

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 21 August 1980

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

## TOWN PLANNING *Claremont: Petition*

MR NANOVICH (Whitford) [11.02 a.m.]: I have a petition signed by 222 people addressed as follows—

The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament Assembled.

We, the undersigned citizens of Claremont, humbly petition that:

1. The decision of the Honourable Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning to support the appeal in favour of a multi-storey development on the north-west corner of Bay View Terrace and Victoria Avenue be reversed.
2. The Honourable Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning will not grant approval for any buildings in excess of two storeys within the residential zoned area of the Town of Claremont prior to the gazettal of the new Town Planning Scheme and the intent of this petition to be incorporated in the new Town Planning Scheme.

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

I have checked the petition and I certify 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. 13.*)

## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Annual Report, and Education Act  
Regulations Report: Tabling*

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I have for tabling the Legislative Review and Advisory Committee annual report for the current year, and the Education Act Regulations report.

*The reports were tabled (see papers Nos. 195 and 196).*

## ABORIGINAL HERITAGE AMENDMENT BILL

### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Pearce, and read a first time.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from 20 August.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [11.04 a.m.]: I take this opportunity, as other members have done, to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your reappointment to the high office you hold. I also congratulate the newly elected members in this House. Many new members come here with the idea that it will be an easy life, but it is far from easy if the job is done properly. It is very demanding. I wish new members well in their political careers.

It is pleasing for the Opposition to know that the Government has shifted ground on its nuclear programme. The position in which we now find ourselves has changed since the last election. Prior to the election the Premier had made a firm announcement, on behalf of the Government, that a nuclear power station would be constructed in Western Australia by 1995.

As you will recall, Sir, the Opposition moved several motions in this House condemning the decision by the Government. Reference to *Hansard* will indicate that on 19 September 1979—the date of our last move in this direction—I moved the following motion—

That in the opinion of this House, planning for a nuclear power plant in W.A. should not proceed, because a nuclear power plant in W.A. cannot be justified in terms of need, cost and potential risk and because of overwhelming public opposition to the Government's proposals to build a nuclear power plant in this State.

In my submission I pointed out that the Government was working on an old cost figure when it estimated the capital cost of constructing a nuclear power station in Western Australia. The former Minister for Fuel and Energy (the Hon. A. Mensaros) used a figure between \$600 million and \$800 million per kilowatt. The cost of constructing a comparable power station in the Philippines was between \$1 500 million and \$2 000 million per kilowatt.

It can be seen that the Opposition was right in its presentation. Our last move was firmly based on cost and unnecessary public risk.

The changed situation came about when the Assistant Commissioner of the State Energy Commission made an announcement in *The West Australian* on 12 April this year. He completely destroyed and contradicted the previous announcement by the Premier. Just briefly, Dr Booth said—

There was no certainty at this stage that WA would get nuclear power, a senior State Energy Commission official said yesterday.

The assistant commissioner (engineering), Dr R. R. Booth, said that the only thing certain was that Collie coal would be used as long as it was available.

He went on to indicate that he had made a submission to the Senate standing committee on national resources. The article continues—

The decision on a nuclear power station would not be made for a few years.

As I have said, the Government shifted ground. Even as late as just prior to the last election the Government made a firm commitment to the people of this State that a nuclear power station would be constructed. I argued this point when an amendment to the State Energy Commission Act was debated last year. However, the Premier said there would be a nuclear power station in Western Australia by 1995.

Mr Davies: There was no doubt about it.

Mr T. H. JONES: There was no doubt about it; it was a firm commitment to the people of Western Australia, irrespective of cost. The Government had not gone into costs. The experience in the Philippines provided more recent figures than those used by the Government. The article continues—

Replying to questions from ALP senators, Dr Booth said that the overall energy supply situation in WA was that while Collie coal reserves were adequate, coal would be the preferred power-generating source.

That is something no-one can deny. I have been hammering the argument in this House since I came here some 13 years ago. On many occasions Government members have treated my argument as a joke, but now we see the true position.

It is quite evident that Dr Booth was authorised to make his statement, because his remarks were contrary to the statement by the Premier on behalf of the Government.

The Premier accepted the proposition. He said the decision to build a nuclear power station in

Western Australia would not be made for some years. So apparently we can forget about the 1995 proposition, and the Opposition welcomes that. The decision made by Dr Booth is well founded, because the last figures presented in this Parliament indicate that the cost of one kilowatt hour of nuclear power is greater than the cost of one kilowatt hour of power produced by coal generation, and of course the reason is the capital cost factor.

I have given the latest figures supplied to the House. I am not in the habit of making misleading statements. They are the figures presented to me by the Minister for Fuel and Energy. The point I make is that the Government has shifted ground. It knew public opinion was against it. It did not do its homework in relation to nuclear energy and it did not know the reserves of coal which were available in Western Australia. I say that situation is unchanged; the Government still does not know how much coal is available in Western Australia.

An investigation instituted by the Joint Coal Board of New South Wales discovered a coal seam of greater tonnage than the one in the Hunter Valley. I can say on reliable information which I have received from those associated with the coalmining industry that the extent of the coal reserves in Western Australia is unknown. New reserves are being found every day. Western Collieries has just found the Wyvern seam underneath the Western No. 5 open cut. It contains 100 million tonnes of deep mine coal and will make way for the biggest deep mine ever put down in Western Australia. This seam was previously unknown and it was discovered by the company getting down to some boring. That is what the Government should be looking at.

Sir Charles Court: Isn't it happening everywhere?

Mr McPharlin: Those figures are based on present-day prices of coal and uranium. Would you admit there is any possibility of coal prices going up and oil and uranium prices going down?

Mr T. H. JONES: Oil prices are going up. I cannot find out the price of oil. If prices generally increase, will the price of coal remain at the same level?

Mr McPharlin: The figures are changing very rapidly.

Mr T. H. JONES: Unfortunately, I do not have the production costs with me, but I will make them available to the member for Mt. Marshall and quote them later on in this House. We cannot expect the price of coal to remain at a permanent

level when all other commodities are rising in price.

What is the reason for the secrecy about the oil price? Can the member for Mt. Marshall tell me that? When the Tonkin Government was in power it revealed the cost the State Energy Commission was paying for oil. It had been a guarded secret from the time the State Electricity Commission initially started to use fuel oil for power generation in this State. It has now become a guarded secret again. A question I asked in this House last week indicates the situation. On 14 August I asked the Minister for Fuel and Energy the following question—

Will he advise the cost per tonne of fuel oil being used by the State Energy Commission for power generation?

The Minister replied—

No. The cost paid by the State Energy Commission for fuel oil is a commercial matter confidential to the commission.

So, the position is that the oil companies know the price the Government is paying for coal, but the coal companies do not know the price of fuel oil.

Mr Mensaros: Wasn't it the same situation when you were in government?

Mr T. H. JONES: When we were in government we revealed the price of fuel oil. Unfortunately, I do not have all my files with me today, but to satisfy the Minister I will supply the information to him. Why all the secrecy? This has been going on since the SEC started to use fuel oil. Why is the Government hushing it up? It is for the reasons I have outlined.

What the Government should be doing is supporting a geophysical boring programme in Western Australia to show how much coal there is. It is not good enough to say that while coal is available it will be used in preference to uranium. It is up to the Government to find out what the coal deposits are in Western Australia. It is a reasonable proposition. We know that other coal reserves have been found.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will resume his seat. There is far too much background conversation. The member for Collie speaks clearly and loudly, but it is obvious that because of the background conversation the *Hansard* reporter is having difficulty hearing him.

Mr T. H. JONES: A coal rush has been on in the south-west. It was announced in the Press. The Government is doing very little to support the drilling programme. We need the coal from day to day, but we do not know how much coal we

have. We prefer energy generated from coal to nuclear energy.

I call on the Government to introduce a comprehensive boring programme so that we can ascertain the amount of coal we have available for power generation and other needs in Western Australia. The Minister would know about a geophysical study which was made of the Collie seams. I have a graph showing the Collie mineral basin. It was ascertained that there were 5000 million tonnes of coal at depth in the Collie field. The depth is spelt out. It will have to be extracted by the shaft method. It is a possibility and is done in other parts of the world.

The Government should be asking the Australian Research Laboratories for a grant to investigate the possibility of extracting some of the larger pockets of coal at depth on the Collie mineral field. At the moment we are paying a levy of 5c on every tonne of coal produced. The Government should be seeking a grant in order to look at the possibility of recovering some of the seams on the Collie field.

Mr Coyne: We do not support drilling for gold or nickel.

Mr T. H. JONES: Is the goldmining industry paying a levy into the research laboratories?

Mr Coyne interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: The honourable member should know his subject before he asks that question. I know that the coalmining industry is paying 5c for every tonne of coal produced into the central fund in Canberra.

Mr Coyne interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: Is it unreasonable, having paid that money, to expect some benefit from it? What is the money paid for? Perhaps it is so that Mr Fraser and his Ministers can go off on world trips. The member for Murchison-Eyre is unrealistic. He does not know whether the goldmining industry is paying any levy. However, he says that although the coalmining industry is paying 5c a tonne, its members are not entitled to any benefits.

Mr Coyne: That is a socialist principle.

Mr T. H. JONES: I believe I have answered the honourable member.

On Tuesday, 19 August, I asked the Minister for Fuel and Energy the following question—

Will he please advise the latest costs the Government has obtained per M. W. for

- (a) coal fired power units;
- (b) nuclear units?

The Minister replied—

The cost of power plants varies widely, as the Hon. Member should realise, and depends upon the actual site, the size of the units and many other factors.

Of course I know that. The Minister then continued—

It is not possible to provide the cost estimates of the nature of those requested by the Hon. Member.

In another place the Hon. Lyla Elliott asked a similar question, and she received a similar answer. The Minister representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy in that House said—

The Government is not regularly producing updated costs for a 600-800 MW nuclear reactor. General cost estimates are available to the Government and a definitive cost estimate for a reactor installed within Western Australia will be made at the appropriate time.

So the Government is saying that it has been working on old figures. The Premier said that we will have a nuclear power house by 1995, but here is an admittance that the Government does not know the costing of such a power house. The Government is saying that it will look at the figures at an appropriate time. Is it any wonder that the State Energy Commission is in a mess? Of course this is not the way to operate our State instrumentalities efficiently.

Surely if the Government is thinking about turning to nuclear energy it should know the up-to-date costing of a plant. No-one can deny that the Premier has somersaulted in his views. He was advised incorrectly. He would not listen to the Opposition, but now, after public pressure, he has shelved the idea.

Mr Spriggs: If we did listen to the Opposition, it would probably have buried us in coal.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Opposition put up many propositions, but they were not supported by the member for Darling Range who is now laughing. Does he agree that the Premier has gone cold on the idea?

Mr Spriggs: I do not know.

Mr T. H. JONES: Of course he does not know, or else he is not allowed to offer his opinion.

Several members interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: It is quite clear that the Government has gone cold on the idea. It has succumbed to public pressure. This is another example of the continuing mess of our power generation in Western Australia. I will not repeat all the past mistakes of successive Liberal Governments. However, I must point out that the

cost of converting the two units at Kwinana has escalated further.

The conversion of the power generating units at Kwinana is necessary because the Government installed inconvertible units. It cost \$32 million to convert the first two units, and I would like to inform members of the amount necessary to convert the remaining two units. The member for Maylands asked a question about this matter in the House, and he was told that it will cost \$39.1 million—that is an additional \$7.1 million. This money will have to be collected from the taxpayers of the State. I do not suppose the Government feels that \$7.1 million is a great deal of money, but certainly it could be put to much better use.

When making his contribution to the debate last night, the member for Roe gave us a resume of his trip to England. He said he had spoken to people involved in the nuclear industry, and he had been assured that there were no dangers involved.

Mr Grewar: They were satisfied.

Mr T. H. JONES: They were satisfied that there were very few risks. The British Government had decided also that it would not use coal for steam-raising purposes. Obviously the member for Roe is not well up in his reading because in yesterday's Press we see that Sir Derek Ezra announced this week that the British Government is exporting tonnes of coal to Northern Europe for power generation, presumably because the countries there have insufficient reserves. The member for Roe told us that the British Government had decided coal was too important to use for steam-raising purposes, but here we have the Chairman of the Joint Coal Board telling us that coal is being exported to Northern Europe.

Mr Grewar: Obviously necessary to obtain extra export income. They did not believe it should be done that way.

Mr T. H. JONES: If the Government did not believe that the coal should be burnt in England, why allow it to be burned in another country?

Mr Grewar: Foreign exchange.

Mr T. H. JONES: The member for Roe tells us that this is because of foreign exchange.

Mr Blaikie: The member for Geraldton will advise you because he was part of the study tour as well and the British Energy Commission gave us some enlightening facts.

Mr T. H. JONES: Apparently the British Government has changed its policy completely.

Mr Spriggs: You are reading an old paper.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am reading a statement that was reported yesterday.

The member for Bunbury, when addressing a Jaycee's seminar, said that nuclear energy cannot be proved responsible for a single death. If the honourable member had carried out a study such as Opposition members have done, he would have found reports of many deaths and accidents in the nuclear energy sphere. Unfortunately the member for Bunbury is not in the Chamber at the moment, but it is interesting that when I answered him in the *South Western Times* he did not reply. I can presume only that he accepted the information I gave him. I would like to quote from a report in the *South Western Times*. It reads—

1958—Yugoslavia . . . nuclear reactor overheated. Six scientists were irradiated, transported to France for treatment. One death.

1961—Idaho Falls, US—reported as first major reactor accident in US. An explosion occurred, the cause of which is still not known. Three men were killed instantly—their bodies were so severely irradiated that their exposed hands and heads had to be severed from their bodies.

1945-1968—ten workers died as a result of over-exposure to radiation from experimental reactors in laboratory work connected with the development of nuclear power.

Other examples are available if one cares to undertake some research. I have here a brief list of the total number of accidents in nuclear power plants throughout the world. It reads—

101 radioactive leaks, including many cases of radiation of workers.

Accidents, total of 84 documented. There are 6 248 accidents listed by authoritative sources such as AECNRC and Union of Concerned Scientists.

Failures, 20.

The statements demonstrate clearly that the information given by the member for Bunbury was not factual.

The member for Mundaring has adopted a similar line. On 5 August, the *Daily News* carried a report of a statement he had made about this matter. Of course, the CANE organisation invited him to take part in a public debate. He was prepared to make a statement in Parliament, but he would not accept the challenge to make those same remarks outside Parliament. The honourable member knows he was invited to take

part in this debate, but he declined the invitation. It is quite evident where he stood.

What do scientists say? What is the up-to-date opinion which was reported in March of this year? We find a newspaper headline saying that nuclear death risks are a fact. A scientist said that; it is not Tom Jones saying it, but someone deeply involved in the nuclear energy business. The scientist went on to say that a nuclear power industry in Australia could be expected to cause a certain number of deaths each year. That was said by a leading British chemical engineer, Sir Frederick Warner, and he said it on 27 March this year.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order! I have been informed it is impossible for *Hansard* reporters to hear interjections from the back benches. I would ask members to consider *Hansard* and to keep their tone of conversation as low as possible—preferably nil.

Mr T. H. JONES: The interjections are valueless and not worth recording; I will allow the members concerned to carry on, because they are not worth answering. Sir Frederick Warner also said—

It was now recognised that the long-term affect of radiation exposure was to cause cancers and the nuclear industry had to do everything possible to reduce this risk.

Too little was known about the amount of radiation needed to cause genetic change such as the forming of new genes through the splitting of chromosomes.

Mr Sibson: That is right! What is Russia doing about that? It has an aggressive nuclear programme and it has had one for a long time.

Mr Pearce: Does that mean they are going to start a war?

Mr T. H. JONES: The member for Bunbury misinformed the Jaycee's in Bunbury when he said not one death had been recorded in the nuclear energy industry. I challenged him in the newspaper, but he did not accept my challenge because he knew he made a blunder. His announcement was ill-conceived, and it misled the Bunbury Jaycee's.

Mr Sibson: You don't even know which meeting it was.

Mr T. H. JONES: When I challenged the member for Bunbury, he went to water. I suggest that he does his homework and then comes back to see me.

Mr Sibson: You haven't answered the question about Russia; that is the important matter.

**Mr T. H. JONES:** Having shown that the nuclear power programme is not just on, I want to ask the Minister for Fuel and Energy when he will do something about providing assistance for farmers in respect of electricity supplies. I preface my question to him by reminding him that the Court Government announced on 7 November 1978 that it had agreed to a \$4.2 million plan to assist country people to obtain power supplies. Nothing has happened since that announcement. Again, the Premier when in Bunbury supporting the member for Bunbury during the election in February of this year said the Government was examining ways and means of providing electricity to 3 000 farmers in remote country areas. I have an elector by the name of Mr Duce who came to see me seeking assistance. I wrote to the Minister on 19 May in the following terms—

Your records will disclose that I have been in touch with the former Minister on a number of occasions in connection with the availability of power and subsidy available to Mr Duce.

I attach hereto a copy of a letter I have received from Mr Duce setting out his complaint.

In view of the assurances given by the Premier during the last State Election campaign, I would be pleased if you would advise what assistance you will now be able to make available to Mr Duce.

On 7 June I received a letter from the Minister for Fuel and Energy saying that he would shortly communicate with Mr Duce and make some announcement.

When is this programme, which the Premier first announced in 1978, going to be put into operation?

**Mr P. V. Jones:** Are you suggesting nothing at all has been done?

**Mr T. H. JONES:** I am asking what has been done. I am dealing only with a particular farmer.

**Mr P. V. Jones:** Are you suggesting no-one has been in touch with Mr Duce?

**Mr T. H. JONES:** The last letter I received from him was dated 14 May, and he has not contacted me since.

**Mr P. V. Jones:** My understanding is that someone has been in touch with him; but in any case I will find out for you.

**Mr T. H. JONES:** Can the Minister tell the Parliament what is the policy of the Government in respect of assisting the 3 000 farmers referred to by the Premier in his announcement made in

Bunbury last February? Has it been put into operation?

**Mr P. V. Jones:** Yes.

**Mr T. H. JONES:** How many farmers have received assistance?

**Mr P. V. Jones:** We are still negotiating contributory extension schemes.

**Mr T. H. JONES:** The scheme is not operating yet, even though it was announced in 1978 and referred to again this year. I appreciate this is not the fault of the present Minister for Fuel and Energy, who has held that portfolio for a comparatively short time. But it is not good enough for the Premier to hoodwink the farmers in 1978 and again in 1980 when supporting the member for Bunbury. It is time action was taken; the farmers are not happy with the situation. The Minister should make an announcement.

The Minister for Housing is not in the Chamber, but I want to ask him when something will be done about upgrading Housing Commission homes in Collie. On 28 November last year I asked a question regarding maintenance and I was advised that due to the limitation on funds no money was available even for internal painting. The situation is that some homes in Collie have been occupied for 19 years. One home in particular has not had a coat of paint internally in 19 years.

**Mr Laurance:** How long have you been in your house?

**Mr T. H. JONES:** About 25 or 28 years.

**Mr Laurance:** How many times have you painted it internally?

**Mr T. H. JONES:** I suppose about six times.

**Mr MacKinnon:** You must be very dirty.

**Mr T. H. JONES:** I do all my own painting, and I like to change the colour scheme now and then; I do not like to look at the same old things like the Honorary Minister does.

It is unreasonable that a house should not receive a coat of paint in 19 years. I said before in this place that there is simply no money available for maintenance of homes. The Honorary Minister will not deny that. The roofs of the houses are rusting. Recently I had an example where the dado in a kitchen had been eaten by white ants. I had to go to the Housing Commission office in Bunbury to get something done. The dado was replaced, but the commission had quite a job finding money to buy a little paint with which to paint the dado. That shows how bad the situation has become.

As I mentioned, house roofs are rusting away because little maintenance has been done. If something is not done soon parts of Collie will develop into slum areas; I hate to use that word, but it cannot be avoided. The new federalism concept has not produced the money, and houses are deteriorating. Why cannot something be done to improve and upgrade the homes of the State Housing Commission?

I do not blame the Minister for Housing, because he is new to the portfolio. However, the situation is disastrous and probably it applies also to the constituents of other members. Rents are increased continually, but what do tenants get in return? Nothing.

The decision to do away with fencing was a bad one, particularly where young children are concerned.

Mr Laurance: More money has been spent on maintenance in the last three years than in the whole history of the commission.

Mr Bryce: The houses are getting older and they need more maintenance.

Mr Laurance: The increase has been significant.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have been in Collie for a long time—

Mr Sibson: We know that.

Mr T. H. JONES: —but I know that is not the situation there. Some houses have not had a coat of paint in all that time.

Mr Laurance: Right across the State, more money has been spent on house maintenance than ever before.

Mr T. H. JONES: How would the Honorary Minister like to be living with three or four young children in a house with no fences in a heavy traffic area? The people are concerned, and they must keep their kids locked up all day. That is not a fair proposition in today's society. This is what tenants of State Housing Commission homes must put up with. Perhaps the Minister is not aware of the problem. A lady with three or four young children wants them to go into the yard to play with the dog, or to play on the swings; but she cannot allow this if her house has no fences and is situated in a heavy traffic area, because kids will run.

Mr Laurance: That is a particular case, and I would like you to refer it to me. As I said to the member for Melville the other night, if it is a particular case refer it to me.

Mr T. H. JONES: It is general.

Mr Laurance: You referred to a lady who lives in a particular area.

Mr T. H. JONES: There are plenty of them.

Mr Laurance: You give me the details, and I will attend to it.

Mr T. H. JONES: I will give the Honorary Minister plenty of cases.

Mr Laurance: Let us start with that one first.

