

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 7 April 1981

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

## TRAFFIC

### *Reduction of Road Carnage: Petition*

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [4.32 p.m.]: I have a petition to present to the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly which reads as follows—

We, the undersigned and residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia shall continue to support the effective measures being used by the Road Traffic Authority to reduce the carnage on our roads.

Further that they will introduce necessary legislation to reduce the legal blood alcohol limit from 0.08 to 0.05 as now applying in Victoria and New South Wales, and require compulsory alcohol tests for all traffic victims admitted to hospital.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition bears 66 signatures and I have certified that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 24.)

## AIR TRANSPORT

### *Commonwealth Government Policy: Standing Orders Suspension*

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [4.33 p.m.]: I move, without notice—

That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the following motion to be moved forthwith, without notice, and to be proceeded upon prior to the adoption of the Address-In-Reply:

The Parliament of Western Australia views with grave concern the action taken by the Federal Government in launching Australia's new internal airfare package.

This Parliament deplores the institution of this policy which it believes is directed against the best interests of the State of Western Australia.

The elected representatives of the people of Western Australia in this Parliament assembled assert their right to determine what matters are in the best interests of the people of Western Australia, and call upon all Federal members representing Western Australia in the House of Representatives and the Senate to use their voting powers to ensure those interests are served by the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Holcroft enquiry.

I appreciate that in moving this motion I may be imposing on the time of members who wish to speak to the Address-in-Reply debate. However, the members of the National Party felt there was no alternative because the issue is so topical and because it appears that a great deal of misinformation is being disseminated through the Press.

Perhaps the alternative could have been to wait until the completion of the Address-in-Reply and to proceed with a normal private member's motion; however, that could be weeks away and if the Government and the Opposition support this motion, there need be no undue delay because the issues are fairly clear cut. We need have brief speeches only and hopefully they would be followed by a unanimous vote of the House.

We, in the National Party, believe it is very important that the Western Australian members of the Federal Government understand the feelings of the people of Western Australia, as expressed by members of this House. We are the representatives of the people of Western Australia.

Question put and a division taken with the following results—

Ayes 23

Mr Barnett	Mr Jamieson
Mr Bertram	Mr McIver
Mr Bridge	Mr McPharlin
Mr Bryce	Mr Parker
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr Pearce
Mr Cowan	Mr Skidmore
Mr Davies	Mr Stephens
Mr E. T. Evans	Mr Taylor
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr Tonkin
Mr Grill	Mr Wilson
Mr Harman	Mr Bateman
Mr Hodge	

(Teller)

## Noes 26

Mr Blaikie	Mr Nanovich
Mr Clarko	Mr O'Connor
Sir Charles Court	Mr Old
Mr Coyne	Mr Rushton
Mrs Craig	Mr Sibson
Mr Crane	Mr Sodeman
Dr Dadour	Mr Spriggs
Mr Grayden	Mr Trethowan
Mr Grewar	Mr Tubby
Mr Hassell	Mr Watt
Mr Herzfeld	Mr Williams
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Young
Mr Laurance	Mr Shalders

(Teller)

## Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr Carr	Mr MacKinnon
Mr T. H. Jones	Mr Mensaros

Question thus negatived.

Motion defeated.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

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

**GENERAL INSURANCE BROKERS  
AND AGENTS BILL***Second Reading*

**MR HASSELL** (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary)  
[4.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to establish an insurance brokers licensing board to control licensing of insurance brokers and registration of agents engaged in general insurance business.

Following many complaints to the Government early in 1980, a working party comprising—

the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs;  
the General Manager, State Government Insurance Office;  
and representatives of—

the Insurance Council of Australia Ltd.  
the Life Insurance Federation of Australia, and the  
Insurance Brokers Council of Australia,

was asked to investigate and report to the Government.

The working party's terms of reference were—

- (a) to investigate and report upon the reasons for the recent failures of insurance brokers in Western Australia;

- (b) to investigate the possibility of further failures occurring and to recommend measures, if any, which could be taken immediately to protect consumers and insurers; and

- (c) to investigate and report upon the desirability for the control of the operation of insurance brokers and the form it should take.

In July 1980 the working party reported to the Government outlining the main reasons for broker failures as being—

- (a) lack of relevant insurance and/or business experience on the part of the principals;  
(b) inept management;  
(c) insufficient working capital;  
(d) poor credit management by broking firms, particularly the failure to maintain adequate collection procedures for payments due from clients;  
(e) poor credit management by insurers.

Some insurance companies and underwriters allowed broking firms very long credit terms. Follow-up action and failure to insist on remission of premium payments was, in some cases, extremely lax.

As a result of that report, and general public disquiet about continuing failures, the Government in August 1980 announced its intention to recommend legislation to control insurance brokers and agents.

Since that date, the Government has examined numerous submissions from the insurance industry and the report of the Commonwealth Law Reform Commission on insurance agents and brokers.

The Bill now before the House will establish an insurance brokers licensing board composed of four members: two independent of the insurance industry, one to represent the Insurance Council of Australia Ltd., and one licensed insurance broker elected by fellow brokers. The initial appointment of the broker member will be on the nomination of the Minister.

Brokers engaged in general insurance business, other than life insurance business, will need to be licensed under the provisions of the Bill. The penalty for carrying on business as an unlicensed broker will be \$10 000.

Under the proposed law, the board may grant a licence if it is satisfied that a broker is—

- (a) a person of good character and repute and is fit to hold a licence;  
(b) a qualified person;

- (c) a person who has sufficient material and financial resources available to him to enable him to carry on business as an insurance broker; and
- (d) insured in compliance with the Bill.

All those requirements are cumulative.

"Qualified person" means a person who has such qualification by way of experience or otherwise as is prescribed, or if no qualification is prescribed, such qualification by way of experience or otherwise as is approved.

Initially no academic qualification will be prescribed. Generally, it would be expected that the board would expect an applicant to have at least some years' experience as a broker or in the general insurance broking industry.

The Bill provides that brokers must maintain insurance policies for professional indemnity and fidelity cover to the value of at least \$100 000 in each category. Provision is made for the sum of \$100 000 to be increased overall by proclamation, or varied by the board in individual cases.

Provision exists for firms and bodies corporate to be licensed so long as the person in bona fide control of the firm or body corporate is a qualified person within the meaning of the Bill. Agents engaged in general insurance business will need to be registered with the board.

The definition of "insurance broker" is—

- (a) A person whose business, either alone or as part of or in connection with any other business, is to act, for or in expectation of gain, as an agent for insureds or intending insureds in the transaction of general insurance business, or
- (b) an insurance agent who is a party to agency agreements with four or more insurers.

I am sure members generally will understand that the essential difference between a broker and an agent is that a broker acts on behalf of and as the agent for people seeking insurance, whereas an agent is the agent of the insurance company or insurance companies which he represents.

It was considered by the working party that the great majority of agents operating in the general insurance field would be able to obtain a sufficient variety of markets for clients for all classes of general insurance business, with access to only three insurance companies. Those agents will remain exempted from the requirements of licensing under the proposed Act, and will be required only to register with the board.

An agent acting for four or more insurers will, under the legislation, be required to obtain a licence under the Act. This is considered to be the only practical way to ensure that the purpose of the legislation is not effectively defeated by brokers who do not wish to become licensed transferring all their operations to agency arrangements.

An agent acting for a number of insurers in effect becomes a broker; he has access to a large amount of premium moneys, and achieves a size of operation and method of operation which makes him indistinguishable in practice from brokers.

The purpose of the Bill is to offer protection to the insured. The Government considers that an agent for four or more insurers would have sufficient volume of business, and access to premiums, to warrant the public being afforded the same protection as for transactions with brokers.

For this reason, the Bill provides that registered agents, party to agency agreements with four or more insurers, shall be required to be licensed as insurance brokers.

The Bill provides a right of appeal to the District Court against decisions of the board, particularly in relation to refusals, cancellations, or suspensions of licences. The Act will enable the board to determine, in the event of termination, cancellation, or suspension of a licence, the manner in which the business may be wound up. The intention of this provision is to safeguard the interests of the insured party. The board would advise the insured party of a broker's failure and suggest alternative arrangements. The broker will be prohibited from undertaking further insurance business in those circumstances, with a penalty of \$10 000 for non-compliance.

Brokers will be subject to annual licensing and agents to triennial registration. Insurers will be required to submit to the board annually details of any new agency agreements entered into.

Life insurance business has been excluded from the Bill deliberately. The majority of life insurance business is written by the larger mutual offices operating on a sole agency basis. Life insurance protection does not normally commence until all documentation is completed and the premium has been paid to the company. There is limited credit risk and this field is adequately controlled by the Life Insurance Commissioner under the Commonwealth Life Insurance Act.

Brokers will be required to maintain an insurance broking account with a bank, and the Bill defines the specific purpose for which the

account may be used. Brokers will be required to pay to the credit of the account all moneys, including brokerage, received by them through any source relating to insurance transactions, and to submit annual audited statements of their insurance broking account to the board when applying for renewal of a licence. Withdrawals from the insurance broking account will be for purposes specified in the Bill, including short-term investments, brokerage, and fees.

Short-term investment is defined in the Bill by reference to the Trustees Act, confining such investments to banks, building societies, the short-term money market approved by the Reserve Bank, and common trust funds of trustee corporations.

Provision exists for other methods of investment to be prescribed, if considered necessary. However, it is considered that the fields of investment specified in the Bill would account for approximately 90 per cent of current investments by reputable brokers. A broker will be required to pay into the insurance broking account the difference between the amount invested and the amount realised in cases of investment losses. This action must be taken before any withdrawals may be made from capital or income surpluses which have been received.

The Government considers that legislative control of general insurance brokers and agents is essential, particularly when related to the number of recent failures of brokers in this State.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamieson.

## STATE TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION BILL

### *Second Reading*

**MR RUSHTON** (Dale—Minister for Transport) [4.54 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill repeals the State Transport Co-ordination Act 1966-1980, provides for the new position of co-ordinator general of transport, and sets out the responsibilities and functions of the position. It abolishes the Transport Advisory Council and the Transport Users' Board and, in their stead, establishes the concept of the transport strategy committee.

In June 1966, the then Commissioner of Railways (Mr Cyril Wayne) presented to the Government his *Overall Review of Transport in Western Australia*. Mr Wayne pointed out quite properly the need to ensure that Western Australia's transport policy, covering both public

and private operations, should be focused in a deliberate and co-ordinated manner. His suggestion was that a Western Australian transport authority, as he called it, should be set up, with a director general of transport as its permanent head. Mr Wayne envisaged quite widespread new powers for his new authority, including the active implementation of "policy control" over both private road transport and air operations, as well as the four Government transport agencies at that time—Railways, MTT, the Coastal Shipping Commission, and the Transport Commission.

In its wisdom the Government decided to establish the proposed position of director general, but not to establish the proposed authority and not to give the director general the proposed significant powers of intervention in the affairs of the other bodies.

I think it fair to say that there were three main reasons behind the approach the Government took. These reasons are at least as relevant today. Firstly, it was recognised that the responsibility for determination and execution of overall transport policy lies quite fundamentally with the Minister himself, and not with any permanent head. Naturally, permanent heads should be expected to assist the Minister in whatever way necessary, both in advice and actions; but a Government must be very wary of delegating undue policy responsibility.

The second reason was that the Government was not attracted to the idea of establishing an authority which might have an inbuilt bureaucratic tendency to grow, creating more problems than solutions, and retarding decision-making effectiveness and building up piles of paperwork. I am certain that all members know enough of some transport departments and ministries elsewhere in Australia to see how wise that decision was.

The third and perhaps most important reason behind the Government's philosophy was a belief that each of the individual agencies within the Transport portfolio would benefit greatly from unfettered access direct to the Minister on all areas relevant to their own responsibility. Most importantly, the permanent head of each agency should be clearly accountable for his own decisions and operations without the intercession of a "supreme" permanent head who might act only as a filter and potential distortion of this direct accountability. The director general then, as now, has no executive role. He ranks no more and no less than other permanent heads in the portfolio.

So the new State Transport Co-ordination Act was set up in 1966, and in 1967 the director general (Mr J. E. Knox) took office. In its time this Act was pioneering. It was not a faultless piece of legislation, but the general philosophy that it enshrined has, I think, stood the test of time well. Partly as a result of the efforts of the Director General of Transport, major policy initiatives have continued to be taken across the whole transport spectrum. I should add, partly as a result of the Government's decision not to interpose a bureaucracy over the individual agencies, we have in Western Australia a collection of agencies whose competence, efficiency, and skill are the envy of other States.

At this point I want to pay tribute to Mr Knox, who has been the director general continuously since the inception of the position. He must be known to every member of this House.

His dedicated approach to his job, would be known to most. The State Transport Co-ordination Act is not an easy piece of legislation to administer, and Mr Knox has used his considerable personal skills to greatly assist us to progress transport in the State.

Mr Knox is now approaching retirement. This, set against a background of continuing change in transport affairs, offered an excellent opportunity to review the operation and effectiveness of the Act.

I have personally studied the way in which other States develop and administer policy and, with the assistance of Mr Knox, other transport permanent heads and outside consultants, I have given a great deal of thought to the matter.

I have carefully considered all possibilities—ministries, departments, commissions and all the rest—with an open mind. The State Transport Co-ordination Bill which is before the House is the result.

Summarised, it is a Bill which builds on our experience with the Act it replaces, which affirms that the basic philosophy underlying the previous Act is correct, and which clarifies the manner in which transport policy should be initiated and developed. It continues—in fact it amplifies—the direct accountability of each of the other permanent heads in the portfolio for his own day-to-day decisions. The new co-ordinator general of transport will have no powers to interfere with these. Instead, the co-ordinator general's primary responsibility will be to acquire the necessary information, do the research, and offer sound advice to the Minister on the longer-term, co-ordinated development of policy so that the individual efforts of the agencies and the private

transport operators complement each other, resources are not wasted, and the community gets the transport facilities and services it needs. It recognises that decentralisation of responsibility is not only appropriate, but also essential if the benefits of direct accountability are to continue to flow through the portfolio.

However, it also recognises that this decentralisation does bring with it a particularly special need for independent development and co-ordination of long-term operational and investment strategies within the portfolio. The Minister, in watching over all the diverse activities in his portfolio, needs the advice of somebody who can take a comprehensive and far-sighted view of developments, and offer independent advice which the Minister, in his turn, is free to accept or reject.

The new position will be one particularly well qualified to offer that service. The co-ordinator general will represent an impartial specialist policy adviser; he will take a multi-model view of transport issues; he will offer expertise on a variety of matters which do not fall within the charter of other agencies; and, very importantly, he will maintain strong links with the private sector.

In the last decade or so, transport has greatly increased in its complexity. I anticipate that this process will continue. When members think of it, much of the future welfare of our State will be determined by how well we can predict and solve transport problems. The so-called "energy crisis", the road toll, pollution and environmental concerns, congestion, the avoidance of massive transport deficits, the structure of our metropolitan area, the future of the central business district, the successful competition of our mineral, agricultural and other products in export markets, and many other issues are largely dependent upon our success. The co-ordinator general will be putting his mind to these types of issues.

There will also, of course, be a greater challenge to the agencies themselves. They will need to be able to plan for the future with increasing sophistication. The Bill provides for the co-ordinator general to give expert assistance in this planning area when required, as well as assisting the Minister to examine and evaluate the agency plans.

From what I have said, members will see that the title of Director General of Transport would be something of a misnomer if it were to continue. As the title of the Bill suggests, the officer's duty lies in assisting to co-ordinate policy—it is not

intended that he be a director in the accepted sense of the word. To avoid misunderstandings the title of the position has, therefore, been changed to co-ordinator general in order more accurately to reflect the role.

The Government has given a good deal of thought to the best way in which the co-ordinator general should acquire the information he will need in order to formulate his ministerial advice. He will, of course, need some qualified personnel to assist him. The Bill provides for their appointment. I would envisage that he will require about the same number as the director general now has—which is a total establishment of 13. The Bill also provides for the co-ordinator general to engage outside researchers, either Government or private, where appropriate.

Where the Minister has in mind a particular transport problem for which he is seeking a solution which is unlikely to readily come from his existing sources of advice, the Bill also provides for the Minister to set up transport strategy committees, chaired by the co-ordinator general, with specific terms of reference and limited lifespans, and comprising a flexible membership drawn from anywhere in the community where the appropriate expertise is available.

The concept of transport strategy committees is a democratic, flexible, and potentially efficient one. It is also adventurous; and I should add at the outset one warning in this regard. The bureaucracy and paperwork which we are steadfastly attempting to avoid will avalanche upon us if new transport strategy committees are set up in ever-increasing numbers. There are many other avenues of advice open to the Minister, and he, as well as others, will need to resist a temptation to drown the co-ordinator general in committee work. Provided that this warning is kept in mind, however, we will have a very powerful weapon available to us in the solution of transport problems.

These transport strategy committees enabled us to abolish the Transport Advisory Council and Transport Users' Board which existed in the previous Act. Both these bodies lacked specific terms of reference; both had a more or less fixed membership, and both have proven to be fairly ineffectual because of this.

The Transport Advisory Council now meets only about once a year. Six of its eight members are, *ex officio*, the permanent heads of Government agencies. Access of one permanent head to another is not something which needs to be formalised by a special council.

The Transport Users' Board has been defunct for 10 years. The gravest problem in attempting to make this body work successfully was the selection of four members who could somehow represent the interests and needs of all the different types of transport users. Under the new Bill, users will get a better deal because, wherever appropriate, user representatives will be able to be appointed to any transport strategy committee.

In the Committee stage of the Bill, I will have the opportunity to explain further any individual points which members may wish to raise. Before sitting down, however, I want only to make one further important point of explanation. It may occur to some members that the Commissioner of Transport could or should perform some or all of the duties of the co-ordinator general. I have heard the view expressed, in relation to the director general, from both sides of the House at various times.

The reason that the responsibilities of the co-ordinator general and the Commissioner of Transport have not been amalgamated is very important, and I want to make it perfectly clear. Members must understand that the Commissioner of Transport's primary role is the administration of policy, as determined by the Government. Therefore the Act which governs his activities specifically gives him powers of direction over others, including some other transport agencies. The long title of the Commissioner's Act, the Transport Act, makes this clear when it says that the purpose of the Act is to "Make provision as to the review, licensing and control of the transport of passengers and goods by road, rail, air and sea . . .".

On the other hand, from what I have already said, the function of the co-ordinator general shall specifically not be to license, control or otherwise direct or administer. Instead, his function shall be to act as the Minister's primary adviser on the desirable direction that overall policy should take.

There are obvious and good reasons in maintaining a distinction between a body which advises on transport policy and a body which administers the policy. The advisory body is preferably small, in close proximity to the Minister when he needs it, staffed with top level professional personnel, and, most importantly, entirely separate from the concerns of day-to-day operations or administration.

In practice, of course, the Minister will be perfectly free to seek advice from the Commissioner of Transport and any other permanent head in the portfolio where

appropriate. That is what happens now, and let there be no doubt at all, it will continue to happen when the co-ordinator general takes up office. But the co-ordinator general will be able to do further investigation where necessary, able to assist in sorting out the most desirable decision if permanent heads should give differing advice, and able to take a unique overall and long-term look at the ramifications for the entire Transport portfolio.

I commend the Bill to the House.

#### *Adjournment of Debate*

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): The question is that the Bill be now read a second time.

MR McIVER (Avon) [5.09 p.m.]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

You, Sir, were pretty blind if you did not see me standing up.

#### *Withdrawal of Remark*

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member for Avon to withdraw that remark. When I stood and put the question nobody was standing and nobody attempted to stand.

Mr McIVER: With respect, I was waiting for you, Sir, to finish the sentence. However, I withdraw the remark as directed by the Chair.

#### *Debate (on adjournment) Resumed*

Motion (adjournment of debate) put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned.

#### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY**

##### *Motion*

Debate resumed from 2 April.

MR TUBBY (Greenough) [5.10 p.m.]: Prior to asking for leave to continue my remarks on the Address-in-Reply last Thursday, I referred to the urgent need for the newly appointed committee which is investigating various methods of soil conservation and salinity control to carry out its inquiry urgently and to submit recommendations as soon as possible.

The present method of soil conservation and salinity control recommended by the Department of Agriculture involves the construction of contour banks and the planting of salinity-tolerant plants in salt-affected areas. However, this method has not been accepted favourably by the farmers, because, as a result of the rapid spread of salt, it is a full-time job to try to keep up with the planting of salt-tolerant plants and, indeed,

when they are planted, they are not highly successful. The land is still looked upon as being virtually out of production.

Therefore, farmers look forward anxiously to a recommendation from the department which will have the effect of solving permanently this great problem which is ruining thousands of acres of land in highly productive wheatgrowing country.

Mr Stephens: Do you support a move for an inquiry into the matter by WISALTS?

Mr TUBBY: I hope this inquiry will cover all aspects of the matter and will be very extensive.

The way in which soil is handled in farming areas today is undergoing a period of change, particularly in the wheatbelt, and I am sure the situation applies not only to my area, but also to many others. Some farmers are opting for minimum tillage spray seed which involves the use of smaller machines travelling at a faster pace and using less fuel than deep tillage, which some farmers opt for, which results in the use of bigger machines with greater horsepower and higher fuel consumption.

The bigger machines leave the trash on top of the soil as a means of protecting it and aiding water penetration in low rainfall areas.

Both of these methods change the texture of the soil and this will have a bearing on a method of soil conservation and salinity control which may be recommended in the future. In areas with heavier soil types, the texture of the soil will be changed completely if the stubble is broken down and left on top. This will aid the penetration of moisture and will throw a different light on salinity control.

At the moment there is a great deal of optimism in the northern agricultural area. Over the last five years, the eastern portion of it has experienced drought. Fortunately this has not affected land values so farmers have been able to remain financially viable. As a result of the increase in land values, farmers have been able to borrow against their greatly improved assets. Therefore, farmers have been able to purchase a considerable amount of new machinery which has been necessary, bearing in mind the fact that crops have been poor over the last five years and very small returns have been recorded. It is many years since machinery has been replaced and, as we all anticipate an improvement in the season this year, farmers are gearing up to take full advantage of it.

I believe the Government can take credit for the present atmosphere because it gave support to the rural industries during the drastic years of drought. It also gave assistance to local

authorities, assistance which has greatly added to the degree of optimism in those areas. Fortunately the produce from farms today has a good market value. Farmers are very keen to take full advantage of every opportunity to return to the viability they knew before the years of drought.

The present increase in prices indicates that there is likely to be quite an upsurge in the amount of produce exported through the Port of Geraldton, and urgent need exists for the siting of a new port at Geraldton to serve that region. The present port facilities at Geraldton are not sufficient to meet the growing need, and when one looks into the future and takes into account mining and other developments that will take place, and the large number of imports that will go through the port, one can see that the present facilities will be inadequate.

The construction of the modules on part of the port facilities for the North-West Shelf development has been mentioned. The experience gained by people in Geraldton involved in the construction of these modules has been of great importance. However, there will be a requirement for further facilities of that type, and there will be a heavy demand on the present port facilities.

