *Consideration of Tabled Paper*

Debate resumed, from the 25th October, on the following motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House)—

That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 151, the Council take note of tabled paper No. 245 (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and related papers), laid upon the Table of the House on 21st September, 1977.

**THE HON. V. J. FERRY** (South-West) [9.36 p.m.]: In supporting the motion I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to touch on three or four items. Firstly, I wish to draw attention to several matters contained in the papers under discussion and, in particular, to the item "Miscellaneous services" under the heading of "Grants and subsidies" provided for under the Premier and Treasurer's Department. This item contains a number of listings and my special interest tonight is in the support the Government gives to charity appeals.

In particular I refer to the appeals conducted by television stations. Very recently a most successful appeal was conducted by Channel 7 in Perth and a figure of approximately \$905 000 was raised in a 24-hour appeal. Similarly, Channel 9 conducts an annual Appealathon and earlier this year it raised something in the order of \$692 000. These figures are approximate, but they are accurate enough for my purpose tonight.

Next weekend in the south-west, South Western Telecasters Limited, operating Channels

3, 9, and 10, is conducting what has become now an annual event called Telehelp. I believe the appeal this year is the fourth which has been held and I wish to commend not only the management of the company, but also the staff and everyone else associated with the appeal. This year the proceeds will be split three ways between the organisations the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation of WA, the Asthma Foundation of WA, and the Slow Learning Children's Group of WA (Inc.)

The three previous appeals have raised a total in excess of \$264 000. My guess—and it is only a guess at this stage obviously—is that this year the appeal will raise in excess of \$100 000 for the first time. Compared with Appealathon and Telethon this may not seem a great deal of money, but I would like to remind the House that the money comes from the south-west corner of the State which includes the lower great southern area within the viewing region of the transmitting station.

The great thing about the appeal is that it involves everyone in the community as do the appeals in the metropolitan area. Since Telehelp has been conducted from Channel 3 at Bunbury, the south-west corner of the State has been richer in its community spirit and I have no doubt that the appeal will be thoroughly supported next weekend.

I would like especially to thank the many artists and others who have devoted so much time to the event so far and those who will continue to give so much time and talent over the appeal periods in future.

I wish to commend the Government—and it is not only this Government, because all Governments tend to help those communities which help themselves—for making grants available to Telehelp, Appealathon, and Telethon. I notice that each year the contributions from the State Government increase, and so they should because the amount of money raised from the general public annually by each of these charity appeals is increasing. So it is appropriate that the appeals should receive support and encouragement from the Government.

Another item on which I wish to touch briefly concerns the National Parks Authority. It will be recalled that only last year Parliament passed legislation to constitute the authority. When one looks firstly at the annual report of the National Parks Board for the year ended the 30th June, 1976, and the annual report of the authority for the year ended the 30th June, 1977, following the legislation passed last year, one can readily realise

the gigantic task the authority as it is now constituted has in supervising, promoting, and preserving the parks and reserves throughout Western Australia.

As at the 30th June, 1976, the authority was in charge of 2 281 450 hectares of parks and reserves and 12 months later, at the 30th June, 1977, it was responsible for a total of 3 871 505 hectares which, roughly, is an increase of 1.6 million hectares in 12 months.

Quite obviously the authority will require more resources and more manpower to ensure that the parks and reserves can be enjoyed to a reasonable extent by the public. By "reasonable extent" I do not mean that we should exploit them unmercifully, but that we should preserve them for posterity hopefully so that all people can enjoy them in a reasonable way. Obviously certain restrictions will be placed upon some areas for good and sound reasons, but my earnest hope is that the restrictions will be sensible and will not be too severe so that the public may enjoy the parks and reserves for the purpose for which they are established.

This prompts me to refer to the staff of the authority. I note from the annual reports that on the 30th June, 1976, there was a total of 51 rangers on the staff while 12 months later, on the 30th June, 1977, the staff included 59 rangers.

My guess is that this is not nearly enough. When we consider the enormous areas involved and the physical problems associated with supervising the parks and reserves throughout the State, we are indeed aware of the need for more manpower. I note the following comment in the last report—

Estimates of staff requirements based on present and anticipated pressures of public use during the next five years have been prepared and submitted for Treasury consideration.