Mr T. H. JONES: Is the Honorary Minister assuring me that he will attend to all the cases I have queried?

Mr Bryce: I am going to ask next!

Mr O'Connor: With your qualifications as a painter, you should be able to do them all yourself!

Mr T. H. JONES: The Minister's qualifications are in another area—one in which I could not challenge him. I will not mention it in the House, but it is well known! The Honorary Minister has given me an assurance in Parliament that if I send him cases where fences are required, he will see to the matter.

Mr Laurance: Let us start with the case to which you referred; namely, a lady with three or four young children living in a house with no fence on a busy street.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Honorary Minister obviously intends to establish the principle and then carry on with it. I am grateful to him.

I turn now to a matter concerning the Minister for Education. I have already written to him concerning the transport of school children from Wellington Dam to the pick-up point on the way to school. The Education Department has decided that, due to the allegedly dangerous condition of the road leading from the South-West Highway to the Wellington Dam, school buses are not permitted to travel to Wellington Dam to pick up these children.

However, we have the anomalous situation of regular parties of 40 or 50 children from Donnybrook, Bunbury, and other areas travelling by school bus to Wellington Dam for picnics. On the one hand, the road is too dangerous to allow school buses to pick up children and on the other hand it is quite safe enough to allow access to the weir by parties of picnicking school children.

We must be consistent in this matter. I do not know whether the letter I received was written by the Minister, or by one of his administrative officers. However, it is an anomalous situation, and should be reviewed. I do not accept the notification I have received.

I refer now to the availability of land for building blocks in Collie. The Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning is involved in this case. On 8 July this year, three members of State Parliament in company with the Hon. Peter Drummond met members of the shire. The Hon. A. A. Lewis, on behalf of all members present, wrote to the Premier on the same day. However, we have received no reply to our correspondence. Unfortunately the Premier is not in the Chamber this morning; perhaps the Deputy Premier could refer this matter to him.

An urgent need exists in Collie for building blocks; this cannot be denied by the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning. However, nothing has been done. I appeal to the Government to take positive action.

Mrs Craig: One of the problems is that subdivision approvals have been given, but people have not proceeded to subdivide. Since the first approach was made, there have been two releases of Crown land. For reasons which we both know, the first release did not sell very well.

Mr T. H. JONES: Some private land is available, but at exorbitant prices. They are asking \$12 000 and \$14 000 per block, which is a great deal of money when one recalls that in 1960 one could swap a block for a pushbike.

Mrs Craig: There are also problems with regard to sewerage.

Mr T. H. JONES: I do not intend to go into that point now.

I notice in an article in today's *The West Australian* that a former member for Bunbury (Mr M. C. Williams) has at last received the payola for the good job he has done in opposing me in the electorate of Collie, and also for the work he did during the celebrations for our 150th anniversary.

Mr Bryce: Jobs for the boys!

Mr T. H. JONES: That is correct. The article states—

Mr M. C. Williams, a Bunbury business man and former State MP, was appointed chairman of the new WA Small Business Services Pty. Ltd. yesterday.

Like the case of the gentleman from the Eastern States who was appointed to head the State Government's public relations department, this is a clear case of "jobs for the boys". I ask the Honorary Minister what sort of salary Mr Williams is to receive.

Mr MacKinnon: He will receive \$3 000 a year plus travelling expenses.

Mr Coyne: Could you get a better man?

Mr Bryce: Probably about 1 000. Just look around the private sector and see if you could not find a better man.

Mr MacKinnon: It is the standard rate members of such boards receive.

Mr Sibson: He has received this appointment eight years after he left Parliament. You could hardly call that "jobs for the boys".

Mr MacKinnon: He is the best man for the job.

Mr Clarko: Would you agree it is a very small amount of money?

Mr T. H. JONES: It depends on how big the job is.

Mr Clarko: The sum of money is minute.

Mr T. H. JONES: I suppose he will receive about \$100 per meeting.

Mr Clarko: I would imagine the rate paid to the cleaning lady would be about the same.

Mr T. H. JONES: Turning to another subject, I was very disappointed no action was taken to place traffic control under the Commissioner of Police. On 1 May this year, the Minister for Police and Traffic rejected any possibility of an amalgamation of the two departments.

Since the suggestion originally was made, the Government appointed a committee to examine the matter. I stated that any piecemeal change would not be effective. I assume the decision has been made following the canvassing of local authorities. I understand the Premier announced that because local authorities did not want the change, the two departments would not be amalgamated.

I wonder whether the Government will adopt the same attitude when it is considering amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. Will the Government canvass the views of the trade union movement and, if its amendments to the Act are not acceptable to the trade union movement, will the Government abide by that view and not proceed with its amendments?

Mr Hassell: You should get it clear that all we undertook to do before the election was to ask local government for its opinion. We undertook to consider changes only if local government indicated it wanted changes. We did not put forward any policy to amalgamate the two departments.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Government acted on local government advice. Even the Liberal Party in Collie does not agree with the Government, which is unusual. The Collie branch of the Liberal Party has called for the reamalgamation



of the regular Police Force and the road traffic patrol.

Mr Bryce: Was that a mass meeting?

Mr T. H. JONES: It was a mass meeting of their usual six members.

Mr MacKinnon: Your leader does not agree with all your policies.

Mr T. H. JONES: I ask the Minister for Labour and Industry: Will the Government adopt the same attitude when it is dealing with the Workers' Compensation Act? He is silent. Obviously, we have one rule for local government and another for the trade union movement.

I had a number of other matters to raise, but as time has run out, I will save them for another occasion.

MR COYNE (Murchison-Eyre) [11.49 a.m.]: I have been looking forward to making a contribution to this debate. It is very appropriate that I follow the member for Collie on this occasion. Usually his speeches are very stereotyped. On this occasion, I must go back on some ground because of recent developments throughout the State.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Lieutenant-Governor for his opening Speech to the Parliament. I would like to reflect on one particular aspect of his Speech relating to the Yeelirrie development. The Lieutenant-Governor pointed out that that project is about to commence in the initial stages.

I would also like to congratulate the Speaker on his historic win in the ballot for the Speakership this year.

I would like to take the opportunity of congratulating the new members of the House—the member for Kimberley, the member for East Melville, the member for Fremantle, and the member for Kalgoorlie. I would also like to express my personal appreciation for the return of the member for Avon, the member for Maylands, and the member for Canning. They have made great contributions to my campaign funds over the years. I was delighted to learn they were still members of the House.

Mr McIver: The final four is not decided yet.

Mr COYNE: I must say their contribution this year is not as good as it was on previous occasions.

I would also like to congratulate me on my own success. I had a very fine opponent this time. He was quite a good type of chap, and we got on pretty well during the campaign. Probably he has some future, somewhere along the line.

I would now like to deal with a run-around of my electorate and indicate some of the changes that have taken place in it in the last couple of years. Looking back to my speech in 1978, I indicated there was a general economic trough throughout the Murchison region of the electorate. I am happy to stand up here today and give more encouraging news about the changes that have occurred.

In 1978, the eastern goldfields had experienced a very severe setback. That related particularly to the joint venture between the Windarra nickel group and the Shell Oil Company. That mine suffered such a setback it was reduced from the production stage to a development stage. The work force was reduced from about 500 to less than 100. That was a great pity for the town. I was particularly sad to see such a thing happen because I had watched that town grow from nothing. When I was first elected in 1971, there were only 31 electors in the town, and it subsequently grew to a town of 2 000 people. It developed into a town with a tremendous amount of spirit, because the company which initially set the project moving sent its recruitment officers throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth to mobilise a work force. Many of these workers came from places as far afield as New Zealand, Tasmania, and the other Eastern States. Those people mixed in and developed into a very fine community. It was sad to see them dispersed to other mining projects.

I am happy to say that the resumption of operations at Windarra is about to take place, two years after that very depressing event. The two companies involved have announced the resumption of the production stage. They have high hopes of bringing the town back to its former glory. They have made a few significant changes. The single men's quarters have been removed from the mine locality and brought 17 miles into the host town, Laverton. That will give an added level of activity and social interaction to the community.

There is another very important project that is being redeveloped. I refer to the Lancefield goldmine. It is being redeveloped and reactivated because of the recent escalation in the price rise of gold. An announcement this morning by the Western Mining Corporation, the managers of the project on behalf of the joint venturers, advised of the commissioning of a new shaft on the northern end of the old workings.

I have a particular interest in the Lancefield mine because I began working there on 10 January 1936. I worked in the gold room as the assistant to the metallurgist for two years. I was

about 18 or 19 at the time. Lancefield was a thriving mining operation. There were something like 330 men working underground and another 100 or so on the surface operations. That community, known as Beria in those days, embraced about 1 000 people. There was quite a number of other goldmines operating in the Laverton region at the time. The Mt. Margaret locality was a very important mining district in the mid 30's and the reopening of this mine at this time is a very big plus in my electorate right now.

We will see the extension of other mining operations in the electorate of Murchison-Eyre; and the population will grow from the present small number of 2 000 into an electorate of 5 000 or 6 000 people. I can see that happening in the near foreseeable future.

The Agnew nickel mine is well and truly on its feet, although there was a recent setback because of the rain. A long succession of rains began early in May, and the continuation of that rain has blighted production at the mine to an extent. In producing nickel, the ore is reduced to a concentrate stage, and then it has to be shipped out to the smelter. The road between Leinster and Kalgoorlie became so wet they were having trouble moving the concentrate out. That upset operations to an extent. It upset the continuity of the pattern of production.

We have seen the establishment of the new railway terminal at Leonora. That is a silo which takes care of the concentrate in transit. We have seen the upgrading of the Kalgoorlie-Leonora railway, which has now reached a fairly high capacity. It augurs well for the future when one sees the tremendous amount of money being spent in the area.

The other aspect of the north-eastern goldfields to which I would like to refer is the pastoral outlook. Since the 1975 floods which affected the operation of the Windarra nickel mine in a similar fashion to that of Agnew, there has been a series of good seasons for the pastoralists in that area. The pastoral industry is a very important part of the Western Australian economy.

The good seasons have allowed the stations in that region to return to almost peak levels of production. Sheep numbers have returned almost to their normal level.

Having made those comments, I would like to turn now to the Murchison region, which is the major part of my electorate of Murchison-Eyre. Two years ago, the Murchison region was right at the bottom of a very serious economic trough. The pastoral industry has undergone a long drought lasting something like five years. The drought has

hit the industry extremely hard. Pastoralists who were good producers previously and normally would carry about 10 000 sheep, have been reduced to the stage where, in the Meekatharra-Wiluna area, they have been reduced to numbers of less than 1 000. It is not the fault of the operator or the owner that that has occurred. It is purely and simply because of the vagaries of the weather and the drought.

Meekatharra is one of the towns that is more subject to fluctuations in sheep numbers, caused partly by the drought, but more so by the incursions of dingoes, which are still a big problem for pastoralists in the region.

There is now a new optimism right throughout the Murchison. The Government is in the process now of trying to investigate ways we can help the pastoralists by making available to them restocking loans. It is our belief that the restocking problem is an integral part of a drought. People now have bountiful quantities of feed and pasture on the stations, but they do not have the stock to allow them to return to a buoyant situation.

I realise the difficulties of the pastoralists being able to do so in the present climate, bearing in mind that to buy ewes of a reasonable standard would require them to pay something like \$30 a head. So to buy 1 000 good mating ewes would cost \$30 000, a commitment they can ill-afford.

Mr H. D. Evans: I was wondering about the economics of the sheep industry with that sort of loan repayment.

Mr COYNE: I do not think these pastoralists are looking for a 4 per cent loan; an 8 per cent loan would be acceptable and many of them would avail themselves of it. They are a fairly conservative bunch and most of them realise they have to breed back. There is a good number of them who conserved their ewe flocks at all costs and they have 3 000 or 4 000 ewes from which to breed back. But I am not referring to those people particularly; I am speaking about those pastoralists who are down to perhaps 1 000 or fewer ewes.

The escalating gold price has lifted optimism in these towns; there is in existence a completely new atmosphere. Hill 50 is the operative company in the Mt. Magnet area, although this mine closed down three or four years ago. Its share sales now are at 80c and it envisages this figure will rise to \$1. It has a capitalisation of 132 million shares which indicates that the Hill 50 outfit is worth \$132 million.

The Morning Star goldmine is an associated operation in the area. It is in the process of being

brought back into production and it is expected there will be provided another 57 houses to house the future work force of 100.

In my opinion, the linchpin of the Hill 50 operation and the reason for the optimism in the area is the Tank Hill prospect, a completely new development. The shaft-sinking operation which has been proved up by drilling is now at the 300 feet level. The next significant stage of the operation will be the intersection of the ore body. Following this, we may see a boom situation develop if the strike measures up to expectations.

In the Meekatharra area, the Whim Creek company has spent \$1.25 million in reactivating the Haveluck mine, situated about two miles north from the town. The material being treated there is of a very soft and schisty composition. A number of analytic tests have been made over the years and indications are that best results could be obtained through heap leaching. At present it employs 25 men and the firm has high hopes of a long and productive stay in Meekatharra.

About to be commissioned is the Ingliston crushing facility. This has been achieved with the Government's help as it has provided a bank loan of \$180 000 or perhaps a little more. The company involved has been able to establish a brand new crushing plant, which I saw last weekend. I am delighted to inform members that this established facility will be commissioned in eight days or so. A previous problem was that people were unable to get a crushing accommodation through the Meekatharra State Battery, despite the commissioning of a ball mill at the time. With this new operation, the mine will be able to keep its operation going on its own for about three months of the year. Of course, when one is producing over averaging one ounce to a tonne it means that if 3 000 tonnes go through there is big money coming out at the other end.

Mr Mensaros: Just to clarify matters, I think you should mention it is a Government guarantee which has been given to this operation.

Mr COYNE: It is virtually the same thing, as this guarantee has allowed a start to this project.

There is another very important development in the Meekatharra locality and that is the experimental solar-diesel hybrid station which is about to enter the construction stage. All the earthworks have been completed. This station is expected to provide a lot of depth to the economy of Meekatharra as it is expected to supply something like 20 per cent of the total power requirements of the Meekatharra community. That is quite a significant figure in a town of nearly 1 000 people.

At the moment there are no houses to rent or to buy in Meekatharra; everything has been taken up. I would like to see the town given some consideration by the Minister for Housing with respect to shire council submissions for additional accommodation. I hope he would be prepared to give favourable consideration to any proposal to help the town. The problem to this stage has been that the people who come to the town do not have enough permanency to make an application for assistance. With the Whim Creek operation as it is, we now have employees living in the caravan park. I have urged these people to make applications so that we may get some additional housing in the town. I urge the Government to give favourable consideration to these applications.

The Metramar mining company is to reprocess 6 million tonnes of tailings at the Wiluna dump. This is a tremendous operation about which I have spoken previously. The project is now getting to the stage where its feasibility is practically assured. It is described in the latest Metramar annual report. I believe this development will be of great significance to the district and it will support something like 16 families for 14 years if it comes to fruition. Members can imagine the sort of operation involved.

The Western Mining Company also is active in the area and has pegged much ground south of the old Wiluna mine workings.

Turning now to the closure of the Murchison railroad, about 2½ years ago when I spoke about this matter we had just experienced the closure of the Mullewa-Meekatharra railway. I mentioned then the significance of that closure and how I was very regretful that the line was to be taken out of service. There was quite a widespread controversy and in the end common sense won.

There have been tremendous changes in Western Australia since that time. There has been a new emphasis on defence. We have had the concept put forward of keeping the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. We have had the need shown for the defence of the western seaboard. The HMAS *Stirling* base has been upgraded, and upgrading is continuing. We have had an upgrading of the Learmonth airfield. The Federal Government has proposed the establishment of an airfield at Derby at a cost of \$40 million. A coastal surveillance operation has been conducted and the North-West Shelf gas project has begun to take shape. We all know the tremendous development in the iron ore field and we realise that production will continue for decades to come. We have seen more progress on our national highways, although there is an urgent necessity

for further work to complete this mammoth project. However, we have now nearly got to the stage where we can circumnavigate Western Australia on a sealed highway. That is great news.

I have always taken a particular interest in the defence of this State. The role which it plays has not been recognised adequately in Western Australia, the largest State of Australia. We are situated in close proximity to the islands in the north and it is necessary for us to have a better deal from the Federal Government in terms of defence facilities.

I have spoken previously about the necessity to have a good transport system. However, we must accept that Australia will need friends if it becomes involved in an altercation with a hostile power. The least we can offer our friends or allies is an efficient, high-capacity transport system in the areas of both road and rail.

It has been announced recently by the Federal Government that it proposes to buy four new frigates at a cost of approximately \$1 000 million; that is, \$250 million for each frigate. An F-15 fighter plane is worth approximately \$5 million. However, these defence capabilities mean nothing without a good transport system.

I carried out some research into this matter in 1978 when I was involved in a debate on defence. I asked a high-ranking officer in the Western Command in Western Australia how 40 Leopard tanks would be transported from Perth to the Pilbara. In the event of war, I could not see how such an exercise would be carried out without an adequate railway system.

Mr Bryce: The State Shipping Service.

Mr COYNE: These are matters which must be looked at. I am glad to see indications in the Federal arena that the defence requirements of the nation are being examined more closely.

Mr Bryce: Can't you see through that? It is the eve of a Federal election again.

Mr COYNE: The member is not quite right. Defence planning is occurring throughout the country. I have recently received a letter from Mr Everingham, who is a chief Minister in the Northern Territory Government, in which he referred to the projected continuation of the north and south transcontinental railway. The railway from Tarcoola to Alice Springs is due to be completed in November next. Already the Administration in the Northern Territory is trying to obtain support for the continuation of the railroad to Darwin. The cost of the link from Tarcoola to Alice Springs is \$145 million and the cost of the completion of the link to Darwin is

\$380 million; therefore, it can be seen that it is a big step.

Recently I read a book called *The Line that Led to Nowhere*. It was written by I. R. Stephenson and it was most interesting, particularly in its references to the history of the Northern Territory railway.

Members might recall that there is a railway from Darwin down to Larrimah. This railway line was upgraded during the war with the help of the Americans. It performed a great service during the war years. It is sad to see that, with the failure of the iron ore development at Whippet Creek, the railway line was closed down eventually and it is now only a rotting facility.

The people of the Northern Territory are endeavouring to obtain support for a \$380 million project to extend the railway line. This underlines the proposition I have put forward previously to the Parliament, that we should not be looking at the provision of the linkage between the south-west of this State and the Pilbara by using State money. It is a Federal matter.

The defence of this country should be our prime objective. I cannot see any difference between providing a national railroad system and a national system of highways. We must have high capacity transportation in this country.

However, I feel we might have missed out already as far as the railways are concerned. The Federal Government wanted to take over the main lines, but the Government of this State was too conservative to accept the offer. The Premier probably does not agree with me on this matter; but I know the States which took advantage of the offer—South Australia and Tasmania—have been laughing ever since, because they have received tremendous benefits. A railway system is a permanent fixture and if the Federal Government is responsible for defence, it has a part to play in the provision of a good rail service. The State Government must work with the Federal Government on this issue.

Mr Bryce: I think the member for Roe wants to give them all to the private sector.

Mr COYNE: A good railroad system is a vital necessity and this is borne out by the fact that countries throughout the rest of the world are upgrading their railway systems.

If one looks at the changes which have taken place over the past two years, particularly in the area of fuel prices, one can see that the projections made a couple of years ago have come true. Today it is projected that one litre of petrol will cost 90c in the year 1990. Therefore, it can be seen we need to develop an adequate railroad

system throughout the nation. The Australian National Railways operates as far as Kalgoorlie already and I believe it should extend its area of operations into the Pilbara, so that a railway network exists throughout the State. We already have a most efficient, high-capacity railroad in the Pilbara which extends over a distance of 1 300 kilometres and in the defence concept it should be linked to the national system.

In 1952 it was recommended that a railway link should be provided between Mt. Newman and Meekatharra. I have never heard anyone suggest that is not the right idea. At the present time there is an urgent need to conduct a proper study into the matter. The Minister for Transport has told me a study is underway already; but its findings have not been made public and the information has not been made available to members who like to research these matters for themselves.

During previous debates it has been said that the Murchison railroad was laid over second-class country; but the country was good enough for the rail to be laid virtually on top of the bare ground. The country traversed by the Tarcoola-Alice Springs railway is similar to that covered by the Murchison railway. If proper foundations and footings are used it is clear that a first-class railroad should result.

I should like the railway system to follow a pattern from Mt. Newman, to Meekatharra, to Mt. Magnet. It then might be of advantage to go through Wubin. I believe it is logical that the railroad should travel through the spine of Western Australia. It would be natural for the railroad to go from Northam to Wubin, to Mt. Magnet, to Meekatharra, to Mt. Newman, and then to radiate outwards via the Pilbara system.

When we are talking about defence, we must examine transportation links. It might be true that the defence chiefs of the nation would be prepared to write off the north-west in times of war. We might be incapable of defending it.

Mr Bryce: We probably could not defend Perth.

Mr COYNE: A similar situation developed during the last war with what was referred to as "the Brisbane line". People north of the "the Brisbane line" were to be evacuated, if necessary. We must bear in mind that in terms of the amount of money spent on frigates and aircraft carriers, the expenditure on the railroads is insignificant. A good railway system is a permanent installation which can be used to great advantage for many years.

I heard on the ABC news this morning that oil storage tanks are being installed at the Garden Island base. That action indicates that the upgrading of the base is an ongoing occurrence. It is also good to see the American Government is taking an interest in that base. That Government has sent a number of nuclear submarines here which indicates that Garden Island is part of its overall plan.

I do not wish to be uncharitable to some of my colleagues, but there is one matter I wish to mention to put the record straight. The matter is in regard to a situation in Laverton which is in the eastern part of my electorate.