Last Thursday I had my notes drawn up for this speech, and on Friday when I returned to my electorate the local newspaper had this to say—

Chairman outlines new port thoughts: Information on the feasibility study to establish a new port in the Oakagee River area and also the requirement to continue development of facilities at the established port has been released by Geraldton Port Authority chairman Mr Ian Bogle.

That was very pleasing news. From the point of view of Co-operative Bulk Handling an urgent need exists for an indication by the Government what it will plan for the future. At the port facilities in Geraldton one silo loads directly to ships, but another is placed across the road from the port. This necessitates grain being conveyed from that silo, or bins, by road transport to the loading bins at the port. The distance is only a matter of a few chains, but the present facility does not lend itself to the use of overhead conveyers. In all fairness to CBH, investigations should be made by the Government to see whether it is possible to give an indication as to what the long-term development of the port will be. In the very near future CBH will find itself in a situation whereby it is necessary to make a decision in relation to the long-term facilities it provides.

During the last harvest the Geraldton port was absolutely congested; the situation was incredible. It is not hard to visualise the great congestion that will come about when further developments in the north-west take place. I believe that 200 000 tonnes of pipes for the North-West Shelf will go through the port facilities at Geraldton.

We have other problems with the present facilities in regard to the chartering of shipping to ship grain. During the last harvest we reached the stage of the CBH port facilities being closed. That was largely due to the lack of chartering by the Australian Wheat Board in time to handle the season's harvest. Instead of the board's having ships available when the harvest commenced about the middle of November, the first ship was not chartered until about the middle of December. We experienced quite a considerable build-up of grain, and we went through quite an anxious period. Any delays in the delivery of the harvest are expensive not only for farmers, but also for contract carters, including Co-operative Bulk Handling.

The need for large ships to take on part of their loads at Geraldton and then go to Fremantle to top off makes the Port of Geraldton most unattractive in terms of turn-around times. I believe that with proper planning and the provision of new port facilities the problems I have outlined will be alleviated, and the sooner that happens, the better for all concerned.

The whole delivery system for grain, from the time it leaves the paddock until it reaches the ships should be geared up to modern methods, which farmers already use in production. The flow of grain through the whole transport system should be smooth. As I said before, any delays add to the expenses incurred by the industry.

An almost hardy-annual problem, as far as I am concerned, and one I have mentioned on a number of occasions, concerns the type of facilities and services Westrail provides. It is rather disappointing that the Minister for Transport is not here at the moment.

Mr Davies: He has done his shift for today.

Mr TUBBY: I have received a number of complaints about the lack of loading facilities provided by Westrail and the type of trucks which are used to transport fertiliser. The only equipment provided by Westrail, if the equipment is available, are old elevators and clank shovels. The farmers or contract carters must line up their hoppers in exactly the right position in front of the doors of the trucks provided by Westrail. If they are not lined up exactly the fertiliser will not go into the hopper—a lot of it will go onto the



ground. The fertiliser is loaded with a shovel-type scoop which is fitted with a chain clutch; the clutch operates and the fertiliser is placed into the hopper. That is an antiquated method, out of use completely in other areas when bulk commodities are being transported. In addition, the type of trucks provided do not lend themselves to easy cleaning, and I am receiving continuously complaints about fertiliser contaminated grain and the amount of noxious weed found in grain. It is time something was done to improve the present situation.

Farmers generally want to support Westrail. If Westrail is to receive the support of those farmers it must offer not only attractive freight rates, but also adequate facilities to unload whatever commodity is being unloaded. At the moment considerable inconvenience is caused to farmers in their use of Westrail facilities—not to mention the cost angle. I have an example which I heard about yesterday. I will use round figures. A farmer living approximately 110 miles from Geraldton can have his superphosphate unloaded into his shed by road carters for a cost of \$8 a tonne. For approximately the same price each tonne is landed at rail sidings, but the farmers must transport it from there to their sheds. That extra cartage costs farmers \$4 a tonne. Members can see that the cost of transporting super when using Westrail facilities is half as much again as the cost involved when road transport is used direct from the port facilities. It can be seen that using Westrail facilities can be an unattractive proposition.

Once again I must say it is rather unfortunate the Minister for Transport is not here. I support his efforts and urge him very strongly to continue his efforts to attract additional funds for the upgrading of roads in rural areas. Two roads in my electorate are in need of upgrading urgently. They provide access to areas in my electorate which have developed considerably in recent years, not only in regard to the amount of land developed, but also in regard to the amount of produce available. The roads need to be improved so that large trucks can convey produce from those areas. The present roads are made of very poor road making materials and the condition of these roads are a great burden upon the Mullewa and Irwin Shire Councils. They must keep the roads in reasonable order.

The Minister has indicated that the Walkaway-Nangetty West Road will be upgraded, and that a programme has been drawn up for that purpose. The road will be prepared for bitumen in the foreseeable future. The road from the Mingenew area is another which should be regarded as a

priority. The Minister will receive a deputation from the local authority in the hope of obtaining a clear-cut programme for the upgrading of that particular road.

Further in regard to roads, a great deal of pressure is being applied by the fishing industry and people associated with it who live in the towns on the coast in my area. They require the upgrading of the present road system near the coast. When one considers the development of the roads in the area one realises that relatively short stretches of roads need to be upgraded so that the road right along the coast from Kalbarri to Geraldton is of an adequate standard. The road from Dongara, through Cliff Head and Leeman to Jurien is used by many people. The fishermen convey their rock lobsters and other fishing products along that coast road and the lobster factories have a daily pick-up service for that area. It is inconvenient that the users of that road must travel along coastal tracks in many places and then use good bitumen roads in others. The connecting roads in these areas are the social communication for people living on the coast. I believe it is tremendously important that these roads be given a high priority.

Mr Barnett: Which one of those has the highest priority?

Mr TUBBY: I would say the one from Leeman to, possibly, Cliff Head. People south of Cliff Head have access along that road to Geraldton.

Mr Barnett: Are there very many people in the Leeman and Cliff Head areas?

Mr TUBBY: I could not give the exact numbers. The towns in the area are growing considerably.

Mr Barnett: Give me just an estimate.

Mr TUBBY: I do not have the figures with me, but let me say the produce the people in those areas make available certainly warrants an upgrading of the roads there.

Naturally, people on the coast are reluctant to travel east to the Brand Highway. This is quite understandable, because it would necessitate travelling long distances to main centres and to functions up and down the coast.

Another problem in my area is the shortage of water, and I refer particularly to the area between the Wongan line and the Midland line. Some of the State's best wheatgrowing areas are to the east of the shires of Coorow, Carnamah, and Three Springs, and in the Mingenew and the Mullewa Shires. These are highly productive areas, but very deficient so far as water is concerned. The underground water has a high

salinity content and although quite a considerable amount of clay is available, the use of dams is limited because of the salt. It is quite alarming that even at a depth of only five to six feet, the salt content is very high. From the beginning of summer to the beginning of winter many people rely entirely on carted water, and frequently the next winter water is carted for considerable distances. I often wonder why many of the people continue to live on their farms in these areas. It must be a tremendous burden on them physically and financially.

Mr Barnett: Do they actually cart the water from their own farms, or do they cart it in from other areas?

Mr TUBBY: They must cart the water from areas outside their farms, and often for considerable distances. I ask the Government to give urgent consideration to a similar scheme to the one being implemented at Agaton. I know that the plans for that scheme are well under way. Certainly this highly productive area that I referred to is worthy of a comprehensive water scheme and I hope it will be provided in the not-too-distant future under the State-Commonwealth cost-sharing scheme.

Geraldton has an excellent technical college. We are very proud of this wonderful facility, but it is not serving the community which it was set up to serve. As a regional technical college, it urgently needs buildings to provide accommodation for out-of-town students. People from the outlying areas who wish to undertake trade training are unable to do so because of this lack of accommodation.

The staff of the technical college have complained frequently about the lack of numbers, and it is a great pity that this wonderful facility cannot be used to the ultimate. Only last Friday I spoke to a lady at Carnamah who told me that she knew of three children who would like to attend the Geraldton Technical College next year. These children will leave school at the end of this year, but they will be unable to go to technical college because of the accommodation situation.

Mr Barnett: Look at that—a Government not even prepared to accommodate three children from Carnamah. What a callous Government.

Mr TUBBY: I am sure the Minister for Education is taking note of my remarks because I know of his interest in meeting this particular need. The same problem applies in regard to the agricultural wing of the Morawa High School. Temporary accommodation caters for 28 students but it is necessary to provide much more

accommodation, if we are to cater for the needs of agricultural education in the northern wheatbelt.

Mr Barnett: Why do you not pause there to let the Government Minister indicate what he will do?

Mr TUBBY: I know that the Minister is fully aware of the problem, and he is doing his best. However, because of the tremendous urgency of the accommodation situation, I sought again to bring this matter to his notice.

Mr Pearce: I do not think the Ministers are listening to you.

Mr TUBBY: The Carnamah District High School caters for the students up to year ten. Because of the increased development at Eneabba, Leeman, and the coastal towns, a considerable number of requests have been received to upgrade this high school to a senior high school.

Mr Pearce: Does it go to year nine or 10?

Mr TUBBY: I am sorry, it goes to year 10.

Mr Pearce: I did not want to interrupt you, but you said it went to year nine.

Mr TUBBY: For the last two years of high school, it is necessary for students to go to high schools in Geraldton or in the metropolitan area. People like to keep their children at home for as long as possible, and because of the many years of drought in this area, there is not a great deal of money to spend on the education of the children. The people of the area are seeking the upgrading of the high school so that students can be transported to it by bus.

Mr Pearce: Have you any idea how many students there would be in year 11 if it were upgraded?

Mr TUBBY: I do not think the numbers would be sufficient for the school to qualify on numbers attending for upgrading. However, I am sure the numbers would be sufficient if we could include the children from the outlying areas.

Mr Pearce: We agree with you that many of these district high schools should be upgraded to year 12, but I wondered if you could tell us how many would go to the Carnamah High School if it were upgraded.

Mr TUBBY: I do not have that information with me. However, I believe the numbers would be available because of the vast area it would serve. There is no senior high school from Moora to Geraldton.

Mr Pearce: That is right, and we certainly support your request.

Mr TUBBY: That is very nice—I do not often get support from the Opposition.

Mr Davies: Oh don't be like that.

Mr Barnett: We will take notice of you, even though the Government does not know you exist.

Mr TUBBY: That is not the case; the Government has been very good to me.

Mr Davies: That won't get you the Speakership!

Mr TUBBY: I am not complaining, I was just drawing to the attention of the Minister the problems in my area. I am sure they will be noted and—

Mr Barnett: Ignored!

Mr TUBBY: —acted upon.

Another request is for the upgrading of the John Willcock High School in Geraldton. Presently this high school caters for years eight, nine and 10, and it has no primary school attached to it. This high school is becoming very unattractive, although I hasten to add that this is not because of the reputation of the staff or anything like that. It has an excellent principal and staff, and it is a very good school. However, the children who enter this high school know that they will have to change to the senior high school at the end of three years. This makes the Geraldton Senior High School far more attractive—it would mean one change only for the students from primary school, and a consequent reduction in costs for the parents.

Mr Pearce: We agree with you on that too, but was not having separate schools a part of your party's policy at the 1974 election?

Mr TUBBY: I thought the policy was that high schools would be established wherever the need was proved.

In Geraldton, we have one high school with reducing numbers and with surplus accommodation, and the senior high school with increasing numbers and a difficult accommodation situation looming. It is rather ridiculous to have these two high schools in close proximity. The John Willcock High School could be easily upgraded without a great deal of expenditure, and it would be a much more attractive school. The children would be proud to attend it and to continue on there for their complete education. At the present time the school has no tradition because the students are there for such a short time. They know that they will be changing to the senior high school, and yet this is the school they compete against in sport and many other activities. Once they leave the John Willcock High School, they then go to the

senior high school and compete against the school they have left. This is not a good thing for the John Willcock High School in the long term.

In the few minutes I have left I would like to thank the Minister for Health for his tremendous co-operation in overcoming some very difficult situations to upgrade the Three Springs Hospital. We are now very close to having a hospital which will serve adequately the needs of this vast area for a number of years to come. Certainly this is an achievement of which the Government can be proud. The people of the area are proud of it, and I would like to express their thanks to the Minister for his involvement.

Mr Hodge: That is a bit different from the treatment received in my electorate—he closed my only hospital down.

Mr TUBBY: At the beginning of this year we had a very urgent situation at the Mullewa Hospital because of one very old dilapidated section of the hospital. Fortunately some short-term repairs were carried out, but I urge very strongly that the additional two stages of the three-stage programme for this hospital be commenced. The main problem came about because of an assessment made by the hospital board about five years ago. The board considered that ward accommodation was more urgent than the upgrading of catering facilities. Time has proved that the additional ward facilities have placed more strain on the catering facilities, and it is now clear that a better decision would have been to upgrade the catering facilities at that time. However, we hope that there will soon be sufficient funds to correct this problem.

I close my remarks by supporting the motion so ably moved by my colleague.

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

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

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

## GENERAL INSURANCE BROKERS AND AGENTS BILL

### *Message: Appropriations*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

*Motion*

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR SKIDMORE** (Swan) [7.33 p.m.]: I rise to join in this debate tonight to take to task the Premier for the remarks he made in answer to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Ron Davies) when he raised the matter of people confronting the Premier in a passageway of the Royal Perth Hospital. I will refer to the Premier's reply regarding the Government's failure to make adequate hospital facilities available. The Premier stated—

I explained to the people concerned who obviously had been arranged there by someone in a high position in the hospital to try to create the maximum amount of embarrassment....

On a subsequent occasion in answer to a question from the Leader of the Opposition the Premier stated—

I was very upset at the fact that somebody in a high position would in fact do what was alleged by these people—people for whom I felt very sorry. I will just summarise the matter by saying that a group of people in the corridor leading into the ward I was visiting on 16 March greeted me on the way to the ward. At that stage, there was no discussion, apart from a "good morning" or two.

I want to make it clear that I do not subscribe to the point that some arch enemy of the Government prompted those people to attack the Premier on the premise that the Government was responsible for not catering for the health needs of the public. I will quote a letter from a constituent of mine. I request that I be allowed to read this letter—it is only three pages. It will indicate to the House exactly what this constituent of mine felt about the Premier's action on the day in question. It is dated 16 March 1981, and reads—

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of the many patients involved with cardiac care at Royal Perth Hospital, as I have just written a letter to Sir Charles Court.

I met him in the passageway near ward 74 (R.P.H.) this morning, and voiced my displeasure at his Government's clamp down on hospital expenditure. I am involved with both sides of this story, for as well as being married to a man with a heart complaint, I

actually did my nursing training at Royal Perth.

My husband was booked for open heart surgery tomorrow, having previously undergone the strain of all the various pre-operative tests required. We waited in the corridor for admission to Ward 74 for six hours. I repeat—six hours (waiting for a bed to become available!) Other patients waiting were sent home and to return at another time to once more wait for a bed to become available. I suppose we should be grateful that we did eventually get a bed anyway, but this should not be so. I felt that this situation was intolerable!

For patients booked to have these types of operations, then wait for such a length of time not really knowing whether they will get a bed or not, is really more strain to their already taxed mental and physical well being. Having voiced this opinion already to both the hospital administrator and Sir Charles Court this morning, I was told that already ninety nine beds have had to be closed; there was to be no increase of beds allotted to the cardiac patients. This fills me with sadness as Perth has such a growing community and with the increasing amount of open heart surgery being performed—I'm told that there are 15-25 cases per week—I think something should be done about it before it becomes too late.

It was bad enough to go through all this tension today as regards our situation. However, there were others present with me who had been turned away twice previously because of lack of beds. My husband and I have found the strain of forth coming major heart surgery to be a very big emotional problem. To have reached the stage of acceptance for whatever the future was to hold for us, took a great deal on our behalf. Six hours of waiting, and once more not knowing what was to happen, was an extremely unnecessary burden for both of us to carry.

I can only hope that this letter may be of some help to some other future patients. Something should definitely be done about this situation and I hope you may be the one to help.

Yours sincerely

I reiterate that this letter was written by a constituent of mine.

Mr Davies: She would be only one of many.

Mr SKIDMORE: The matter I raise is of course the callous attitude of the Premier when he spoke about this matter in the House. He saw fit to denigrate many of the people involved who had waited six hours for a cardiac operation only to be turned down, told to go home and come back at a later date. Fortunately for my constituent her husband was admitted that evening and, to the best of my knowledge, his operation was successful. This letter gives the lie to the Premier's statements that the people who confronted him at the hospital were put up to it by the administrator or someone in a high position of authority.

I replied to my constituent, and I will quote a portion of my letter which states—

I want to state, without any fear of contradiction, that I believe there are two areas involving the social well being of our community that should not be affected by a lack of funds. They are the education of our children, and our community generally, and the caring for that same community and the elderly people and certainly those in need of urgent surgical attention. I am disgusted at the fact that it appears that the present Liberal-Court Government is adopting such a callous attitude towards the sick; they have shown recently that they do not care if a person should die and will not accept their responsibility as a Government to ensure that sufficient funds are provided particularly for the treatment of people with heart problems. One would have thought that the alleviation of suffering of our sick and those in need would be a pre-requisite of any Government. To my horror, such is not the case with this Court Government.

I went on further to comment about the problems confronting my constituent. I think it would be well for the Premier to bear in mind that some of the untruths he puts to this House eventually will come home to him by way of the ballot box which will indicate the wrath of the people he has sought to ignore. Certainly the Minister for Health should bear some of the blame for this situation which has brought about anguish and suffering not only for my constituents, but also for all Western Australians. He also should bear the blame for the lack of health facilities made available.

If someone has one foot on a banana skin and another on the grave he is not able to obtain a hospital bed, and, hopefully, he will not die while he waits to get a hospital bed the next day or at a later date. That situation emphasises the callous attitude of the Government. We have been told

the situation has occurred because of budgetary restraints, and when one considers the Government's statements, one realises they are correct; hospital funds have not been cut back, but when the Budget was drawn up the Government did not provide enough funds for hospital services.

It is very easy to balance the Budget. All the Government has to do is overestimate the expenses for an important area under its jurisdiction, and when the amount provided is underspent the Government finishes up with a surplus at the end of the year. I wish my bank manager would accept the same sort of funding for me because it seems easy for the Government.

Of course, the question is then raised as to whether the Government in the first instance provided sufficient funds for hospitals and public health intended to care for the sick and others in need of medical attention. I doubt very much whether the amount of the Budget was within millions of dollars of the amount necessary.

I will go on to mention something about the Swan District Hospital and its complete lack of funding. On one occasion a nurse came to me with a problem. She had been promised a nursing position at the Swan District Hospital and, subsequently, when she went to start work she was told no job was available for her. When she rang me I pointed out to her that under the industrial laws of this land and, even under common law, a contract of service had been signed by the hospital to employ her and that she should go back to the hospital and demand her job.

I went further with the matter and rang the officer concerned with the employment of such people at the hospital. I pointed out to him it would be my pleasure to appear in the industrial court on behalf of the nurse and put the case for her as I believed the hospital was in breach of the Industrial Arbitration Act. In fact, the hospital employees come within the purview of the Act, and the hospital was in breach of it because it had ignored an award condition. A few minutes after talking to this gentleman I was called by him and told I was quite correct and that the nurse should go back to the hospital because her job would be available to her. Until that time, during the previous telephone call, I was told all sorts of stories why the hospital could not employ her; it was difficult to find a job for her, etc. I understand she went back, was put on and is doing a good job. The need for her was obvious. By this example we see that one girl was denied her rights under a contract of service.

Mr Davies: Have you heard that nurses have been offered jobs at reduced salaries.

Mr SKIDMORE: If they have I advise them to see me. I would be willing to take the matter up in the appropriate place.

Mr Young: Do you want to know something else about Royal Perth Hospital?

Mr SKIDMORE: Not particularly.

Mr Young: You raised the question!

Mr SKIDMORE: All right, don't do your nelly—settle down.

Mr Young: Do you know that when the Royal Perth Hospital—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SKIDMORE: Let him have his say.

Mr Young: Do you know that when it opened the 34 beds out of its existing budget for this year—

Mr Davies: They should never have been closed.

Mr Young: You closed them. Do you know how many were allocated for the cardiac-thoracic unit?

Mr SKIDMORE: No.

Mr Young: It was six—so much for the mayhem caused to the two professors. Six out of 34 opened from their 1980-81 budget.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): Order!

Mr SKIDMORE: I would like to reply to the Minister in the following way: It would not have mattered too much to me if one bed only had been allocated to the cardiac section of Royal Perth Hospital; it is of concern to me that a person who presents himself there for open heart surgery has to wait six hours to find out whether he can get a bed, and that is when there are six patients only to occupy those beds.

Mr Young: It reminds me the Leader of the Opposition was Minister for Health. That is what happened.

Mr Davies: What happened?

Mr Young: People had to wait six hours to get a bed.

Mr Davies: For open heart surgery?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! This is an intolerable situation and I observe that the *Hansard* reporter is having extreme difficulty in recording the debate. I ask members to co-operate and if they must interject—and I remind them that all interjections are disorderly—then it must

be one at a time. If the member speaking wishes to engage the interjectors in the debate then he should be the selector of the interjector with whom he wishes to parry.

Mr SKIDMORE: I was responding to the prompting from the Minister for Health who seemed to feel I had made a misstatement in this House. However, I feel quite happy because I believe I have shown him to be what he is; a person with very little human understanding for those in dire need in hospitals.

Mr Tonkin: We were opening hospitals and this Government is closing them, and that is the difference.

Mr SKIDMORE: Another matter which concerns me gravely is the conservation of our environment and our way of life. My interest in conservation and the environment has led me to visit the south-west of our State on many occasions. Recently, I went to the far south coast of this State and on to Albany.

During my visit I was alerted to a position which exists at Margaret River with regard to the Edwards subdivision of some wetlands which have been filled to create building blocks. There is also a problem existing in an area known locally as the Ocean Beach reserve at Denmark.

With the subdivision in Margaret River; I understand the shire had an application for a further permit or amendment to its town planning scheme to have the wetlands at Prevelly Park—Reserves Nos. 123 and 124—rezoned so that four villas may be erected on the blocks.

I am sure the member for Vasse will realise that if that is approved it will create a very difficult situation because at the gate at the entrance to Prevelly Park caravan park there is a beautiful natural lake and this lake is used by the people at Prevelly Park and by the patrons of the caravan park.

I can only hazard a guess about the pollution which will occur as a result of the added septic system which will have to be installed. There will be a disaster if this does occur. I suggest it is time that the rapacious appetites of these developers were exposed. I do not know whether the shire is acting in ignorance or whether it is not prepared to accept responsibility but if it allows this subdivision in an almost permanent wet area of the coast at Prevelly Park, it will be a disaster.

I assume that the shire allowed development in the first place and the problem has been further compounded with the scheme for villas on these blocks.

Mrs Craig: Have they amended their scheme or is there a proposal before them to see whether they will amend it?

Mr SKIDMORE: I understand there is a proposal before them.

Mrs Craig: Only the shire can determine that.

Mr SKIDMORE: If the Minister is a little thin skinned about her actions then I suggest she deals with that matter at a later stage because I am attempting to confine my remarks to the facts of the issue.