I would like to recommend to the Government that it give very sympathetic consideration indeed to the request from the National Parks Authority for assistance in carrying out the obligations delegated to it under legislation through this Parliament. Obviously the work of the authority will be conducted stage by stage and there are problems of priorities. However, I come back to the point that the authority must have sufficient funds to carry out its charter, and indeed funds will make it possible for appropriate staff to be suitably employed. Therefore, I make this plea for sympathetic consideration by the Government and the Treasury so that the people of Western Australia can enjoy the reservations that have

been set aside for the use of the people. The authority has been charged with a duty, and therefore the Government of the day must support it as much as possible.

Another matter I wish to touch on is the remarkable contribution that has been made to the development of country areas by the State Energy Commission and particularly through the commission's contributory extension scheme which was established in 1959, although it really did not become operative until 1960. It has achieved a great deal over those 17 years.

Over this period a total of 15 139 rural customers have been served with a public electricity supply under this scheme. These customers are people in rural areas, be they farmers, timber mill operators, or the owners of small businesses. It is worthy of note that the SEC through this contributory scheme has now supplied something like 85 per cent of all the potential rural customers of this State. This is a tremendous achievement in only 17 years.

Over this same period electricity has been supplied to approximately 75 per cent of all the people in the South-West Land Division. Carrying out a further analysis, I realised it is to the credit of the SEC that the public electricity power supply is available to some 95 per cent of potential customers below the 26th parallel. We have now reached the stage where the potential customers in rural areas who have not been serviced represent something less than 1 per cent of the total number of customers available to the SEC. So when one considers the role played by the SEC in the development of this State by supplying electricity for industrial, commercial, and indeed domestic use, one realises it is a tremendous achievement.

In the financial year 1976-77, no less than 1 378 new rural customers were connected to the contributory scheme. I believe that was the second largest number of connections in any one year since 1960. Looking at the figures, that leaves about 2 800 customers yet to be connected in rural areas. I realise that the scheme costs money and as the name implies, the customers contribute a certain sum of money and the SEC provides the balance. So this supply of electricity to so many people has not been achieved cheaply, but never mind that; it is a thoroughly workable scheme. Costs are continuing to rise in every area and there will be continuing difficulties. Nevertheless, when one reflects on those figures one realises readily what this development has meant to the people who operate dairies, shearing sheds, and machine shops on their properties, as well as those

who operate timber mills and irrigation plant and equipment.

People on rural properties are now able to enjoy electricity in their homes to operate refrigerators, cake mixers, television sets particularly, electric stoves, toasters, and irons, and in fact all the appliances that people in the metropolitan area enjoy. All this has been achieved in the last 17 years.

We need to take stock of the situation, and to remind ourselves of what this means to the State as a whole and particularly to the farmers, the housewives, and the children. They can now enjoy the benefits of progress and all its ramifications along with their city cousins.

On a lighter note, but one which needs to be expressed in some way, I want to refer to the abuse and perhaps misuse of the English language. I suppose the two little words "you know" are used more today than any other words in the English language. It is a universal habit among English-speaking people, and I suggest it is one which has been acquired by people in all strata of society. It flows from one person to another, but it seems to be used most frequently in Australia today.

You know, Mr President, I think the problem should be tackled at school level and even in this Parliament! How often do we hear someone being interviewed about an incident, whether on radio or television, and when the interviewer asks the person what he saw of the incident the person begins by saying "You know"? If the interviewer knew, he would not ask the question.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am not so sure about that.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: You know, Mr President, this is not good enough! We can have the silly situation where an interviewer might ask a person what he saw of a road accident and that person will reply, "You know, this car was coming along, you know, the road, and it was, you know, trying to take, you know, the corner, and it did not take the corner and, you know, I was standing here and I saw it leaving the road and, you know, it careered through the fence and a lady happened to be in her bedroom and, you know, the car careered through the wall and, you know, the lady was actually shocked and, you know", and so on. One does not know and one is bursting to hear about it.

I therefore suggest the use of the words "you know" in this context should be erased from the English language, because when one is trying to describe an incident one should not use the words

"you know". The listener is waiting with bated breath to know what it is all about.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: My wife says I do that all the time.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: Perhaps we can give attention to the way we use the English language. I am probably the greatest offender, but I think the English language is tricky enough without using the phrase "you know".