On several occasions I have had the need to visit Aboriginal settlements east of Laverton and usually the only way I am able to get to these areas is through the agency of a Minister. On the last occasion I visited with the Minister for Health (Mr Ray Young) and the then Minister for Education (Mr Peter Jones). We went out there last August to ascertain the educational needs of the Aboriginal communities. There are approximately six communities there—Blackstone, Jamieson, Giles, Warburton, Wubin, and one other.

As a result of that trip three transportable units were made available to the itinerant teachers who look after the many communities there.

When I first became the member for that area in 1971 a large number of Aboriginal groups were based at the old Warburton Mission. Gradually they became more enlightened and decided that they would separate into smaller communities. They were mainly family groups or groups with a tribal elder to lead them.

In order to do something positive for them and to help them relocate and consolidate, the Government made available a water supply and a nearby airstrip so that they had the use of the medical facilities supplied by the Flying Doctor Service which is based at Kalgoorlie.

All the Ministers who have visited that area have been moved by the situation in which these Aborigines live. They live in wretched conditions; however, despite this they are happy and trouble-free communities. It certainly arouses compassion when one sees how little they have, yet how much they enjoy their reduced status.

Alcohol is not permitted in any of these communities; it is forbidden. However, some alcohol does get into the community, but not in the great quantities that have been described. There may be some returning visitors who bring in a few flagons of wine, but Aborigines, being as they are, consume food and drink at once.

I have had much to do with Aborigines, particularly in the Northern Territory and during the war. One cannot get Aborigines in their natural environment to conserve food or drink. I remember, whilst working at the RAAF radar station at Port Keats as Flt. Sergeant in charge of the operation, a group of Aborigines wished to go to an initiation ceremony at Daly River. Before their departure we loaded them up with tinned dog, flour and tobacco etc., so that they would have a trouble-free trip. However, their first move was to sit down under a tree with their families and they ate as much as they could and left the rest. They left with nothing except their spears.

When they left they were dressed very simply, their skin was shiny black and glossy and the muscle and fat rippling under their skin was quite visible. They were tall, lean people—good specimens of coastal Aborigines. However, when they came back six weeks later their skins were sagging and they were very wrinkled because they had not eaten. They looked pretty gaunt and were an ash-grey colour. It took several weeks before they were in a reasonable condition again. Knowing that is a trait of Aborigines, I can understand the situation which has developed at some times in Warburton.

This is what often occurs in fringe towns, and in the Murchison electorate. Aborigines can soon reach a very charged state when they have consumed liquor and then there is trouble. However, I do not subscribe to the comments that large quantities—truckloads—of liquor are going in to these communities.

One of the people I met last August during a visit to Blackstone wrote a letter to me last week. He is a man of integrity and in his letter he was quite outspoken about the recent news item which he has heard on the ABC.

As I said, I do not wish to be uncharitable to my colleagues, but I wish to put the record straight as far as these communities are concerned. The letter was from the Blackstone Range, Alice Springs, and reads as follows—

Please find enclosed a letter I have written to Mr W. Grayden, Minister for Cultural Affairs—in response to the allegations he made about the Warburton Ranges.

I thought you may be interested since you spoke out in defence of the local Aboriginal people.

The letter to Mr Grayden reads as follows—

This morning on the national news there was a report of a conflict between yourself and the local MLA, Mr Peter Coyne, in

reference to how Aboriginal people spent their social security moneys.

You charged that the people at Warburton Ranges spent all their S.S. Benefit cheques on gambling and alcohol. You cited truck loads of alcohol as coming from South Australia and of a recent incident where a truck was held at gun point and robbed of alcohol.

I would like to point out that your allegations are generalisations that downgrade and disrepute the whole Aboriginal Community.

I would like to discount several of your comments:

1. Firstly that there are no truck loads of alcohol coming from South Australia. I have been resident at Blackstone Ranges for the last 18 months, and as no doubt you are aware, it is on the direct route from S.A. to Warburton, and I have never seen nor heard of any truck loads of alcohol passing this way. I am certain no such thing exists.

2. There are a few irresponsible individuals who do at times go to town specifically to buy alcohol which they then sell on their return. The most regular offenders are not even local Aborigines, and yet you discredit the whole Community. There are many people who even when alcohol is brought in, will abstain, and who publicly condemn those who bring it in. Many families will if possible camp out of the settlement while the alcohol is present in their attempts to protect themselves and families.

3. Your story of the truck held at gun point is a new one on me. If it is true then the people in possession of it are at fault as alcohol is prohibited on the Warburton Aboriginal Reserve. I hope for your conscious sake that your sources are unreliable, since once again your report discredits many innocent persons.

4. So much for your knowledge of the situation at Warburton and the other Outstation Communities of the Central Reserve, which also come under your condemnation. No resident at Warburton gets the social security cheques which you charge are being spent on gambling and alcohol, but receive wages for work performed under the Community Development Employment Programme (CDEP). Since it is money received for work rendered I don't feel anyone, Government Minister or not, has any right to question

how people use their money. True there is considerable card playing and gambling among, again only a certain group in the Community.

I again question the right any of us have to condemn them. What are people to do in their leisure time when there are so few avenues open to them.

The Aboriginal people are condemned for drinking, gambling, the young people for sniffing petrol etc., but I say what is your Government—in fact your Department doing to better the situation.

I would respectfully suggest you get your facts straight first, and even then consider with great care before making such negative and generalised statements are made, particularly publicly.

I have great respect for the person who wrote that letter, the same as everybody else has. His name is Murray Wells. No-one I know would speak ill of him. The Minister for Mines (Mr P. V. Jones) has met him and was quite impressed. The ex-Deputy Premier, Des O'Neil, has corresponded with him. I am a good judge of character and, certainly, I would say he was honest.

I am not trying to put down the Minister in any way, but I think that in the ordinary course of justice to the Aboriginal community what I have said needed to be stated. At the time, I said that the interjection I made on the Minister on that occasion was involuntary. That is something we should be aware of because members from this side of the House did not object.

Mr Davies: It is to your credit.

Mr COYNE: To my mind the whole of the Aboriginal community should not be tagged in the manner it has been labelled.

Mr Grayden: I did not intend the comment to apply to all Aborigines. However, the person involved in the holdup is now in gaol.

Mr COYNE: I am aware that the Minister does make some pretty wild accusations at various times, but I think it would be appropriate if the Minister were to clarify the situation in that respect.

I ask the Minister for Police and Traffic to check out the areas concerned, and provide us with an accurate report on what is happening. I would like the Minister to quote the registration numbers of any cars or planes involved so that their operations can be verified, substantiated, or authenticated beyond any shadow of doubt. I thought the remarks were unjust and that is the

reason I have referred to the matter again in this place.

Mr Grayden: I have since received a letter which confirms everything I said. I will reply to the letter.

Mr COYNE: I certainly would like someone to prove that what the Minister said was right, if it was right, or to prove it was not right, if it was not right. I do not think anybody has a better association with the area than I. I try to get there a couple of times a year. The Warburton station is on the main road and is the closest settlement to Laverton, and because of its location it certainly attracts some attention. However, the community is extremely well behaved, and the people are kind and understanding.

I have pleasure in supporting the motion, and I hope I have put the record straight.

MR BRYCE (Ascot) [12.33 p.m.]: At the commencement of my remarks I will join with other members of this House who conveyed their congratulations to the newly-elected members. The member for Fremantle and the member for Kalgoorlie come from what are regarded by the Australian Labor Party as Labor Party strongholds. David Parker, the member for Fremantle, becomes the baby of the House at the age of 27 years. But, I say with all sincerity to members opposite, they will be imperilled if they treat him like a baby. David's considerable ability will become apparent in a very short space of time.

The member for Kalgoorlie brings to this House first-class qualifications in the field of accountancy. I am looking forward to the opportunity for the member for Kalgoorlie to actually pit his wits with the Premier in respect of the advice he so frequently gives us in terms of good accounting and good housekeeping.

We certainly extend our good wishes to the member for Kimberley. I am aware of the sentiments already expressed by some members from this side of the House. As has already been said, no member in this Parliament has ever faced as many obstacles in his fight to be elected, as did the member for Kimberley. No Government in the history of this State—or in any other part of this country—went to such lengths to exclude a man from being elected to this Parliament as did the Court Government in its endeavours to prevent the election of the member for Kimberley. I am confident that all three members will enjoy a considerable period of time as front-bench members in this Parliament.

I do not know, personally, the member for East Melville, but I congratulate him on his election. I

am sorry to have to point out that he will experience a significant swing against him at the next election. East Melville is a seat we would not normally expect to win, and I anticipate that under normal circumstances the member for East Melville should enjoy a lengthy stay here. During that time I sincerely hope he will have the opportunity to spend many years on the front benches of the Opposition! I do wish him well during his political career.

I also join with my colleagues, and the members on the other side of this place, in extending our best wishes to you, Mr Speaker. You survived the rigours of the balloting procedure very well, and I really look forward to a continuation of the very fine Westminster-style of Parliament which began to appear here in respect of the office of Speaker during the course of the 29th Parliament.

The Address-in-Reply gives us an opportunity—perhaps the most important form of non-legislative debate—to express our concern about various events that take place in our community. During the eight or nine months Parliament has not sat a great number of things have occurred. I will refer to three in particular. The first concerns what occurs to me as an ultimate exercise in hypocrisy by Liberal Party members of Parliament throughout the nation. I refer specifically to the boycott of the Olympic Games.

While this Parliament was in recess the Premier got his Ministers and back-benchers to support the most hypocritical politician the nation has ever known, in the form of the Prime Minister of this country (Mr Malcolm Fraser) when he advanced the case in support of a boycott of the Olympic Games. It did the Premier no credit whatsoever to meekly follow that groundless line to oppose young people, who had trained throughout the length and breadth of this nation for four years or eight years, from representing this nation at the Olympics.

I suggest it was an ultimate exercise in hypocrisy, on the basis of the attitude of Liberal Party politicians throughout this nation in respect of the Vietnam War and also in respect of the partiality of the boycott.

I wish to make my position perfectly clear: I have complete objection—a complete aversion—to the Russian presence in Afghanistan. It is tragic that the Liberal Party of Australia discovered that the Russians were in Afghanistan, I think, only a few months ago and did not know that the Russians were there two years ago.

I am one of the members of this Parliament who also objected to the American and Australian invasion of Vietnam. I am being completely consistent in saying—if I could borrow the language of the Commissioner of Police—I object to the political and military thuggery of the major powers in respect of the Vietnam War, as well as the Afghanistan situation. I object to both instances.

Mr Hassell: You would much rather have Vietnam as a Communist country, wouldn't you?

Mr BRYCE: I would rather the people who live in those communities determined their own affairs.

Mr Hassell: You have achieved what you wanted. You have got it as a Communist country.

Mr BRYCE: When the Prime Minister of this country took the great step to propose a boycott and to oppose the youngsters of this country going to the Olympics, he had forgotten that he himself was the Minister for war—in fact, the Minister for the Army—during the period of Australia's involvement in Vietnam. He is the ultimate hypocrite who accepted the phony invitation. With Menzies, he accepted the phony invitation to send Australian troops to Vietnam, and now he condemns what he calls a phony invitation from a puppet Government in Afghanistan to invite the Russians to that country.

Sir Charles Court: Are you happy about the situation in South East Asia, with Soviet support moving further over towards Thailand and Malaya?

Mr BRYCE: I am happy to go on record in this place as saying I am perfectly consistent in this respect. One of the most galling features of this—

Sir Charles Court: Consistently pro-Communist.

Mr BRYCE: I am consistently anti-Communist.

Sir Charles Court: I have not heard that.

Mr BRYCE: Let me deal with this fairly lowly character sitting opposite in the middle of the front bench. I could stand here and accuse him of being a neo-Fascist, a dictator, or a jackboot bastard, but I do not.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order! I suggest if the language were a little more temperate the proceedings would go along more smoothly.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr CLARKO: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I assume I heard the member for Ascot



say he could have accused the Premier of being a jackboot bastard. If he said that, I believe it is grossly unparliamentary, and I suggest he be asked to withdraw it.

The SPEAKER: I did not hear that expression, but if it was used I concur with the member for Karrinyup that it is highly unparliamentary; and if the honourable did say that I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr BRYCE: I certainly withdraw any comment which you, as Speaker, consider to be unparliamentary. I have no intention of defying you, as the chairman of this meeting.

### *Debate Resumed*

Mr BRYCE: I believe a point needs to be made in respect of the Premier's attitude towards this question. The most galling feature of his support of the boycott is that it was only as far as the athletes were concerned that he was prepared to ask Australians to pay the price. Let me explain what my position is. I, personally, would have been quite in favour of a meaningful and complete boycott of the Russians. What I object to and find galling is that he will sit there, representing the shiny dollar in this place, and, together with all his Liberal Party colleagues around the country, object vehemently to any suggestion that a trade boycott be introduced into the discussion.

Sir Charles Court: There were limitations on trade.

Mr BRYCE: Limitations on trade, my eye! They were completely meaningless. The Premier knows he is totally vulnerable in respect of this question. He and his colleagues were prepared to pick on the defenceless athletes who exercise no political power in this country. Unlike the Chamber of Commerce, the Farmers' Union, and the organised trade union movement, they have no spokesmen. They were completely powerless and were used as a pawn in this game, while Fraser and the Premier of this State sat back and said, "We are prepared to make them the sacrificial goats."

Sir Charles Court: The people of Australia were overwhelmingly behind the Prime Minister's attempt to achieve a boycott.

Mr BRYCE: I believe the Russians have no place in Afghanistan, and if we had been dinkum we would have been prepared to be meaningful about a boycott. It could have involved wool, wheat, rutil, and many other products which are manufactured in this country and sold to the Russians. I can scarcely omit repeating to the Chamber the quaint refrain I read recently on a

poster which was addressed to Fraser, Anthony, and Sir Charles Court. It ran, "The Russians are in Kabul; you can't have our athletes but you can have our wool." That is the essence of this situation—absolute hypocrisy, strong on rhetoric, and totally lacking in terms of action when it really counts.

Sir Charles Court: When you have said all this, I hope you remember what happened out of 1936, and I venture to suggest that—

Mr BRYCE: The Premier would suggest that in some way or other we could affect the military might and power of the Russian army by refusing to allow our athletes to run against theirs around an athletic track. At the same time, he will sell them wool to clothe their soldiers, wheat to feed them, and rutil to strengthen any steel equipment they may need. He is prepared to sit back and do what Menzies did. The only god this man worships is the god of the dollar. If there is a quid in it, it is all right. There is not one iota of moral consistency in his position; and he knows it, what is more.

Sir Charles Court: All your arguments are pro-Communist.

Mr BRYCE: He utterly demeaned himself when he went to the extent of saying to those politically powerless athletes from Western Australia that, in terms of the traditions of the past, those who worked for the Government were not to be allowed to represent this country on the basis of paid leave.

Sir Charles Court: No. We will not financially assist the Communist games.

Mr BRYCE: I was happy to contribute out of my own pocket to the young people who went. I can imagine the absurdity of this man's extremism in accusing these people of now being wobbly in an ideological sense if they ever dare to make a statement which may commend what they saw while in Russia. The number of times this man has gone around the world at the taxpayers' expense, it is astonishing that he has never been to that part of the world—

Sir Charles Court: I have never had an invitation.

Mr BRYCE:—and he poses as an expert on the matter.

Sir Charles Court: I have never had an invitation and I don't intend to go.

Mr Davies: More shame on you, then. You are supposed to be a statesman.

Mr Hassell: The Russians were so frightened by the partial boycott that they would not even let their people see on TV—

Mr BRYCE: The Minister for Police shares the gall and guilt of the Premier. He is committed to the dollar. I do not defend the Russians. I think they are an outrageous bunch because of what they did with the televised coverage of the games.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Mr BRYCE: What the Russians did in censoring their TV programmes was a bloody outrage.

Mr Hassell: Of course it was.

Several members interjected.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr CLARKO: Mr Speaker, the member for Ascot, during this intemperate speech, has again I believe gone beyond the bounds of what is acceptable. I do not think it is appropriate to say in this House that the action of someone was a "bloody outrage". He did not use the word in the sense of blood. He used it in an abusive way, and I think it does him and this House no good.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I would prefer that members did not use that sort of language. However, on this occasion I will not call on the member for Ascot to withdraw it. I say to him that I would prefer he did not use that sort of language, because I do not think it does him any credit at all.

#### *Debate Resumed*

Mr BRYCE: The sort of censorship we witnessed in regard to the recording of the games concerns us equally when it occurs in this country. However, it is the private media moguls who carry out the censorship in Australia.

Mr Hassell: Why don't you nationalise them?

Mr BRYCE: The same degree of censorship occurs. The Minister fails to understand that that is the position. The news that gets through to the people of this country depends not on the Government, but on the inclination of individuals such as the Premier's friends, Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Fairfax group, and others like them.

Sir Charles Court: What about the ABC? Who is our friend at the ABC?

Mr BRYCE: If the Premier had his way he would close the ABC down. I am told that when he puts out a Press release, he deliberately avoids the ABC.

Sir Charles Court: The ABC does it at the expense of the taxpayers. Its current affairs programme is so biased towards your people, it is unbelievable.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BRYCE: The second non-controversial subject I would like to touch on—

Sir Charles Court: I have told them in the bluntest of terms—

Mr Davies: You should go before the commission and not try to brow-beat them in private.

Sir Charles Court: I have told the commission—

The SPEAKER: Could I prevail upon the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to desist from their cross-Chamber conversation and allow the member for Ascot to proceed?

Mr Davies: We will call a truce—I am sorry.

Mr BRYCE: I would like to refer to the pathetic election promise made by the Federal Liberal Government about the defence of Western Australia. Over the last 30 years since the change of Government in 1949, the Liberal-National Country Party coalition has governed the country for 27 years. So in anyone's language that makes that Government 27/30ths responsible for the fact that Western Australia is, in defence terms, a naked State. Members opposite, including the Premier, can dress up as weekend warriors and beat their bosoms about their roles in the CMF. However, the Premier knows we do not have the fire power to sink the South Perth ferry. He knows the State is absolutely defenceless. When he has to answer the questions, "How is this so? Who is responsible?" I wonder whether he will have the hide and temerity to turn around and blame the 1972-75 Whitlam Government when in fact the conservatives have governed this country for 27 of the last 30 years.

Mr Davies: Shame!

Mr BRYCE: One conservative Government after the other has used this ploy at election time. I remember personally that in 1970, when I was standing on the Australian Labor Party Senate ticket, that was a particular issue in that election. The Liberal Party has trotted out that particular election promise for one Federal election after another. I wonder for how long the Liberal Party believes it can take the people of Western Australia for complete suckers. The reality is that after 27 years of Liberal Government this State stands naked and defenceless.

Sir Charles Court: Don't you know we have the best trained unit in the whole of the Australian Army, and possibly one of the best trained in the world, based here?

Mr BRYCE: The Premier now has the gall to suggest that the SAS unit is an adequate form of defence for this State.

Sir Charles Court: I did not say it was adequate; I said it was the best trained.

Mr BRYCE: Of course it is not adequate, and the Premier knows that.

Mr Hassell: You are so concerned about our defence, but you do not want our allies to come here. You want to keep the Americans out. You want a nuclear-free zone.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BRYCE: Is it not interesting that in the event of an election the Liberal Party suddenly discovers our American allies? It suddenly discovers the need to steam a few submarines here and to steam a few aircraft carriers and battleships into Fremantle Harbour. We keep hearing the repeated promise that HMAS *Stirling* will become a major base. We have heard the same promise made election after election for the last 30 years; the Liberal Party is taking the people of Western Australia as suckers each time.

Mr Clarko: Where did John Curtin get his interest—

Mr Parker: That is not true. Curtin was warning of the Japanese long before—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Fremantle will cease interjecting.

Mr H. D. Evans: And he sorted out the Brisbane line philosophy, too.

Sir Charles Court: I think the member for Ascot should pay some respect to a Labor—

Mr BRYCE: Does the Premier intend to move to extend my time?

Sir Charles Court: —Prime Minister. It was Curtin who invited the Americans to save this country.

Mr BRYCE: I commend him for his effort and initiative.

Sir Charles Court: You ought to remember these things, and take advantage of the peacetime to get them adapted to our conditions over here in Western Australia by the way.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRYCE: The Premier has been here since 1953 and he has done absolutely nothing about the defence of this State. All he has done is to dress up on weekends, puff around parades, and

pretend that we are well defended. The member for Subiaco called him the "Great Pretender", and in this he was quite right.

Mr O'Connor: What action have you taken?

Sir Charles Court: Some of us in this Parliament have service to our credit, and not only members on this side.

Mr BRYCE: I am told that during the second World War the Premier spent as much of his time as possible away from the front line.

Sir Charles Court: Who told you that? Some of your own people served, too.

Mr BRYCE: The third subject to which I would like to refer is the extent to which this Government has aided and abetted the Commissioner of Police, to effectively erode and nearly destroy the freedoms in Western Australia. "Freedom" is a word which ought to ring very loud and clear in the ears of members opposite when we hear so much about it from them in respect of different issues. I would like to suggest that had the Premier undertaken a little reading—

Mr Clarko: Socialists don't believe in freedom. You know that socialists take away freedom.

Mr BRYCE: In regard to this subject, I suggest that the member for Karrinyup should examine the desirability and logicity of the argument I will put to him.

Mr Clarko: Socialists take away freedom.

Mr BRYCE: The ultimate test of democracy for any Government is the extent to which it is prepared to allow its fiercest opponents express their point of view. In the last few years, we have seen a very deliberate plan of action by the Government of Western Australia to deny to an increasing cross-section of Western Australians simple freedoms which are taken for granted in democratic countries. That is why we on this side of the House join in expressing our revulsion in respect of the way in which totalitarians treat people.