Mr Blaikie: Have you raised the matter with the shire?

Mr SKIDMORE: I understand the matter has been raised with the shire.

Mr Blaikie: You have not raised the matter with the shire at all. You are attempting to seek headlines in the same disgraceful manner in which you attempted to denigrate the shire president 12 months ago. You are acting in the same way as you did when you attempted to denigrate the community.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SKIDMORE: Let me make it quite clear to the member for Vasse that I could not care less whether the Press reports what I have said; all I am concerned about is what has happened to the wetlands at Prévelly Park.

Several members interjected.

Mr SKIDMORE: If it is the wish of the Press to report this matter and they say that a member of Parliament raised the question, I will be quite happy about it.

Mr Blaikie: You do not know what you are talking about!

Mr SKIDMORE: I do know that the facts I have mentioned are as they were given to me. I believe I have a right to express my concern and if the member for Vasse were conscientious and responsible in regard to that particular section of the subdivision, he would say something about it.

Mrs Craig: Don't you see a responsibility to check the facts?

Mr SKIDMORE: I went down there and looked at the area. I do not have any access to the shire. If I went down there as the member for Swan and said that I wanted to complain about the subdivision, the shire representatives would do as they did on the last occasion; they told me to get lost.

Mr Blaikie: The shire treated you most hospitably but you denigrated its hospitality. Why can't you be truthful in what you are saying?

Mr SKIDMORE: I will not continue to debate this matter with the member for Vasse. He will probably believe that I have retreated in disarray and have decided to seek my fox hole and get down it like a wounded puppy. The member for Vasse is right off the mark! He alone will be judged for his action, at the appropriate time.

Whilst I was in Denmark my attention was drawn to the controversy over the Ocean Beach reserve and whether the reserve was being looked after in accordance with the vesting order made by the Minister for Lands to the Denmark Shire. This question worried me, because it would appear that the case was not as it should be.

Mr Pearce: Which half of the shire did you raise the matter with?

Mr Blaikie: The member had better be careful because I may take an interest in the matter and find him to be wrong again.

Several members interjected.

Mr SKIDMORE: It is amazing to observe the amount of assistance I am receiving this evening.

Mrs Craig: You need it.

Mr SKIDMORE: I do not need any assistance. The Minister should sit back because I was about to pay her a compliment for her actions with regard to the Denmark Shire. However, I am showing how stupid the Minister is. The Minister is being stupid because she is pre-empting what I was about to say.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Watt): Order!

Mr Pearce: Will the Minister interject a little louder!

The ACTING SPEAKER: The member for Gosnells knows better than to interject whilst I am calling the House to order. There has been a constant barrage of interjections and it is extremely difficult for the member to make his speech. The *Hansard* reporter is experiencing even greater difficulty in recording the proceedings. I ask the members of the House to co-operate in maintaining order.

Mr SKIDMORE: I visited the Ocean Beach reserve and became quite concerned about what was taking place. This reserve is used for recreational purposes by the local people. Only recently, a large fire went through that area and quite a degree of degradation has taken place at the top part of the reserve which overlooks the mouth of the Wilson Inlet.

There has been excavation of limestone in this reserve, in an area which is approximately half a mile long, 400 yards wide, and approximately eight to 15 feet deep. The excavation for limestone was the subject of my letter to the

Minister and I thank her for advising me of the purpose of this operation. Apparently, the excavation is for lime sand for the farmers in the area. I accept that as a worth-while undertaking because it is fulfilling the farmers' needs, but I do not understand the need to farm or quarry a reserve which is used so often by the people in the area. This reserve is used for recreational purposes and surely an area which is so popular should not be used for quarrying.

I believe the matter can be resolved in a far better way than has been the case till now. Further, having been alerted to the facts of the matter and the dispute of the council over this issue, I carried out my own investigations. I always carry out my own investigations on issues which are raised and often at my own expense.

I went to the area to see what was happening and it was of concern to me to find that the Denmark Shire is in disarray. I understand that on one occasion the Minister for Lands wrote to the shire president, commencing with the words, "Dear Shire President" but the letter was never placed before the council because the shire president felt that as the letter had been addressed to him, it had nothing to do with the shire; he felt it was a private matter.

I have been made aware of the efforts made by the Minister for Local Government to overcome the stalemate in the shire. Half the shire is prepared to resign as a result of a request made by 600 ratepayers at a public meeting. There are approximately 1 800 ratepayers in the shire; therefore, that is a good indication that the residents have not been happy with the shire's business. I am not happy with it either.

I believe the shire has not acted in a responsible manner especially in regard to the reserve. I have written to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment requesting him to place a work order on the shire to have it put the matter right, if it can be done. In that way, that reserve will not in any way be further disturbed by the removal of spoil from the area.

The sooner the Denmark Shire Council takes note of its residents and gets on with the business of administering its affairs in a way which reflects responsibility, the better it will be; and certainly it will be so much the better for the reserves in the care of the shire.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is the employment policies of some scurrilous people in the horse-racing industry. I specifically name a person involved because I think he is a scurrilous person who should be made to stand up and account for his actions.

Mr Pearce: Dead right.

Mr SKIDMORE: The member for Gosnells can be quiet, too; I do not need his assistance, either.

Mr Lyle Lindau, a trainer in the Swan Valley, employed a lad of 16 years. The lad commenced work at 5.30 a.m. and was most condescendingly allowed to stop work between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. and he was allowed a short time off for lunch. He worked under those conditions for 13 days straight and was paid \$80 a week. Imagine that: he worked approximately 11 to 11½ hours a day for 13 days and was given \$80 a week.

Unfortunately, the lad was hit by a motor vehicle and injured. His mother rang Lindau and said, "Colin can't come to work tomorrow because he has to go to the hospital to be examined by the doctor." The next morning Mrs Landau fronted up to the young lad and said, "You cannot go to the hospital then because it is inconvenient to us. We want you to work, but you can go to the hospital at 10 o'clock." She immediately rang the hospital and altered the lad's appointment to suit the devices of the Lindaus.

On another occasion the lad was required to exercise a horse—I do not know much about horse training—and apparently the horse ate its halter and destroyed it. Lindau had the hide and audacity to take \$20 from the lad to pay for the halter—and that from his salary of \$80 a week.

One might think that is an isolated case in respect of horse trainers, but that is not so. I have been advised by the Commonwealth Employment Service that it is no longer sending people to be employed under the subsidised employment scheme by horse trainers because it is conscious that the people concerned do not receive a reasonable wage. If \$80 a week for working 13 days straight at 11½ hours a day is considered to be an adequate wage, then I do not know what is. However, I do not believe that amount would allow anybody to live a reasonable way of life.

Mr O'Connor: Have you taken this up with the department?

Mr SKIDMORE: I took it up with the CES and even with the Minister's department. The department said to me, "Mr Skidmore, we would very much like to be able to get to these people, but they are award free. Workers can be employed under wages and conditions which should have been removed from our industrial scene 50 years ago."

Let me turn to another example. A lass was sent by the Commonwealth Employment Service in Midland to work for this illustrious employer,



Lindau, who put her on under the same conditions as those applying to the lad to whom I referred. Unfortunately for Lindau the lass had the position explained to her by officers of the department. It turned out she had a contract saying she agreed to work for a wage, whereas the lad did not have a contract and was paid only what Lindau felt he should be paid. The lass was able to recover \$1 500 in back wages. I do not think she worked for him for very long.

On the last occasion the Industrial Arbitration Act was amended in this State a new section 50(3) was inserted. I feel this is one way of protecting workers who are not covered by awards. The Minister may remember that at the time we referred to "servants and others". In addition, during the last session we removed from the Factories and Shops Act the minimum scale of wages payable to workers not covered by awards, and it was resolved at the time such matters should be covered under the Industrial Arbitration Act. Section 50(3) of the Industrial Arbitration Act states—

(3) A General Order may be made to apply generally to employees throughout the State whether or not they are employed under and subject to awards or may be limited to employees—

(a) who are employed under and subject to awards; or

(b) who are not so employed,

but shall not apply to any employee whose conditions of employment may not be determined by the Commission.

The last part of that proviso does not apply. These people are not exempt under the terms of the Industrial Arbitration Act, but certainly they are people who could come within the confines of a general order. The bodies which are able to make a general order are the Trades and Labor Council, the Confederation of Western Australian Industry, the Public Service Board, and the commission on its own motion.

I would suggest that the Minister take note of the people who are being ripped off by horse trainers. I know of at least three or four others in the same situation whose cases have been brought to my attention and who have been working long hours for little pay. Of course, if they argue about it they are thrown out without any wages. This is a scandalous situation, and I believe the commission on its own motion should maintain a minimum wage for workers employed in any industry which is not covered by an award.

That would safeguard the people to whom I am referring and at least give them minimum

standards which other people enjoy. I suggest that be done, if not by the Trades and Labor Council then perhaps by the Confederation of Western Australian Industry. Certainly something should be done, because I am simply appalled by what is occurring. Of course, there is a Federal award which is administered by the Australian Workers' Union, but as with other Federal awards it has the difficulty of a "roping in" clause, which provides a very long and laborious method of overcoming the problem. The Minister and other members know the problems associated with that as well as I do.

I implore the Minister to give some thought to the people concerned. I will be quite happy to give him names and to assist the department in any way I can so that the persons concerned receive a just return for the work they do.

The other evening one of my colleagues mentioned some of the criticisms levelled against the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia by one of its servants. Indeed, he said the institute was working on false premises on various of its experiments. That was causing its servant some concern, just as it caused concern to my colleague. I share that concern, but in a different way.

Having recently been invited by the Minister responsible for the institute to visit its premises, I did so and spent some three or four hours with Dr Saunders who showed me every courtesy and explained to me the various experiments taking place. I was amazed at the amount of work being done with the paucity of funds available to the institute.

We have a dedicated bunch of people—scientists in their own right—all working under some awful conditions. The Minister would be well aware of the little shed in which some experiments are being carried out. That is just not good enough, and I wonder how the people concerned have stood it for so long. As far as I am concerned they are the salt of the earth.

Mr P. V. Jones: As I said the other day, that has already been replaced.

Mr SKIDMORE: I understand that is so, and I merely mentioned it to show clearly that I believe the people employed by SERIWA are trying hard to overcome the difficulties with which they are faced.

However, I do want to take the Government to task on the matter of the paucity of funding for an institute which I have consistently raised in this House during the term of my membership. I have not many months left to me to complain about this matter, but I will continue to do so

until such time as correct and proper funding is made available to the people who carry out research projects which are so desperately needed.

In fact, the situation has almost resolved itself to the point where the institute is practically funded by private enterprise; the Minister and those who have read the last annual report of the institute would be aware that is the case. The Government puts very little into the institute. It is about time the Government accepted the challenge and realised the great need for research in these areas and gave to the institute the help it needs.

I like to feel that at least I try to read some of the material which continually comes before members of Parliament. I want to refer briefly to the solar housing energy report of 1979, which contains a report by the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Fuel and Energy. The document sets out a number of houses which have solar collectors connected to them, and others which have cells which are formed into solar collectors. It refers to the use of such stored energy for the purposes of refrigeration and air-conditioning. The information contained in it is staggering.

Anybody who has been to Yanchep Sun City would probably know what I am talking about. I suggest that if members want to look at a tremendous piece of engineering they look at the installation on the office of the Yanchep Sun City company, adjacent to the caravan park at Yanchep. It is well worth a visit, and it indicates what is taking place in that field.

Of course, other experiments are occurring; in fact I think about 30 to 40 are taking place. I think perhaps it is unfair that criticism should be levelled at some of the officers of the Solar Energy Research Institute, because whilst perhaps the facilities available to them are not the best, the dedication of the officers is great. They are working with inadequate facilities but their dedication has enabled them to take gigantic steps in their efforts to create a proper institute where they will be able to carry out their work without people saying they are not doing their job.

I refer briefly also to the many experiments funded by the Murdoch University Institute of Environmental Science, such as the projected solar radiation study, and others.

Might I say I did indicate to Dr Saunders that it would be my pleasure to try to get members of Parliament to visit the institute. The institute has arranged a visit for parliamentarians to enable them to look at its work. I think members who avail themselves of the opportunity will be

agreeably surprised with the amount achieved in a short time with the paucity of funds available to the institute.

In the short time remaining to me I want to refer to the jarrah class struggle and the application to the American courts for the purpose of investigating the bauxite industry in Western Australia. I share my leader's concern and the concern of all members on this side of the House that conservationists and environmentalists saw fit to go outside our country to bring before a court the question of what is happening in our bauxite industry and to our environment. However, that is the only quarrel I have with the actions of the persons concerned. I believe that we should resolve our affairs in our own courts in Australia; that is a fundamental right of all Australians. They have a fundamental right not to be dictated to by the Privy Council in England or by any other sort of organisation that might exist outside our country. However, in the four minutes left to me I would do a disservice to those people if I endeavoured to cover what would take a couple of hours at least, to answer some of the ridiculous statements made by the Premier when introducing the motion.

I take the Premier to task on the question of employment. In *Hansard* he mentioned some 60 000 workers who will be affected in their employment opportunities if the Alcoa project does not go ahead. Later he said that there were 20 000 people who would be affected by this; and he mentioned that something like 15 000 more would be hoping for jobs in this industry. I have Alcoa's 1980 report, which is the only report of that company; and it indicates that in 1971 there were 3 980 people employed by the company throughout the length and breadth of Australia; in 1977 the figure was 4 602; and in 1980 it was 5 854. That is the total employment by Alcoa throughout Australia.

I suggest that members read Alcoa's report, because they will find that there is a refinery in Geelong; and labour is employed there. The company employs labour also at a smelter. It is not correct for the Premier to say that there are 5 000 people employed by Alcoa in Western Australia. The multiplier of five in arriving at figures of 20 000 or 25 000 is false. It is based on the false premise that everybody servicing the Alcoa refinery from outside the industry is employed in relation to Alcoa for 40 hours a week, 52 weeks in every year. We know that is not true.

The remark I made to the member for Mundaring about my attitude to Alcoa still stands. I said that the suggestion that Alcoa

would cut out its activities in Western Australia is nothing more than industrial blackmail. I know, the member for Mundaring knows, and we all know, that Alcoa would not dare shut down its activities because it would then be at the beck and call of its competitors in the international market.

Alcoa is part of a cartel on prices, a cartel on production, and a cartel on the amount we will pay for the finished product when it comes to Australia. The company cannot afford to shut down.

**MR TRETHOWAN** (East Melville) [8.18 p.m.]: I wish to support the Address-in-Reply so ably moved by my colleague, the member for Clontarf. During his speech, he outlined very clearly that the economic strength of this State was based fundamentally on our resources development.

**Mr Pearce**: Dry cleaning is on the up and up, is it?

**Mr TRETHOWAN**: The member for Clontarf mentioned also that, although our economic future was bright, there were some clouds in the sky.

Opposition members interjected.

**Mr TRETHOWAN**: Another cloud has arisen in this area which presents a threat to the economic future of this State and the country.

Before dealing with that, I would like to express my concern about a number of reports which have appeared in newspapers recently about the supposed pegging of an area of the Applecross foreshore—

**Mr Pearce**: Private enterprise springs up again.

**Mr TRETHOWAN**: Many people would consider that area to be one of the most uniquely attractive areas of the Swan River. If it has been pegged for the purpose of mining gold and limestone, I realise the effect that such actions would have upon the Applecross area. I cannot help but feel a sense of unreality—

**Mr Pearce** interjected.

**Mr TRETHOWAN**:—when one considers the absurdity of the proposal. I understand that at the present time no application for a claim has been lodged with the Mines Department. Last week I expressed a view in a question to the Minister for Mines that if no claim has been lodged, and as there has been no apparent substantiation of the situation other than the Press reports, it may be considered that the discussion in the newspapers may be a frivolous exercise in publicity. I hold that view still.

**Mr Pearce** interjected.

**Mr TRETHOWAN**: Such an application for a claim would be opposed very strenuously by the people living in the area.

**Mr Pearce** interjected.

**Mr TRETHOWAN**: If the claim should be lodged, not only the private owners involved, but also all the nearby residents, and certainly the Melville City Council would lodge objections. Under its town planning scheme No. 2, the Melville City Council expressly prohibits extractive industries. The term "extractive industries" includes both quarrying and mining within the city boundaries. I trust that if an application for a claim is lodged, the objections raised by the interested parties would be sufficient to ensure that the Applecross foreshore remained free of such activities.

Let me return to the initial concern I expressed in relation to the negative effect that a number of actions in the industrial relations area are likely to have upon our economic future. I was heartened to read in the paper this evening that one of the areas of industrial confrontation that is being espoused by the ACTU and certain unions has been recognised for what it is by the Federal arbitration commission in handing down the results of its inquiry into the wage fixing process. The commission indicated that it was not prepared to permit productivity bargaining to continue in support of arguments for a 35-hour week in addition to the process of wage fixation that was suggested. That is a recognition by the commission of the economic arguments raised by the Federal and State Governments as to the effects the 35-hour week would have on the nation as a whole.

Opposition members interjected.

The **ACTING SPEAKER** (Mr Watt): Order!

**Mr TRETHOWAN**: If the 35-hour week were introduced, it would provide a further problem. I believe it is not the expectation of most people in the work force that if the 35-hour week were awarded, they would work 35 hours. Most members of the work force would expect to continue to work 40 hours; but the extra five hours would be classified effectively as overtime.

Opposition members interjected.

The **ACTING SPEAKER**: Order!

**Mr TRETHOWAN**: That would represent an effective wage increase of 10 per cent. That is what the 35-hour week claim is all about. It is a means of achieving a very dramatic rise in wages. The effect of this could be sustained by those industries in the economy which have a high level of productivity. So far, those industries have been

the target of union action. However, if the 35-hour week became accepted generally in those industries, it is certain that the flow-on effect would spread that same remuneration pattern throughout the whole of the Australian economy. The result of a 10 per cent dramatic rise in wages would be catastrophic. It would have a dramatic inflationary effect.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr TRETHOWAN: It would enhance unemployment; and, most importantly, it would destroy totally the ability of Australian manufacturing industry to compete on the international market. I hope that the Federal arbitration commission recognises those things, and recognises the effect the campaign is likely to have on the economy.

Opposition members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I ask the House to come to order! The *Hansard* reporter is obviously having a great deal of difficulty in recording the member's speech. The member has demonstrated that he prefers to ignore the interjections, and yet they continue. I ask members, if they must interject—and I would prefer that they did not—to do so one at a time.

Mr TRETHOWAN: It was not primarily the issue of the 35-hour week on which I wished to speak this evening. I wish to deal with the new cloud glowering on the horizon, the effect of which could equally be catastrophic when compared with the 35-hour week. This relates to superannuation.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr TRETHOWAN: The union attitude has been stated clearly. Mr Bill Landeryou of the Storemen and Packers' Union is on record as saying, "Anyone who doesn't believe that the industrial issue to dominate the next decade will be the question of benefits which should accrue to workers on retirement, is stark raving bonkers." That is a fairly clear statement. If that is connected with the statement made by Mr Cliff Dolan, the President of the ACTU, that "the ACTU expects that it may have to use industrial action to pressure some employers to join a major union superannuation scheme", it lays the ground rules for the coming attack. As such, it will affect directly or indirectly most of the people in the community. My concern this evening is to ensure that the issues are seen clearly.

I do not think anyone would oppose the eventual coverage of the majority of the work force by superannuation schemes on a voluntary basis. It would have at least one advantage for the taxpayers, as no doubt members are aware.

Demographically, Australia has an aging population. The result of this will be that as we progress towards the end of the century and beyond, the number of claimants for social welfare payments based on age will increase dramatically; and the number of taxpayers who are earning in order to pay taxes to meet the costs of those benefits would be effectively reduced.

I believe it is in the interests of Australian taxpayers of the future that encouragement be given to voluntary superannuation schemes. At present it is estimated approximately one-third of the full-time work force in Australia is covered by such schemes. A gradual expansion of this would allow industry to adjust to the costs involved and still retain its competitive position.

However, any rapid increase to total coverage in superannuation through either legislative or militant union action could prove totally disastrous to the economy of Australia.

Mr E. T. Evans: Talk about tax avoidance.

Mr TRETHOWAN: The additional cost to industry of total superannuation cover of the full-time work force is estimated to be as high as \$3 200 million per annum, or an equivalent of a 6 per cent national wage increase. Such an enormous cost increase as with a 35-hour week if spread throughout the economy would certainly produce very great inflationary pressures on the economy. This would seriously affect the creation of new jobs and virtually destroy the competitiveness of our manufacturing industry on world markets.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Order! The member for Balcatta will not get the same sort of latitude tonight as he has had on previous nights. I ask the members for Mundaring and Ascot not to carry on a cross-Chamber conversation when the member on his feet is attempting to deliver his speech.

Mr TRETHOWAN: Not only would we see a dramatic increase in inflationary pressure throughout the economy of Australia, but we would also see a halt to any job creating projects. Indeed, we would probably see a great rise in unemployment.

Mr B. T. Burke: We are not doing too badly now!

Mr TRETHOWAN: In addition we would see the competitive position of the Australian manufacturing industry totally destroyed on the overseas market. We simply cannot afford to have such a rapid expansion of superannuation throughout the economy when it would be

coupled with the kinds of wage claims we have seen and the kind of pressure for shorter working hours which is under way currently.

The next key issue we should look at in the area of superannuation revolves around vesting and portability of benefits.

Mr Bryce: You agree with portability, do you?

Mr TRETHOWAN: Traditionally, superannuation has been viewed as a reward for long and continuous service to a particular organisation. Benefits in the form of either a lump sum or a pension have been derived on the basis of a contribution to a fund by both the employer and employee. A typical situation would be that the employer and the employee each contribute to the fund the equivalent of 5 per cent per annum of the employee's salary.

Should an employee leave an organisation before retirement age, under most of the current fund situations he is entitled always to all the contributions he has made to it, usually together with an interest payment. However, the employee is not entitled *per se* to the employer's contribution.

In the past the majority of schemes have adopted a sliding scale of entitlement by the employee to the employer's contribution. This sliding scale works perhaps in the following manner: If an employee leaves after five years of employment, he may be entitled to approximately 10 to 15 per cent of the employer's contribution; after 10 years he would perhaps be entitled to 25 or 30 per cent; after 15 years he may be entitled to an amount as high as 50 per cent; and after 20 years he may be entitled to between 75 and 100 per cent, because in normal situations he would be beginning to approach retirement age. That sort of vesting provision provides rights for the employee should he leave the organisation before retirement age.

However, the provision still maintains the basic, traditional principle of superannuation that it is a provision for retirement. I believe this concept of superannuation is basically linked with the stability of employment and it is this that is currently under attack by a number of sections of the trade union movement.

Again quoting Mr Bill Landeryou of the Storemen and Packers' Union, who said "superannuation contributions are deferred pay", I may point out that this was perhaps the information which was being sought by the member for Ascot in his earlier interjections about portability.

Mr Bryce: Are you opposed to portability?

Mr TRETHOWAN: I am opposed to the assertion that superannuation contributions should be considered as deferred pay, for the reasons I have just outlined.

Mr Bryce: You are not answering my question. I asked you whether you agreed with portability.