You know, Mr President, I support the motion!

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. M. McAleer.

### BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Offenders Probation and Parole Act Amendment Bill.
2. Securities Industry (Release of Sureties) Bill.
3. Justices Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

*House adjourned at 9.58 p.m.*

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### FIRE BRIGADE

##### Norseman

205. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Leader of the House, representing the Chief Secretary:

With reference to the Norseman Fire Station Assessment of 1977-78, how much money is in the following Funds—

- (a) Motor Replacement and Maintenance Fund;
- (b) Land and Building Replacement Fund; and
- (c) Hydrants?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon replied:

As at 1/7/77—

- (a) \$8 468 Cr.
- (b) \$2 933 Dr.
- (c) Nil.

#### TRAFFIC

##### Kwinana Freeway

206. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House, representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Will the Minister take action to ensure that "reduce speed" signs at the end of the Kwinana Freeway at the approach to Canning Bridge are observed by motorists, as the non-observance of the

law at the present time is creating a hazard for workers engaged on roadworks in the area concerned?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon replied:

Yes. Traffic patrols will give additional attention to the area for the purpose requested.

Additional signs are also being considered.

### FIRE BRIGADES

#### Volunteer

207. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Leader of the House, representing the Chief Secretary:

With reference to the following volunteer fire brigades—

- (a) Norseman;
- (b) Coolgardie;
- (c) Kambalda;
- (d) Leonora;
- (e) Laverton;
- (f) Southern Cross; and
- (g) Esperance—

- (i) how much has it cost annually over the previous five years for the Headquarters officer inspection;
- (ii) how were the expenses incurred;
- (iii) what mode of travel is used by the officer; and
- (iv) what are the estimated costs for 1977-78?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon replied:

(i)

	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c
Norseman	1 380.22	1 603.46	2 088.83	2 504.02	2 562.84
Coolgardie	1 380.22	1 603.46	2 088.83	2 504.02	2 562.84
Leonora	1 380.22	1 603.46	2 088.83	2 504.02	2 562.84
Laverton	1 380.22	1 603.46	2 088.83	2 504.02	2 562.84
Southern Cross	1 380.22	1 603.46	2 088.83	2 504.02	2 562.84
Esperance	1 380.22	1 603.46	2 088.02	2 504.02	2 562.84

Kambalda is a registered private brigade and the Company meets costs.

- (ii) In training and supervision of the Brigade and management of matters affecting the Brigade, e.g. upkeep of premises, hydrants, motors and equipment, and fire prevention matters in the town generally.
- (iii) Motor vehicle.

- (iv) Norseman, \$3 166;
- Coolgardie, \$3 166;
- Kambalda, see reference in (1) above;
- Leonora, \$3 166;
- Laverton, \$3 166;
- Southern Cross, \$3 166;
- Esperance, \$3 166.

### SHEEP

#### *Dipping*

208. The Hon. V. J. Ferry (for the Hon. H. W. GAYFER), to the Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Since compulsory dipping regulations have been eased is there any noticeable increase in the number of flocks quarantined with lice infestation?
- (2) If the increase in quarantine flocks is substantial, does the Department believe it is the result of the relaxation of compulsory dipping laws?
- (3) If not, why not?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The increase in the number of lice infested flocks in quarantine is believed to reflect increased detection by the Department rather than an increased incidence in lice. In some cases, the cessation of dipping has assisted in the

detection of lice by permitting previously unapparent infestations to develop to a level where detection has occurred.

### POLICE

#### *Cunderdin Complex*

209. The Hon. V. J. Ferry (for the Hon. H. W. GAYFER), to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it correct that the roof of the new police complex in Cunderdin is to be of other than conventional tiles?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) what is the material to be used;
  - (b) what is the cost saving against tile; and
  - (c) are there any other reasons for this decision?
- (3) Is it a fact that the roof trusses and rafters have been designed to carry conventional tiles?  
If so, why?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) asbestos;
- (b) \$2 000;
- (c) Asbestos sheeting, being of lighter weight, is considered a safer building material to use in an earthquake zone.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.