Mr Clarko: The totalitarian regimes are mostly socialist in the world today.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BRYCE: Whether these totalitarian people come from the left or come from the right, the result is the same. Perhaps we could take around the hat to raise the fare to send the member for Karrinyup to Latin America and Africa. He could then analyse the absurdity of his interjection.

Mr MacKinnon: Which world Governments support the majority of those regimes?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.15 p.m.*

Mr BRYCE: Prior to the suspension of the sitting for lunch I had commenced to express my concern about the erosion of civil liberties and freedoms in Western Australia. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate people who, as a matter of conscience, are exercising their legitimate concern and expressions of opinion in opposing the existence of section 54B of the Police Act. I also congratulate people who similarly opposed the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources Act, the Censorship of Films Act, and a whole range of other pieces of legislation which have come before the Parliament in recent years which have fairly consciously restricted the freedoms of people who live in Western Australia.

Mr H. D. Evans: Would not these people be Communists too?

Mr BRYCE: We are accustomed to the Premier calling anybody who disagrees with him a Communist.

Mr Clarko: They are the same people who attend your branch meetings.

Mr BRYCE: I have never seen a member of any of my branches involved in that way.

Mr Clarko: How many people do you have in your branches?

Mr BRYCE: I have three branches totalling about 300 members.

Mr Clarko: I have 400 members in one branch.

Mr BRYCE: How many attend meetings?

Mr Clarko: About 80.

Mr Pearce: What is their combined IQ?

Mr Clarko: About 50 of them would equal about 1 000 of the member for Gosnells?

Mr BRYCE: Plenty of historical precedents are available where people have regretted the erosion of democratic freedoms in retrospect, after the horse had bolted and those freedoms had disappeared. There are many instances where people wished they had not set themselves to ignoring or denigrating people who stood up for the freedom of speech and assembly.

I read with some interest in recent times the speeches made by the Prime Minister of Poland in respect of the dreadful radicals in his country who are seeking to prize freedoms in various forms from the totalitarian regime in Poland. When I read those speeches I thought that with a change of name, date, place, and time I would be reading something which resembled the sort of material written by W. W. Mitchell for the Premier of this State. His speeches contained the same sort of

rhetoric, the same sort of blackguarding of people who disagreed with the official line.

I draw the attention of members to the fact there are many examples of courageous people over the years standing firm in the face of threats to democratic freedom. Perhaps one of the most outstanding historic examples and perhaps the best-expressed warning that was ever issued to people in this sense was made by Pastor Martin Niemoller. With the greatest sincerity, I hope the Premier does not label him as part of the left wing of the clergy. When reflecting in 1945 upon the events of the Nuremburg trials, Pastor Niemoller made a fairly poignant reference to the disappearance of freedoms and the apathy of people, and the price people subsequently paid because they stood back and allowed those freedoms to be eroded, and tended to deride others who took steps to try to stop them being eroded.

Pastor Niemoller was referring particularly to the Nazis, but I think the same applies to the totalitarian regime of the Soviet Union or any one of the other Iron Curtain countries; the same threats to freedom exist. Pastor Niemoller put it in this way—

First they came for the communists . . .  
and I did nothing because I wasn't a communist.

Then they came for the jews . . .  
and I did nothing because I wasn't a jew.

Then they came for the Trade unionists . . .  
and again I did nothing because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the catholics . . .  
and I did nothing because I wasn't a catholic.

Then they came for me . . .  
and by then it was too late because there was no one left.

I am concerned at the manner in which this Government has set itself about the task of denigrating the trade unions, which fulfil a perfectly legitimate and important role in our economic system.

Mr Hassell: We have never attacked that principle.

Mr BRYCE: The Minister and his colleagues denigrate trade unions every time they open their mouths. I have never heard a constructive, worthwhile statement on the subject from Government Ministers.

Mr Hassell: We have never attacked their legitimate role. The problem is that they always go outside that role.

Mr Sodeman: Do not help him with his crescendo; we will only get another serving of curry and rice.

Mr BRYCE: The Government has set itself about the task of denigrating the trade union movement in exactly the same way as did the Nazis. This Government is acting in precisely the same way as any other totalitarian regime. I believe members opposite would like to see trade unions wiped out.

In recent days we have seen the Government launch an attack upon the clergy. I believe there are significant parallels between this time in our history and other parts of our cultural history which we would prefer to forget. This Government has set itself about the task of denigrating the Aboriginal people and it has done its utmost in respect of a whole range of instances—

Sir Charles Court: The greatest attack on the clergy is from within their church.

Mr BRYCE: I have seen a particular Catholic commission and the hierarchy of the Uniting Church supporting the fairly courageous people within those bodies who have dared to stand up to the Premier of Western Australia and express an alternative point of view. I simply congratulate them for their courage, because the way the Premier beats the drum, the way he uses his rhetoric, the threats he makes to the Public Service, and the threats he rolls off the end of his tongue to all and sundry in society at large, make it extremely difficult for most people to be game enough to stand up to him.

Sir Charles Court: What threats have we made? Are you going to condone the unions which have said to some of the men who wanted to drive their trucks north that they are banned forever, or the men who work the drilling rig that they will be black banned forever if they work?

Mr Pearce: Why not drill on Gogo like everyone else wants you to?

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pearce: You just tell them it is okay, and the rig will be moved on tomorrow.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order! The member for Ascot.

Mr BRYCE: There are two further subjects which I would like to raise in the Legislative Assembly today. I preface my remarks by indicating that I believe they are matters in

relation to which there would be a fairly significant degree of political consensus.

Sir Charles Court: Before you get onto that, can we get your reaction to the point about these drivers?

Mr BRYCE: If the Premier will move an extension of time for me, I will be happy to follow him up any blind alley he wishes to name. I have 12 minutes remaining, and I am prepared to accommodate him anywhere, at any time, on any subject.

Sir Charles Court: You are the greatest interrupter of other people.

Mr BRYCE: Let me repeat my challenge. I am prepared to follow the Premier up any of these blind alleys on which he chooses to attack people.

Government members interjected.

Mr BRYCE: I am prepared to give extensions of time. I am not greedy.

Sir Charles Court: Brave man!

Mr BRYCE: I am about as brave as the Premier would be if it came to fronting the enemy.

Mr Sodeman: About the heads of churches and their opinions—did they check all the facts?

Mr BRYCE: The subject to which I would like to draw the attention of the House, and in particular the attention of the Minister for Police and Traffic and Minister for Community Welfare, concerns the matter of what are referred to inaccurately and inappropriately as "pinball parlours". I have had a number of people in my constituency—parents, school principals, school welfare officers, and community recreation officers as well as business proprietors in shopping centres—making complaints about some of these parlours. Those people have asked me to raise this question in the House because they feel some action should be taken about the problem.

Mr Sodeman: You are not going to ask the Minister for a verbal response, because you have only 11 minutes to go.

Mr BRYCE: I am going to ask the Minister to consider—

Mr Sodeman interjected.

Mr BRYCE: There is "Hurricane Lantern". If he wants to delay me, he can go for his life.

Mr Sodeman: Yes. Carry on.

Mr BRYCE: Perhaps through you, Mr Speaker, I could address my remarks to the Minister. We are very concerned about the rate at which the pinball parlours are spreading.

Mr Sodeman interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The practice of members on either side of the Chamber engaging in conversation is becoming more frequent. I simply point out to members of the House that it does nothing for the dignity of the place. I would ask them to desist from the practice. The member for Ascot.

Mr BRYCE: As I indicated, it is a misnomer to refer to them as "pinball parlours". The machines themselves, with the application of chip technology, are really electronic mesmerisers. They are electronic entertainment centres, and they are different from the traditional pinball machines. A tremendous array of them is coming onto the market. I have no doubt that the variety will increase.

I believe there is already a very big profit being made within the industry. The central issue of concern is that the parlours are aimed at the younger generation. They seem to be taking the place of the billiard parlours of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. However, the pinball parlours are aimed at the younger generation.

I am not setting out to attack the Government. I am asking the Government to consider taking some action on the problem. Whereas in this State we control and regulate the TAB, we ban poker machines, and organised gambling is quite illegal and controlled fairly strictly in respect of adults, we find that in this area there is no control. That is probably because of a first class jurisdictional problem.

I am not singling out any particular Government department to criticise. I regret it is probably true to say that these places are developing or evolving as a very cheap substitute for proper cultural and sporting avenues for the younger generation.

In all seriousness, I suggest to the Government, not that it should take unilateral action to close all these places or to ban the machines, but it should control the use of them.

The real alternative will not be a cheap one, if we are to provide proper and adequate cultural and sporting facilities. The pinball parlours are obviously fulfilling a need at the present time. We have a responsibility to try to find a substitute.

Mr Clarko: You have one in your electorate?

Mr BRYCE: Yes. It is causing problems.

Mr Clarko: Is it approved by local government?

Mr BRYCE: The one in Belmont has been removed from the Belmont shopping centre. There is one in Bassendean, in the Ashfield district. It is of concern to the owners of nearby

businesses, as well as to the neighbourhood. Because of its town planning scheme, the Bassendean Town Council does not have the discretionary power to move in and insist on conditions. That is one of the problems which concern me.

At the present time, it seems the control of pinball parlours involves authorities in the fields of police, welfare, education, local government, and town planning. Because of the overlap, nobody is really certain exactly who is responsible.

I have made some telephone calls to town clerks in recent days. I have discovered that the power to control these parlours varies from one part of the metropolitan area to another. It seems that in respect of some town planning schemes, the local authority has a power of discretion which it can use. If a particular town planning scheme does not have the appropriate regulation that council will not have the power to close down these places.

Mr Shalders: What is wrong with them?

Mr BRYCE: The concern conveyed to me—

Mr Clarko: Local governments use a lack of toilets as an excuse to close them down.

Mr BRYCE: I realise that.

Mr Clarko: Local governments which have the mind to can do a great deal towards closing them.

Mr BRYCE: What I am getting at is that the regulations are somewhat indirect and vague; they are fairly confused.

Mr Hassell: There is a degree of direct control under the Police Act. Firstly, they may not be gambling machines as such.

Mr BRYCE: Unfortunately I have just five minutes remaining in which to make my point. I will follow this matter up with a letter to the Minister if he wishes. The member for Murray raised the issue: To what can we object? The main complaint from parents, social workers, school welfare officers, and school principals is that these machines are helping to promote truancy, delinquency, vandalism, and theft among youngsters. These machines have a fairly insatiable appetite for money. The youngsters involved have resorted to theft in order to satisfy their addiction to the machines.

There is a shopping centre in my constituency where one of these parlours was established in the middle of a large number of shops and the nearby shopkeepers appealed to the forum to employ more security people because the level of theft had risen significantly.

It seems that in order to get the wherewithal to satisfy their desire to play these machines, which

are very expensive over an extended period, there have been cases where youngsters have resorted to theft. Some school principals have indicated that lunch money is being spent in the wrong way and that such money has at times been stolen. This sort of theft is causing concern. There appears to be no obligation on the proprietors of these establishments to insist that youngsters of school age return to school on school days.

As an institution we should have a look at what is being done in other States with regard to the control and regulation of these places, because perhaps it is necessary to license them. I do not know; I do not have at my fingertips sufficient information in respect of the experience of others. I understand other States are moving in this direction. Presumably in that situation a proprietor would lose his licence to operate these machines if he transgressed the conditions of his licence. Hopefully, such a licence would include conditions concerning the use of these machines by minors.

I draw the attention of the House to a rather alarming Press article which appeared in *The Age* in Melbourne on 11 or 12 August 1980. I am not suggesting this is the inevitable end for other juveniles, but it does highlight the problem which has been caused already in some of the eastern capitals. I quote as follows—

A 15-year-old schoolboy "pinball addict" has been ordered to serve nine months in a youth training centre after admitting 36 counts of burglary and theft.

The boy told the children's Court here that he stole to satisfy his addiction to pinball machines.

The boy had attended school only five days in the year and had spent the rest of the time playing pinball machines and snooker.

The boy was given a weekly allowance of about \$10, but needed a lot more to keep playing the machines.

"He wasn't happy to put in the odd 20 cents," his father said. "That wasn't enough and he needed as much as he could get his hands on."

The boy's father said—

My warning to all parents is not to believe those reports which say pinball machines cannot harm their children.

I am not suggesting that with a unilateral stroke of the pen these places be shut down overnight. Based on the evidence brought to my office as a member of this House, I believe there is sufficient concern in the community about the way these

places are spreading and operating to warrant my asking the Minister for Community Welfare if he would consider having his department, perhaps in conjunction with other departments which are related to the problem, investigate this particular matter with a view to bringing back a finding to this House. We have not had much luck in recent years in asking the Parliament to approve the appointment of Select Committees. Perhaps this will not be necessary in this instance, but I would seek the co-operation of the Minister for Community Welfare—who is at the same time the Minister for Police and Traffic—in this respect, because I believe we can do something to help the parents and the youngsters who are involved in a fairly negative fashion in this way.

Mr Shalders: Would you express apprehension over the operation of poker machines?

Mr BRYCE: Yes.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [2.35 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I associate myself with all the congratulatory remarks which have been made with respect to your re-appointment to the position of Speaker—your re-election, because for the first time you were elected by ballot. We in the National Party make no apologies for that and I believe the fact that you have been returned to your high office by way of a ballot indicates the esteem in which you are held.

We have the beginning of a new Parliament and one of the new items which has appeared at the same time is a journal called *press gallery report*. I believe the journalists responsible for the production of this journal are to be commended for their initiative. I hope all members of the House give it their full support.

Mr Carr: You would need to do more than that to get a run in it.

Mr STEPHENS: I believe the journalists are making a contribution to the dissemination of the knowledge of Parliament, which is very important. I suggest to the Premier that he give consideration to making finance available so that this publication could be distributed to schools and libraries. Any money so applied would make a far greater contribution to the public's awareness of Parliament than the money being wasted on half the Premier's propaganda machine. I am not asking that any additional money be allocated to this end, which is why the money could be utilised in a far more efficient way. I make these remarks in all sincerity because if our democracy is to survive we need an informed public. On its performance so far the journal is of a high standard and quality and it could play a very useful role in making the public

more aware. I urge the Premier to give serious consideration to supporting the journal to that extent.

We have new members with us in this new Parliament and no doubt they have come to this place with a great deal of idealism, which is only natural. I congratulate them on their election and I feel sure they would like to believe they can make a worth-while contribution to the Government of this State and the representation of their respective electorates.

I think that coming in from the outside the new members will be fully aware of what the public attitude is towards the institution of Parliament. I trust they will make a contribution so as to restore the dignity and respect that this institution should have in the eyes of the public, but which, unfortunately, it does not have. We in the National Party make no secret of the fact that we would like some reforms instituted which would restore the validity and usefulness of this place. Unless we can do that, democracy is at risk. Members of the public have come to the conclusion that politicians and Parliament itself are a waste of time. They realise the impotence of the ordinary members of Parliament to alter the situation.

I have before me the volumes of *Hansard* for the last session. As members can see, there are five volumes reaching about 15 inches high composed of over 6 000 pages. I ask members to cast their minds back and try to recall what was achieved by all that work. I believe virtually nothing was altered despite all the words spoken. We did provide employment for the staff of Parliament House and the *Hansard* reporters, and we have cost the taxpayers of this State something like \$2.5 million.

Mr Skidmore: Money well spent.

Mr STEPHENS: Virtually nothing was altered after all the debates in this House. The reporting of the debates in the Press is such that the public attitude has not been changed and, unfortunately, we in the National Party have come back here short of the numbers of members necessary to allow this place effectively to become a decision-making institution.

Of course, what it amounts to is that Parliament is really nothing more than a charade. Nothing is achieved as a result of all the long hours of debate.

Some members of a particular party have been going around the country for a year or two saying, "Unless you are in the joint party room, you can have no effect whatsoever on government." That is tantamount to saying that this place is useless,

because all the decisions are made in the joint party room. It is a reflection on Parliament itself, coming from members of Parliament. It is no wonder the public have no confidence in this place when the members make such utterances.

Mr H. D. Evans: But you will never cross the floor. You will never change the situation.

Mr STEPHENS: If the member cares to check my track record, he will see that I have made many judgments on various issues.

Mr O'Connor: He crosses the floor all the time.

Mr Bateman: Only when it is not going to rock the boat.

Mr STEPHENS: My time is limited and I will not be sidetracked. However, having said that Government decisions are made only in the joint party room, which is in effect saying that Parliament is useless, these members then said, in regard to the rail freight issue, "The Government made the decisions. We were not consulted in the joint party room." The Premier replied to that by saying, "We do our best to consult the back-bench members, but we cannot go back to them with everything." The Premier is saying in effect that the joint parties do not make the decisions. Some back-bench members say all the decisions are made by the joint parties. As a result of the admissions and statements made by some members of Parliament, it is obvious this place has no great relevance or importance.

Mr Sodeman: Are you saying your party makes no decisions in the party room?

Mr STEPHENS: I am not saying what the member has suggested. We make our decisions in this place. Only the other night members of the National Party indicated their independence when two members voted one way and one member voted the other. That is an indication of who makes the decisions.

Mr Bateman: Do you think this party should always vote as individuals?

Mr STEPHENS: I do not; but I believe members who come here should be free to take some independent action on issues on which they hold a point of view different from that of their party.

Mr Crane: One was asleep when you pinned the tail on the donkey.

Mr Tonkin: At least they stayed for the division which you rarely do.

Mr STEPHENS: We saw a similar situation in regard to the Noonkanbah dispute. A large convoy travelled to Noonkanbah with a police escort. However, not one Minister in the House wanted to take responsibility for anything that



happened in regard to that matter. It appears the State runs the country without the interference of Ministers.

When asked a question about the costs incurred in the provision of a police escort for the convoy to Noonkanbah, the Minister for Police and Traffic said he did not know, nor would he ask the police, the amount of the costs and charges involved. The Minister said he did not have control over the police. That may be so, but the Police Department is responsible to the Parliament. If it is not, we should do something about the matter. When a member of the House asks the Minister a question in regard to costs incurred by the police, I believe Parliament should be given the correct information.

I ask: what is the answer to all this? I believe the answer lies with the members of this House. They should stand up and be counted. They should also take cognisance of some of the actions of members of the Mother of Parliaments; that is, Westminster. If members care to analyse the voting pattern of those members, they will see cross-voting occurs and members are able to use initiative and exercise independence. It does not mean that, as a result of members of Parliament exercising independence, the Government will be destroyed. That is a fairy tale circulated by the Executive to try to whip its supporters into line.

In 1976 a motion was carried in this House relating to worker participation. I had the privilege to move that motion.

Mr Harman: No, you did not. I moved it and you moved an amendment.

Mr STEPHENS: I stand corrected. The member for Maylands moved the motion and I moved an amendment; but my amendment was carried and the Government did not fall because of that. It was carried against the wishes of the Government.

About 18 months later the Minister for Labour and Industry released a Press statement taking credit for appointing an officer to handle worker participation affairs. That is an example of an occasion—rare though such occasions are—that the Government took note of the wishes of members expressed in this Chamber. I quoted that example to indicate that independent action by members of the House can be beneficial and that it does not lead to the fall of the Government.

Mr Young: In regard to the Noonkanbah issue, has your party released a statement on it?

Mr STEPHENS: The National Party indicated its point of view in the debate the other night. We stand on the point that we cannot believe the comments made by members on either side of the

House. We are still carrying out our research on the matter, so that we will be able to comment on it in an informed manner.

Several members interjected.

Mr Young: Do you believe the police should have protected the convoy?

Mr STEPHENS: I was not arguing against that.

Several members interjected.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr BRYCE: I find it impossible to imagine that you, Sir, could sit there, given your well-known appreciation for the correct procedures of this House, and allow the member for Stirling to be cross-examined in this fashion by the Minister for Health.

Mr O'Connor: But you do it.

Mr Young: I will not get an answer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I take note of the member's comments. The reason I allowed the situation to continue—probably I allowed it to go too far—was because the member on his feet was reacting to the interjections. As members are aware, it is the tradition of the House to allow greater latitude when that occurs. For that reason I allowed the situation to continue.

However, I take note of the point made by the member for Ascot and, in view of his great concern for interjections, I will exercise more care in regard to this matter in the future.

#### *Debate Resumed*

Mr STEPHENS: I am sure you, Sir, will protect my rights in this place. I will not be sidetracked; but in answer to the question asked by the Minister for Health, I should like to say this: it is disgraceful that a situation has developed which required a convoy to go to Noonkanbah in the first place. A little discussion and co-operation may have avoided the necessity for the convoy and, in that situation, the matter could have been resolved amicably.

I wish to conclude on this topic with a quote from John Stuart Mill who said—

A state which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands even for beneficial purposes—will find that with small men nothing great can be accomplished.

This Parliament will achieve nothing while members allow themselves to be cowed by the Executive. Here is another quote from Mr

Herbert Spencer which appeared in the same little book—

The function of liberalism in the past was that of putting a limit to the powers of kings. The function of true liberalism in the future will be that of putting a limit to the powers of parliaments.

They have achieved that aim; Parliament is ineffective!

Leaving that subject, Sir, I should like to refer to resources development. The State and Federal Governments are making great play of the subject at the moment. They are creating the impression that, because of the success of their efforts, these resources are being developed. I rather fancy the truth of the matter is that the costs of these resources throughout the world have reached a stage where the companies find it profitable to exploit them in Australia.