Mr TRETHOWAN: I must point out that the result of the employer's contribution being seen as deferred pay would effectively turn superannuation from the provision of a retirement benefit to just another tax minimisation scheme which would enable employees to receive half of their remuneration almost tax free.

Mr Tonkin: You would be an expert on tax avoidance.

Mr TRETHOWAN: I believe this is an attribute which should be heartily condemned as it seems that superannuation is being created simply as another short-term lever in the wage bargaining process, rather than being looked at as a means of achieving something worth while in the long term for both employees and the community.

Probably the most important area of superannuation under challenge by the ACTU's stance is that of fund management. At present over half the superannuation schemes are managed externally by independent, professional fund managers, the largest amongst these being the life assurance companies, most of which are mutual provident societies. That means the majority of externally managed superannuation funds at the present time are run solely for the benefit of the policy holders.

I believe the managers of these funds strive to gain the highest return on investment for their policy holders—that is, for the members of the funds they administer. The concern of these organisations to provide the highest return on investment is coupled with the recognition of the need for adequate security.

Such independent fund managers compete with each other for business. This ensures that they always have a spur towards efficiency on behalf of their policy holders. I certainly believe that such independent, external fund managers provide the most competitive and secure results for superannuation fund members of all other alternatives available. They operate in the best economic interests of both employees and the community.

I think we should contrast this with the proposed ACTU scheme which is a compulsory scheme implemented where necessary through the use of industrial blackmail. Firstly, we should look at a number of questions which are: Should

this ACTU scheme get off the ground? Should industrial blackmail be able to be used to coerce employers into joining that scheme? How are the investment decisions of the fund going to be made? Will they be made purely on a commercial basis? Are they going to be made on the basis that will give the best economic advantage for members of the fund? No they are likely to be made on a basis that is not strictly commercial—a basis which is strongly politically influenced by the dedicated socialist philosophy of both the ACTU and the Labor Party.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr TRETHOWAN: The proof of it is in the logic. Should such a scheme come into operation, the people of Australia will certainly see the proof, but at that time it will be too late, because they will be suffering the economic effects of such a policy.

Mr E. T. Evans: What do you reckon they are suffering now with interest rates at 14 per cent?

Mr TRETHOWAN: Does the ACTU really expect anyone to believe that it will not use such financial power gained through the exercise of industrial blackmail to buy controlling interests in selected public companies in order to achieve control of them? Do people really believe that? If they do, they should look at the pattern which has been set in some European countries.

I believe such "backdoor socialism" should not be allowed to grow, because, in the long term, it could place almost total control of Australian industry in the hands of a few union executives.

I suggest ordinary Australians have every right to feel concerned, even frightened, at such a prospect. Therefore, we should look very carefully at the whole area of superannuation. It is one which should be given serious consideration by employers and employees.

Encouragement should be given to a steady expansion of superannuation coverage in the work force on a voluntary basis. We should condemn strongly and take forcible action to resist the kind of scheme proposed by the ACTU for its own advantage, based on the use of industrial blackmail.

I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [8.42 p.m.]: I have great pleasure in making my contribution to the Address-in-Reply. At the outset let me say quite clearly that, as a Royalist, I was quite happy to go along with and to listen to the Governor's Speech.

Whilst admitting I am a Royalist, I recognise also that many of the people I represent although not perhaps Royalists, do in fact support the

monarchical system. Even those people were a little disappointed the Government had seen fit to recommend to Her Majesty the appointment of a Governor who was not of Western Australian origin.

For my part, and also speaking on behalf of some of the people who hold a similar view and who have had the privilege of meeting His Excellency, I point out my first impressions—as I am sure has been the case with the other people to whom I have referred—have been particularly good. I believe His Excellency has a very pleasant nature which will appeal to the Western Australian people. He is friendly and informal.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish His Excellency well during his time as Governor of this State. I am sure that, as he circulates throughout the community, he will make his mark and be particularly well received, despite the fact many people may regret he is not of Western Australian origin.

I am sure that, in the long term, when he completes his service in this State, he will have made his mark, be well respected, and we will be sorry to see him leave.

This is the International Year of the Disabled and I realise reference has been made to this already in the Address-in-Reply debate. I should like to think the publicity given to the International Year of the Disabled has had some effect already in that it has made us more conscious of the problems experienced by disabled people.

I say this because of what happened to a constituent of mine last year. This man has two children who have a disability which prevents them from wearing shoes. These children were not permitted to enter a Perth restaurant without shoes. My constituent took the matter up with the proprietor of the restaurant, and he wrote also to the Premier. I am not criticising the Premier, but the letter was replied to by the Deputy Premier. One of the points the Deputy Premier made was that perhaps the children had been refused entry to save them embarrassment. There is no embarrassment once one is inside a restaurant because the bare feet can be tucked under the table.

This year I invited the same people with the same children to have lunch with me at the same restaurant. They were admitted without question. That is admirable, and I would like to think that it is the result of the publicity given to the International Year of Disabled Persons.

On the occasion last year the same children were asked to leave the Art Gallery. After dining

with me this year, the family went to the Art Gallery. The father made inquiries as to whether the children were allowed to enter without shoes, and after explaining the situation, they were admitted. Perhaps this is another indication that the publicity given to the year of the disabled is being effective. Certainly I hope that is the case. I see the member for Rockingham waving his foot at me there.

Mr Bryce: His disabled leg.

Mr T. J. Burke: That is his contribution to the year of the disabled.

Mr STEPHENS: Ever since it has been in existence the National Party has tried to promote parliamentary reform as a means of restoring the dignity and effectiveness of the Parliament of Western Australia.

I regret to say that this afternoon we witnessed the hammering of yet another nail—if any more nails are necessary—in the coffin of parliamentary democracy. I am referring, of course, to the motion I moved to suspend Standing Orders so that we could debate a matter of vital importance to the people of Western Australia.

Mr Bryce: You could have raised it during the Address-in-Reply debate.

Mr STEPHENS: I could have, but the House would not then have had the opportunity to express, by way of motion, unanimous support for something I believe we all support. We recognise that certain members of the Government side feel that all knowledge and all initiative emanate from the Premier and, therefore, if he does not think of something, it is not worth supporting. According to *The Oxford Dictionary* the word "democracy" is defined as government by the people; that form of government in which all the civilian power resides in the people and is exercised either directly by them or by officers elected by them.

Mr H. D. Evans: Is this one-vote-one-value?

Mr STEPHENS: The definition continues that the word often denotes a social state in which all have equal rights.

Mr H. D. Evans: Equal voting rights?

Mr STEPHENS: All have equal rights in a democracy.

Mr H. D. Evans: That is voting rights, too?

Mr STEPHENS: We must recognise we cannot all have equal positions. There must be some people who lead and some who are prepared to support them. However, in this House the Premier was not even prepared to give the people of Western Australia the courtesy of an explanation of his reason for not accepting the

motion. Members would have noticed that the minions sitting behind him dared not speak, although we all have equal rights according to the dictionary definition of the word "democracy".

Mr Bryce: You are not going to pick on some of those poor disabled politicians who sit behind him, are you?

Mr STEPHENS: Not one of them was prepared to get up and advance a point of view on that motion, and that shows a contempt for the institution of Parliament, and a contempt for the people of Western Australia, if we believe the Parliament is representative of the feelings and thoughts of the people.

In my opinion it was very essential for this House to express an opinion on air fares to Western Australia, especially in view of some of the recent comments appearing in the Press. Last weekend's edition of the *Sunday Independent*, for reasons I cannot understand, carried an editorial proclaiming a victory to Western Australia. After making a few points, the editorial went on to say that the air battle score is one-nil in favour of Western Australia. This article would create the impression that the Liberal Party members in the Federal Parliament have achieved something in the interests of Western Australian people.

Mr Bryce: They haven't.

Mr STEPHENS: The first thing that comes to my mind is the fact that for many years the Liberal Party politicians have allowed an iniquitous situation to continue. That in itself is a black mark against them, a demonstration of their ineffectiveness in representing the people of Western Australia, bearing in mind the Holcroft inquiry indicated that the air fares to Western Australia resulted in a rip-off of something like \$23 million, and that this situation had been allowed to obtain for many years.

Of course, other newspapers were not quite so soft in their approach. The *Western Mail* of 4 April carried an article indicating that the short-term air fare policy adopted by the Federal Government is within 50c of the proposition put forward by Ansett Airlines of Australia.

Of course, the leader in Western Australia of the Fair Internal Air Fares Campaign (Mr Wayne Donaldson) was very critical of the Government's decision to accept virtually the Ansett case on the air fare situation. He indicated that Western Australians are still subsidising air travel to the tune of a massive \$16 million.

Mr Donaldson went on to say that there was no chance of the fares dropping by the \$200 anticipated after the tabling of the Holcroft report last month. In today's edition of *The West*

*Australian*, a letter appeared from another member of the Fair Internal Air Fares Campaign. Mr P.A. Kyle said—

The Federal Government's response to the Holcroft report on the two-airline policy must surely rank as one of the most cynical exercises in politics for a long time.

So in an endeavour to give this House an opportunity immediately to state its position in relation to the twist that the Federal Government has perpetrated on the people of Western Australia, we moved for leave to introduce the motion. As I said, the Premier, without the courtesy of indicating why he was opposed to it, rejected the motion. It is a sad state of affairs that in a so-called democratic institution this situation can prevail.

We are told by the Governments—both Federal and State—that we are on the threshold of tremendous resources development, and this could be true. We are told also that we are at the start of a new era in prosperity for the people of Western Australia and of Australia. We all hope these predictions come true, but as a member representing a constituency in the south of the State, I feel I should bring the attention of the Premier to the fact that he should not get carried away with resources development to the point where the people of the State continue to be ignored, and I use the word “continue” advisedly, because in the past we have had scant consideration. Eventually some things get done in the south, but only after years of procrastination—when they cannot be put off any longer.

On previous occasions I have asked the Government to do something about the water supplies in country areas. There are problems in little developing towns such as Elleker and Mt. Many Peaks because of the lack of water supplies. Kendenup has been established as a town for many years, and yet it still requires a water supply urgently. Each year the matter is deferred yet again. It is not that the Government does not recognise the urgency, but in the exigencies of the financial situation, the Government chooses that its priorities will go another way.

A glaring example of this is the fishing industry. There is an urgent need for a fishing boat harbour in Albany; I believe this need is recognised by all. During the Address-in-Reply debate last year I put forward a suggestion for the Government's consideration that perhaps it could utilise some of the \$30 million in the Treasury Suspense Account—an amount unallocated—to make a start on this fishing boat harbour. The

fishing industry in the south makes a great contribution to the economy of Albany and the south coast generally. At the moment about 80 tuna boats operate out of Albany, and on the basis of an average of three men to a boat, this means that 240 men are employed in the tuna industry. Other boats are catching different fish, but the tuna industry probably accounts for the majority of the catch at the moment.

When I made that comment it was reported in the local Press, and I was exceedingly disappointed to be criticised about it by the member for Albany. He accused me of being grossly misleading in my reference to the \$30 million. Either he or the Premier was in error because I had asked the Premier a question about the Suspense Account and he admitted that at the time there was \$30 million in the account which had been earned on the short-term money market. It was this money which I thought should be made available to make a start on the harbour.

Mr Watt: That was wrong. The money in the Suspense Account had been committed.

Mr STEPHENS: It had not been committed. The member for Albany is the one who is wrong. The member made his case in *The Albany Advertiser* and I replied to him there. No reply was made to my comments.

Mr Watt: Do not take that as a tacit admission that you were right.

Mr STEPHENS: I am not taking it as a tacit admission, but the facts are definite. I quoted an answer I received from the Treasurer about money earned on the short-term money market. It was a total of \$44 million. I admit that some of it was committed. If the member checks *Hansard* he will see that I am right.

Sir Charles Court: You are completely irresponsible in your attitude towards that money.

Mr STEPHENS: I was not irresponsible at all. I was advancing a case for my area. I think I was responsible. It was probably irresponsible for the Premier, as a person committed to the capitalist approach to life, and one who reflects on the socialist approach—and quite rightly as far as I am concerned—to have his photograph taken for *The West Australian* showing the construction of a yard leased to Woodside Petroleum, a joint venturer in the North-West Shelf project. I believe that is a socialist approach. We have a State Government which does not have the money to commence the construction of a fishing boat harbour in Albany, yet it can spend \$6 million in a socialist approach to an off-shore construction yard at Jervoise Bay.



I would have thought that was an area which would be left to private enterprise; after all, that is the area in which private enterprise should be encouraged to work. The building of public facilities such as fishing boat harbours is the responsibility of the State Government. The Government continually tells us it does not have enough money for various projects, yet it can find \$6 million to spend on a construction site, which it then leases to private enterprise.

Sir Charles Court: You have your facts completely upside down. Private enterprise is going to fully service that money. Private enterprise provided the money for the infrastructure. Get your facts right.

Mr STEPHENS: I have my facts right; I will not be sidetracked by the Premier. The State Government; certainly private enterprise would not be interested in it. The Government has committed \$6 million to the building of a construction yard. I am not denying the Government has entered into a long-term lease with private enterprise, or that, in the long term, the money will be repaid. What I am saying is that the money has been committed to an area private enterprise could well have handled.

The fishing boat harbour in Albany is a project which should be undertaken by the State Government's priorities are wrong. The Premier, of all people, should not try to tell us he does not have the money when he commits his Government to this sort of expenditure.

Sir Charles Court: Private enterprise is covering the whole of that debt. I wish we could do that with all our loan moneys, and have private enterprise servicing the full debt.

Mr STEPHENS: The Government has committed \$6 million to this project; it had to have the money in the first place. The fishing industry in Albany no doubt could have contributed to a fishing boat harbour there. I am amazed that a Government which is so private enterprise-orientated could spend this sort of money when there is such pressing need for the construction of public utilities throughout the State.

Mr Watt: The \$6 million to which you have referred was borrowed from private enterprise, and will be serviced by private enterprise.

Mr STEPHENS: The Government borrows a great deal of its money from private enterprise. That does not alter the point that the Government has invested \$6 million in a project which could well have been handled by private enterprise. The Government has chosen to adopt a socialistic approach in the spending of this money, when it

could have used the money to construct a fishing boat harbour in Albany.

Sir Charles Court: If we had sold that foreshore land, there would have been "bobbie die" all around the place.

Mr Cowan: We did not ask you to sell it. Get your priorities right.

Mr STEPHENS: I have made the point that the Government's priorities are all wrong. The Premier constantly talks about budgetary restraints; they are restraints of the Premier's own making, by his entering into socialistic contracts of this nature.

Mr Laurance: I think your leader is on record in *Hansard* as saying such facilities should be built by the State Government.

Mr STEPHENS: The Honorary Minister should discuss that matter with the member for Merredin.

Mr Cowan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I believe more progress will be made if the member for Merredin and the Honorary Minister desisted from their conversation.

Mr STEPHENS: I appreciate your support, Mr Speaker; I assure you I will not be sidetracked from my point. It would seem from the interjections of the Premier, the member for Albany, and the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing that Government members are a little embarrassed by my comments.

I also wish to convey to the House the concern of the tuna boat fishermen on the south coast. Action has been taken by the two processors in this State which in effect means there will be no further purchases of tuna, which effectively ties up the tuna boat operators. Many of these operators have commitments to meet and this action has placed them in a serious financial position. I made inquiries of both South Australia and New South Wales and I found the processing industry there is prepared to accept all catches of tuna.

I am prepared to admit there may be an overall downturn in the purchase of tuna at the same time as there has been an increase in the overall catch in Australia and world wide. It would appear in the short term that, either because of the peculiar system in Western Australia, or the marketing system, the Western Australian processors have a liquidity problem.

Mr Watt: What has the season been like in the Eastern States?

Mr STEPHENS: It has been slightly above average. The fact remains that in the Eastern

States, the processors are continuing to accept all tuna caught.

I am not criticising the Eastern States or Western Australia. I have placed a question on notice for tomorrow asking the Premier whether he will give consideration to providing some financial assistance to enable the Western Australian processors to continue to purchase tuna.

Mr Watt: That matter already is being considered.

Mr STEPHENS: The Government has been approached before on this matter, but the request has been turned down. I hope the Premier will give sympathetic consideration to providing financial support to enable the processing industry to continue to purchase tuna from the fishermen of Western Australia.

If the Premier cannot see his way clear to support the industry, I ask him to take immediate steps to allow the fishermen to be treated in the same way as the farming community, with respect to rural reconstruction and the like, so that these fishermen may have the means to meet their regular commitments, and thus save all the traumas involved in repossession and that type of thing.

I have spoken on many occasions before in this place about the need for a student hostel at Mt. Barker. The Government needs to give more consideration to this matter. Mt. Barker had a five-year high school established in 1973 or 1974. Since then the people in the area have been trying to have established a four night hostel. Initially, they sought the normal, seven-day hostel. However, no assistance was forthcoming from the Government; the people were told there was excessive accommodation at Albany, and that the students could go there.

The people of Mt. Barker are an independent and progressive lot and they came back with the suggestion that a four-night hostel be established. It had the benefit of cheaper operating costs, and would enable the students to return to their family environment at the weekends—something I am sure all members would see as most desirable. However, again this request was rejected by the Government. I must admit that after being presented with submissions over a 12-month period, a previous Minister for Education went on a tour of the south-west and returned with the thought that four-night hostels would be a good idea throughout the country area. Of course, that was not a new idea; it was put forward some time earlier by the people of Mt. Barker.

The people of Mt. Barker, having been rejected twice by the Government, got together and, with the support of the local shire council, established a four-night hostel. The hostel has been a financial success to the extent that it is meeting its operating costs, although it needs a certain amount of financial assistance to cover maintenance and the like.

It has also been a success to the extent that, this year, applications were received from 24 students; however, the hostel can accommodate only 12 students which means that the remaining 12 students will be denied the benefit of staying at the four-night hostel in Mt. Barker and attending the Mt. Barker High School. This represents a considerable hardship to the children and their parents in that the alternative is either home correspondence lessons or leaving home each morning at 7.30, travelling by bus to school, and returning each evening after 5.00 p.m. Members all realise what that entails, particularly in winter, and especially when it involves year 11 and year 12 students, who have the burden of extra homework.

The local people have shown their initiative and preparedness to support themselves. They have been repeatedly confronted by the Government's refusal to support them in any way.

Recently I discovered that, over a period of a couple of years, the Katanning hostel has been granted \$200 000 to increase accommodation there. This brings up the serious charge that the Government is applying a double standard. The people of Mt. Barker would like to know why the submission for the Katanning hostel was not also rejected with the notation "Excessive accommodation exists at Albany; the students should go there."

This matter was raised once again in a deputation by the people of Mt. Barker to the Minister for Education. It was my privilege to take the deputation to the Minister, and we were very well received. I earnestly hope the Minister for Education can persuade his Government to reconsider its attitude on this matter. It would be in the interests of the children, in the interests of decentralisation, and in the interests of the Government, because it would be helping to establish a self-supporting system.

Over the years, I have frequently mentioned agriculture, and the need for adequate research funds. The Government, quite rightly, is always telling us of the importance of agriculture to our economy. Notwithstanding the mining and resources boom, agriculture is still the backbone of Western Australia and, possibly, employs more

people than does any other single industry in our community. Therefore it is essential we ensure this industry continue.

I spoke on this matter last year during the Budget debate. The Minister for Agriculture was not present at the time, but in his reply, once again, he misquoted my comments and accused me of criticising the officers of the Department of Agriculture. I have never at any time reflected on those officers; my experience has been such that I have had no need to criticise them. However, I have frequently criticised the lack of funds made available to allow these officers to operate effectively in the various fields of interest in the agricultural industry in this State. Unfortunately, this is the first opportunity I have had to correct the twisting of my words by the Minister for Agriculture.

During that speech, I referred to the need for research funds and for improved clover and oat varieties; I also mentioned rye grass toxicity. Currently in the limelight—although it is not a new problem—is the problem of salt land. It has been with us for many years and the dry years have aggravated the deterioration in our farming land. The Government is now taking initiatives which it hopes will allay the public's fears in regard to this problem.

We in the National Party have been critical of the Government's refusal to have a full-scale trial of the Whittington interceptor bank concept. We maintain that in view of the amount of money spent by farmers in the State and in view of the amount of money being paid out in the clearing ban area—and much of my electorate is in that area—it behoves the Government at least to try this approach. The Government believes it is being pragmatic in its approach but it is not being that when it refuses to initiate a full-scale trial of the concept.

At the same time as it refuses to do that it is leaving some shires to bear the whole burden. The Cranbrook Shire has indicated that when all the land subject to controls has been taken out of production it will mean a loss of 7.5 per cent of its rates, yet the Government refuses to do anything to help the shire. The National Party's point of view is that if the concept was proven and found to be successful it would not be necessary for all this land to be taken out of use. Once again, I urge the Government to rethink our proposal.

While the Government is indicating its intention to form committees, it is interesting to note that the Department of Agriculture is reorganising itself. The wheat and sheep section and the soil division have been amalgamated into

a regional services section. In effect, there was a downgrading of the soil division within the department. That was a retrograde step. We should employ more specialist advisers in a soil division rather than fewer. The amalgamation means that while we have officers with a general ability in this area, the number of specialist officers in soil conservation is being reduced. It is high time the Government gave serious consideration to following the example of New South Wales and Victoria which have soil conservation sections in their Departments of Conservation.

The problem is so important now that serious consideration should be given to divorcing soil conservation from the department and placing it in the hands of the Department of Conservation and Environment. It is an amazing thing that the Whittington concept operators charge something like \$28 or \$30 an hour for their services and there are additional costs if bulldozer work is necessary. Notwithstanding that, we have a tremendous number of farmers wanting to use their services.

The Department of Agriculture provides a free service but there are very few farmers who avail themselves of it. That is an indication that the Government should look at its policies with an eye to reviewing them. Perhaps money being wasted on the Animal Breeding Institute at Katanning could be more effectively used upgrading and improving soil conservation facilities. I have criticised this institute before. I noticed during the parliamentary recess that its first programme will relate to twin lambs in merino ewes. This matter was subject to investigation by Dr Helen Newton-Turner some years ago. Perhaps if the department would look at her work it could save itself the expense of continuing with the institute's programme. Having established the institute, perhaps the people concerned are searching for a justification of it. It should be obvious that it would be a better utilisation of the funds if we had a soil conservation division in the Department of Agriculture.

Since the National Party's inception it has always had a progressive approach in forming its policies. It is interesting to note that some of the issues it has advanced—such as industrial relations, four-year Parliaments and the need for a tribunal to overcome problems associated with misleading election advertising—are now being followed up by other parties.

Let us consider industrial relations. A couple of years ago we advanced a policy calling for a Royal Commission to review all aspects of industrial relations, including union organisations,

employer organisations, industrial training, and apprenticeships. This was a first step towards a blueprint for a new approach to industrial relations.

This idea has been steadfastly rejected by the Government until recently the Premier came out with the idea of an independent inquiry into industrial relations. I believe that is the same thing as a Royal Commission. I believe he has come to accept our idea. If his efforts to get the Federal Government to carry out such an inquiry were frustrated, he should initiate an inquiry by his own Government. That is a step we would support.

At the time the National Party put forward the proposition for a Royal Commission into industrial relations the Minister for Agriculture—the Leader of the National Country Party—in a letter to the *Western Farmer* dated 16 August 1979 had the following to say—

I shudder to think of a Royal Commission into industrial lawlessness, as suggested by Mr M. E. Stephens (*Western Farmer*, August 9).

He meant industrial relations. To continue—

He knows as well as any other Parliamentarians how drawn out, costly and inconclusive such Royal Commissions can be. His call is nothing more than a back-handed way of attacking the Coalition's efforts to resist industrial aggression through seeking appropriate legislative means.

The same device "call for a Royal Commission" is used frequently by the Labor Party when it is trying to stall a positive Government move.

Recently I asked the Minister for Agriculture a question without notice. I asked whether the Minister was aware that the Premier had called for an independent inquiry into industrial relations and if it was his party's policy to support such a move. I asked that if the answer was "No", what was the National Country Party's policy in relation to this issue? We should bear in mind his comments recorded in the *Western Farmer* when I indicate that the leader of the National Country Party said in reply that the policy of the National Country Party was to support the coalition Government in its move on industrial relations and the NCP would continue to do so.

We have seen the financial bankruptcy of the leadership of the National Country Party. I will not refer to that party's problems and its plea for \$200 000 to pay for its last election campaign. We witnessed the utter incompetency of the NCP as it blindly followed the Liberal Party. When the

National Party suggested an inquiry into industrial relations the NCP leadership said that we were trying to obstruct the Premier and the Government. However, now that the Government says it supports such an inquiry, the NCP also supports it.

A four-year Parliament is another idea of the National Party. We moved for a Select Committee to look into certain aspects of electoral and parliamentary reform. The Government nonchalantly rejected the idea out of hand. It is interesting to note that the Victorian Government intends to legislate for a four-year Parliament. Bearing in mind that the Government parties refused to accept our idea of a Select Committee to consider this question, the Government now has a back-bench committee considering the matter. When one bears these facts in mind it is no wonder the image of this Parliament is very low in the eyes of the public.

The idea of a tribunal to regulate election advertising is another initiative of the National Party. Because of the misleading nature of advertising in recent campaigns, the National Party suggested there should be a tribunal which could indicate whether a matter was factual. This would save the expense of litigation which, after all, takes place after the event when it is too late to make amends. This idea is now very topical bearing in mind the situation relating to the last Federal election when there were obvious misstatements put about and a legal challenge was mounted.

An interpretation of that legal challenge was said by the Liberal Party to vindicate the honesty of its advertising. It did no such thing. I give full credit to the editorial in the 25 March edition of *The West Australian* in which the position was clearly laid on the line indicating that the judgment meant only that there was no way presently of overcoming the problem given the existing legislation. It would be well if we in this Parliament pressed the Government for some form of tribunal to consider misleading election advertising. I appreciate that an interpretation of certain words could vary but certain facts could not be varied.

My time is limited and I cannot elaborate on this point. I would have liked to give an indication of what I mean by referring to an advertisement which did appear in a newspaper. I could outline a statement in the minutes of a meeting which could disprove the statement contained in the advertisement. A tribunal of the type I mention could force a person who made a misleading statement to retract his words. If this could happen, much more care would be taken in the

choice of advertising wording. I support the Address-in-Reply.

**MR CARR** (Geraldton) [9.27 p.m.]: I rise to participate in the debate on the Address-in-Reply intending to deal with a number of quite separate and unrelated matters. My first suggestion I believe to be a very constructive one. It is not a new suggestion and it was not originally my suggestion, although I have raised the matter on a previous occasion—I refer to the timing of school holidays.

I relate this suggestion to the tourist potential in the northern part of the State. At the moment we have a situation in which the northern part of the State is very seriously missing out on tourist potential because our school holidays are arranged very much to the benefit of the southern parts of the State.

The problem is that most people like to take their holidays at the same time as the children have their school holidays. Given that we have a present arrangement of seven weeks' holiday during summer time and two holidays of two weeks duration in May and August, a great deal of benefit is given to the southern parts of the State.

At the time of the seven weeks' holiday there is cool weather in the southern half of the State compared with hot weather in the northern part of the State. It is only logical that people will choose to spend their holidays in the southern part of the State.

The northern climates are much better during winter, and I refer to all the northern destinations—the Kimberley, the Pilbara, the Gascoyne, my electorate of Geraldton, and the goldfields. These areas are far more attractive to people during the winter season.

During the seven-week holiday break it is often a waste of time contacting departments in Perth. I am sure every member of Parliament has been through the experience of ringing a department in January to obtain information. A member will usually find that everyone bar the girl who makes the tea is on holidays.

I am sure Government efficiency would increase if we were to have a more even distribution of holidays; if we were to have three even terms throughout the year.

There is a great deal of tourist potential in the north. The mines and ports, while perhaps not of interest to all of us, do provide tourist attractions. They do attract people who have not seen them before. They are interesting if people have not seen such things, and many people do want to see them.

The scenery in the north is interesting and the fishing is very good. Of course, the winter warmth is an attraction after the cooler weather in Perth. It is now possible for people to travel much further in the north than in previous times. Roads are being developed; however, not as quickly as some people would like. Nevertheless, now it is possible for people to travel much further into the north in less time than on previous occasions.

I submit that to improve the tourist industry in the north we need to spread the tourist season beyond the present two two-week seasons as is the present situation. I believe we have two alternatives. One is to change from the present arrangement of three school terms with holiday periods of seven weeks, two weeks, and two weeks. We could have holidays along the lines of five weeks at Christmas, three weeks in May and three weeks in August or, possibly, four weeks at Christmas, four weeks in May, and four weeks in August. Another quite separate alternative which, I believe, is being tried in Queensland and New South Wales, is to have a four semester year with four holiday breaks.

**Mr Grayden:** One of the big arguments against that is that children in country areas would have to travel long distances in school buses in the hottest months of the year.

**Mr CARR:** It is true that the argument raised in opposition to the point I put forward is that which the Minister for Education has just outlined and is totally supported by the Education Department. Last year I directed questions relating to my suggestion to the Minister for Education and to the Minister for Tourism. The answer from the Minister for Tourism was most encouraging, whereas the answer from the Minister for Education quoted the argument continually put forward by the Education Department which relies mainly on the matter of heat during the summer. I do not accept that argument.

We already have the situation of schools being back in operation at about 5 or 7 February each year. Members would know it is just as hot in the second half of February and the first half of March as it is in January. So, I do not accept the argument on the basis of heat during the summer. I believe my suggestion deserves to be pursued. As I said, it has been raised for a number of years.

I know this matter goes back at least five years. It was raised by people in Esperance, which is interesting because Esperance is in a cooler part of the State.

**Mr Laurance:** The tourist bureaux are discussing the matter with Queensland and New

South Wales authorities. Queensland started the system last year and New South Wales will commence it next year.

Mr CARR: I thank the Honorary Minister for his comments. I intended to complete my remarks on that point by saying to the Minister that he should pursue the suggestions as strongly as he can because he represents a northern electorate and is aware of the effect of tourism on that part of the State.

Mr Laurance: I have just been provided with a report from the first Country Tourist Bureaus Conference held in 1957 because it is now that organisation's silver jubilee year. On the agenda was the matter of staggered school holidays.

Mr CARR: I am sorry to hear the Honorary Minister say that because it is obvious that in 25 years not much progress has been made. I hope the remaining two years he has in his present office as Honorary Minister will be more productive than the last 25 years.

Mr Grayden: Before you get off that, the other main argument, of course, is that most of our schools are not air-conditioned, except in the Pilbara, and for children and teachers to work in those conditions you suggested would aggravate the present situation.

Mr CARR: I appreciate the argument put forward by the Education Department, but I repeat my point: It will not be any hotter in the last week of January than, for example, in the second week of February. Another point I wish to make in this Address-in-Reply relates to the Honorary Minister, but to a different portfolio—that relating to decentralisation and regional development. I am disappointed that we have seen virtually no action in this area during the last 12 months or so. I have given the Honorary Minister a fair amount of time to acquaint himself with that portfolio and get moving with it. I know he had a few things on his mind last year—in particular, as to whether he would be paid. That matter does not seem to have reached any conclusion, so I think it is time he turned his attention to his portfolio of Regional Administration and matters relating thereto. During the last 12 months I would have liked to see more progress in this field.

It is true that at the last election the Government did not promise a great deal in regard to regional development and decentralisation; it spent time reiterating what it did in the past. However, the ALP put forward a package of proposals which were announced in December 1979 by the Leader of the Opposition and myself. I had hoped that in the 12 months of

office of the Honorary Minister we would have seen the introduction of some of our proposals. I acknowledge we are of a different political philosophy, and I would not expect everything in our document to be accepted by a Liberal Government. However, I believe that many of the items in our policy are constructive and of a bipartisan nature, and I had hoped to see more action in regard to them.

When looking at the lack of action it is interesting to note that some action has been taken by the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce. A number of members on this side of the House were quite intrigued last year to see the Honorary Minister studying the ALP's small business policy. We were interested to see that some of our policies were introduced last year into this House.

I suggest to the Honorary Minister for Regional Administration that, if he already has not been referred to our regional development document, he should do so so that he will obtain some ideas for action to be taken during the next couple of years.

I will mention a couple of proposals in that policy which have not been acted upon and warrant consideration. I refer to decentralisation of Government purchasing; a growth centre policy; decentralised Government departments in terms of more branches in country centres and consideration of the placement of head offices in country centres. Much could be done to improve regional administration. At the moment we find that the regional administration set-up is not much more than a post office arrangement by which communications are passed between people in the country areas and people in the city.

Mr Laurance: I refute that. You keep making that claim, but I refute it. People in the country areas would be able to tell you the correct situation. You have been in touch with them.

Mr CARR: I disagree with the Honorary Minister. The regional administrators have very little decision-making power.

Mr Laurance: Even in your area things are going much better.

Mr CARR: The administrators must refer everything to the head office of the departments in Perth. I believe scope exists for improvement in that regard.

Another matter to which I will refer relates to regional development committees. I am critical of the fact that they are not under the control of the Honorary Minister for Regional Administration, but under the control of the Minister responsible

for resources development, which fairly shows the bias the committees have for resources development. That is important in the country areas of the State; however, that is not the only matter which should be under the purview of those committees.

We have the ludicrous situation of a regional development committee—if it becomes involved in a social matter concerning, say, matters of education—not being able to write directly to the Minister for Education or write to him on its behalf. Whilst I have a lot of respect for these committees, I believe they would be able better to help country people if they could broaden their scope to cover social work, with appropriate people on the committees, and be able to bring different matters before them.

The matter of autonomy for local government is something to which I will refer in a few moments. It affects all people in the State but would be beneficial mostly to people in the country areas. The Government has done little to contain high prices in country areas, and we suggest the office of Regional Administration and the North West should be located in the north west, but it is located in St. George's Terrace.

The criticisms I make of the Minister's handling of his portfolio really can be put into two categories. One is the failure to act on any of the points I have mentioned. The second is that we have a fragmented and unco-ordinated approach by this Government towards decentralisation and regional development. We have several Ministers involved to a minor extent with decentralisation and regional development, but we have no-one playing the specific role of co-ordinating and as overseer in regard to regional development policies. More efficiency would be achieved if there were one Minister with a clear responsibility for decentralisation and regional development. Much duplication could be cut out.

I believe such an organisation or portfolio should be given departmental status. We should have a department of decentralisation and regional development. I am not too concerned about the name for such a department; the important point is that we have one department with one Minister responsible for regional development policy.

We do not seem to have had any action in that regard. Possibly the Honorary Minister has taken such a proposal to Cabinet, but I would not know. Possibly he has prepared a submission to the

effect that we need a co-ordinated approach to regional development, but I do not know. Possibly he has done nothing at all in that regard. If such a proposal did go to Cabinet we all know what the Premier's answer would be—that arch St. George's Terrace centralist of all time. He would say, "We can't have ministerial responsibility for that; we must have everything regarding the north-west go over my desk." He thinks the north-west is his personal property.

Mr Bryce: He did that with education; he made the statement and hopped into that portfolio.

Mr CARR: I do not know what the member for Ascot is on about, but if the Honorary Minister has not taken to Cabinet a submission for a regional development department to be established, he has been ineffective in his portfolio. I urge him to show a little independence and stand up for country people by pressing for one department to co-ordinate all aspects of regional development and decentralisation policies for the State.

Mr Laurance: The service provided by all Ministers in the development going on in all regions in this State is unprecedented.

Mr CARR: I think that statement is a little bit of a joke. I deny it is unprecedented. I made the point that some Ministers have responsibility for and involvement in some aspects of regional development.

Mr Laurance: All Ministers—in fact, the Government.

Mr CARR: I cannot accept that 15 Ministers having some interest in regional development is better than one Minister having a co-ordinating role. I cannot see that the involvement of all those Ministers can be channeled into a fruitful direction.

I will now refer to local government and my considerable disappointment with the Government's attitude to local government. This Government wants to overrule local authorities. It is the Government which wants to minimise the influence of power of local authorities. If anyone thinks the words I have used have been plucked out of the air on the spur of the moment I will refer to a statement which refers to these matters made some time ago by the Government. In a submission back in 1979 from the Government to the Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations a couple of the paragraphs are well worth quoting. It is stated—

Local Government has been created by the States for the sole purpose of carrying out functions that are themselves a State responsibility.

...it is not designed to play an independent role in the Federal system and should not be seen as having a special position outside the State sphere...

From that statement clearly we have this Government saying local government should be kept in its place; it should be something on which we can pour accolades at various times but should not be given any opportunity to show any independence.

The ALP made a submission at about that time to that council. The ALP spelt out in detail that it believes local government has a potential to play a much more significant role than it does at present.

We believe there is scope for greater flexibility in consultation between the councils and the Minister. It was quoted in *The West Australian* under the headline "ALP seeks a bigger role for local government"—

Mrs Craig: You are generalising again.

Mr CARR: It is obvious the Minister is not happy about what I am about to say about local government.

Mrs Craig: You are generalising as you always do. Why can't you say exactly what you mean?

Mr CARR: I wish to contrast the ALP's approach to local government with the approach of the present State Government. It has been enunciated, quite clearly, that the ALP trusts local government and is prepared to allow local government to make its own decisions. We want to give local government the opportunity to play a larger role in its workings; however, the Government wishes to dominate local government.

This Government is reluctant to recognise the identity of local government. Local government in this State had to keep at the State Government in order to get local government recognised in the State's Constitution. Deny that, Madam Minister.

Mrs Craig: You know very well they didn't. I know very well they didn't because I was the one who negotiated with them.

Mr CARR: That is why! I will give another example of this Government's attitude to local government; it is an example which occurred in this House last week, and I am referring to the dismissal of a council. We all know the Minister has the power to dismiss a council, and no-one denies that fact.

Mrs Craig: You say we should not?

Mr CARR: I am not saying that. There should be a power given to the Minister but there are certain procedures which should be followed.

Those procedures should involve the right of appeal and the right of reply.

Mrs Craig: On what basis do you think a council should be dismissed?

Mr CARR: I have spelt out the type of guidelines which should apply.

Mrs Craig: Spell them out and tell us how clever you are.

Mr CARR: I am talking about a procedure which can be followed so that everyone knows where he stands. If the Minister would like to involve me in discussions in setting up such procedures and guidelines I would be happy to participate in any such committee. I challenge the Minister to show she is interested in my involvement, by setting up some sort of panel to work towards obtaining proper procedures.

The point I am attempting to make is that this Government has an arbitrary approach. Sometimes it sacks a council, as it did two years ago. The reasons for that action may or may not have been appropriate but we did ask the Minister, in this House, what she thought.

Of course, there is the view that it was the correct decision to make and I am not criticising the Minister's decision, I am criticising the fact that she has the arbitrary power, without a set of guidelines. No-one knows the ground rules for her actions.

Mr Davies: She is creative how she uses it.

Mrs Craig: That is exactly contradictory to what you are saying. You are saying "Give them autonomy."

Mr CARR: The Minister is experiencing a little trouble at the moment—trouble finding contradictions.

Mrs Craig: You are!

Mr CARR: The examples I have quoted are typical of the attitude of this Government and this Minister. Those attitudes rely on the "Big Brother" approach and local government is treated like a child.

The Minister simply does not trust local government.

The Minister, in the administration of her portfolio, has been encountering mounting opposition in local government. Local government has been angered by the way the Minister has administered her portfolio. Councils and councillors have been angered as well as the people in the community, who consider local government as a major part of our three-tier system of government.



There is widespread dissatisfaction at the way the Minister has administered her portfolio—she is most unpopular. I will put forward a number of examples to illustrate my comments. It was August 1979 when the dissatisfaction first surfaced. In the *Daily News* issue of 2 August 1979, under the heading "Criticism mounts against Mrs Craig", the following was reported—

The Minister for Local Government, Mrs Craig, is coming under increasing fire in local government circles for the way she is handling her portfolio.

Usually conservative councillors and local government officials are letting their criticism of Mrs Craig be heard.

"She is the Minister against Local Government—not for," one long-serving councillor commented.

Criticism over the past two months has reached the stage where councillors make caustic references to the Minister at public council meetings.

She is described as inflexible and the State Government's local government liaison committee is being referred to as a farce.

A week later, Mr Wilson Tuckey—

Mr Clarko: That statement was made without a signed name.

Mr CARR: I will supply the name right now. The person concerned has since become a member of the Liberal Party.

Mr Clarko: That was a newspaper article, and the sources were not attributed to anyone.

Mr CARR: It was reported in *The West Australian* issue of 8 August 1979 under the heading "Government too parental, say country shires" that Mr Wilson Tuckey, President of the Country Shire Councils' Association of WA, said that it was councils' view that the Government was too parental in its attitude and in its relationship with local shires.

All members in this House should be aware that I am referring to the local government liaison committee and its involvement in the amendments to section 534 of the Local Government Act. It will be recalled that legislation was brought to this House and we were told, in the second reading speech, that local government had been consulted.

The Opposition agreed to the legislation on the ground that members were assured that local government had been fully consulted. We later found out that they had been consulted in the sense that they had been told about it.

Mrs Craig: No.

Mr CARR: We in the Opposition were in trouble with our supporters because we had not opposed strongly that legislation. We had made the mistake of accepting the words of this Minister that local government had been consulted when, in fact, consultation meant telling the shires what would occur.

Mrs Craig: There was consultation, by telephone, with councils.

Mr CARR: In a report of the CSA's annual meeting in Perth it was stated—

"There is little good in us attending, this meeting or others where we are invited to pass opinions if our opinions are ignored or rejected and then at a later date a politician rises in the House and recommends legislation to Parliament with the rider that this matter has been fully canvassed with local government.

"Consequently, inferring it has our support.

Mrs Craig: I did not, at any stage, say that the matter had been fully canvassed.

Mr CARR: Oh, so now we are going into semantics! It was made very clear—in fact it may have been the Premier who read the second reading speech in the Minister's absence—and we were given the impression that local government had been well and truly consulted. In fact, the Minister was putting one over us, as we found out at a later stage.

Mr Davies: What reply did the Minister give at the time?

Mr CARR: In the 8 August issue of *The West Australian* the Minister said—

Local government is a creature of the State in the sense that it is created by the State and exists only because the State keeps it in existence.

The State could, if it wished, abolish local government . . .

Next week, in an article in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*—

Mrs Craig: Do you have nothing other than newspaper cuttings?

Mr CARR: I am just indicating the Minister's standing in the community. If I were to stand here and say, in my opinion, the Minister is doing a terrible job, would that impress the Minister as well as saying everyone in local government has been inundating newspapers with complaints about the terrible job the Minister is doing?

Mr Clarko: They are just journalists trying to fill up a paper.

Mr CARR: On this occasion, the journalist from the *Kalgoorlie Miner* spoke to mayor Finlayson. Under the heading "Finlayson criticises department" it was reported on 15 August 1979 as follows—

Mr Finlayson said that the department was not allowing local government to govern.

That is the Minister's fault.

Mrs Craig: On what basis?

Mr CARR: The whole article of 15 August 1979 criticised the Minister for not paying attention to the wishes of council.

Mr McIver: Is Mr Finlayson a member of the ALP?

Mr CARR: No, he stood as a Liberal Party candidate in 1974 or 1977.

To further indicate the standing of this Minister I wish to quote from an editorial in *The Local Government Journal of W.A.*, September Quarter, 1979, because I think this article really sums up the situation. It reads as follows—

The remark by the Minister for Local Government, Mrs Craig, that local government was a 'creature' of the State Government and could be abolished at any time by the State would have won her few friends in the third-tier.

It was not entirely accurate either. Local Government in W.A. was born in 1871. State Government, as it now exists, was born in 1891.

If Mrs Craig's claim is given authenticity, then it must be the only case in history where a child existed for 20 years before the birth of its mother.

In any event local governments, in the form of the old road boards, were born of the community. The State Government was only the midwife.

Now, this is the section of the quote I wish to emphasise—

In fairness, the term "creature" was not the Minister's, but one used by the President of the Country Shire Council's Association.

I refer now to a submission made by the Minister to the Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations. The Minister stated—

Local Government has been created by the States for the sole purpose of carrying out functions that are themselves a State responsibility.

Then, that line the Minister likes to use—

Mrs Craig: Is not.

Mr CARR: It was the Minister's term.

Mrs Craig: It was in an editorial written by local government and was Wilson Tucky's phraseology.

Mr CARR: Is the Minister denying that her department was responsible for preparing that submission?

Mrs Craig: It was the Department of Federal Affairs.

Mr CARR: It was a submission from the Western Australian Government to the ACIGR. So, we have a curious situation where we have a submission from this Government which has nothing to do with the Minister. What sort of a situation are we getting into?

I wish to refer to the question of autonomy and this is the area in which most of the criticism of the Minister is made. Firstly, there is too much scope for the Minister, or the Government, to overrule local government decisions. Secondly, this Minister is too heavy-handed in her use of power which is available to her.

In 1979 I did some research, in conjunction with a well-known academic, which revealed that there were 259 sections or subsections in the Local Government Act requiring a council to seek the concurrence of the Minister and the Government.

Mrs Craig: Not right!

Mr CARR: There have been a couple of changes made since, thus reducing that figure to about 250.

Mrs Craig: The number is 178.

Mr CARR: The Minister has come up with another figure. The Minister has used various figures. The Minister gave me the figure of 150, but then went to 180, and now it is 178! It proves one thing—The Minister cannot count at all.

I wish to give some examples of matters which have to be approved by the Minister or the Government.

The declaration of a resident of a shire as a freeman requires approval of the Government, as does the decision of a shire to do work in an adjoining shire with the agreement of that shire. In fact, this Government wrote in another ridiculous provision a couple of years ago when it said that where a council sends a representative overseas to study any matters of significance to the council the approval of the Government is required also.

We on this side of the House are of the opinion that such decisions should be left to the council, and if it makes an unpopular decision it is

answerable to the electors. I saw a similar example only the other day when the Geraldton Town Council found itself having to apply for permission to expend money on opening the theatre being built at Geraldton. Sure, it was a lot of money as far as openings of this kind are concerned, but I would argue that the council should have the right to make the decision whether to spend the money.