I am aware, of course, that a great deal of emphasis has been given to the employment opportunities that the development of our mineral resources will create. Certainly employment will be created in line with this development; but at the same time, we must bear in mind that a tremendous amount of capital is involved. Indeed, the expenditure per capita for this type of development is exceedingly high. What concerns me—and I feel it must concern all Western Australians—is the fact that mineral resources are finite. No doubt it took millions of years for these resources to be created and they have been in the ground for a vast period of time. However, it should be remembered that, if we continue to utilise them at the current rate, they will be exhausted within a few generations.

Of course, if we develop a labour force around the production of these resources, we will have a further unemployment problem when the resources are exhausted. So, we must be conscious of this and the Government should be planning to encourage industry so that a work situation is created which will continue in perpetuity.

The royalty payments we are receiving from these minerals and natural gas are in a sense from the sale of our assets. It is wrong to use this asset by paying it into Consolidated Revenue. This money, or a portion of it, should be transferred to a heritage trust fund.

A heritage trust fund should be implemented along the lines of that adopted in Alberta as a hedge against the time when royalty payments decline. The fund in Alberta has three objectives. The first is to provide an alternative source of revenue over investment earnings to help offset the future decline in the resources revenue. The

second is to improve the quality of life in Alberta; and the third is to strengthen and diversify the economy of Alberta.

Mr MacKinnon: Where do these royalties come from mainly?

Mr STEPHENS: From their resources.

Mr MacKinnon: What are those resources?

Mr STEPHENS: I think they did indicate them. Oil is one of them, and energy resources.

Mr MacKinnon: How much is in the trust fund?

Mr STEPHENS: I do not know the details and I have not the time to develop the matter in any depth. I am merely putting forward an idea because I believe it is something we should look at as a hedge against the time when our resources will be exhausted.

I will not apologise for not having all the details because members should appreciate that we do not have the time to go into the vital details of all the ideas we put forward in a debate such as the Address-in-Reply.

We have an obligation—if we care for the future of this country and future generations—to set aside a percentage of the moneys which are received by way of royalties from the sale of our assets.

Whilst the exploitation of our mineral resources is finite the exploitation of our agricultural potential is not, provided of course that it is carefully nurtured. With all the excitement about the exploitation of our natural gas and minerals, we should not forget the tremendous contribution made to our economy by agriculture and the continuing contribution it can make.

We must certainly look after our agricultural interests. I have on many occasions spoken in this House about the need for research and have questioned the adequacy of research and research funds. I have always asked whether these funds are being directed in the right way.

There is no doubt that the productivity in many of our old farming areas is declining. There are many reasons for this—in both the plants and farming. As I have mentioned, plant research is vital if we are to produce strains which will overcome our problems with wilt and root rot in clover. There are problems with rust in oat varieties in the southern strip from west of Albany east to Esperance.

I am also cognisant of the need for continuing research into the wheat and barley varieties. However oats in particular have a problem with rust in the southern areas. This matter is of vital importance.

Members will not need me to tell them that the soils in Western Australia are naturally fairly infertile and the development of plant growth is dependent upon the use of fertilisers, particularly superphosphate and to a lesser extent potash. Nitrogen and trace elements are also used in some areas. The continued application of these fertilisers and trace elements can directly and indirectly increase the soil acidity. This in itself creates problems.

I realise all the fertilisers and trace elements we have been using must be maintained in balance for maximum production. It is essential that they be used in the proper amounts and at the proper time.

Many farmers, when supering their paddocks each year, wonder how much is necessary and how much money they are wasting in the application of more superphosphate. We do know that the interaction of these fertilisers or plant nutrients and trace elements is essential for plant growth. However, it is very difficult to find out the amounts required.

I believe there is an urgent need for a comprehensive soil testing facility in this State. There is a soil testing facility available at the moment, but it only caters for some of the fertilisers.

We need to go the full ambit and have a testing facility which will allow the soils to be tested for all plant nutrients and to allow further research to be carried out. This information should be interpreted in such a way that farmers can be advised of the correct amounts to be used at the correct time.

It does happen, with some of the nutrients being utilised over a long period of time, that certain nutrients in the soil become completely utilised. There then could be a requirement for the farmer to make a massive expenditure to overcome the problem.

Very little lime is used for agriculture in this country, but there is an increasing need for it. When that need is absolutely essential it will be at a tremendous cost to farmers. If we have a comprehensive soil testing facility to provide the answers to the problems in advance, farmers could then apply the fertilisers in the correct amounts and avoid any serious complications—especially financial.

There is also a need in agricultural education to emphasise the importance of training in soil management. We should give greater attention to that matter.

We also have a problem with soil salinity, both in the wheatbelt area and the water catchment

area. This directly affects many of my constituents. However, the Government steadfastly refuses to spend any money on full appraisal of the Whittington interceptor bank concept. The Government has made it extremely difficult for farmers to continue farming in the water catchment areas because of their realisation that there is a need to overcome the salinity problem. It seems to me that the Government will not give any financial assistance to farmers who have realised that the salt-affected areas are an impediment to the flow of the water.

Some of my constituents have been trying to overcome soil salinity on their properties, but they have run up against the problem that no-one is prepared to meet the cost of lowering the culverts on the roadways or on the Westrail track.

There is also the problem of rye grass toxicity. The Government has failed to accept this as a serious problem, and the incidence of rye grass toxicity is steadily increasing. There is no guarantee that it will not affect the grazing areas in the south. At the moment, the farmers in the grain areas who are affected are managing by cropping programmes and they are able to survive. But, if the rye grass toxicity takes over in areas where cropping is not an alternative, the farmers will not survive. Adequate funds are not forthcoming from the Government.

The rye grass toxicity committee was formed by the farmers, who approached the Government for financial assistance, but they were refused. Those people are making contributions out of their own pockets, and if they are able to make a breakthrough everyone will benefit. Yet, they are refused financial assistance.

I have given a resume of some of the problems facing the farming community. In the long term, they are problems which face the State because improved economy cannot be achieved unless we overcome these problems. It is important that a greater sum of money is directed towards research, and it is important to ensure that research is carried out in the correct manner.

I now come to a matter which is causing serious concern to many farmers in this State. I refer to the Animal Breeding Institute at Katanning. It is felt in many areas that to locate the institute at Katanning was a straightout political decision, in order to bolster electoral support for the Minister for Agriculture.

The Animal Breeding Institute cost more than \$750 000 in capital outlay, and there is a considerable operational expenditure each year. What is it likely to achieve? The opinion is rampant that the Government paid too much

money for the location. Considerable salt land is included, but there is no plan to carry out salt research. At one stage it was suggested that the institute would carry out research into rye grass toxicity; this on a property used for animal breeding! There would have been a good chance of the animals being poisoned. That shows the lack of planning and thinking before the purchase of the property.

To many it appeared that the Rural and Allied Industries Conference—the brainchild of the Liberal Party prior to the election—had come up with something worth while. It was suddenly claimed that the conference had been of some benefit. The Animal Breeding Institute may be of some benefit if there were a surplus of money. There is no surplus, so that money has been spent in the wrong direction.

The Australian Merino Society is making a contribution to animal breeding in this State. The members of that society use a method of genetic improvement by the selection of stock for wool fibre and meat production. The Australian Merino Society has been operating since 1971 and I understand its membership includes more than 750 farmers. That society is able to do the job quite successfully, and again I say I believe the money spent on the Animal Breeding Institute has been spent in the wrong direction.

I will now refer to a few problems in my electorate. Everyone is aware that the electorate of Stirling surrounds the Town of Albany, which is also the port for my electorate. We do not need to be unduly pessimistic simply because things have not been going particularly well in Albany. We have lost the whaling industry, and several ventures in the fishing industry have failed. I do not blame anybody for that. The battery manufacturing company recently indicated that it will move out. I have been involved with that company for some years, and it is leaving Albany only because it cannot meet increasing costs. It is too far away from resources and markets. The plaster works is also to close.

There will be a considerable reduction in work opportunities in the Albany area and I believe the Government should do something to stimulate work opportunities. As I said earlier, the battery company has had to move out. It is very difficult to develop a decentralised industry unless it is based on local resources. Albany has tremendous resources for tourism, and perhaps the Government can help there.

I asked for assistance for the fishing industry. Fish is a resource which Albany does have, and efforts have been made to develop that facility. A

tremendous number of small craft, up to 60 feet and 70 feet in length, operate out of Albany and Esperance, and fish along the coast between those two ports. They make a considerable contribution to the economy, but they need additional facilities.

The construction of a fishing boat harbour is of prime importance. The South Coast Fisheries Study made some recommendations, and I think a recommendation was that Esperance should have first call on any money which was made available. I suggest in view of the problems associated with Albany the Government should construct a fishing boat harbour in that region. I am aware that an inquiry is underway, but that is one way to avoid making a decision. We have been talking about a fishing boat harbour for a number of years, but it has been subject to the restraints on finance. I suggest to the Government that it has quite a large sum of money in its Suspense Account, and that money could be applied immediately to the early construction of a fishing boat harbour at Albany.

I believe the Government should provide some assistance to the tuna fishing industry by meeting the cost of aerial surveys. That would mean a considerable saving of time and expenditure to the operators. That is another direction in which the Government could provide assistance at Albany.

I will refer now to the Mt. Barker hostel. During my first term of office in this place I made representations to the Government and I was successful in getting a five-year high school constructed at Mt. Barker. Immediately, the local townspeople set about seeking a hostel to go with the high school.

Mr Harman: Does not the Government intend to get out of hostels?

Mr STEPHENS: I am not aware of that. Hostels are still operating at Albany and Katanning under the direction of the authority. Each time the people at Mt. Barker have approached the Government for additions to the hostel they have been told there is a surplus of accommodation at Katanning and Albany. For that reason the Government claims there is no justification to extend the hostel at Mt Barker. The people whose children attend the high school are entitled to have a hostel located in the Town of Mt. Barker.

The argument put forward by the Government is like saying that although the John Curtin High School was built to accommodate 1 500 children, it now accommodates only 1 000 children and, therefore, there is a surplus of accommodation and for that reason another high school cannot be

built in the outlying suburbs of Perth. That is a hypothetical argument. However, it is completely wrong for the Government to say that because there is a surplus of accommodation at Albany, Katanning, or anywhere else, Mt. Barker cannot have extensions to its hostel. The local people have shown they are worthy of support. By way of local effort, particularly from the shire, a sum of \$62 000 was raised and the hostel is established and operating at the present time. Extensions are required at a cost of \$40 000, but the Government resolutely refuses to advance any funds whatsoever.

Mr Harman: I believe the Government is thinking about getting out of the hostels.

Mr STEPHENS: The member for Maylands can believe what he likes. I am putting a case for a hostel at Mt Barker. I think the Government should take cognisance of the initiative and enterprise of the people down there and help them, not hinder them.

I further suggest the Government has not got its priorities right. There have been many overseas jaunts by Ministers, and a tremendous amount of money has been spent on the propaganda machine. A little of that applied to a hostel would assist the people who send their children to the Mt. Barker school.

We have the school bus problem in our country areas. Pre-school children are taken on the bus only if there is accommodation for them. I think this is another area where the Government could re-examine its priorities and make a further amount of money available so that pre-school children can travel on a school bus as of right. I believe the need for country children to mix in a pre-school situation is perhaps even greater than that of city or town children, because of the limited opportunities they have for social intercourse. I therefore think it is important that the children in country areas should be able to travel on the school bus as of right and not as a privilege. It is of no use the Government saying that parents who are forced to take their children to school receive 4.7c a kilometre. That amount barely covers the cost of petrol.

Other things which are required in my area to help stimulate the economy are water reticulation for Elleker and the Mt. Barker townsite, and I trust the Government will go ahead with its plans for water reticulation at Kendenup.

Finally I would like to refer to a comment I made when speaking in the Budget debate last year. I made the suggestion that we should have an authority to which political parties, politicians, and candidates would be responsible if they were

accused of making misleading statements. I suggested we should have a means—

Mr Harman: You will get that by looking after the Minister for Cultural Affairs.

Mr STEPHENS:—whereby misleading advertising can be corrected, and I believe one way to improve the image of politicians and Parliament in relation to statements is to have an authority to which people who make what are claimed to be misleading statements can be taken. After the experience of the last election I feel it is even more important now that we have some such organisation. Members will know a couple of actions are pending. I am unable to make reference to them, but two statements have led to court actions. I do not think every misleading statement can be taken to court. Therefore, we need some form of tribunal.

Mr Crane: What about Westminster?

Mr STEPHENS: Let us start at the beginning with those which actually appear in the newspapers. An advertisement was inserted in a newspaper over the name of Bill Young, who was once a member of this House. He made this statement—

At the State Council meeting of May 5, 1975 which Mr Ball refers to, withdrawing from the coalition was never discussed.

The advertisement refers to a statement which had been made by Mr Ball. It states that the withdrawal from the coalition was never discussed.

A State council meeting definitely carried a motion supporting Mr Ray McPharlin and his decision to stand firm. He also indicated that he would withdraw from the coalition if necessary. That is contained in the minutes of the State council meeting of 5 May. So, the statement in the newspaper advertisement claiming that withdrawal from the coalition was never discussed is completely false. If we had a tribunal of the type I have suggested, it could force a correction in the newspaper.

Here is another one—

At a meeting of the Party's Parliamentary members on May 14, it was announced that Mr McPharlin had tendered his resignation from the Cabinet on the preceding day without reference to the Party. The Parliamentary Party then passed a motion which included: "... the Country Party is not prepared to withdraw from the Coalition on this issue but rather that the relationship between Liberal and Country Party philosophies must be blended more closely

together if the Government as presently constituted is to survive." It was agreed that relations between the two Parties would be discussed among the three Country Party Ministers and the Premier to seek ways of better co-operation.

The motion was put into effect and the three Ministers went along to discuss the matter with the Premier. The people who wrote that statement were perfectly well aware that during those discussions the Premier unilaterally breached the coalition agreement when he told Mr McPharlin he was no longer Deputy Premier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I notice that for the second time the honourable member has referred to another member in that way. It is a long-standing practice in this House that members are to be referred to by the constituencies they hold. I noticed that occurred this morning. It would be more appropriate if the honourable member referred to him by his constituency.

Mr STEPHENS: I was reading from an advertisement in the first instance, and it was for the sake of continuity.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am aware of that.

Mr STEPHENS: With the assistance of my colleagues, I have found the note to which I referred earlier, relating to the minutes of the State council meeting of 5 May. It went on to say this—

Further, this Council instructs our State Parliamentary Party to use every possible means and methods at their disposal, including withdrawing members from the coalition Government.

This Council will stand firmly and fully behind actions that may be taken by our State Parliamentary Party.

That motion was carried, but a misleading statement was printed in the newspaper. The final statement related to the Lamb Board and it read—

Two years later, at the request of the Lamb Board, he was able to have its trading powers expanded to cover hogget... something the Board itself had not wanted in May 1975, even though Mr McPharlin had tried to impose this on them, and made a major issue of it.

It can be established quite clearly by reference to the correspondence that the Lamb Board statement is completely and utterly false. So, I say again, when political statements are made during election campaigns and at other times, it is essential that we have an organisation or a system

whereby members can have misleading information corrected.

I do not think we should be forced into the situation where we always have to take legal action. Something along the lines of the legislation to prevent misleading advertising is highly desirable.

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [3.20 p.m.]: I would like to commence my contribution to the debate on the Address-in-Reply, Mr Deputy Speaker, by alluding to your distinguished superior in the Chair in which you are now sitting. Every speaker so far has congratulated him on holding his office, and although that is quite in order, I would like to point out that the Speaker had an ulterior motive in trying to return to the Speakership. Last year the Western Australian Debating League decided that it would invite, as its patron, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in this State. I have to say that our present Speaker sought to hold onto the position of patron of the Western Australian Debating League in a way that no previous patron has done. It has never been the case before.

Mr Young: You are a member of that, aren't you?

Mr PEARCE: Yes I am.

Mr Young: You must be a masochist.

Mr PEARCE: I can tell members of this House that the Patron of the Western Australian Debating League rang around to members of this House to ensure that he hung onto the post.

While I am pleased he was able to retain the Speakership, I again commiserate with him in his not making the Ministry. In all sincerity I say that some people who may have reasonably considered themselves to be ripe for the Ministry and who may have been so considered by other members, did not score, and some of us look askance at some who did.

I would like to refer to one person who has returned to the Ministry, and I am speaking of my direct opposite on the Government side—a Minister to whom I might perhaps refer in his own terms as the "member for Grayden". This Minister is now responsible for two of the three portfolios in which I have some interest. He does not exactly distinguish himself in the way he has handled one of these portfolios and you may feel, Mr Deputy Speaker, that you could have done a better job yourself.

Sir Charles Court: The member for Maylands could give you some advice; you don't want to laud praise on them—it may be the kiss of death.

Mr PEARCE: In my maiden speech in this House I suggested to Government back-benchers

how they might apply themselves to rise to the Ministry and the member following me in that debate—the member for Murdoch—assured me that he had no intention of following my advice. However, he appears to have taken my advice very successfully.

Before starting on my remarks about the "member for Grayden" I would like to say a few words to the Premier about the cross-Chamber conversation we had during the speech of the member for Ascot. This cross-Chamber conversation was about Noonkanbah, and perhaps the points I made were lost to all except my immediate neighbours because of the general chaos in the Chamber at the time.

It is the case that at the moment there is very close agreement between all the parties to the Noonkanbah dispute. If agreement were reached, the situation would be resolved.

Sir Charles Court: It is not correct.

Mr PEARCE: However, one party to the dispute is not in agreement. The Premier says it is not correct to say that the matter is very close to agreement.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is absolutely not true.

Mr PEARCE: Let me explain to the House my understanding of the present situation. Perhaps then the Premier or his Gerry Gee next to him will be able to explain what is not true about my statement. When I refer to the Premier's Gerry Gee, I am not referring to the Deputy Premier, but rather to the Minister for Resources Development. Bud Abbott is the name I reserve normally for the Deputy Premier, indeed in changing the Deputy Leader the Government has swapped Lou Costello for Bud Abbott.

As I understand the situation at Noonkanbah, the President of the ACTU (Mr Hawke) has spoken to the Deputy President of Amax Petroleum in the United States, and presumably to the unions whose members are directly involved at Noonkanbah. The President of the ACTU seems to feel that the parties are close to reaching an agreement in these terms—

Mr Crane: In other words, Mr Hawke has taken over the role of government.

Mr Skidmore: It would not be a bad idea if he did.

Mr PEARCE: I agree with the member for Moore—that is exactly what Mr Hawke has done. He has moved into a dispute, and he has talked to all the parties to the dispute to see whether he can find common ground.

Mr O'Connor: He had his own son causing the dispute.

Mr PEARCE: That ought to be the role of the Government. I have made the point in this Chamber before, and I have made it in the Press for six months, if the Government had done that—

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin: You are not elected by a majority under your legislation. What are you talking about?

Mr PEARCE: Mr Hawke is doing the job that the Government ought to be doing. The people of Western Australia would be only too happy if the Government did the job it should be doing in this particular case.

The basis of the compromise which seems to be shaping up for everyone except the Government is that drilling will not proceed on the sacred sites at Noonkanbah, but it will proceed somewhere else in the near vicinity. This alternative site must be just as likely as the site at Noonkanbah to have oil underneath it, it must be an acceptable site for the Aboriginal community, and it must be acceptable to the company involved. After all, the sole interest of Amax Petroleum is not to drill at point A or point B, but simply to drill where there is the likelihood of oil. Nobody is asking Amax Petroleum to drill at a site less likely to contain oil than the site listed by that company for drilling.

It seems that for commercial reasons Amax Petroleum wants to drill at a site where there is at least a 5 per cent chance of finding oil. This is the estimated potential at Noonkanbah. The only people who are insistent that drilling shall take place on the site marked with an X on a Noonkanbah sacred site—

Sir Charles Court: It is not on a sacred site.

Mr PEARCE: Is the Premier saying that this is not a sacred site?

Mr O'Connor: It is not a sacred site.

Mr PEARCE: The Government's failure to produce the maps is proof that it is a sacred site. According to the report produced by the Western Australian Museum in June 1979 the drilling site is indeed on a sacred site.

Sir Charles Court: No it is not.

Mr PEARCE: The proof of the Deputy Premier's statement is simply the proof I suggested in the Parliament last week.

Mr P. V. Jones: A map has been tabled.

Mr PEARCE: I know.

Mr P. V. Jones: The one that has the location of the Museum sites on it.

Mr PEARCE: The map tabled was not the map drawn up by the Museum and included in its

report to the Government in June 1979. That is true, is it not?

Sir Charles Court: It has the sacred sites on it.

Mr Jamieson: Now it is coming out.

Mr Parker: It is a bodgie map.

Mr PEARCE: It is a bodgie map, as my colleague, the member for Fremantle, says.

What happened is quite simply this. The Minister for Police and Traffic, or whoever he happened to have working for him at the time, took the Museum map and decided on which of the sacred sites it was likely that drilling would proceed. Those restricted sites were then drawn onto a new map and superimposed on that were the Noonkanbah boundaries. That map was produced to the House in an attempt to lead the House into thinking it was the Museum's map. We were then told that those were the sacred sites marked by the Museum.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr PEARCE: That is not only misleading; it is also untrue. The clear implication is that all the sites are contained in the map, but that is simply not the case with the map produced by the Minister for Police and Traffic. Some of the sacred sites mapped by the Museum are shown on that map, but others are not.

Mr H. D. Evans: You wouldn't get away with that in Westminster.

Sir Charles Court: Which were the other sites not shown?

Mr PEARCE: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is correct; no-one would get away with that in Westminster.

Sir Charles Court: Which were not included?

Mr PEARCE: There is a simple answer to the problem—the Government should produce the maps of the Museum.