I guess really the difference between the Minister and myself is that she does not want councils to make decisions with which she does not agree, whereas I believe councils should have the right to make decisions with which I do not agree.

Referring back to those 259 provisions of the Act in respect of which permission is required, the Leader of the Opposition made a commitment at the same conference in 1979 that a State Labor Government would undertake a complete review and overhaul of the Local Government Act for the purpose of reducing the number of local authority decisions subject to review by the Minister or the Governor. That commitment was clearly outlined by the Leader of the Opposition, and he said we would involve local government strongly in the review and would seek to reduce the number of provisions involved. He said we would make that review in conjunction with electoral reform.

I make this point as I always do when speaking on this question: If we are talking about local authorities being responsible to their constituents, it should be a real responsibility in a truly democratic system. We will wait to see what the Minister has in mind. However, I would point out the statement by the Opposition has been well received throughout country areas of the State and, in fact, by local authorities everywhere.

I want to refer to the way in which the Minister for Local Government uses her power, and the related question of her approval of appeals in respect of building permits. The Minister claims she upholds only a small number of appeals each year. In fact, hundreds of building appeals are upheld each year. I have figures for the last 10 years, although I missed one year—1976-77—for which I was not able to obtain statistics. However, over a period of eight years or so the number of appeals has grown from 231 in 1971-72 to 359 last year.

Mrs Craig: Are these under the Local Government Act?

Mr CARR: Yes, they are appeals in respect of building by-laws under the Local Government Act.

Mrs Craig: Not under the town planning legislation?

Mr CARR: They are the ones referred to in the Minister's annual report under the Local Government Act.

The number of appeals upheld in that period has grown from 156 in 1971-72 to 256 in 1979-80. In other words, the number of appeals upheld in 1979-80 amounted to 71.3 per cent, the highest figure in the period. Not that it was greatly higher than was the case in the days of the last Labor Government, when something like 64 per cent of appeals were upheld; but it seems to me the percentage of appeals being upheld by Ministers of various colours is vastly too high. If it is necessary to uphold something like two-thirds of appeals then I suggest something is wrong with the by-laws in the first place and they should be amended so that we do not have a great number of appeals being upheld.

Mrs Craig interjected.

Mr CARR: I have only a few minutes left, and I have not time to answer the Minister.

The problem is not only that of a great number of appeals being upheld, but also it involves the type of appeals being upheld. We find this Minister for Local Government has a tendency to uphold anything which favours large developers. This can be seen if we look at some of the examples before us. I quote the examples of the Cottesloe situation, the situation at Booragoon, the situation at Claremont and the situation at South Perth. We have a situation in which this Minister is prepared to uphold any appeal made by large developers.

Mr Young interjected.

Mr CARR: The Minister for Health attempts to interject. Let us not forget the case of the Bicton Annexe. The Minister for Local Government was not prepared to allow the council to run the annexe, but the Minister for Health was quite prepared to let friends of the Liberal Party—in fact, Liberal Party members—run it in a very profitable way.

This situation is clearly outlined in letters to the editor which show from where the Minister receives her support. I refer to the Chamber of Commerce, big business, and big developers; they are the people who are writing to support the Minister at a time when local government and resident groups are being most critical.

This Minister does not have the confidence of local government, and she does not have the confidence of the Opposition. Probably she does not have the confidence of her own members. We

seek radical changes in her attitude and ask her to consider local government as a real part of the three-tiered system of government. We ask that local government be given much more autonomy.

In the seven minutes remaining to me I want to touch on a matter which I consider is an absolute scandal and about which the Government should be absolutely ashamed. I draw the attention of the Chief Secretary in particular to this matter, because it is within his administration. I refer to the state of the electoral rolls of Western Australia, which are in an utter and disgraceful mess. Tens of thousands of people in this State who are eligible to be on the rolls are not on them.

Mr Hassell: Why not?

Mr CARR: The reason is that the Minister's department is not prepared to go out and enrol them.

Mr Hassell: What! My department does not have that obligation; the people have that obligation.

Mr CARR: If the Minister will give me my six minutes, I propose to put my point of view to the House.

My attention was first drawn to this situation at the last State election when I found many, many constituents in Geraldton wanting section votes and only a very small number being accepted. I heard the same story told by many other members on this side of the House. Questions asked in this House revealed the extent of the problem. Last year in reply to question 147 asked by the member for Ascot, we were informed that 35 853 people applied for section votes at the last State election, and fewer than 1 000 received them. Only 813 people were admitted to the count, meaning that 35 000 people thought they were on the roll and went to vote only to be told they were not on the roll. Those people knew enough about the system to demand a section vote. Just imagine, 35 000 people thought they were on the roll but were not.

Mr Grewar: That is their responsibility.

Mr CARR: It is all very well for the member for Roe to make a comment similar to that made by the Minister; but that is not good enough. If it is good enough for the Federal department to go from door to door, it is good enough for the State department to do something about the matter. I followed up that question with one relating to my own constituency. In reply to question 702 of 1980 the Minister informed me that 460 people applied for section votes and only 10 were admitted. So, clearly, 450 people in Geraldton alone thought they were on the roll but were not.

Mr McIver: And they are still taking them off the roll if you don't watch them.

Mr CARR: I agree with the member for Avon. Last year I carried out a comparison of figures. I compared the Geraldton State electoral roll with the Federal roll for the subdivision of Geraldton, related to the same boundaries. I had my secretary go through the two rolls, name by name, street by street, to give an exact comparison, and I found 1 078 people were on the Federal roll who were not on the State roll.

Mr Hassell: When?

Mr CARR: This was in December last year.

Mr Hassell: Yes, and do you know the reason? The Federal department has not yet cleaned its roll since the Federal election, whereas the State department has.

Mr CARR: The difference is that the Federal department accepts responsibility for putting people on the roll and it canvasses door to door to get them on the roll. That is where the Minister's department falls down badly.

I will give one more example of the extent of the problem. I made a comparison of the rolls last week and I asked a question in this House which revealed the total enrolment in Western Australia on State rolls as at 23 March. I contacted the Federal department and obtained figures for approximately the same date and again found that 41 000 people who were on the Federal roll were not on the State roll. Yet this Government is taking no action.

Last year, after asking the question which resulted in the Minister's revealing the number of people who asked for section votes but did not receive them, I followed up with a further question—703—in which I made a minor error by quoting the wrong question number; however, the Minister answered my question adequately. I asked whether the Electoral Department had undertaken any research to disclose why so many people apparently believed themselves to be enrolled when in fact they were not. The answer was "No".

The Chief Electoral Officer (Mr Coates) adopted an attitude similar to the Minister's when he was quoted in the Press on 18 December as saying the department depended on people to heed their legal liability to enrol. The problem is that this Government is diligent in taking people off the rolls, but it will not do anything to put people on the rolls. The Government should ensure that departmental officers go door to door to put people on the rolls just as officers of the Federal department do.

If the Electoral Department will not send officers door to door to put people on the roll, what will be done? I have not the resources to do it myself. I cannot afford to employ someone to do it. I have not the time to do it myself and, if I did, I would not be allowed to sign people up because I am not a justice of the peace, anyway. This is a disgraceful situation. Either the Government is incompetent or, I submit, it is using this as a deliberate tactic.

The Government knows the 40 000 people concerned are itinerants; they are caravan people, Aborigines, etc.—people likely to vote against the Government. The Government believes that from those 40 000 it has a net gain of 10 000 votes of

people who would vote for the Labor Party. The Government is deliberately and with subtlety and stealth removing compulsory voting in this State. It is deliberately trying to abolish compulsory voting by not accepting its responsibility to put people on the roll. It is a scandal that in this so-called democratic State not more action is taken by the Government to accept its responsibility to put people on the roll.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Clarko.

*House adjourned at 10.13 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### OPINION POLLS

#### *Government: Number*

229. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) How many opinion polls and surveys have been conducted by the Government since 1977?
- (2) Which companies or private individuals were commissioned?
- (3) What was the cost in each instance?
- (4) What was the subject and purpose in each instance?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) The Premier's Department has called for a report from all Government departments and instrumentalities in an effort to answer the member's question.

There does not appear to be any opinion polls as such, but there are a number of surveys aimed at obtaining information to assist in administration of particular programmes or planning future developments of services, etc.

At this stage these surveys number 31.

It would be helpful if the member would indicate to me the exact type of polls and surveys about which he is seeking information and whether instrumentalities like the SEC, Westrail, MWB, and MTT are included.

### MINING

#### *Esperance District*

294. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is he aware of comments by the Warden in the Norseman Warden's Court on 18 February 1981 regarding the practice being used by mining company representatives seeking to pressure farmers in the Esperance district into agreeing to mineral exploration and development rights on their farms?
- (2) Is official concern being expressed about such reported practices?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what is being done to make exploration companies and farmers aware of this concern?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No. I am advised that no such comments form part of the formal record of proceedings in the Warden's Court held at Norseman on 18 February 1981.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.

### EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

#### *Vandalism*

304. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What damage was reported involving vandalism at primary and secondary schools during the recent Christmas school holidays and what was the estimated cost involved?
- (2) How many arrests, if any, were made as a result of such vandalism?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Approximately 81 primary schools and 35 secondary schools are known to have been damaged at an estimated cost of \$28 000.
- (2) Two arrests were made and in addition one offender was dealt with through the children's suspended proceedings panel.

### FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

#### *Power Stations: Pilbara*

309. MR HARMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What is the total production capacity in megawatt terms of all power stations in the Pilbara?
- (2) What is the estimated requirement to satisfy all known needs in the future?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) I am advised that the installed generating capacity of the power stations owned and operated by the major generating authorities in the Pilbara are as follows:—

State Energy Commission of WA	91.61 mcgawatts
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Mining companies	349.8 mcgawatts
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TOTAL:	441.41 mcgawatts
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Total generating capacity in the Pilbara is oil based.

- (2) The electricity needs of the Pilbara are now being met with a combined maximum demand of 290 MW—inclusive of pellet plants.

Future increases will be directly related to the development of the iron ore and other industries in the area. However, under certain conditions, the total demand could be as high as 490 MW by 1986-87.

Changes and trends are being closely monitored by the State Energy Commission and the companies concerned.

### C & M OREB-KARE

#### *Complaint by Mrs S. Dolzan*

322. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

For what specific reasons was a complaint from Mrs S. Dolzan against C&M Oreb-Kare, cleaning contractors, which I referred to his department on 14 February 1980, not finalised until 23 March 1981?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Unfortunately, the departmental papers in respect of the Dolzan complaint against C&M Oreb-Kare, cleaning contractors, were mislaid after the department's letter to Mr Oreb-Kare dated 16 October 1980. When the oversight was noticed early in February 1981, further action was taken in an effort to obtain a settlement in respect of the alleged underpayment of \$11.52.

It is pointed out that notwithstanding the small amount involved, this was an extremely complex matter as illustrated by the fact that 10 exchanges of correspondence and a number of interviews took place between the Department and Mr Oreb-Kare. This caused the matter to be protracted.

Mrs Dolzan was advised of the outcome of investigations made into her complaint on 23 March 1981.

### REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

#### *Eastern Goldfields*

323. Mr GRILL, to the Premier:

- (1) When did the eastern goldfields immediate past regional administrator notify the Government that he intended to resign?
- (2) When did he tender his resignation?
- (3) When did that resignation become effective?
- (4) When were applications called to fill the position?
- (5) When do applications close and when will they be considered?
- (6) When is it likely that the position will be filled?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) 20 November, 1980.
- (2) 20 November, 1980.
- (3) Intended to be 1 April, 1981, and later amended to 18 March, 1981 at request of officer concerned.
- (4) 28 February, 1981.
- (5) Applications closed 19 March, 1981 and are being considered now.
- (6) Within six to eight weeks.

### CULTURAL AFFAIRS

#### *National Trust Register*

324. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs and Recreation:

Will he table a copy of the National Trust register of—

- (a) buildings;
  - (b) natural features;
- of great value?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (a) and (b) As members will be aware, the National Trust assesses both the built environment and the natural environment. A copy of the register of classified and recorded buildings, printed in 1977 and updated to December 1980, together with the list of natural environment—landscape and conservation—assessments considered of National importance is tabled herewith.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 135).*

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

*Consumption, Deaths, and Advertising*

325. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

Is it a fact that there is evidence to show that—

- (a) for the first time since 1974 Australians have started to consume more cigarettes;
- (b) the average smoking rate for people aged 15 years and above has risen to 2 620 cigarettes per year;
- (c) deaths in Western Australia are increased by an estimated 1 300 or more each year as a result of those deceased persons having smoked cigarettes;
- (d) multi-national and other companies are spending about \$25 million a year or twice as much as a decade ago in pushing cigarettes;
- (e) the tobacco pushers are now successfully directing their attack on older women and male and female youngsters;
- (f) the assets of Rothmans of Pall Mall (Australia) Limited have increased from only \$2.44 million in 1955 to \$122.66 million in 1980;
- (g) Rothmans has stated an intention to maintain standards, contend that they thrive on healthy competition and aim for even greater profits in the future;
- (h) the Chairman of Rothmans is Sir Ronald Irish, OBE, FCA?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (a) No; current figures indicate Australians are consuming less cigarettes;
- (b) my information provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates the consumption per person 15 years and over is at the rate of 2 548 grams per year;
- (c) no; the figure of 1 300 remains an estimate;
- (d) if the figure of \$25 million is correct, there would be little change in real terms of spending as a result of the decline in the value of the dollar since 1974;
- (e) this would seem to be a subjective question and I would be interested to see what evidence there is to support the statement;

(f) to (h) the member's question seems to imply that I should have some personal knowledge or responsibility for Rothmans and the other tobacco companies. In fact, I am not familiar with their annual statements, nor with their company objectives, nor with the composition of the board of management.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

*Billboard Utilising Graffitiists Against Unhealthy Promotions*

326. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that a number of doctors and others have formed an organisation called "billboard utilising graffitiists against unhealthy promotions" but more popularly known as "Buga-up"?
- (2) Have some of the members of Buga-up been prosecuted for criminal offences committed on behalf of Buga-up?
- (3) If "Yes" how many prosecutions have so far been brought?
- (4) Is it a fact that many doctors describe the multi-national companies advertising cigarettes as drug pushers?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (4) I am aware from reports in the Press that a number of persons have been so prosecuted. I do not know how many, nor do I know as a fact that many doctors described the multi-national companies advertising cigarettes as drug pushers. I do know that some have used this expression.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

*Health Cost*

327. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

Excluding the known pain, suffering, misery, and death as a direct result of people having smoked cigarettes, what is the estimated yearly health cost the State of Western Australia incurred in treating ailments contracted as a direct result?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Such figures are not available.



## HEALTH: TOBACCO

### *Addiction*

328. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) In matters of health does he implement the policy recently expressed by the Minister for Recreation; namely, that to prevent is better than to cure?
- (2) If "No" why?
- (3) If "Yes", what action has he taken this year to discourage youngsters from becoming addicted to the drug nicotine?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) This year an anti-smoking education programme for year seven students, which was piloted in the Scarborough and Mandurah areas during 1980, is being made available by the health education unit to schools in other metropolitan and country areas. The effectiveness of this programme is currently being evaluated and results should be available later this year. This programme is designed in such a way that it can be conducted by class teachers. The health education unit is also making available resource material which will both support this programme and provide information for school students who request information on the smoking issue. The smoking education programme was prepared by the health education unit and the support material covered aspects of the smoking issue and includes information about the fact that nicotine is an addictive substance. The Education Department is co-operating with the health education unit and voluntary groups such as the National Health Foundation in the development and assessment of smoking education for primary school students.

## ROADS

### *Signs*

329. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it policy for road sign painters to commence work using noisy equipment in residential areas on Sunday mornings as early as approximately 5.30 a.m.?

- (2) If "No", is the Main Roads Department work hours policy being adhered to?
- (3) If "No", why?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Yes. The incident which presumably prompted this question was an isolated one and the operator concerned has been instructed in regard to the current policy.

## HOUSING

### *Mt. Hawthorn*

330. Mr BERTRAM, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

How many units of State Housing Commission accommodation are currently vacant in the Mt. Hawthorn electorate and what are their precise addresses?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

A rental house located in Tuart Hill is the only State Housing Commission home presently vacant.

It is not policy to disclose the actual address of vacant properties.

## FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY AND GAS

### *Charges: Rebates*

331. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

What is the present position concerning the State Energy Commission action group's proposal for the introduction of a rebate system?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I refer the member to my answer to question 220 of Wednesday, 1 April 1981.

## HOSPITAL

### *Swan District*

332. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What staffing and budgetary restrictions apply to Swan Districts Hospital?

- (2) What were the staff numbers in 1979 and 1980?
- (3) What are the anticipated staff numbers for 1981 and 1982?
- (4) What was the bed occupancy level in—
  - (a) 1974;
  - (b) 1975;
  - (c) 1979; and
  - (d) 1980?
- (5) How many operative cases were there in—
  - (a) 1974;
  - (b) 1975;
  - (c) 1979; and
  - (d) 1980?
- (6) Does the Swan Districts Hospital accommodate any patients who require isolation from others?
- (7) When were the last extensions to the hospital made?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The staff budget for Swan District Hospital, as with all hospitals for 1980-81, is one of no growth. However, a recent routine analysis of their staffing levels has been completed, resulting in some reductions to approved numbers as estimated on current need.
- (2) 12 months to 30 June 1979—208.8 full time equivalents.  
12 months to 30 June 1980—215 full time equivalents.
- (3) 12 months to 30 June 1981—210 full time equivalents.  
12 months to 30 June 1982—198.35 full time equivalents.
- (4) (a) 1973-74—71 per cent  
(b) 1974-75—63.4 per cent  
(c) 1978-79—78.9 per cent  
(d) 1979-80—77.9 per cent
- (5) (a) No. of operations 1973-74—2 868.  
(b) No. of operations 1974-75—2 913 (major 1 434, minor 1 479)  
(c) No. of operations 1978-79—4 549 (major 1 930, minor 2 619)  
(d) No. of operations 1979-80—4 843 (major 2 254, minor 2 589)
- (6) Yes—availability is 4 beds (2 in each wing).
- (7) 40 beds in August 1971.

## ENERGY: SOLAR

### *Research Institute*

333. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What was the date of establishment of the Solar Energy Research Institute of Western Australia?
- (2) What was the initial budget for the institute?
- (3) What have been the subsequent budgets for each year?
- (4) What was the initial number of staff employed by the institute?
- (5) What number of staff are presently employed by the institute?
- (6) What income apart from Government income has the institute earned over the years since its inception?
- (7) What success has the institute had?
- (8) What capital expenditure has there been on the institute over the years?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) November, 1977.
- (2) \$250 000.
- (3) 1978-79—\$600 000  
1979-80—\$800 000  
1980-81—\$880 000.
- (4) Two.
- (5) Four. Ten full-time and one part-time projects officers are supervised by SERIWA with salaries funded from various other sources.
- (6) \$758 899
- (7) 46 current and 11 completed projects, 5 patents, commercialisation of the elastical trough collector, establishment of SERIWA/SEC Solar Test Centre, and other successes as detailed in last three annual reports.
- (8) Equipment for projects—\$539 026  
Office equipment—\$6 974

## MINING

### *Research Facilities Inventory*

334. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Who compiled the inventory of research facilities available in post-secondary institutes and private laboratories in aid of the mining and petroleum industry?
- (2) Will he make this inventory available to members of the House?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) J. H. Lord, Director-Elect of the Western Australian Mining and Petroleum Research Institute.
- (2) Inventory tabled.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 135).*

## TRAFFIC LIGHTS

### *Infringements: Cameras*

335. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) On how many intersections in the metropolitan area have cameras been set up to check the passage of motorists through changing traffic lights?
- (2) On how many infringements recorded by such cameras has legal action been taken in each of the past 12 months?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Three
- (2) April 1980..... 1  
May 1980..... 5  
June 1980..... 16  
July 1980..... 17  
August 1980..... 6  
September 1980..... 11  
October 1980..... 5  
November 1980..... 19  
December 1980..... 2  
January 1981..... 15  
February 1981..... 38  
March 1981..... 33

## DROUGHT

### *Areas Declared*

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

Which shire areas, whole or part, were drought declared in each of the years 1980 and 1981?

Mr OLD replied:

Drought declarations are made for a financial year rather than a calendar year.

### (a) Agricultural areas

Shires wholly declared 1979-80		Shires partly declared 1979-80		1980-81
Morawa	Dalwallinu	Northampton	Chapman Valley	
Perenjori	Wyalkatchem	Chapman Valley	Mullewa	
Mukinbudin	Trayning	Mullewa	Morawa	
	Nungarin	Yalgoo	Carnamah	
	Tammin	Mingenew	Perenjori	
	Cunderdin	Three Springs	Coorow	

Shires wholly declared 1980-81	Shires partly declared 1979-80	1980-81
Kellerberrin	Carnamah	Wongan-Ballidu
Merredin	Coorow	Koorda
Quairading	Dalwallinu	Dowerin
Bruce Rock	Wongan-Ballidu	Goomalling
Narembeen	Koorda	Mt. Marshall
Corrigin	Mt. Marshall	Mukinbudin
Kondinin	Wyalkatchem	Westonia
Kulin	Trayning	Northam
Lake Grace	Nungarin	York
Ravensthorpe	Westonia	Beverley
Yilgarn	Merredin	Brookton
	Yilgarn	Wickepin
		Pingelly
		Dumbleyung
		Kent
		Gnowangerup
		Albany
		Dundas
		Esperance

Additional part declarations have been made since I answered question 53 of 25 March, 1981.

### (b) Pastoral Areas

Drought declarations are not made on a shire basis within the pastoral areas but on an individual property basis. In 1979-80 stations were declared drought affected in the Murchison, Lower Murchison, Gascoyne, Shark Bay, Meekatharra, Carnarvon, and Wiluna districts and in 1980-81 in the Gascoyne and Murchison districts.

## DROUGHT

### *Relief: Payments*

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

What amount has been paid out so far for drought relief in the 1980-81 year as—

- (a) non-repayable grants;
- (b) loans;
- (c) other payments?

Mr OLD replied:

To date the following amounts have been approved for payment under the Commonwealth/State Natural Disasters Scheme—

### (1) Agricultural areas

- (a) Non-repayable grants Nil
- (b) Loans \$12 996 500
- (c) Other payments \$ 707 917

### (2) Pastoral areas

- (a) Non-repayable grants Nil
- (b) Loans \$762 101
- (c) Other payments \$127 838

## EDUCATION

### *Unemployed School Leavers*

338. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the State Government support the Federal Government proposal to take unemployment benefits away from 16 and 17-year-old school leavers in an attempt to force them back into school?
- (2) Is he aware that this proposal would transfer financial responsibility for unemployed 16 and 17-year-olds to the State Government through the State education system?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) The Education Department has indicated to Commonwealth education authorities that, while it is interested in any proposal to improve the prospects of 15 and 16-year-olds, it cannot respond more exactly to proposals which fail to indicate the volume of Commonwealth assistance to be available to fund new projects.