Sir Charles Court: Every sacred site in the vicinity of the drilling sites was mapped.

Mr PEARCE: When I moved a motion on this matter in this place last week, the Opposition continually asked the Minister for Mineral Resources to produce the maps. We asked the same thing during the speech of the Premier, and then during the speech of the Minister for Police and Traffic. Lo and behold, the next day maps were produced. Certainly this was a day late, but that day was necessary to put the maps together. Of course, these maps were not the ones for which we had been asking. An attempt was made to mislead people into thinking they were the maps, but quite simply they were not.

Mr P. V. Jones: Are you suggesting those maps were drawn the day after you made your speech?

Mr PEARCE: The assertion I make is that those maps were produced in an attempt to mislead the Parliament and the people into believing they were the maps we had requested the day before. The truth is only too demonstrable; otherwise, why would the Minister for Police and Traffic produce the maps the following day?

The Minister for Cultural Affairs attempted to argue about sacred sites and areas of influence and he quoted Professor Berndt that the only real sacred sites were those listed on the maps subsequently produced by the Minister for Police and Traffic.

I refer the Minister for Cultural Affairs to Professor Berndt's book titled *The Sacred Site—The Western Arnhem Land Example* in which the professor discusses what constitutes a sacred site.

Mr Grayden: I refer you to Professor Berndt's public statements in *The West Australian* on the matter. You do not need to go beyond those.

Mr PEARCE: And I refer the Minister to Professor Berndt's book.

Sir Charles Court: He has made it very clear to me that there are degrees of significance.

Mr PEARCE: We have never denied that.

Sir Charles Court: Why don't you go and talk with him about it?

Mr PEARCE: It is difficult to understand why the Premier now is quoting Professor Berndt as an authority upon whom he can rely because in the past he has spent a great deal of time denigrating him.

Mr Grayden: I can quote you a book in which Professor Berndt states that there were no more nomadic natives in Western Australia from about 30 years ago. The book is called *Adam to Atoms*.

Mr PEARCE: It was written by the Minister interjecting!

Mr Grayden: It was an anthropological report by Professor Berndt.

Mr PEARCE: I do not want to spend too much time on this, but members would have to admit that statement would be the highlight of statements the Minister has made to this House in the past. The Minister for Cultural Affairs said, "I can quote you a book by Professor Berndt in which he made a statement." Yet the book is the Minister's own book, written in 1947, or 1902, or thereabouts.



Mr Parker: The Minister for Cultural Affairs is a better creative writer than Thomas Hardy.

Mr PEARCE: We on this side of the House are not anxious to be forever canvassing the history of the Noonkanbah situation. We are more in line with the thinking of Mr Hawke, the President of the ACTU, in believing that the resolution of the dispute is far more important than anything else. In our view, the Hawke compromise which was proposed yesterday and today, and which appears to have been agreed to by all parties except the State Government, is a reasonable basis upon which the matter can be considered. One must question the Government's motivations if it will not agree to the compromise. If the Aborigines, the mining companies, the unions, and the workers involved agree to the compromise plan worked out by Mr Hawke, one would think the Government had no further role to play.

Mr P. V. Jones: Who said the mining company agreed to it?

Mr PEARCE: Mr Hawke. According to him, the mining company would be agreeable to drill elsewhere, provided it could obtain a permit. However, the company has expressed to Mr Hawke the view that it is unlikely to obtain a permit from the present Government.

Sir Charles Court: Of course it cannot; even if authority were given this minute, the company could not drill up there this year. It is as simple as that. Do not forget that last year we gave authority for the company to drill on Ellendale, with all sorts of promises that next year it would be all right to drill at Noonkanbah; yet look at the nonsense we have had. If it were practicable, we would have the same repeat performance next year.

Mr PEARCE: That is an interesting point. Suppose the company agreed to drill on a site away from Noonkanbah—perhaps at Gogo Station, or elsewhere—where the necessary geological exploration had already been completed.

Sir Charles Court: Who told you that?

Mr PEARCE: Is the Premier asserting this preliminary work has not been done on other sites? Does he say that Amax has not carried out exploration work on other sites for future drilling?

Sir Charles Court: They have other potential permits in the future, but not this year. I emphasise I am talking only about potential permits; they do not actually have the permits.

Mr PEARCE: That is exactly the point; the issuing of a permit is only a Government procedure. Discovering where the possibility of oil

is by geological means is something else again. I refer to the pre-drilling exploration work the company has been undertaking in the north for some years. When the Minister for Mines replied to my question without notice yesterday, he gave the impression that all sorts of things had to be done—including seismic soundings and so on—and almost implied that the Government was responsible for that work. The Government has nothing to do with it.

Mr P. V. Jones: It takes time, no matter who does it.

Mr PEARCE: I would like a clear denial from the Government—if this is the case—that there are no sites available to which Amax could immediately move its drill, having first received a Government permit.

Mr P. V. Jones: You do not need to get it from the Government. What about getting it from the company, which in a communication today has refuted what Mr Hawke said? The company has made its position quite clear. It has stated publicly today that it does not agree with Mr Hawke's solution and the assumption to which he came. The company does not have an alternative site.

Mr PEARCE: That is not what was stated.

Mr P. V. Jones: We have just stated it.

Sir Charles Court: There might be an exploration possibility in the future, but there is no alternative site. We cannot be more specific. The company is going to tell the public that.

Mr PEARCE: I will be interested to hear why the company does not have an alternative site, if that is the case.

Mr O'Connor: It will be interesting to see how much publicity the company gets out of it.

Sir Charles Court: It will not get on the front page, that is for certain.

Mr PEARCE: My heart bleeds for the Premier; it must be dreadful.

Mr P. V. Jones: Are you prepared to acknowledge that perhaps the company has a different view from that of Mr Hawke?

Mr PEARCE: No, not at all; though, I am prepared to entertain argument on that point.

Mr P. V. Jones: What can there be to argue about? I have given you a fact, yet you disagree with it.

Mr PEARCE: Perhaps the Minister for Mines might be a little upset if I told him I am reluctant to accept his bald word that it is a fact because the Minister himself was the one who was trying

to tell us of the absence of sacred sites on the map.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Government has been leaning heavily upon Amax today, as it has on other occasions, in order to prevent it from reaching reasonable agreement with the President of the ACTU. The company already has indicated in its public utterances that it would consider drilling on other sites; it would be prepared to move to another site if it obtained permission from the Government. However, that permission has not been forthcoming.

If it is true that the company now is to make a public statement that there are no other sites, available, one would be fascinated to know why the company indicated such a possibility in the first instance.

Sir Charles Court: Even Mr Hawke was careful enough not to say the company had applied for alternative sites, because it has not.

Mr PEARCE: No-one is talking about applying for the sites.

Sir Charles Court: The reason the company has not applied is that there is no alternative site immediately available.

Mr PEARCE: If the Government is trying to get out of this situation on the legalism that the company has not applied for alternative sites, that exactly accords with what I have been saying.

Sir Charles Court: The reason the company did not apply for an alternative site is that there is not one for which it can apply.

Mr PEARCE: No, because the Government told the company it would not be issued a permit for an alternative site. So, the company has not made an application and has told Mr Hawke there was no point in applying. That is the point at issue.

It is clear the dispute could be resolved this afternoon or tomorrow if only the Government would put its imprimatur on the agreement which all other parties in the dispute support.

Mr Skidmore: The Government is being plain pig-headed.

Mr PEARCE: Yes, it is, perhaps to protect its investment. After all, something like \$1 million of taxpayers' money must have gone into Noonkanbah in one way or another, with the convoy, police protection, the resumption of roads, and the like. It is a major Government investment this year; I suppose it is called "progress". The Government has not spent that \$1 million and associated money for public relations to back down at this stage. The Government's image as strongmen is more important than resolving the

dispute or preserving the Aboriginal communities in the north-west.

That is one small area of responsibility I have as one of Labor's shadow Ministers. It is a responsibility I share with the Minister for Cultural Affairs. However, it must be said the Minister has not played much of a part in the Noonkanbah dispute. That is the role of the Minister. He should be protecting these Aboriginal sacred sites. That is the duty entrusted to him under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972.

Mr Grayden: That is what we are doing.

Mr PEARCE: Ministers have been deficient in performing their roles; but not many of them have been as deficient as the Minister for Cultural Affairs in protecting the Aboriginal sites. One could say that the Minister for Conservation and the Environment, in his pro-mining and pro-other industrial statements, has shown a clear disregard for the needs of the environment.

Mr Grayden: Protection of the sacred sites is all you are asking us to do; but you mean the airstrip, the wool sheds, the sheep yards, and the homesteads. These are the sacred sites, you should know.

Mr PEARCE: It has never been suggested by anybody on this side that the wool shed, the airstrip, or the homestead are sacred sites. The Government could pull them all down tomorrow, and it would not receive a word of protest from the Opposition.

Mr Hassell: That is the area you are calling a sacred site.

Mr Skidmore: It is the area, but not the airstrip, not the wool shed, not the homestead. You are as stupid as anybody I have ever heard.

Mr PEARCE: It is roughly equivalent to this: if I were to take a bulldozer down to Karrakatta Cemetery tonight and grade for myself a helicopter landing pad—I could probably do it during the hours of the night—if tomorrow somebody sought to prosecute me for interfering with a sacred site, I could say that it was not a sacred site because it had a helicopter landing pad on it. That is the same sort of thing.

Mr Grayden: There is a school in Fremantle built on a cemetery.

Mr PEARCE: What has that to do with anything?

Sir Charles Court: It is just debunking your argument.

Mr Davies: They shifted the headstones. They did it in East Perth also.

Mr PEARCE: The real tragedy of this debate, unfortunately, is the lack of understanding by the Government and very many members of the community of the difference between European culture and Aboriginal culture.

Sir Charles Court: I think you have a few things to learn.

Mr PEARCE: The attitudes of these two groups are quite different. One cannot draw analogies between one culture and the other. One cannot transfer one set of practices from one culture to the other. In the same way, one cannot transfer words from one language to another and expect the words to have equivalent meanings.

I would say in all fairness that even the member for Murchison-Eyre could not avoid bringing in his wartime experiences, and trying to make judgments about the Aboriginal people based on his own perceptions of European cultures. I thought the member for Murchison-Eyre made a very fair statement about Aboriginal problems in his own electorate, however. I am not suggesting that the member was not well meaning or well intentioned in this regard; but he could not help but make mistakes in trying to translate directly from Aboriginal culture to European culture. He tried to express his understanding of Aboriginal culture in European terms.

That is the sort of mistake many people make. It is the sort of mistake that the Minister for Cultural Affairs makes very readily, and in quite disgraceful terms.

Mr Grayden: What you are asking us to do is protect the buildings and airstrip that are in the area of influence. We are simply saying we will protect the sacred sites which have been delineated.

Mr PEARCE: I will not canvass the whole business again. I said the Government could pull the houses down and remove the airstrip without incurring our wrath with regard to sacred sites. I wonder just how committed is the Government to sacred sites. I can tell the House that there seems to be agreement that at least Pea Hill constitutes a sacred site. Do we all agree on that?

Mr Grayden: I could not agree more.

Mr PEARCE: Yet the Minister for Mines, presumably through his henchmen in the Mines Department, sent contract surveyors to Pea Hill, and they pegged it.

Mr Grayden: It has been a trig. station since time immemorial.

Mr PEARCE: So we are going to protect this sacred site, but the Government has it pegged?

Mr Grayden: There have been 22 drill holes around Pea Hill.

Mr PEARCE: In one breath the Minister says, "We are going to protect the sacred sites"; but only minutes ago the Minister admitted there were people up there pegging it. That is protecting the site?

Mr Grayden: Would you know this? We are prepared to make Pea Hill a protected area and to grant the Aborigines a special lease.

Mr PEARCE: I will tell the Minister for Cultural Affairs something which he ought to know very well. Pea Hill is already a protected area in terms of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972. Under the Act, all Aboriginal sites are protected automatically by virtue of their being Aboriginal sacred sites.

Mr Grayden: That is a very different thing from a protected area. You ought to know that. If you read the Act, you would know the distinction. They are not in the category of protected areas, and do not try to make out they are.

Mr PEARCE: It is a protected area with a small "p" and a small "a".

Mr Grayden: You must agree—

Mr PEARCE: I take it the Minister means activities at Pea Hill which would be deleterious to it—which would damage it or do other things under section 17 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act—would bring on the wrath of the law. The only problem is that the wrath of the law is not very wrathful in these circumstances.

I wrote to the Minister for Police pointing out that breaches of the law appear to have taken place at Pea Hill. I asked him to investigate those breaches and to launch prosecutions if offences were found to have been committed.

Mr Hassell: Are you trying to debate this issue seriously?

Mr PEARCE: I will not answer that. It is an idiotic question.

Mr Hassell: If you are, will you tell us how it came about that the whole site about to be drilled at Noonkanbah is on a sacred site? Will you explain that, because you have not?

Mr PEARCE: I will just say to the Minister for Police and Traffic—I have said it before, but I will say it once more for him—I am not an anthropologist. I have been to Noonkanbah for probably as long as he has. I could not go there and draw a white line around a sacred site. I would not know a sacred site if I fell over it. However, the Aboriginal people there know what constitutes a sacred site—

Mr Hassell: Are you saying—

Mr PEARCE: The Minister should let me finish. I am being good enough to answer him. There was a dispute about whether the drill site was on a sacred site at Noonkanbah. I am indicating to him that at the beginning of last year or at the end of the year before the Government, through the Museum, arranged for Museum anthropologists to go to Noonkanbah and to make a report on the sacred sites at Noonkanbah, and whether or not the drill sites fell within the sacred site area.

Sir Charles Court: Who did you want to do that?

Mr PEARCE: The Museum then reported to the Government, through the Museum Trustees, that the drill site fell within the sacred site area; and they produced in that report—

Mr Hassell: No, they did not.

Mr PEARCE: —maps which demonstrated that that was true.

Mr Hassell: No, they did not. That is the very point.

Mr H. D. Evans: Produce the map.

Mr Hassell: What the Museum identified was an area of influence. Are you calling a sacred site an area of influence?

Mr PEARCE: No. Let me demonstrate that the Government has taken the view I am now taking. What happened was that the Museum produced a report which indicated that drilling should not take place on the estimated drill sites because they constituted a sacred site.

Mr Hassell: No, they did not. That is where you are wrong.

Mr PEARCE: This matter was discussed in Professor Berndt's book *The Sacred Site—the Western Arnhem Land Example*, printed by the AIAS in 1970. The anthropologists produced a map which differentiated the degrees of sacredness. They had a definition of an encompassing area, including the various degrees of sacredness which constituted a total sacred site.

Mr Hassell: Well, do you accept as a fact that the drill site is on the area of influence and not on a sacred site?

Mr PEARCE: No. The reason I do not accept that is because one cannot say there are two sorts of things—there are sacred sites and areas of influence.

Mr Hassell: Well, the Aborigines do, and the Museum does.

Mr Grayden: And the anthropologists.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PEARCE: That is not true. In fact there are degrees. Professor Berndt points out, and even the Premier has pointed out—I would not accuse him of understanding it—that there are degrees of sacredness. They are trying to say there are two degrees of sacredness. Degree 1 is the sacred site, and degree 2 is the area of influence; but degree 2 is not sacred. So there is really only one degree of sacred site—the genuine sacred site.

Sir Charles Court: I think the phrase is "degree of significance".

Mr PEARCE: The Premier is better informed than some casual observers might have expected. He might inform the Minister for Police and Traffic, because he is not prepared to accept this. The Minister for Police and Traffic believes there are two degrees, and one is insignificant.

The actions of the Government prove this, because according to the Museum report, if the drill site were not on a sacred site, the Government would have had to do nothing, because the area would not be protected under the terms of the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Mr Grayden: Professor Berndt said in effect that an area of influence was an area of natural increase and was negotiable, and that drilling could take place.

Mr PEARCE: He did not; that is simply not true. The Minister said that Professor Berndt said it. I put that comment in the same class as the other made by the Minister for Cultural Affairs about the planeloads of alcohol being flown into the Warburton Mission. The Minister is in a dreamtime of his own.

Mr Grayden: Planeloads were flown into the Oombulgurri Mission.

Mr PEARCE: The proof of where the drill site is rests with the actions of the Government. If the Museum report had indicated that the drill site was not on a sacred site, there would have been nothing the Government could do; it would have had to allow Amax to move into the area because the Government would not have been protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. However, it was necessary for the Acting Minister for Cultural Affairs (Mr Old) to write to the Museum Trustees directing them to allow drilling in the area. The only reason it was necessary for the Minister to write and direct the Museum Trustees was that the trustees were saying the drilling could not take place because the area was a sacred site.

If the trustees were not saying that, there would have been no reason for the Acting Minister for Cultural Affairs to write and direct them in the

way he did. He would have had no right, because the Museum had no responsibility in the matter.

So it is not I saying that it is a sacred area at Noonkanbah which is being drilled—it is the Museum Trustees. The Government is virtually saying that is so by not producing the Museum report. The Government has never been able to explain why it was legally necessary for the Acting Minister for Cultural Affairs to write to the Museum Trustees and direct them to allow drilling.

I am prepared to waste 30 seconds or a minute of my remaining 13 minutes to allow any member opposite to explain the Minister's actions.

Mr Grayden: Because there is no flexibility in the Aboriginal Heritage Act. When they talked about areas of influence, they automatically had to recommend that it be declared a protected area. There was no flexibility.

Mr PEARCE: The reason is that it was a sacred site. The Minister is spot on.

Mr Grayden: They did it on the basis that the Government would then direct them to do certain things.

Mr PEARCE: Rubbish!

Mr Grayden: That is the complete answer, as you will find out later. There is no flexibility in the present Aboriginal Heritage Act. It cannot be done any other way.

Mr PEARCE: True.

Mr Grayden: No Government could have granted it as an area of influence, because it would have been liable to compensation of possibly several million or even hundreds of millions of dollars. That is one of the great shortcomings of the present Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Mr PEARCE: The term "area of influence" does not appear in the Aboriginal Heritage Act of 1972. The term which occurs is "Aboriginal site or sacred site". The Minister is confirming what has been clear to the Opposition; that is, the Museum Trustees were of the opinion that drilling was to take place on a sacred site. That is exactly the position. The Minister is calling part of the sacred site an area of influence, but that is not a term which is recognised in the Aboriginal Heritage Act. If in fact the area of influence does not constitute part of the sacred site as the Minister is saying, the Museum would have had no right to issue directives at all, because there is no provision for compensation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Mr Grayden: What nonsense, when the area is declared a protected area. Of course there is.

Mr PEARCE: Compensation is payable if the area is taken away from the land held by someone else.

Mr Grayden: How idiotic can you get! Read the Act before you introduce an amendment.

Mr PEARCE: If the area were excised from the landholding, the compensation would be paid to the State, because the State is the ultimate owner of the land. The Government would be paying compensation to itself. In those circumstances, the Aborigines would not be able to claim compensation.

Mr Grayden: It is the oil company which would be entitled to compensation.

Mr PEARCE: The oil company would not be entitled to compensation under those sections of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, because it had no holding on the area itself.

Mr Grayden: The holder of a mining tenement is considered to be the owner of the land.

Sir Charles Court: I can see that the member feels so strongly that he will go up there next week saying, "This area is a sacred site; get those cattle off, get those children off, and get those trucks off."

Mr PEARCE: I think that demonstrates once more the lack of understanding the Premier has of what constitutes Aboriginal culture. The Premier probably goes to a Christian church more frequently than I do. I wonder if in fact Christian churches do not have people in them or rock bands in them. The fact that there is human intrusion in Christian churches does not make them less religiously significant. If the Premier were to substitute "Christian faith" for "Aboriginal faith" he may be able to understand the problem a little more. The Premier is misunderstanding—probably wilfully—the different sorts of spiritual aspirations held by different cultures.

I will have one more warning shot at the Minister for Cultural Affairs in another cultural area for which he has responsibility before I deal with the matter of technical education. I am not going to be put down, and neither will be the Opposition, by threats of any type with regard to the inquiry we are maintaining into the operation of the WA Art Gallery. Words such as "reprehensible in the extreme" or suggestions of indictments of us will not stop us from continuing to maintain the position that the WA Art Gallery Board is far exceeding its brief.

Mr Grayden: Absolute nonsense! Your statements have been scurrilous ones as will be established when we get on to this debate.

Mr PEARCE: The Minister will be expected to answer a number of other questions based on the information I have collected about the Art Gallery. I will expect resignations from members of that board in due course.

Mr Grayden: You will be the only one resigning.

Mr PEARCE: That is not very likely.

The last point I wish to make about the very vocal Minister for Cultural Affairs is that, like myself, he has found the portfolio of Cultural Affairs to be so demanding that it has been very difficult to keep a watch in our other area of responsibility, which is education. This is demonstrated by the Minister's inability to control the Education Department and in particular the sections of that department which are bearing down heavily on the technical education division.

Already I have referred to the widespread closure of evening classes in the technical education division. I have mentioned the large number of students who have found their classes disappearing in the last week or so. Those closures have been based on very devious principles.

In reply to a question on notice from me earlier in the session, the Minister indicated that as a guideline, at least if not a compulsory requirement, technical education evening classes should have an average of 10 pupils in the first term, eight pupils in the second term, and six pupils in the third and final term. That is to allow for some natural wastage during the year.

What is happening is that a number of technical school evening classes have fallen marginally below the required eight pupils in the second term over the second-last or last week of the term. There may be an average of six or seven in a class.

If these classes were maintained over the holidays they would then meet the requirement of six students during third term and proceed through to the end of the year. But by acting in the second to last week of second term, the department is able to subvert its guidelines by closing down classes which can be presumed to maintain the required enrolment through third term.