## EDUCATION: TEACHERS

### *Graduations, Resignations, and Retrenchments*

339. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many teachers graduated from teacher training institutions in 1980?
- (2) How many of that number have been offered jobs with the Education Department?
- (3) How many teachers on the temporary staff were retrenched at the end of 1980?
- (4) How many teachers resigned at the end of 1980?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Approximately 1 260 students completed pre-service teacher education courses at universities and colleges of advanced education in 1980. This estimate includes students who would not seek employment as teachers in either Government or non-Government schools.
- (2) 437 graduate teachers have been offered jobs with the Education Department as at 30 March 1981.

- (3) 280 teachers with temporary appointments in 1980 have not been re-employed in 1981. Many of these temporary teachers had been offered short-term appointments to replace permanent staff on long service leave or accouchement leave.
- (4) 207 teachers resigned at the end of 1980.

## EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

### *Cleaning*

340. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government aware of complaints by headmasters that as a result of the Government's decision to reduce the number of hours spent by cleaners in schools, health standards in schools are not at desirable levels?
- (2) What action does the Government intend to take on this matter?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The department has not received any complaints from principals that cleaning standards in schools have deteriorated. Those schools which have been visited by departmental cleaning inspectors since part-time cleaners' hours were reduced, have indicated that the standard of cleaning is the same as it was before the reduction in hours. Where any problems have occurred in small country schools the allocation of cleaning time has been reassessed and, if necessary, adjustments have been made.
- (2) Schools are being regularly visited by the departmental cleaning inspectors and present reports indicate that no further action is needed at this time.

## TRANSPORT

### *Advisory Council and Users' Board*

341. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Who are the members of the—
  - (a) Transport Advisory Council;
  - (b) Transport Users' Board?
- (2) What interests do they represent in each case?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) (a) The Director General of Transport  
The Commissioner of Railways  
The Commissioner of Main Roads  
The Commissioner of Transport  
The Chairman of the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust  
The Chairman of the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission  
Mr E. J. Karasek, General Manager of MacRobertson Miller Airline Services.  
Mr F. A. Manford, General Manager, Brambles-Manford
- (b) The Transport Users' Board has been defunct since 1971.
- (2) Those persons who are members of the Transport Advisory Council represent the interests of their particular mode in the transport industry.

## INSURANCE

### *Policies: Nuclear Exclusion Clauses*

342. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has she received a request from the South Perth City Council to make a full inquiry into the nuclear exclusion clauses in property and liability insurance policies?
- (2) If so, what is her reaction to the South Perth City Council's call for an inquiry?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) In September 1980 the South Perth City Council resolved to bring this matter to my attention.
- (2) This is not really a local government issue. It is concerned essentially with the insurance industry.

On 30 September, 1980, the Deputy Premier replied to a question from the honourable member on this subject as recorded in pages 1730 and 1731 of Hansard.

The City of South Perth was subsequently informed of the text of that answer.

## TOWN PLANNING

### *Perth City*

343. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

What is the State Government's attitude to the Perth City Council's plot ratio policy for central city building density?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The Perth City Council's city planning scheme received preliminary approval on 14 October, 1977. The period for making public submissions on the Scheme closed on 14 April, 1978.

In giving preliminary approval, the then Minister requested the incorporation of a graduated arrangement of plot ratios from 2.5 to 5.0 within the central area and this was included in the scheme during the period of public submission.

This action represented the views of the Government at the time and the Government will want to see the public submissions, and council's recommendations, on these submissions before reaching any new position, if at all.

## ABORIGINES

### *Housing: Transient*

344. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the Government aware of a national survey to find an alternative style of housing for transient Aborigines?
- (2) If so, can he table a copy?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The State Housing Commission is endeavouring to obtain information regarding this survey which was conducted by the Aboriginal Hostels Limited.

## TRAFFIC: RTA

### *Unmarked Vehicles*

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

- (1) What has been the increase in the number of unmarked police cars in

1978, 1979, 1980 to detect reckless driving, drunken driving, and other road offences?

- (2) What is the total number of unmarked cars used for this purpose as at February 1981?
- (3) How many breaches of the Road Traffic Act were detected by unmarked police cars in 1979 and 1980?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) In respect of the Road Traffic Authority increases are—  
1978—5  
1979—Nil  
1980—Nil
- (2) It is not policy to divulge information of this nature.
- (3) These figures are not kept separately but are included in the total of offences detected by patrols.

### CRIME

#### Statistics

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

- (1) How many citizens of each sex were assaulted or robbed during each year since 1975—  
(a) in the streets of metropolitan Perth;  
(b) outside the metropolitan area?
- (2) How many cases of murder were reported during each year since 1975—  
(a) in metropolitan Perth;  
(b) outside the metropolitan area?
- (3) How many cases of armed robbery and bank holdups were reported during each year since 1975—  
(a) in the metropolitan area;  
(b) outside the metropolitan area?
- (4) How many cases of rape and other forms of sexual assault were reported during each year since 1975—  
(a) in the metropolitan area;  
(b) outside the metropolitan area?
- (5) How many cases of house breaking were reported during each year since 1975—  
(a) in the metropolitan area;  
(b) outside the metropolitan area?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Information is not readily retrievable. Perhaps the member could be more precise in the type of assault or robbery he refers to.
- (2) Wilful murder, murder, attempted murder and manslaughter

	(a) Metro	(b) Country
1975-76	11	10
1976-77	21	18
1977-78	8	17
1978-79	19	20
1979-80	10	25

- (3) Armed Holdup

	(a) Metro	(b) Country
1975-76	No record	No record
1976-77	No record	No record
1977-78	68	1
1978-79	73	3
1979-80	60	3

- (4) Rape

	(a) Metro	(b) Country	Other sexual assault (whole of State only)
1975-76	27	13	854
1976-77	25	19	689
1977-79	32	24	703
1978-79	41	21	727
1979-80	37	28	815

- (5) Housebreaking (whole of State only)

1975-76	6 397
1976-77	6 343
1977-78	6 587
1978-79	7 204
1979-80	7 429

### POLICE

#### Sea Rescue Operations

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

What has been the number and cost of police rescue operations involving disabled or distressed persons at sea each year since 1978, and how many were as a result of—

- (a) craft running out of fuel;
- (b) unseaworthy or inadequate vessels for the trip;
- (c) mechanical failures;
- (d) failure to heed weather forecasts;
- (e) other causes?

Mr HASSELL replied:

	1978	1979	1980	1981 to Feb. 28
(a) Craft running out of fuel	16	18	15	14
(b) Unseaworthy or inadequate vessels	10	16	15	11
(c) Mechanical failures	102	130	131	89
(d) Failure to heed weather forecasts		not recorded		
(e) Other causes	62	70	65	48
(f) Cost involved	\$4 479.07	3 008.65	\$3 442.88	\$1 374.00

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### Swan River

348. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) In relation to each company which discharges waste products into the Swan River north of the Causeway—
  - (a) what is the discharge rate per year since 1974;
  - (b) what are the types of chemicals and wastes discharged?
- (2) What water quality control tests in the Swan River have been carried out each year since 1974?
- (3) In respect of (2) above, on how many occasions has it been found that waste products constituted a danger to the public using the river?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

	kl/year
(1) (a) Aircoa	5 850
Bottle Recyclers	31 200
H. B. Brady	26 000
Cadbury Schweppes	8 320
Cresco Fertilisers	4 680
Golden Mile Aerated Waters	4 160
S.E.C.	520 152 234
Swan Portland	1 460
Westrail Poison Gully	59 800
Westrail East Perth	6 604
Wales Masonry	4 160
(b) Aircoa—Air Filter Washing	
Bottle Recycles—rinse water from bottle washing.	
H. B. Brady—water including mud and fine gypsum.	
Cadbury Schweppes until 1979—rinse water from bottle washing machine.	

Cresco Fertilisers—cooling water, neutralised scrubber water. Chemical in discharge: Fluoride, Phosphorous, Chloride.

Golden Mile Aerated Waters—rinse water.

SEC—river water (condenser cooling water); rinse water from demineraliser; overflow and seepage from settling dams with fly ash.

Swan Portland Cement—seepage from works settling ponds. Chemicals: Calcium Carbonate.

Westrail Poison Gully—waste water from cleaning of diesel locomotives and rolling stock. Chemicals: Surfactants, oil and grease.

Westrail East Perth—waste water from cleaning of railcars. Chemicals: Surfactants, oil and grease.

Wales Masonry—granite dust from stone sawing.

- (2) Quarterly sampling by Government Chemical Laboratories. Quarterly sampling by Public Health Department. Heavy metal sampling by Government Chemical Laboratories. Heavy metals in sediments and mussels by Chegwiddden. Algal Sampling by University of Western Australia and WA Institute of Technology. Fluorometry Sampling by University of Western Australia.
- (3) Nil.

## BOATS

### Accidents

349. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many boating accidents have occurred each year since 1970 involving—
  - (a) another craft;
  - (b) injuries to boat crews and/or swimmers;
  - (c) deaths of boat crews and/or swimmers?
- (2) Where did these accidents occur and what number of prosecutions and convictions, respectively were recorded?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) This information will take some time to collate and I will provide it to the member as soon as practicable.

## HEALTH

### *Malnutrition*

350. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) (a) How many cases of malnutrition have occurred in Western Australia each year since 1974; and  
(b) what are the age brackets involved?
- (2) What specific areas, if any, of the metropolitan Perth and country areas have been defined?
- (3) How many deaths have occurred each year in Western Australia since 1974 as a result of malnutrition?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Hospital morbidity statistics provides the following information in the International Classification of Diseases (8th Revision) category 267, 268, 269—

	0-4	5-14	15-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Total
1974	459	19	24	16	19	—	537
1975	392	14	20	18	20	2	466
1976	377	10	33	20	30	4	474
1977	378	10	17	6	15	—	426
1978	302	9	19	10	16	—	356

- (2) The information is not immediately available but will be supplied to the member when to hand.
- (3) The Australian Bureau of Statistics information is as follows—

1974	4
1975	2
1976	2
1977	1
1978	6

No information is available concerning cases of malnutrition treated by general practitioners outside hospital. The International Classification of Diseases categories include malnutrition from a wide variety of causes.

## HEALTH

### *Medical Negligence*

351. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many persons have received compensation for medical negligence during treatment since 1975?

- (2) How many instances have been reported of medical negligence by medical staff since 1975?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) and (2) This information is not readily available.

To obtain the information in relation to public hospitals, it would be necessary to research files and documents at the Crown Law Department.

I have no information whatsoever in relation to cases not associated with public hospitals. To obtain this it would be necessary for the member to research records of the courts. In addition, many cases are settled out of court and no records would be available.

## HEALTH: DRUG

### *Diethylstilboestrol*

352. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the drug Diethylstilboestrol causes side effects such as vaginal abnormalities, infertility and sterility in sons?
- (2) Have warnings been issued to women in Western Australia concerning the use of this drug?
- (3) What research has been carried out in Western Australia in respect of the use of this drug?
- (4) If any—
  - (a) over what period;
  - (b) what was the incidence of cancer per 1 000 persons?
- (5) Has a working party from the Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists warned of the dangers of this drug?
- (6) Has the drug been withdrawn from the market in Western Australia?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The drug diethylstilboestrol (DES) when administered to women at an early stage of pregnancy carries a slight risk of causing vaginal abnormalities many years later in female offspring. Infertility or sterility in offspring have not been associated with the use of this drug.



- (2) The public media have carried informative articles and programmes on this subject from time to time since 1979. The Cancer Council of W.A. has a fact sheet on DES which is available to members of the public upon request.
- (3) None.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has set up a working party which is seeking relevant information from its members in each State branch.
- (6) No. The drug is available only on prescription and is no longer prescribed for pregnant women.

## HEALTH: DIABETICS

### *Syringes*

353. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many diabetics were there in Western Australia as at the 31 December 1980?
- (2) Has he requested the Federal Government to include life saving injection syringes and needles in the pharmaceutical benefits scheme; if so—
  - (a) when was the representation made;
  - (b) what was the response of the Federal Government?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Not known since diabetes is not a notifiable disease.
- (2) No, but I am aware of representations being made by the Diabetes Federation of Australia to the Federal Minister for Health about minimal dead space insulin syringes, and these representations have my support. The Federation has expressed great concern that, as from 30 June, 1981, one make of these syringes will become a prohibited import.

## HEALTH: DRUG

### *Valium*

354. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he seen the article in *The National Times*, 18-24 January 1981, entitled "Does Valium Promote Cancer", and if

so, what action has his department taken or intends to take to restrict or ban the use of valium?

- (2) Has research been carried out in Western Australia on the use of valium?
- (3) If "Yes"—
  - (a) who conducted the research;
  - (b) over what period was the research conducted;
  - (c) how many persons were involved in the study;
  - (d) what were the results of the study?
- (4) Has he obtained a report on the allegations made in *The National Times* and, if so, what were the findings?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes. No such action has been taken or is proposed.
- (2) No.
- (3) (a) to (d) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes. The Australian Drug Evaluation Committee has reviewed the original study and found no action is warranted at present. The drug is being kept under review by the committee and the results of further studies will be examined. It is understood that the Canadian authorities have asked for the study to be repeated.

## ROADS

### *Funds: Commonwealth Policy*

355. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he had any communication, verbal or written, with the Prime Minister re the proposal of the Federal Minister for Transport's policy re the allocation of road funds for Western Australia, having regard for the possibly detrimental effect it will have on Western Australia if implemented?
- (2) If "Yes", would he state when, and will he give an assurance that he will discuss the issue further when he meets with the Prime Minister at the Premier's Conference?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) This is not a new issue. The Government maintains close on-going communication at Prime Minister and ministerial levels on the matter of road funding and this will continue. The Commonwealth Government well knows we are not satisfied with present proposals.

### RAILWAYS

#### *Stations: Income*

356. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

Will he supply details of income received from country Westrail stations, as listed, from 1 January 1977 to 31 March 1981—

- (a) Salmon Gums;
- (b) Bencubbin;
- (c) Wickiepin;
- (d) Greenbushes;
- (e) Watheroo;
- (f) Wubin;
- (g) Bolgart?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Westrail's accounting is based on the financial year and the following details are for the three years 1 July to 30 June 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80. Data for 1980-81 is not yet available.

The income shown includes that for traffic transported from the sidings associated with the accounting station.

	1977-78 \$000's	1978-79 \$000's	1979-80 \$000's
Salmon Gums	114.5	176.1	374.7
Bencubbin	253.4	745.4	949.7
Wickiepin	889.4	449.1	602.4
Greenbushes	214.2	214.3	257.3
Watheroo	458.8	337.7	303.4
Wubin	540.3	768.8	836.2
Bolgart	816.0	570.3	750.1

Fluctuations in seasonal conditions, together with freight rate variations in each year, make comparisons of revenue suspect as a measure of the need for local attendance at the station.

The need for attendance at the above stations is related to the amount of general goods dealt with—i.e. excluding wagon load traffics, fertilisers, grain, timber etc—of which the following tonnages were handled in the years mentioned—and the level of accounting

work, which is to be deleted at the station referred to.

	1977-78 Tonnes 000's	1978-79 Tonnes 000's	1979-80 Tonnes 000's
Salmon Gums	1.0	1.0	1.2
Bencubbin	0.5	0.5	0.4
Wickiepin	1.7	1.8	1.6
Greenbushes	1.3	1.0	0.8
Watheroo	0.8	0.7	0.7
Wubin	1.1	1.0	0.9
Bolgart	1.9	0.6	1.7

Currently the Commissioner of Railways is reviewing the situations at the stations referred to and is taking into consideration all submissions received on the proposals to withdraw the station masters, before making recommendations to me on the matters.

### ROADS

#### *Construction: Private Contractors*

357. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is his department in agreement with the Federal Minister for Transport that Federal funds for road construction in Western Australia for national highways, development roads, and important tourist roads, be given to private contractors?
- (2) If "Yes", would he state his reasons?
- (3) If "No"—
  - (a) what current action is he taking to challenge the Federal Government's policy; and
  - (b) what action is he contemplating to further oppose the Federal Government's criteria?
- (4) If the Federal Minister for Transport has his Government's policy carried out to the fullest by the Western Australian Government, would he advise—
  - (a) what does the Government intend to do with all the construction machinery they will possibly have no further use for; and
  - (b) what assistance the State Government will provide to assist families of Main Roads Department employees who will be retrenched with the introduction of the Federal Government's policy?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) The State Government believes that because of the diverse conditions throughout the State it is necessary to maintain a flexible approach to carrying out its road construction programme. This is best achieved by a combination of contract works and day labour works.
- (3) (a) and (b) These views have been strongly conveyed to the Federal Minister both verbally and in writing and it is to be hoped that he will accept them. In any case, the Federal Government objectives apply only to funds in the national road category. They do not apply to arterial and local road categories.
- (4) (a) and (b) This will depend on the outcome of discussions which are still continuing. Should it become necessary to retrench any employees every endeavour will be made to place them in other suitable employment. The Main Roads Department hires, on a come-and-go basis, a considerable amount of privately owned construction equipment so no problems are expected with construction equipment.

#### TRANSPORT: AIR

##### *Intrastate and Interstate: Fares*

358. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In view of his statement appearing in "The West Australian" on Thursday, 2 April 1981, wherein he urged the Federal Government to establish an independent tribunal for changes to air fares, is it not a fact the same situation applies to Western Australia re intrastate air fares?
- (2) If "Yes", would he appoint such a tribunal in Western Australia?
- (3) If "No", would he state his reasons?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (3) Under the Transport Act there is a statutory responsibility for the setting of fares and freight rates. However, as a result of examinations by the Commissioner of Transport the Government has initiated an in-depth review jointly by the Commissioner of Transport and Director General of Transport.

If these officers recommend in their review that an independent tribunal be established then the Government will certainly give it consideration.

#### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

##### *Used Car Dealers: Fidelity Fund*

359. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Why has the Government apparently failed to respond to pleas from referees of the Small Claims Tribunal, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs and the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Automobile Dealers' Association for the establishment of some form of compensation or fidelity fund similar to the fidelity fund operating in Victoria as a means of protection for used car buyers from dealers who use the Companies Act to avoid financial obligations?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

A working party has been appointed to examine the practicality of establishing a fidelity fund under the Motor Vehicle Dealers' Act.

The working party comprises representatives from—

- (a) Australian Automobile Dealers Association (W.A. Division);
- (b) Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board; and
- (c) Bureau of Consumer Affairs.

It is expected that the working party will report shortly on the matter.

#### APPRENTICES

##### *Isolated Areas*

360. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

In view of the information provided in the most recent report of the industrial training advisory council that the ratio of officers to apprentices had increased from one to 739 in 1975 to one to 1 011 at the present time, and that the critical staff situation meant that it was still not possible to visit apprentices working in isolated areas, what action has the Government taken or does it propose to take to overcome problems involved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Department of Labour and Industry has reported to the Public Service Board in respect of apprenticeship officer staffing problems. The Public Service Board has approved the creation of three additional positions of apprenticeship officer. These positions will soon be advertised to enable the recruitment of the three additional officers.

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### *Pest Control Companies*

361. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is he aware that some Government registered pest control companies refuse to honour guarantees on treatment of properties with respect to fence lines in spite of general advertising which fails to make such exemptions clear to the public?
- (2) What provision is made to monitor the advertising of pest control services and to ensure that proper standards are maintained by pest control operators?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Bureau of Consumer Affairs will investigate any complaint regarding misleading advertising or deceptive practice of which it becomes aware.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### *Rates: Committee of Inquiry*

362. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he received representations from local government authorities for the inclusion of local government representation in the committee of inquiry into rates, taxes, and charges relating to land values?
- (2) If "Yes", what action has been taken in response to these requests?
- (3) When does the Government expect to receive the report of this committee of inquiry?

- (4) Is it anticipated that any of the committee's recommendations will be implemented in the 1981-82 financial year?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The City of Cockburn had written to the Government requesting local government representation for inclusion on the committee of inquiry into rates, taxes and charges relating to land values.
- (2) The committee is well served in local government representation as one of its members—Dr E. C. Manea of Bunbury—is a person currently serving in local government as a councillor of the City of Bunbury, and one who has had 14 years' experience as a councillor in Bunbury, including six years as Mayor of Bunbury.
- (3) Within the next few weeks.
- (4) This will depend on the committee's recommendations. However, the member can be assured that the Government will give early consideration as quickly as practicable to the committee's report when it is received.

### CULTURAL AFFAIRS

#### *State Library Board*

363. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Can he confirm the advice contained in a letter from the Deputy Premier to the convenor of the Australian Library Promotion Council last December that although the Library Board could not be allocated its total requirement in the current financial year, this is a temporary expediency that will not be repeated?
- (2) Does this mean that future allocations to the board will take account of the annual rate of inflation plus an allowance for population growth?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Library services have been treated very sympathetically and generously in the past by the Government. As a matter of basic Government policy, the Government desires to continue this—in respect of both finance for books and for the imaginative building programme we have embarked upon for State library services. I am not, however, prepared to anticipate the 1981-82 Budget which—for reasons the member knows—is going to be a particularly difficult one. Library services and the building programme will receive full and proper consideration with all other Government responsibilities.

### TRAFFIC LIGHTS

#### *Green to Amber Change*

364. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What consideration, if any, has been given to the inclusion of a five-second flashing sequence of the green light before the change to amber as a possible means of avoiding the alarming experience of approaching green traffic signals at normal road speed and then having the lights switch to amber when one is only a few metres from the stop line?
- (2) What has been the result of any such consideration?
- (3) Are there any on-going considerations being given to this or any similar measure to overcome the difficulties associated with the split second decision demanded in the kind of situation referred to in (1)?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (3) No consideration has been given. However, the Road Traffic Code 1975 provides that when an amber signal is

first displayed a motorist shall not cross a stop line associated with the signal unless his vehicle is so close to that line that he cannot safely stop his vehicle. In the circumstances described in the question, it would appear there is no offence to enter the intersection. The use of the amber display conforms to international practice to indicate the impending display of a red signal which legally precludes the crossing of the associated stop line.

### HOSPITALS: AMBULANCES

#### *Delay*

365. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can he confirm the accuracy of newspaper reports indicating that on Monday, 30 March, an injured waterside worker had to wait 40 minutes for an ambulance to travel from Armadale to Fremantle to transport him to hospital?
- (2) Can he explain why it was necessary for an ambulance to be brought from as far afield as Armadale?
- (3) What steps is he taking to ensure that there is no repetition of this unfortunate event?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (3) The St. John Ambulance Association is a non-Government agency whose management does not come under my control. They have, however, provided me with the following information—

The ambulance took 31 minutes to answer the call to Fremantle. The initial call was received at 1324 hours requesting an ambulance for one male patient at D Shed, Fremantle Quay. It was a non-emergency call. The ambulance was despatched at 1327 hours. Whilst en route at 1339 hours, the ambulance was instructed to proceed under emergency conditions following receipt of further information. The ambulance arrived at the wharf at 1355 hours. The patient was loaded

and the ambulance departed for Fremantle Hospital at 1412 hours and arrived at Fremantle Hospital at 1419 hours.

Full-time trained first-aiders are on duty on the wharves 24 hours a day so that no victim is left unattended whilst waiting for an ambulance.