That is a smart ploy, if one is trying to save money on teachers, as the technical education division must be doing. However, I can tell the House—and the Minister will be aware of this—that the desire to cut back on teachers in the technical education division does not originate from the senior officers of that division. Rather, it is caused by the amount of money the

Government is prepared to spend on technical education.

A heavy manpower squeeze has taken place already in technical education and this has resulted in full-time classes having less class contact time for some technical students. In essence, technical schools, earlier in the year, were obliged to reduce the number of staff at their disposal. This led to some students having their classes cut back from five student contact hours to three student contact hours for a particular course. That means those students are really getting only three-fifths of the education to which they are entitled; three-fifths of the education they expected when they enrolled; and three-fifths of the education that students in comparable courses in secondary education, or even—more ridiculously—in other technical schools, are receiving.

As part of the manpower squeeze, technical education division night school classes are being chopped, and it is being done in a very heartless manner. It is being done to people who have studied for two terms after commencing in February.

Mr Grayden: They will all have the opportunity to switch classes. What we are trying to do is spend the education dollar as effectively as possible. We will cut costs wherever possible without inconveniencing people.

Mr PEARCE: I should like to give the Minister an example of which I have personal knowledge. A class is to be closed down at the Belmont evening technical school. The students are told they can now go to Kent Street. That is fine, if one has a car or can make travel arrangements to cover the distance. Other people have been told that there will no longer be a class on Tuesdays, but they can attend a class on Thursdays. That is fine, if students are studying one subject only; but if they already attend classes in other courses on Thursdays, it is not a viable alternative. This sort of action has never been taken previously.

Mr Grayden: It will be taken increasingly from now on.

Mr PEARCE: Not when we get into Government; that is a trend which will be reversed quickly.

Mr Grayden: We even had one teacher recently who did not have a single pupil for several months. She happened to be away and we put in a teacher to replace her and discovered there were no students in the class.

Mr PEARCE: I simply do not believe that. The Minister is rather new in the job and he is learning fairly slowly. Closures of technical night

school classes have occurred in the past, but they have been effected on a different basis. I was directly involved as a teacher on one occasion. At that time two classes in Leaving English Literature were established in adjoining classrooms in the Victoria Park evening technical school. The teacher next door and I began with approximately 20 students each and as the year went on, our enrolments dwindled to six or seven students. In July or thereabouts the two classes were amalgamated and I went back to watching television on Wednesday nights. I did not object to that. It was fair and reasonable, because in that sort of situation nobody was disaccommodated. My students simply had to go to the room next door at exactly the same time. No doubt the Premier would tell me they received better teaching for the second half of the year. No-one objects to that sort of amalgamation, and it has been going on for a long time.

However, this year for the first time ever, classes in schools as far apart as Carlisle and Fremantle are being amalgamated. The class times are being changed from Mondays to Fridays and people are missing out very badly. The Minister, who ought to be protecting students, is giving them about the same sort of protection he is giving Aborigines at Noonkanbah or Aborigines who are attempting to hold on to a sacred site anywhere else.

As far as I am concerned, the Minister will be in a hot spot for the next 2½ years and I will be

very surprised if he does not find his seat boiling before the session is out.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Williams.

# **METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE AMENDMENT BILL**

## *Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

## **QUESTIONS**

Questions were taken at this stage.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL**

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

That the House at its rising adjourn until  
Tuesday, 2 September at 4.30. p.m..

Question put and passed.

## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

### *Closing Time*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Thompson): I wish to announce that the closing time for questions for Tuesday, 2 September will be 12.00 noon on 29 August.

*House adjourned at 4.21 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### RAILWAYS

#### *Freight Rates: Power Plan*

376. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

- (1) With reference to a news release by him headed "Freight Rail Lines Power Plan" in *The West Australian* of 2 February 1980, would he advise if discussions had taken place with Westrail officers prior to 2 February?

- (2) If so, with whom and when?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The news release of 2 February 1980 was made following receipt of a Westrail preliminary "interim report on economic viability of electrification of selected freight lines in the Westrail network" which was submitted to the Minister for Transport by the Commissioner of Railways and forwarded to me on 21 January 1980.

### RAILWAYS

#### *Kalgoorlie-Kwinana*

377. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

- (1) When was the first submission made to the Federal Government re electrification of the Kalgoorlie-Kwinana line and would he table a copy of the submission?

- (2) (a) What is the current situation; and  
(b) is he still convinced the Kalgoorlie-Kwinana line will be fully electrified by 1985?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The electrification of the Kalgoorlie-Kwinana line was originally discussed at the December 1979 Loan Council meeting, where agreement was reached that further studies be undertaken as part of an Australia-wide railway electrification proposal.

- (2) (a) See answer to question 306, 19 August 1980.

- (b) Current indications from the ARRDO studies are that Perth-Bunbury line would have the higher priority. Further studies might not confirm this but, in any case, we still regard Kalgoorlie-Kwinana line as a project for electrification this decade, even if the order of implementation needs to change because of closer engineering and economic studies and changes in the availability and cost of electric power.

### HOUSING

#### *Building Societies: Insurance Contracts*

385. Mr CARR, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has he seen the advertisement placed in the Public Notices section of *The West Australian* of 23 May 1980 by R. S. Brown, the secretary of a number of terminating building societies?

- (2) Is the material contained in the advertisement accurate?

- (3) In particular, is it a fact that an amendment to the Building Societies Act will come before Parliament in the near future to override the ruling of the Trade Practices Commission that borrowers have the right to insure with a company of their choice, subject to certain conditions?

- (4) If "Yes" to (3)—

- (a) when is it anticipated that such legislation will be introduced;

- (b) how does the Government justify such a restriction on the borrower's freedom to choose?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Yes.

The building societies advisory committee has requested the Government to amend the Building Societies Act to allow terminating building societies to revert to the former position of arranging tied property insurance.



- (3) As a consequence to the amendments to the trade practices (removal of exemption) regulation so that they no longer over-ride a State law authorising tied insurance arrangements for terminating building societies, Cabinet has approved of proposed amendments to the Building Societies Act to proceed to incorporate a general empowering provision to allow tied insurance arrangements for terminating societies. Most States have indicated an intention to proceed in this matter. To date, only New South Wales has passed the necessary legislation.
- (4) (a) As a result of the request from the building societies advisory committee, this matter is being given consideration.
- (b) The reasons given by the NSW Government for its recent legislation was as follows—
  - (i) To insure a continuation of funds being made available to terminating building societies from insurance companies.
  - (ii) To prevent a rise in the management fees charged by terminating societies.

## HEALTH: DENTAL THERAPY CENTRES

### *Schools*

401. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are the existing 81 school dental therapy centres referred to in the Liberal Party election policy speech all "fixed centres"?
- (2) Are the 14 mobile dental therapy units mentioned in the answer to question 277 of 1980 all new units to be provided this year, or does that figure include existing mobile units already in service?
- (3) Is it a fact that in addition to the promise made by the Premier in his election policy speech for the provision of 20 new dental therapy centres this year, he also promised to provide new mobile units to service seven country and northern areas?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Some confusion has arisen concerning the number of school dental service clinics.

The Premier's election policy speech referred to 81 existing clinics, the provision of 20 new clinics, and seven mobile units for country and northern areas. This was based on progress and information available at December 1979.

In spite of cuts in Commonwealth funds, we are now in a better position than described in the Premier's election policy speech.

The position as at 21 August 1980 is—

#### (1) Existing Services:

There are, at present, 121 units operating consisting of 95 'fixed' clinics and 26 mobile clinics. In addition, 18 primary schools in the Como/Bentley/Mount Pleasant area attend a major facility at Mount Henry and 13 primary schools in the Warwick/Hamersley/Greenwood area attend another major facility located at Warwick.

#### (2) Under Construction:

Presently under construction there are 2 'fixed' and 10 mobile clinics. These clinics are for the following areas—

##### Fixed Clinics:

Mount Lawley  
Subiaco

##### Mobile Clinics:

Ongerup-Gnowangerup  
Bullsbrook  
Corrigin  
Mukinbudin  
Roleystone  
Wongan Hills  
Moora  
Mount Hawthorn  
Tom Price-Paraburdoo  
Beverley (replacement)

#### (3) Future Planning:

The major population localities of the State not covered at present are—

Wembley-Floreat  
Swanbourne  
North Cottesloe-Mosman  
Dalkeith-Nedlands  
City Beach

Subject to the availability of Commonwealth funds, it is planned to provide services to these areas in 1980-81 and to also provide an additional unit at Peg's Creek—Karratha—and Broome.

At this stage dental services will be available for all pre and primary school children.

### NOONKANBAH STATION

#### *Transport of Drilling Rig: Police Escort Cost*

418. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) With reference to his statement in the *Sunday Independent* of 17 August 1980 that he did not intend to find out the cost of a police escort to Noonkanbah, is he aware that in answer to question 1370 of 1979 his predecessor was able to clearly outline the hours worked by the policemen, the number of men deployed and the hours spent in planning and research during the occupation of the Wagerup refinery site by demonstrators?
- (2) In view of the case with which his predecessor was able to provide information to Parliament which could be used as the basis for costing the Wagerup occupation, why did he—
  - (a) not bother to inform himself of the overtime and overtime costs incurred by the police escorting a convoy to Noonkanbah;
  - (b) advise Parliament in answer to question 245 of 14 August 1980 that it would not be normal to separate such costs?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Notwithstanding the answer given to question 1370 in 1979, the activities in relation to Noonkanbah were substantially different from the "Wagerup occupation" and involved a large number of police personnel dispersed over a large area for a significant period. Costs are not readily available in relation to Noonkanbah.
- (2) (a) It is not possible to be acquainted with the overtime costs incurred by police as claims have not yet been processed.

- (b) The Wagerup exercise was a singular police operation without associated services being involved; consequently, there was no joint expenditure and a costing was readily calculable.

### "GILT DRAGON"

#### *Jurisdiction*

420. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the wreck of the *Gilt Dragon* exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government?
- (2) If "No", is the wreck within the jurisdiction of the Government of Western Australia?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2)—
  - (a) since when has the Western Australian Government had jurisdiction over the wreck;
  - (b) does the Western Australian Government have exclusive jurisdiction over the wreck;
  - (c) under what Commonwealth and State legislation does the Western Australian Government have jurisdiction over the wreck?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The questions are inadmissible in that they seek opinion on questions of law.

### "GILT DRAGON"

#### *Salvage*

422. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it a fact that the High Court of Australia, in a majority decision, ruled that the Museum Act Amendment Act (1964) and the Museum Act (1967) were invalid because the legislature of Western Australia does not have the power to enact laws governing the bed of the sea and things in it and upon it?
- (2) What were the total legal costs involved with the High Court challenge to—
  - (a) the W.A. Museum;
  - (b) the W.A. Government?

- (3) In view of the High Court decision, is it a fact that the Government of Western Australia, through the agency of the W.A. Museum Board and the W.A. Museum, unlawfully prevented Mr Robinson from salvaging materials from the wreck of the *Gilt Dragon*?
- (4) For what period of time was Mr Robinson unlawfully prevented from "working" the wreck?
- (5) Is it a fact that the W.A. Government was aware that the Museum Act Amendment Act (1964) was invalid at the time of its enactment?
- (6) Is the Attorney General aware that Mr Robinson was charged and imprisoned in relation to legal action brought against him under the legislation which was subsequently ruled as invalid?
- (7) (a) Is Mr Robinson entitled to any payment for compensation from the W.A. Government and the W.A. Museum;  
(b) if "Yes" to (a), what is the amount and nature of compensation?
- (8) Is the W.A. Government and W.A. Museum liable in any way to pay compensation to Mr Robinson for damages and other costs since 1964?
- (9) If "Yes" to (8), what is the nature and total amount of compensation?
- (10) Is the Attorney General aware that it was reported in *The West Australian* on 3 September 1977, that Mr Robinson and his lawyer estimated that the W.A. Government owed Mr Robinson around \$2.5 million?
- (11) What is the total value, in money terms, of the W.A. Government's liability, if any, to Mr Robinson?
- (12) Will it be necessary for Mr Robinson to take further legal action for the Government to realise the liability identified in (10)?
- (13) Has the W.A. Government made any attempt to negotiate compensation with Mr Robinson since the High Court ruling almost three years ago?
- (14) If "Yes" to (13), at what time and what was the value and terms of compensation negotiated?
- (15) If "No" to (13), why not?
- (16) Has Mr Robinson received compensation from the W.A. Government or the W.A. Museum in any form since the High Court decision was made?

- (17) If "Yes" to (16), what is the value and nature of the compensation?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (17) The question is generally inadmissible for a variety of reasons including the following—
  - (a) it seeks interpretations of a Statute;
  - (b) it seeks opinion on questions of law;
  - (c) it requires information set forth in accessible documents such as judgments of the courts; and
  - (d) it relates to matters awaiting determination in a court of law.
- Specifically in relation to questions:—
  - (2) (a) \$7 632.80.
  - (b) Nil.
  - (6) to (10), and (16) No.

429. *This question was postponed.*

#### NOONKANBAH STATION

##### *Transport of Drilling Rig: Truck Drivers*

433. MR PEARCE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Who authorised the waiving of outstanding charges for alleged traffic offences against drivers who agreed to participate in the Noonkanbah convoy?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The Road Traffic Authority and the Commissioner of Police have no knowledge of any waiving of traffic offences against drivers involved in the Noonkanbah convoy.

#### FUEL AND ENERGY

##### *Fuel Tax*

434. MR GRILL, to the Premier:

- (1) Prior to the last State elections, he promised to carry out a review of the income being derived from the State fuel tax. Has he carried out that review as promised?
- (2) (a) What is the approximate income from that tax to date; and  
(b) how does it compare with the income previously derived from road maintenance tax?

- (3) Is there any likelihood of the tax being reduced in the near future?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) A review of the Business Franchise (Petroleum Products) Licensing Act has been carried out by the Minister for Transport.
- (2) (a) and (b) \$16 264 788 was derived in 1979-80 from the fuel franchise levy commencing from August 1979. In 1978-79 the road maintenance charge yielded \$5 698 435, but it must be remembered that vehicle licence fees for lighter vehicles were reduced when the fuel franchise levy was introduced. The amounts are not comparable as a new scheme was introduced. Overall there was an estimated increased revenue of about \$4.5 million under the new scheme which partially offset rises in costs due to inflation. It is important to understand this money goes into the road programme, the expansion of which is constantly being demanded.

## HERBICIDE

### 2,4,5-T: Restrictions

435. MR H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) (a) Are there any restrictions on the use of 2,4,5-T as a herbicide in Western Australia; and  
(b) if so, what are these limitations?
- (2) (a) Is there a full or partial ban on the use of 2,4,5-T in the United States of America; and  
(b) if so, to what extent?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.  
(b) The following provisions apply—  
(i) herbicides containing 2,4,5-T for use in Western Australia must be registered under the pesticide regulations of the Health Act;  
(ii) 2,4,5-T and substances containing 2,4,5-T are poisons under the terms of the Poisons Act 1964, and the packing, labelling, storage and sale are controlled by the Poisons Act and regulations;

- (iii) use of herbicides containing 2,4,5-T by commercial pesticide operators is controlled by the pesticide regulations;

- (iv) use of 2,4,5-T in certain areas is controlled by Regulations for Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act;

- (v) use of 2,4,5-T by aerial spraying is controlled by the Aerial Spraying Control Act and Regulations;

- (vi) there is a policy issued by the Department of Health and Medical Services regarding the use of 2,4,5-T in catchment areas which is followed by all Government instrumentalities.

- (2) (a) I believe a partial ban still exists.

- (b) Use of 2,4,5-T products on forests, rights-of-way and pastures is currently suspended under an order issued by the Administrator of the US Environmental Agency on 28 February 1979.

## BIRTH CERTIFICATES

### Legitimated or Illegitimate Children

436. Mr WILSON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) In view of changed social attitudes, what consideration, if any, has been given to relaxing the restrictions which apply to the issuing of certified copies of registration of birth in cases of legitimated or illegitimate children to the custodial parent or parents of such children?
- (2) Is he aware that it is likely that there is now more offence attached to the discrimination apparent in the type and style of certificate issued in such circumstances, where the extract supplied is possibly inferior in quality to that of a dog licence, than that attached to any likely stigma associated with illegitimacy?

- (3) Is he prepared to have the situation reviewed, particularly with respect to the vesting of ultimate authority and discretion in the Registrar General that presently applies and is exercised, without exception, in such cases, in refusing requests from parents for the issue to them of certified copies of registration of birth for their children?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The changed social attitudes referred to are not apparent at the Registrar General's Office. The withholding of certified copies of registration of birth which reveal illegitimacy meets the grateful approval of the public at large, particularly the persons mentioned on the certificates.
- (2) There is no difference in the type of extract issued in respect of a legitimate or illegitimate birth.
- (3) No. If sufficient reason is given, a certified copy is issued. Section 18 of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act provides adequate discretion for the Registrar General of the Chief Secretary to deal with individual cases.

## ROADS

### *Flinders Street-Ravenswood Drive Intersection*

437. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Main Roads Department aware of the increased traffic hazards at the Flinders Street/Ravenswood Drive intersection, Nollamara, since the development of Yirrigan Drive and the changes to bus routes which occurred as a result of the opening of the Mirrabooka bus station?
- (2) If "Yes", what measures are proposed to improve conditions at this intersection and when are such measures to be undertaken?
- (3) If "No" to (1), is the department prepared to urgently investigate the need for such measures particularly in view of the fatal accident involving a bus, which occurred at the intersection on Monday 18 August?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

- (3) Since the opening of the bus station on 17 September 1979, two accidents, including the 18 August 1980 fatality, have been reported. Advice to the Main Roads Department indicates that two cars and no buses were involved in the 18 August accident which apparently was the result of driver error.

## TRAFFIC LIGHTS

### *Alexander Drive-Yirrigan Drive Intersection*

438. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Main Roads Department aware of the traffic congestion occurring at the intersection of Alexander Drive and Yirrigan Drive, Dianella?
- (2) Has consideration been given to installing traffic signals at this intersection?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), when will traffic signals be installed?
- (4) If "No" to (2), what other measures are to be taken to deal with the traffic congestion?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Signals will be installed when Stirling City Council has made minor modifications to the intersection layout. Main Roads Department will follow up this aspect with council.
- (4) Answered by (2).

## EDUCATION: PRE-SCHOOL

### *Four-year-olds*

439. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government aware of the increasing public demand for the provision of pre-school education for children in the year of their fourth birthday?
- (2) If "Yes", what considerations are presently before the Government to cater for such a demand?

- (3) Adverting to the answer of his predecessor to my question without notice number 5 of 28 November 1978, what has resulted from the consideration of the report on this matter by the two Ministers concerned?
- (4) Has the report yet been considered by the Cabinet?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4), what further progress has occurred?
- (6) If "No" to (4), when is the matter now likely to come before Cabinet?
- (7) When can the Government be expected to announce firm proposals for pre-school education related to children in the 0-4 year age group?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (7) The Government is proceeding energetically with its declared policy of making one year pre-school education available on a voluntary basis for children throughout the State. Regarding provision of an additional pre-school year for children two or more years below the compulsory attendance age, the Government permits the attendance of four-year-olds to fill vacant places in centres, provided this does not create additional salary costs. Further developments of that type cannot be undertaken without specific budgetary provisions.

440. *This question was postponed.*

#### HEALTH: MENTAL

##### *Swanbourne Hospital*

441. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is there a shortage of trained nursing staff at Swanbourne Hospital?
- (2) Are there sufficient trained staff at the hospital to ensure that properly qualified people are on duty at all times, including evening and night shifts?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.

#### HEALTH: MENTAL

##### *Swanbourne Hospital*

442. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many patients are currently accommodated at Swanbourne Hospital?

(2) How many patients at Swanbourne Hospital are—

- (a) geriatric patients;
- (b) intellectually handicapped patients?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) 367 on 20 August 1980.
- (2) 158 are intellectually handicapped persons. The remainder—209 patients—comprise persons suffering from psychogeriatric disorders and a range of other chronic brain syndromes.

#### HEALTH

##### *Community Services*

443. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Federal Government has decided to limit funding for community health programmes in 1980-81 to the same level as applied in 1979-80?
- (2) If funding has been held to 1979-80 level, what reduction in real terms will this amount to?
- (3) (a) Will there be any reduction in 1980-81 in community health services or staff;  
(b) if so, please provide details?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) I hope not, but the position is not clear at this stage.  
(b) Not applicable.

#### HOSPITAL

##### *Armada-Kelmescott Memorial*

444. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Government plan to extend the present Armada-Kelmescott Memorial Hospital to include a geriatric wing?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If "No", why not?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Extensions, including accommodation for geriatric patients, are presently under consideration, but no firm decision on the extent of the provision has been reached at this stage.
- (2) Whilst a high priority will be allotted, major extensions will be dependent upon the future allocation of funds to the capital works hospitals programme.
- (3) Answered by (1) and (2).

## EDUCATION: PRE-PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

### *Centres: Details*

445. MR BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to my question 23 of Wednesday 6 August 1980, how many independent pre-school centres are there currently in Western Australia?
- (2) How many pre-primary centres have been established in Western Australia?
- (3) How many community based kindergartens have been taken over by the Education Department?
- (4) What is the normal period of lease when pre-school centres are taken over by the Education Department?
- (5) What is the estimated number of—
  - (a) pre-school centres;
  - (b) pre-primary centres,
 currently catering for both four and five-year-old children?
- (6) Does the Education Department propose to establish a pre-primary centre on the site of all primary schools?
- (7) In respect of question (2):
  - (a) how many pre-primary centres have been established within the grounds of primary schools;
  - (b) how many pre-primary centres have been established in facilities physically separated from primary schools?
- (8) (a) Has the Education Department yet handed back to any local authority or community group premises which were taken over to establish pre-primary centres;
- (b) if not, does the Education Department envisage doing so in the future?