Ambulances attached to the following depots were all engaged; Fremantle, Gosnells, Kwinana, Claremont, Melville, South Perth and both Central crews.

The Armadale ambulance was despatched because:

- (a) it was available;
- (b) it has access to the most direct and expedient route (Forrest Rd.)

There can be no guarantee that it will not occur again. However, the St. John Ambulance Association continually monitors its activities and workload and every endeavour is made to ensure that ambulances and staff are located as efficiently as possible.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

### Statistics

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

- (1) During 1980, how many cases of rape—
  - (a) occurred where a woman was walking alone of an evening;
  - (b) involved women being dragged into motor vehicles;
  - (c) occurred in motor vehicles after hitchhiking a ride?
- (2) (a) Are there any specific areas where rapes occur more frequently;
- (b) if so, will he provide details?
- (3) How many offences occurred at the women's usual place of residence and what percentage of the offenders were known to the women?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) (a) 5;
- (b) 3; and
- (c) 5.
- (2) (a) No.
- (b) Answered by above.
- (3) (a) 16.
- (b) 3 (18.75 per cent).

## HITCH HIKING

### Fines and Assaults

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

- (1) Does the Government intend to introduce on-the-spot fines for hitch hiking similar to those in Queensland?
- (2) As a result of hitch hiking, what number of assaults in each category have occurred each year since 1975 to—
  - (a) the hitch hiker;
  - (b) the owner of the motor vehicle?
- (3) What age brackets and sexes were involved?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) No. Present legislation prohibits pedestrians from walking on a carriageway in the same direction as traffic.
- (2) (a) and (b) No statistics for offences of assault under these circumstances are kept by the Police Department.
- (3) Answered by (2).

## TRAFFIC: RTA

### Radar and Amphometer Units

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

- (1) What regular checks are carried out on the use of radar and amphometer units and—
  - (a) by whom;
  - (b) where; and
  - (c) when are they carried out?
- (2) What other States use the same equipment as Western Australia?
- (3) (a) Have any units been withdrawn from use;
- (b) if so, will he explain why?
- (4) Have any of these units been re-introduced?
- (5) How many successful appeals against speeding convictions have occurred since the introduction of radar and amphometer units?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Continual—
  - (a) the operator;
  - (b) at scene of operation;
  - (c) before and after use.

- (2) Tasmania, Queensland, Northern Territory.
- (3) (a) No.  
(b) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) None involving radar and amphotometer accuracy.

## SEWERAGE

### *Treatment Works*

369. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Will he indicate the location of all sewerage treatment works situated in the metropolitan area?
- (2) When was each plant brought into operation?
- (3) (a) Where are the discharge points for the respective treatment plants; and  
(b) what are the daily discharge rates in megalitres at each outlet?
- (4) What is the faecal coliform bacteria criteria per 100 millilitres of water, in water surrounding each outlet?
- (5) What is the faecal coliform bacteria criteria, per 100 millilitres of water, for designated bathing areas along the coastline?
- (6) How often are designated bathing sites tested for excess levels?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) to (3)

Treatment plant	Date when each plant brought into operation	Average daily discharge as at 30-6-80 from annual report (m3)	Discharge points
Subiaco	1927	37 515	Ocean via Outlet Pipe
Woodman Point	1966	27 018	Ocean via Outlet Pipe
Beenyup	1970	17 337	Ocean via Outlet Pipe
Westfield	1971	6 074	Onto Land
Swanbourne	1936	5 503	Ocean via Outlet Pipe
Canning Vale	1970	3 297	Onto Land
Kwinana	1970	1 084	Onto Land
Point Peron	1975	1 076	Ocean via Outlet Pipe
Forrestfield	1974	820	Onto Land
Kelmscott	1968	217	Via sewer to Westfield
Kewdale	1969	60	Via sewer to Woodman Point
Kalamunda			
Hospital	1978	24	Onto Land
Yanchep	1976	16	Onto Land
Two Rocks	1974	14	Onto Land
Bandyup			
Prison	1972	Not available	Onto Land

- (4) There are no such criteria; however, the discharge from the Swanbourne effluent and ocean outlet has for many years been regularly chlorinated during the summer months to reduce the numbers of faecal coliform bacteria in the water surrounding the outlet.
- (5) No such criteria has been formally established, although the Environmental Protection Authority in conjunction with other departments has set up a working party to examine these and other criteria which may be applicable to marine and estuarine waters.
- (6) Swanbourne-City Beach twice weekly. Other beaches once per week. The results show that all sites have levels well within acceptable limits.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### SHOPPING

#### *Saturday Afternoon*

97. Mr NANOVICH, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has he received requests from major retail stores to allow them to trade on Saturday afternoons?
- (2) If "Yes", would he advise the House whether their requests will be acceded to?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of his question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes, I have received requests to that effect.
- (2) Opposition has been expressed generally from the retail trade and from the unions involved and, quite frankly, I do not support the proposal. Therefore, the request has not been agreed to.

## ABORIGINES

### *World Council of Indigenous People*

98. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Premier have any knowledge of a conference of world council of indigenous people to be held in Canberra from 26 April to 2 May 1981?

- (2) Is he aware that today, the South Australian Government announced it would contribute \$11 000 towards the cost of such conference?
- (3) Will the Western Australian Government be making any similar contribution and if so, how much?
- (4) If not, why not?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) I cannot recall any representations regarding this particular conference, although it may be that one of my colleagues has been approached on the matter. Offhand, I cannot remember any approach about the conference; nor can I remember seeing anything about the actual conference itself. However, if the Leader of the Opposition believes I have received such representations, I will gladly follow the matter through.

## ROAD

### *Great Northern Highway*

99. Mr COYNE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Main Roads Department made a decision to erect a five-wire barrier on each side of the Great Northern Highway from Ninghan Hills to Meekatharra?
- (2) If so, what is the estimated cost of this project and from what source will it be funded?
- (3) Is it true that a recent cost survey indicated that provision of barrier fencing would be economically preferable to replacing the existing stock grids with wider and "maintenance-free" structures?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "No", would the Minister advise the number of special 12-metre-wide *in situ* grid constructions that would be needed to fully service the 450 km roadway route?
- (5) Using present-day cost estimates, could the Minister tell the House what are the comparative cost differences between each of the options under consideration?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for adequate notice of his question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) No. A decision has been made to fence approximately 35 km through part of Ninghan Station. In conjunction with future widening of sections of Great Northern Highway consideration will be given to fencing, but decisions will depend on comparative costs of fencing and grid reconstruction.
- (2) The estimated cost of fencing the 35 km section through Ninghan Station is \$80 000 and will be funded from the Main Roads Department's current annual works programme.
- (3) In regard to Ninghan Station the estimated costs of fencing and grid reconstruction are approximately the same. The new structures would not be maintenance-free.
- (4) As the widening of the whole of Great Northern Highway between Wubin and Meekatharra is not planned for the foreseeable future fencing will be considered only on sections of the road within which widening works are proposed. As the decisions for any future fencing depend on the comparative costs of fencing and grid reconstructions within the sections that may be concerned, the number of grids that may be involved cannot be determined at this stage.
- (5) In view of the above comments the comparative costs for all sections that may be considered for fencing in the future cannot be advised at this time.

## MINING.

### *Iron Ore: New Mine*

100. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Resources Development:

Is it not a fact that the decision of Japanese steel mills to sign a major new contract for iron ore with Brazil makes it extremely unlikely that there will be any decision within the next four or five years at least to develop a new iron ore mine in the Pilbara?



Mr P. V. JONES replied:

No, the matter is not relative to the degree placed upon it by the Leader of the Opposition.

## MINING

### *Iron Ore: Japanese Contracts*

101. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Resources Development:

I refer to his statement reported in *The West Australian* on 21 March that he was "very concerned that despite contractual obligations with the Australian companies, the Japanese steel mills have seen fit to enter the contractual negotiations with Brazil". My question is—

- (1) In view of this statement, why did he then say at the weekend that the Japanese decision to enter major new commitments with Brazil was "understandable" and that it "came as no surprise because Japan wanted to diversify its sources of supply"?
- (2) With respect to his comment about Japan diversifying supplies, is he not aware that Japan has been buying ore from Brazil for a number of years?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) I have already provided the honourable member with the information he seeks. The first part of his question related to my comments upon the statement that the Japanese had entered into "contractual negotiations"; the member for Maylands used those words himself. Our concern was based on exactly what was going to be the result of those negotiations. As it eventuated, what specifically resulted was a commitment to only 10 million tonnes, of which 4.5 million tonnes represented a replacement tonnage of ore which already is being obtained from Brazil. Therefore, the end result is that the only new commitment which has been made by the Japanese with Brazil is some 5.5 million tonnes, which will be supplied in the third or fourth year after shipment has commenced.

My concern, which was reflected in my comments, related to the fact the Japanese steel mills had entered into contractual negotiations with Brazil. As I have pointed out, the end result of those negotiations so far amounts to only 10 million tonnes, which certainly does not amount to the matter of great concern the member for Maylands addresses to the subject. Certainly, it does not—as he would like us to believe—rule out the possibility of any new project commencing in Western Australia, or sound the death knell to the existing industry in the Pilbara, which means so much to this State.

## TRADE UNION

### *Transport Workers' Union.*

102. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in *The West Australian* dated 3 April in which the Transport Workers' Union organiser for the North West (Mr Paddy Hartnett) was reported to have said that "cargo would not be handled till drivers produced their tickets" meaning membership cards, "even if the card had to be sent from Perth"?
- (2) Has he confirmed whether this is the official policy of the TWU and, if not, will he do so?
- (3) Does not Mr Hartnett's proposed actions contravene the intentions of the Industrial Arbitration Act making union membership a matter of individual choice?
- (4) What action does the Government propose to deal with the matter?
- (5) Does the truck owner have recourse to civil action against the union should he be delayed by the type of action proposed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the member for Mundaring for some notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, but I am aware of a membership drive by the Transport Workers' Union to recruit drivers.

- (3) Yes. Employees covered by awards of the Western Australian Industrial Commission cannot be forced to join a union, nor can they be precluded from joining unions which are parties to those awards.

Employees covered by awards of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission may be required to maintain membership of the union party to the award regulating their terms and conditions of employment. This will depend on what their particular award provides with respect to union membership.

Employees engaged as transport drivers in Western Australia in some cases are covered by Western Australian industrial awards and in others by Commonwealth commission awards.

- (4) Any complaints received will be fully investigated. None has been received to substantiate the 3 April report.
- (5) Each case would have to be examined to see what legal remedies are available to any truck owner affected.

## MINING

### *Iron Ore: Goldsworthy*

103. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Regional Administration and the North West:

- (1) Is it not a fact that when the Goldsworthy project comes to an end, probably in 1984, its closure will have a severe effect on Port Hedland unless some alternative iron ore project using Port Hedland is about to come on stream to replace it?
- (2) In view of the grave doubt that now exists about the likelihood of a new iron ore project in the Pilbara by 1985, what steps has the Government taken to assess and cope with the problems likely to arise for Port Hedland when the Goldsworthy project ends?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The issue raised by the member for Ascot has wide-ranging implications for the Government and for that area; because of that, and because it may even have been better to direct the question to the Minister for Resources Development, I suggest he place his question on notice.

## HEALTH: MENTAL

### *Graylands and Swanbourne Hospitals*

104. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Health:

Has the Minister yet received a report dealing with nurses' staffing studies at Swanbourne and Graylands Hospitals; if so, will he table it?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of his question. I have received a report in respect of nurses' staffing studies at Swanbourne and Graylands Hospitals prepared by the Community Systems Foundation of Australasia.

I wish to thank all the people concerned with the preparation of the report, including the Psychiatric Nurses Federation and its then secretary (Mr Latter) who urged the members of the staff to co-operate. I have pleasure in tabling the report.

*The report was tabled (see paper No. 137).*

## MINING

### *Iron Ore: Japanese Contracts*

105. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Resources Development:

I refer to his comment reported in *The West Australian* of 21 March that the Government was watching closely the position in negotiations involving Japanese steel mills, Brazilian iron ore producers, and Australian producers and that the Government would take whatever steps were necessary to look after the interests of the industry.

In view of the stalemate that has arisen in contractual negotiations between Australian producers and the Japanese mills and in view of the Japanese

decision to enter into big new contracts with Brazil to the detriment of Western Australia, what steps has the Government taken to make good the Minister's pledge to look after the interests of the industry?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I am not sure that what the Leader of the Opposition refers to as a "stalemate" actually exists—unless he has information which is not available to me or the Government. Indeed, discussions have taken place over a period of time, and are continuing. The Government constantly is in touch with the companies and the steel mills. We are certainly well aware of what is happening. I assure the honourable member there is no stalemate.

## EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

### *Tuart Hill*

106. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Education:

Before deciding to close the Tuart Hill Senior High School, did the Minister confer with or advise—

- (a) the member for Mt. Hawthorn;
- (b) any other parliamentary members; if so, which ones;
- (c) the Tuart Hill Senior High School Parents and Citizens' Association;
- (d) any other State school organisation or council; if so, which ones?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (a) to (d) No attempt has been made to close the school.

## POLICE

### *Telephone Tapping*

107. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in last Saturday's issue of *The West Australian* that he did not know whether Western Australian police were tapping telephones now and he would not inquire into it?
- (2) What powers, if any, does the Western Australian Police Force currently have to tap telephones?

- (3) If it has no such powers, why is he not able to state unequivocally that Western Australian police are not now tapping phones?

- (4) If phone taps are currently being conducted by the Western Australian Police Force, are they not illegal?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) to (4) The powers of the Police Force are in part dealt with under the Listening Devices Act which was adopted by this Parliament and passed through this Chamber in 1978. In part, the Act dealt with the powers of the police with regard to listening devices of various kinds. There is a legal question concerning the constitutional authority of the States as against that of the Commonwealth in relation to certain types of listening activities when they involve the telephone, because the telephone is controlled under Commonwealth jurisdiction. I think that answers part of the member's question.

I have made it clear, and I repeat now, that I do not intend to carry out an inquiry into the detailed operations of police in respect of the way they carry out their duties.

Mr Tonkin: So they are not responsible to Parliament?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HASSELL: The police are and always will be subject to the law.

Mr Pearce: And the Minister.

Mr HASSELL: The Commissioner of Police is accountable to this Parliament. However, I make the point that the commissioner and each individual police officer has a responsibility to uphold the law—

Mr Tonkin: But you do not want to know about it.

Mr HASSELL: —independently of other police officers and of any Government direction. That responsibility has been built into our law over a very long period and it is for the essential protection of the individual liberties the subject about which the member is expressing his concern with his questions on telephone tapping.

## POLICE

*Telephone Tapping.*

108. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) I find the Minister's answers quite incredible. Is the Minister unable to make an unequivocal denial that State police are tapping telephones?
- (2) If he is unable to do that, pray will he tell the House why he is not seeking that the police have the power to do something which the Minister says they may now be doing?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) Mr Speaker, I would like to make it clear—

Mr Davies: Do not adopt your righteous collar.

Mr HASSELL: —that it is part of our purpose to clarify the legal position between the Commonwealth and the States and to ensure that the police, in carrying out essential operations, do not inadvertently stray into any illegality, albeit that they may be purporting to act with the authority of legislation passed by this Parliament known as the Listening Devices Act.

Mr Tonkin: You said you were not interested.

Mr HASSELL: The member Balcatta has asked me to make an unequivocal statement that the police have never carried out telephone tapping.

Mr B. T. Burke: Do you deny that they are?

Mr HASSELL: I have already said publicly and repeat it here today that I do not know precisely what the police do in relation to their law enforcement operations. I do not intend to involve myself in their responsibilities.

Mr Davies: What a Minister!

Mr HASSELL: I venture to suggest that if a child were kidnapped tomorrow, the Opposition members—

Mr Davies: You are putting on your righteous collar.

Mr HASSELL: —would join with members on this side of the House in seeking to have police tap the telephone to listen to the person making ransom demands in respect of that child.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the House comes to order I may give another member the opportunity to ask a further question.

## EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

*Bentley and Tuart Hill*

109. Mr PEARCE, to the Premier:

Would he enlighten the House as to what was the urgency in making the announcement about the conversion of the status of the Bentley Senior High School and the Tuart Hill Senior High School which made it necessary for the announcement to be made to the public before the staff of those schools whose jobs would be affected were notified?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I have complete confidence in the Minister for Education.

Mr Pearce: We cannot share it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If he felt it was the appropriate time to make the announcement, as far as I am concerned it was the appropriate time.

Mr Bryce: You made the announcement.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Minister for Education made the submission to Cabinet and on a matter of that kind it is not unusual and in fact it is customary for the Premier to announce that Cabinet has agreed to the submission and then leave it to the Minister to give the details. That is exactly what happened.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

*TLC Nominee*

110. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

I refer him to the question I asked on Thursday last concerning the TLC nominee to the Workers' Compensation Board, and ask—

(1) Does he now recall that Mr Peter Cook, the Secretary of the TLC, in fact approached him personally about appointing a replacement for Mr Summers on that board and suggested the way this could be resolved was by using section 25(11) of the current Workers' Compensation Act; suggesting the appointment of a life member of the TLC to that position while Mr Summers was facing his charges.

(2) In view of the fact that the Premier has announced it may not be the case that the new workers' compensation legislation which he referred to would be passed by Parliament in this autumn session, and in view of the fact that Mr Summers' charges may not be heard for a considerable time, will he consider using that section 25(11) to appoint a deputy member of the board?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) No; my understanding was that Mr Cook contacted me by telephone and the member should bear in mind that I acknowledged there was contact made in that fashion. I indicated at the time that I was not prepared to state whether it was contact by telephone or by letter. I do not recall having spoken directly to Mr Cook on this matter.

(2) The Workers' Compensation Act is presently under review and I expect to present a Bill to the House within the next two or three weeks. At this stage it is not my intention to make any decision about appointing another person to the board until I have decided that the board will contain the three members on each side. When I have made that decision I will then decide whether I will allow or disallow Mr Cook's request.

## ROAD

### *Point Sampson-Wickham*

111. Mr SODEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Is the Minister aware of the significance to the construction of the Wickham District High School of the rerouting of

the Wickham to Point Sampson Road, adjacent to the Wickham townsite?

(2) Has a decision been reached to proceed with the realignment?

(3) If "Yes" to (2), when is it anticipated that the project will start and finish?

(4) Have sufficient funds been allocated to complete the work?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Work could commence in late April and finish early October.

(4) The Main Roads Department has allocated sufficient funds to commence the work in 1980-81. Additional funds would be needed in 1981-82. The contribution from the company also is being finalised.

## POLICE

### *Telephone Tapping*

112. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

(1) Is he aware that the Minister for Police and Traffic has implied in the strongest possible terms that State police are tapping telephones, and that the question of tapping telephones was not a subject of debate during the passage of the Listening Devices Bill in 1978?

(2) Will he assure the House that it is not his Government's policy at present to permit State police to tap telephones?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) and (2) I think the member for Balcatta is completely distorting the answer given by the Minister for Police and Traffic. The member has said that the Minister implied certain things, and that is not my understanding of the answer given by the Minister. The answer given by the Minister for Police and Traffic was, to my mind, a sensible one.

Mr Davies: A righteous one.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It was an answer that any Minister who understood his portfolio would give. I remind members opposite that we are very proud of the

fact that the Commissioner of Police in this State is not subject to direction by the Minister, as I gather the Labor Party would like to have the position.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir CHARLES COURT: The commissioner is not subject to direction by the Minister. If the Minister says he does not know whether the police have tapped telephones, he would be quite within his rights. If I were in his position I would not be asking the commissioner how he did his job.

## HEALTH

### *Pet Food*

113. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he seen the article in tonight's edition of the Daily News headed "Pet Food Could Cause Disease"?
- (2) Will the Minister advise whether raw offal is being sold in Western Australia as pet food?
- (3) If "Yes", will he ensure that this dangerous practice ceases?
- (4) If "No", will he ensure that such practices may never be allowed to happen here in view of the danger to humans of hydatid cysts as a result of contamination from dogs infected with tapeworms and the number of children who play affectionately with their family pets?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) I suggest the member places a question on the notice paper.

## FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

### *North-West Shelf: Contractual Customers*

114. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) In view of doubts cast upon the Rundle shale project due to escalating development costs, can he assure the House and the people of Western Australia that development costs, together with the present world-wide glut of petroleum products, will not spell a similar fate for the North-West Shelf project?

- (2) Is it correct, as reported in the papers, that Alcoa may not go ahead and finalise a contract to take up gas from the North-West Shelf and in any event will not proceed with a contract until such time as the jarrah class action is resolved?
- (3) What are the impediments preventing the Japanese from concluding a contract to take liquefied gas from the shelf?
- (4) When can it be expected that such a contract can be concluded?
- (5) What definite contractual customers are there presently for North-West Shelf gas, apart from the SEC?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (5) This is a very detailed question of which I have had no notice. Parts (3) and (4) have already been answered in an answer to another question asked today. I suggest that the member place a question on the notice paper.

## RAILWAYS

### *Bunbury Bridge*

115. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to his statement published in the *Western Mail* of Saturday last about the Government's policy in relation to the electrification of the Perth-Bunbury railway line. Would the Minister indicate whether the policy includes the replacement of the Bunbury bridge?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

If the member studied the matter more closely he would realise the work contemplated relating to the electrification of the rail system involves the line between Kwinana and Bunbury. I will check on the replacement of the bridge and advise him at a later time. A year or two ago it was thought it would be replaced in about five years.

Mr McIver: That is just about up.

Mr RUSHTON: Two years does not equal five years. I will obtain the information for him so that he will be up to date with the current situation.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Rockingham, I wish to say that it seems that he has questioned my impartiality. There have been 21

questions asked. I think three have been asked by one member and the remainder have been asked by various members.

## HERBICIDES

### 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T: Workers

116. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

Far be it from me to question the impartiality of the Speaker. I ask the Minister—

- (1) Is he aware of the article on page 7 of today's edition of the *Daily News* about a Swedish survey finding that workers spraying 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T face increased risks of developing malignant cancers?
- (2) Will he implement continuing monitoring of workers at the Kwinana chemical plant which is the only plant in Australia manufacturing these chemicals?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) and (2) The member for Rockingham did draw my attention to the article and so the answer to the first part of his question is "Yes". I think every member of this Chamber would be aware that there is hardly any substance used by mankind that has not at some stage been suggested by someone to be the cause of cancer of some kind. Obviously I have not seen the study referred to, but I will have the matter investigated. I will also investigate the matter relating to the Kwinana plant.

## FISHERIES

### Tuna: Glut

117. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Deputy Premier:

I ask the following question of the Deputy Premier in his capacity as Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife—

- (1) Is it a fact that quantities of canned tuna have been purchased by a South Australian fish processing firm from a South-East Asian country to be relabelled and resold in Australia?
- (2) If "Yes" to (1)—
  - (a) To what extent are the activities of this firm responsible for the glut of tuna fish which is making it difficult for Western Australian fishermen to sell their catches?
  - (b) Does the Western Australian Government intend to take any action to redress the position?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) I understand that a number of Australian companies have historically imported canned tuna to Australia, and that when this occurs the labelling is normally done outside Australia.
- (2) (a) Not known;  
(b) see (a).