- (9) How long have conditions under which children younger than one year below school age attend pre-schools been under review?

- (10) When can a definitive statement of the Government's position on the question be anticipated?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) There are 51 independent pre-school centres and 202 community based pre-school centres.
- (2) Centres have been established at 185 Government schools.
- (3) 142.
- (4) Five years, but leases of shorter duration are negotiated in some circumstances.
- (5) (a) 73;  
(b) 25.
- (6) Pre-primary centres are provided at all new primary schools. Centres are provided at established schools when there are insufficient places in the locality for children in the year in which they turn five.
- (7) (a) 185.  
(b) At four schools special pre-language units have been established in separate facilities.
- (8) (a) Yes.  
(b) Not applicable.
- (9) Since the department entered the field of pre-primary education.
- (10) When budgetary constraints permit.

## ELECTORAL

### *Section 122A Votes*

446. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

With reference to my question 147 of Tuesday, 12 August 1980, will the Minister indicate how many applications for section 122A votes were lodged in respect of each Legislative Assembly district?

Mr HASSELL replied:

### *Section 122A Votes applied for*

District	
Ascot	711
Balcatta	1 479
Canning	1 813
Clontarf	511
Cockburn	1 016
Cottesloe	675
Dianella	1 509

District	Section 122A Votes applied for
East Melville	402
Floreat	551
Fremantle	601
Gosnells	2 325
Karrinyup	786
Maylands	895
Melville	575
Morley	1 025
Mount Hawthorn	725
Mount Lawley	578
Murdoch	1 408
Nedlands	264
Perth	1 035
Scarborough	288
South Perth	636
Subiaco	414
Swan	752
Victoria Park	671
Welshpool	941
Whitford	1 852
Albany	413
Avon	235
Bunbury	476
Collie	212
Dale	258
Darling Range	625
Geraldton	460
Greenough	442
Kalamunda	499
Kalgoorlie	553
Katanning	164
Merredin	193
Moore	833
Mount Marshall	115
Mundaring	310
Murray	408
Narrogin	205
Rockingham	1 076
Roe	149
Stirling	229
Vasse	291
Warren	151
Wellington	331
Yilgarn-Dundas	535
Gascoyne	252
Kimberley	518
Murchison-Eyre	72
Pilbara	1 410
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35 853</b>

## SMALL BUSINESSES

*Alcoa Dispute: Assistance*

447. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (1) What was the estimated number of businessmen from the Pinjarra/Mandurah area who contacted the Department of Industrial Development as a result of his invitation during the currency of the recent Alcoa industrial dispute?
- (2) What forms of assistance were actually provided for the businesses which contacted his department?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Approximately 50 people contacted the service following my Press release. It is not certain that all were from Pinjarra as records are not kept of specific areas from where enquiries originate.
- (2) The principle of confidentiality by the Small Business Advisory Service is paramount. This policy will continue with the proposed company, Small Business Services Pty Ltd. It would breach that principle if any detailed elaboration of discussion held with individual businesses was given.

## TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

*Review Group*

448. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (1) Further to my question 92 of 7 August 1980, have the guidelines for the technology review group been prepared yet?
- (2) If not, can he indicate when a decision is likely?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is not advisable to hasten the formalising of the technology review group. It is important that the group, when formalised interacts with the various other committees and agencies involved in the area of technology.



## TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

*Myer Committee*

449. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) What is the State Government's response to the recommendations of the Myer committee?
- (2) Which unit, agency or committee is currently reviewing the implications of—
  - (a) technological change generally;
  - (b) the findings of the Myer Report, in respect of Western Australia's future needs?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) As already announced, the State Government is at present examining the Myer committee report.

## HEALTH: MENTAL

*Foundation for the Abolition of Compulsory Treatment*

450. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he received from an organisation known as the Foundation For the Abolition of Compulsory Treatment, a copy of what has been referred to as "the patient's bill of rights"?
- (2) Does the Government accept the need for and desirability of incorporating a patient's bill of rights into the Mental Health Act?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. Existing safeguards for the rights of patients will be further increased as a result of current proposed amendments to the Mental Health Act.

## POLICE

*Dog Squads*

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

In view of the outstanding operational success of the police dog squads in Victoria and New Zealand, has consideration been given to the introduction of such a squad in Western Australia?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Yes.

## GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES

*Failed Companies*

452. Mr BRYCE, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What were the names of the trading concerns or business enterprises, backed by a Government guarantee, which defaulted or went into liquidation during the last financial year?
- (2) What was the value of the State Government guarantee in each case?
- (3) What is the total current value of guarantees extended to industry under the provisions of the Industries Assistance Act?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) As at 30 June 1980 the State's total contingent liability under the Industry (Advances) Act was \$95 362 036.

## GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES

*Number*

453. Mr BRYCE, to the Treasurer:

- (1) In respect of the financial year 1979-80, how many applications were received for State Government guarantees under the Industries Assistance Act?
- (2) How many guarantees were granted?
- (3) What was the amount involved in each instance?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) 30.
- (2) 15.

	\$		\$
(3) (1)	56 000	(9)	1 000 000
(2)	150 000	(10)	150 000
(3)	100 000	(11)	500 000
(4)	2 282 000	(12)	600 000
(5)	1 100 000	(13)	165 000
(6)	42 000	(14)	750 000
(7)	204 000	(15)	75 000
(8)	1 133 000		

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### *Waste Discharge: Licences*

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

How many applications for a licence to discharge wastes into the environment have been refused in the past six years by the Environmental Protection Authority or delegated authorities, indicating the details or grounds for the refusal?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I refer the honourable member to my answer to his question 365 (2) yesterday.

## CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### *Waste Discharge: Planning*

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

- (1) Is it a function of the Environmental Protection Authority to initiate, promote and co-ordinate research and planning of environmental matters?
- (2) What initiatives has the Environmental Protection Authority taken to promote the research and planning of overall industrial waste disposal?
- (3) What reports are available where consideration is given to planning overall industrial waste disposal?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
  - (2) and (3) The EPA provides advice to both government and industry in the planning of industrial waste disposal and, in accordance with this Government's policy, is currently developing marine and estuarine water quality criteria which will establish a firm basis for control of effluent disposal into marine and estuarine waters throughout the State. These criteria are expected to be published before the end of this year.
- In conjunction with the Department of Health and Medical Services and various tertiary institutions, the

Department of Conservation and Environment is finalising detailed atmospheric modelling investigations in the Kwinana and Wilbing areas and propose a similar study in the Bunbury area.

Reports of these studies will be made available as they are completed.

Industrial waste disposal on land is co-ordinated by the Department of Health and Medical Services through technical committees on which the Department of Conservation and Environment is represented. In the case of major industries operating under State agreement Acts, waste disposal is co-ordinated by the Department of Resources Development with advice from the Department of Conservation and Environment.

## FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

### *Liquid Petroleum: Motor Vehicles*

456. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What is the estimated number of vehicles registered in Western Australia which have been converted to use liquid petroleum gas tanks?
- (2) What is the estimated cost per vehicle for converting to liquid petroleum gas from traditional petrol consumption?
- (3) (a) Does the State Government encourage the conversion with specific policies;  
(b) if so, will he provide details?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) It is estimated that about 500 registered vehicles have been converted to LPG.
  - (2) \$800 to \$1 000.
  - (3) (a) and (b) The Government is optimistic about the future potential of LPG as an automotive fuel when indigenous supplies from the North-West Shelf become available.
- However, in the short term the great majority of LPG in Western Australia is produced from imported fuel oils, the same as for petrol.
- Therefore, there is little incentive to encourage conversion at this time.

## HOSPITALS

## Staff

457. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Health:

What is the total number of employees, both full-time and part-time at each of the following:

- (a) Royal Perth Hospital:
  - (i) Wellington Street;
  - (ii) Shenton Park Annexe;
  - (iii) Mt. Lawley Annexe;
- (b) Princess Margaret Hospital;
- (c) King Edward Memorial Hospital;
- (d) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
- (e) Fremantle Hospital?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The total number of employees, both full time and part time as at 30 June 1980 was as follows—

		Full Time	Part Time	Total
(a)	Royal Perth Hospital			
	(i) Wellington Street	2 804	515	3 319
	(ii) Shenton Park Annexe	579	124	703
	(iii) Mt. Lawley Annexe	94	37	131
(b)	Princess Margaret Hospital	1 242	207	1 449
(c)	King Edward Memorial Hospital	811	193	1 004
(d)	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	2 017	259	2 276
(e)	Fremantle Hospital	1 407	329	1 736

## GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE

*West Australian Mushroom Company*

458. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (1) Did West Australian Mushroom Company from Pingelly apply for financial assistance by way of guarantee from the State Government in 1978, to establish a mushroom growing venture?
- (2) What was the original amount sought by West Australian Mushroom Company and what was their subsequent request for funding assistance?
- (3) (a) Was the first application declined; and  
(b) why?
- (4) Have other mushroom growing ventures been denied State guaranteed assistance?
- (5) (a) How many mushroom growing ventures are there in this State; and  
(b) how are they financed?

- (6) Would West Australian Mushroom Company qualify for assistance under the Government's recently announced programme for assistance to industry?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$68 000 which amount was subsequently increased to \$72 000.
- (3) (a) Yes.  
(b) Guidelines for assistance by way of a Government guarantee under the Industry (Advances) Act preclude assistance to those businesses which are in competition with other firms engaged in manufacturing a similar product and to those which are engaged in primary production.
- (4) Yes. An application lodged prior to WAMCO's was declined for the same reason.
- (5) (a) There are at least three other such ventures to my knowledge.  
(b) They have been able to obtain financial accommodation from the banking sector without Government guarantee. I would expect that the same should apply to WAMCO bearing in mind the market potential identified by the member for Warren.
- (6) No. This assistance is only available to qualifying manufacturing, processing and resource orientated service industries.

## WATER RESOURCES

*Shotts*

459. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has any decision been made to provide a water supply for Shotts via Collie?
- (2) If "No", in view of the building blocks available in the town and also in view of the shortage of building blocks at Collie, does his department not consider a water supply is warranted?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) At present a water supply for the Shotts townsite cannot be given any priority on the Public Works Department's works programme.

### NOONKANBAH STATION

#### *Transport of Drilling Rig: Police Escort Cost*

460. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

In view of the costs involved by the Police Department in connection with the escorting of the oil rig to Noonkanbah, will the payment result in drastic cuts in the intake of policemen into the Force?

Mr HASSELL replied:

No.

### MINING

#### *State Batteries*

461. Mr E. T. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to upgrade the state batteries in Western Australia in view of their dilapidated condition especially now that there is an upsurge of prospecting activity and an anticipation of even greater activity in the future?
- (2) (a) Does the Government have any policy to replace the custom mill at North Kalgurli when this company resumes mining operations in mid-1981;
- (b) if "Yes", will the mill be operated by the Government or private enterprise;
- (c) if "No" what will the prospectors who are currently crushing approximately 5 000 tonnes of ore per month at the North Kalgurli do about crushing facilities?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Yes;
- (b) private enterprise;
- (c) not applicable.

### TOURISM

#### *Two Rocks and Yanchep*

462. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Are the townships of Yanchep and Two Rocks within the metropolitan area; if not, where is the boundary?

- (2) What advantages are available to country towns by way of tourist road grants from—

- (a) local government;
- (b) State Government;
- (c) Tourist Bureau?

- (3) If Yanchep and Two Rocks are situated in the metropolitan boundary, what steps are necessary to have the boundary altered to exclude them?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) I am not sure of the context in which the question refers to the "metropolitan area". If the honourable member can elaborate, I will endeavour to provide an answer.
- (2) (a) The considerable funds spent by local authorities on roadworks no doubt include tourist roads. However, details could only be obtained from individual councils.
- (b) I am informed that most main roads and highways are used extensively by tourists. In addition, \$250 000 has been provided on the 1980-81 Main Roads programme for specific tourist, national parks, and fishing industry roads.
- (c) I am informed that road grants are not available through the Department of Tourism.
- (3) See answer to (1).

### STOCK: CATTLE

#### *Tick Infestation*

463. Mr BRIDGE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware that pastoralists in the Kimberley are very concerned that cattle ticks have been discovered in the south-west?
- (2) Will he advise what, if any, additional precautions have been implemented by the Agriculture Department to combat further outbreaks of cattle tick infestation?
- (3) If additional precautions have been taken, is his department satisfied that they are adequate to prevent further outbreaks of tick infestation?

- (4) If no additional precautions have been taken, will he take steps to ensure that the matter receives urgent consideration by the Agriculture Department?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) Approval which had been granted to the Kimberley property of origin concerned with the outbreak in the south-west to use the station dip as an official dip and to load dipped cattle directly onto trucks before movement out of the Kimberley area, has been withdrawn.  
 The number of dippings required for cattle being sent out of the Kimberley direct for slaughter has been increased from two to a minimum of three. Additionally, cattle must pass a clean inspection, and abattoirs of destination must now have approved facilities. Cattle going to pasture have always been required to have a minimum of three dips and to pass a clean inspection.  
 (3) and (4) No further outbreaks have occurred since the above precautions were taken and none are expected.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### POLICE

*Shaker Morton: Letter*

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

When does the Minister expect that the Commissioner for Police and Traffic will be able to complete the investigations promised by the Minister to the Leader of the Opposition in a letter of 26 May? The investigations concern seditious statements or infringements of a Criminal Code by Shaker Morton in a publication in *The Kimberley Echo* in May of this year.

Mr HASSELL replied:

I cannot tell the member how long the police are likely to take with their investigations into the matter.

Mr Davies: Three months to reply to a letter?

### POLICE

*Shaker Morton: Letter*

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

I should like to address another question to the Minister, following on the question I have just asked. Does he concede that an investigation into a published report ought to take less time than the period which has elapsed between 26 May and today?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I do not know the details of the matter to which the member is referring and I cannot give him the details off the top of my head.

Mr Pearce: I phoned it to your office this morning.

Mr HASSELL: I regret that I do not have the details sought by the member. If indeed he gave some notice of the question, I am still unable to provide the answer.

### POLICE

*Massage Parlours*

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

Some notice has been given of this question and it follows on from questions 182, 351, and a number of questions without notice. Can the Minister give the information I sought at this time yesterday?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The number of suspected illegal massage parlours under the notice of the police is seven. The number of people suspected to be involved in illegal massage parlour operations under the notice of the police fluctuates between 20 and 35.

### EDUCATION: PRE-SCHOOL

*Four-year-olds*

99. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

This question follows on from the Minister's answer to question 439 asked today.

In view of his refusal to answer the aspect of that question dealing with an undertaking given by his predecessor, in answer to a question asked in November 1978 concerning Government proposals to put before Cabinet results of the report regarding the education of children in the 0 to 4-year age group, and his failure to point out any progress which has followed from the answer given by his predecessor, does it mean the Government has now decided not to proceed to put the proposals to Cabinet; or that the Government has decided not to proceed with any present arrangements for children in the 0 to 4-year age group?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I ask the member to put the question on the notice paper.

Mr Wilson: What is the good of that?

## ROAD

### *East Street, Fremantle*

100. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Who made the decision to build a "bollard" on East Street, Fremantle at the intersection of that street, Ellen Street, and Holland Street?
- (2) Is it a fact that the "bollard" prevents—
  - (a) traffic travelling south in East Street turning right into Ellen Street;
  - (b) traffic travelling north in East Street turning right into Holland Street;
  - (c) traffic travelling east in Ellen Street either proceeding across East Street to Holland Street or turning right into East Street;
  - (d) traffic travelling west in Holland Street either proceeding across East Street to Ellen Street or turning right into East Street; and
  - (e) makes access to the John Curtin Senior High School exceedingly difficult?
- (3) On what basis was the decision made?
- (4) Will he order the removal of the "bollard" before the concrete dries?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) This was a Fremantle City Council proposal which the Main Roads Department accepted.
- (2) (a) to (d) Yes.  
(e) No.
- (3) Improvement to traffic safety generally, together with a proposal to install traffic control signals at the Swanbourne-East-High Streets intersection.
- (4) No.

## HOUSING

### *Broome*

101. Mr BRIDGE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Minister received representation for urgent housing assistance from a Mrs Doreen Howard of Broome?
- (2) Is he aware that she is living in a one bedroom flat with three dependant children, one of whom is handicapped?
- (3) If not, will he take urgent steps to check whether a representation has been recieved and whether his department can provide emergent assistance to this woman?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) to (3) I received a letter on 20 August 1980 from Mrs Howard seeking urgent housing assistance. Mrs Howard's application is receiving attention and I will advise the member of the outcome by letter.

## EDUCATION

### *Teachers: Number*

102. Mr SODEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many State Government school teachers are there in Western Australia in the following categories—
  - secondary,
  - primary,
  - other?
- (2) Of the above, how many teachers are members of the Teachers' Union?
- (3) Is membership of the Teachers' Union compulsory or voluntary?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The number of full-time equivalent teachers as at 30 June 1980 was—
 

secondary	5 039
primary, including pre-school, pre-primary and special	7 434
other	1 938
- (2) The department does not have this information.
- (3) Voluntary.

## HEALTH

### *Wittenoom: Asbestos Diseases*

103. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he yet had time to consider the submission from the Residents of Wittenoom Association, presented to him on 4 July last, asking for a public inquiry into the needs of asbestos sufferers and their dependants?
- (2) If so, what action is contemplated?
- (3) If not, when is a decision expected?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I understand that in asking this question the Leader of the Opposition is referring to the Asbestos Diseases Society and not the Residents of Wittenoom Association.

Mr Davies: I took that information from the top of their letterhead.

Mr YOUNG: I think the Leader of the Opposition will find that it is the Asbestos Diseases Society.

Mr Davies: Will you pass that information back to them then?

Mr YOUNG: The people who visited me on 2 July were from the Asbestos Diseases Society. Perhaps the wrong people came to my office.

- (2) The Government is still considering the submission.
- (3) We have no information.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

### *Belmont and Nedlands*

104. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

My question relates to the latest edition of the "Register of Justices of the Peace" which has arrived in Parliament today. Could the Premier explain—with his years of experience—how there

would be more than 100 justices of the peace in Nedlands and fewer than 50 in Belmont? Can he tell us why we are frequently told in respect of the determination of such people for my particular constituency that that constituency is adequately served with justices of the peace?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I cannot explain to the member why there is a different number in any one suburb as against another. I know that I do not have much success in getting my nominees appointed.

Mr Bryce: A 90 per cent total since you were elected.

Sir CHARLES COURT: No. There is a different reason altogether.

Mr Young: He has been there 30 years.

## NOONKANBAH STATION

### *Amax Exploration: Meeting with Police*

105. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

My question relates to the answer the Minister gave to question 412 of yesterday which referred to an allegation by Mr Peter Cross that there was a meeting between the Police special branch and Amax. That allegation was made on a recent "Nationwide" telecast. According to the Minister for Resources Development the matter was to be inquired into.

I asked if any inquiry had been held and the Minister said that no such meeting had taken place. I refer the Minister to a statement in this morning's newspaper which relates to the same subject. I ask the Minister: Will he have the matter investigated again to ascertain whether a meeting took place at a West Perth restaurant—at lunchtime—and at a restaurant which is not unknown to the Minister.

Mr HASSELL replied:

I did not see the television programme which was referred to originally and I have not read the newspaper article the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. It was my understanding that the original allegation related to an alleged meeting at Noonkanbah. The answer I gave yesterday was that no such meeting as was alleged ever took place. That was the answer given to me by the Commissioner of Police.

I suppose we can ask the commissioner again for answer. However we have already answered the question and have no reason to suspect it is incorrect.

## POLICE

### *Demonstration: Wagerup*

106. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

My question relates to question 418 which dealt with the costs of the convoy which went to Noonkanbah. The Minister said he was unable to answer one part of the question in which I compared the situation with Wagerup.

The Wagerup exercise was a single police operation without associated services being involved. Consequently there would have been no added expenses and the costing would have been readily calculable.

Could the Minister please tell me the total cost—irrespective of the number of people involved—and the names of the groups involved? Also could the Minister tell me why he cannot answer my question which related to the police only and not to other people?

Mr HASSELL replied:

I cannot tell the Leader of the Opposition the total cost involved because it has not been calculated. All claims, returns, and materials of that sort have not been received.

Mr DAVIES: The rest of the question was: Who were the other people involved, besides the police?

Mr HASSELL: I am not sure what the Leader of the Opposition was referring to. What was the Leader of the Opposition referring to in my answer?

Mr DAVIES: The various people involved—providing ancillary services.

Mr HASSELL: I cannot name them and if the Leader of the Opposition wishes these details I suggest he put the question on notice.

## NOONKANBAH STATION

### *Transport of Drilling Rig: Police Escort Cost*

107. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Will the Premier ensure that, between now and when Parliament meets again on Tuesday week, his Ministers are *au fait* with all aspects of the convoy which went to Noonkanbah so that they can answer the Opposition's questions in regard to numbers, cost, and involvement without further humbug?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I have no criticism of the performance of my Ministers.

Mr DAVIES: Will you advise them and try to help us a little? Do not be so frightened.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will answer what is proper.

Mr DAVIES: You will answer nothing; that is the trouble.

## EDUCATION

### *College of Advanced Education: Nedlands*

108. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the widespread student complaint at the Nedlands College of Advanced Education regarding the business education course?
- (2) If so, have any complaints been made to him, and what action has he taken?
- (3) If not, will the Minister launch an investigation into the complaints?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) I ask the honourable member to place the question on the notice paper.