

I must say that many people within the profession regard the auditor's report as a bit of a laugh. Some local authorities receive a good report year after year because the ledgers, the rate books, and books of account are nice and tidy, and all up to date. However, many shire clerks have no imagination whatsoever; they have no thought other than to meet the requirements of the Act. They turn out from nine to five, but in the advice they give to their councils, they do not contribute one iota of original thought.

I was rather intrigued when I first took up my appointment as executive officer for the old Nungarin Road Board. As I said, I came from the engineering field and I was astonished to find two senior officers come to my office to tick off the stamp book—I think stamps were 2½d. each at the time. As Mr Gayfer well knows, that was a wonderful council and it had a really excellent unqualified secretary before I arrived there. This council knew where it was going, and, in fact the contributory bitumen scheme was based on its experience. Its achievements were excellent. We had created a plant reserve fund which worked well and at that time we were able to pay cash for things; in fact, we had paid £10 000 for a new grader. I wish we could buy one for that price now!

When I saw this Inspector ticking off my 2½d. stamp book, I said to him, "Do you know we have a new grader?" He said, "Yes, I saw the account and the receipt." I said to him, "Did you see the grader? Was it all right? Are we doing the right things with it?" For all this person knew we could have been running the grader up a cliff all day; we could have been using it quite incorrectly.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: He is an academic, that is why.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: Did he look at the grader?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: He had not seen the grader. All he was interested in was a note in the minute book authorising the purchase, an account rendered, a cheque drawn, and a receipt received. So really the audit report can be a bit of a laugh and some very weak shire clerks are given excellent reports and sometimes good shire clerks are not given such excellent reports.

One or two other matters are mentioned here. One is the serving of notices, and I see sense in this provision. I see great value in borrowing from building societies for estate development and members will recall that in the Building Societies Bill which was before us a week or two ago accommodation was made in that legislation for just such an amending provision as is before us now. We might say that this particular provision is complementary to that in the Building Societies Bill.

In conclusion I would like to say that I agree with the general philosophy expressed by Mr Gayfer this afternoon. I

do not necessarily agree with the detail of his foreshadowed amendments, but the general philosophy is right. It may be recalled that when I have spoken on industrial agreements with iron ore and salt mining companies, I have expressed the same opinion; Ministers are able to approve of things that have a vital effect on local authorities, but the local authorities do not have the opportunity to comment on them. I have committed myself to the local authorities in the north to ensure that when any new agreement is before this Parliament—I say "new" because obviously the Hamersley Iron agreement will be before us in a few days but we will not be discussing this particular aspect on that Bill—a comparable provision to the one Mr Gayfer is seeking to include in this Bill will be included in future industrial agreements; I am referring to agreements with mining companies.

I am in complete sympathy with Mr Gayfer's philosophy. We cannot and should not take this responsibility from local authorities. At the same time, we must interpret the provision intelligently. We may have to delete the second part of one of Mr Gayfer's foreshadowed amendments, and perhaps we will have to throw out one of the other two, because we must give the Minister credit for having a modicum of common sense. I support the second reading of this Bill.

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [5.35 p.m.]: I have listened to the comments made by various members with considerable interest and keenness. I appreciate the points that have been made. I assure members that their comments will be examined very carefully. I do not propose to proceed with the Committee debate today in order to allow time for this examination. Most of the matters raised by members will be best dealt with during the Committee stage and I will then comment in detail on the various points after they have been examined. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 5.37 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 7th October, 1976

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Postponement

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson): I advise members that questions will be taken at a later stage of the sitting, probably after the Loan Estimates.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and read a first time.

2. Iron Ore (Mount Bruce) Agreement Act Amendment Bill.

3. Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Third Reading

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR BRYCE (Ascot) [2.20 p.m.]: My comments on the third reading will be brief but to the point, and are designed to remind the Minister and the Government that although the Opposition supports the third reading of the Bill it wants no-one to suffer under any misapprehension that we support all the provisions in the Bill which have been included to replace the present section 20. I do this for a specific reason.

On numerous occasions we have been reminded in the House that in 1965 when the Labor Party was in Opposition a Bill was brought to the Chamber to introduce adult suffrage for the first time in respect of the Legislative Council. Because members of the Labor Party supported the introduction of that very important principle, we have been accused of being guilty of supporting the implementation of the boundary concepts which were used following that amendment to the Act.

In order to make things perfectly clear I reiterate during the third reading debate that the Opposition was very happy to lend its support to the repeal of section 20. However, during the Committee stage we sought to amend the Bill in a number of ways. The Government has seen fit to retain the structure of the proposed panel in the form in which it was presented to Parliament which is contrary to the intent of our amendment.

We sought to improve the strength of the panel but the Government refused to accept our amendment. The Opposition sought to broaden the responsibility of the panel, but again the Government refused to accept the amendment. We moved to broaden the concept of special education, as spelt out in the Bill, but the Government turned its back on that proposal.

The two particular amendments which concerned us most were those requiring the Government to spell out that in those cases where the Minister directs the family of a child to send that child to a special school, no cost would be involved by the family concerned. We feel very strongly that that principle should be spelt out in the Act, but the Government refused to accept that amendment, and turned its back on the principle.

Another principle we tried to have inserted in the measure, by way of amendment, was to require the Government actually to spell out in legislative form and in the clearest possible language an undertaking that when the panel was assessing a youngster suffering from a physical or intellectual disability the wishes of the parents would be taken into consideration.

The Government has seen fit to reject those amendments and we want it to be clearly understood that whilst we support the repeal of existing section 20 of the Education Act we do not support the way in which the Government has drafted the proposition to take its place.

We have indicated where our priorities lie with regard to the principles which we believe should have been written into the Bill. The Government has rejected those principles.

We respect the principle contained in the Bill, but we do not respect the detail. We have very little regard or respect for the way in which the Government has acted. We support the third reading of the Bill and we are pleased to indicate that next year a Labor Government will embark on a very thorough review of the Education Act in more respects than those covered by the Bill now under discussion. To those people interested in the education of physically and mentally disabled children, we give an undertaking that we will bring this particular section back to Parliament and put it into the shape in which it should have finished up now.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [2.25 p.m.]: I endorse the remarks of the member for Ascot. On the last occasion we debated this amending legislation I lent my weight to the attitude of the member for Ascot, in the strongest possible terms, and on reflection I thought that perhaps I might be able to be a little more amenable to accepting the proposals put forward by the Government without being too critical. However, upon further reflection I am afraid I cannot find any reason to give credit to the Government for its actions in so arbitrarily throwing out the amendments proposed by the Opposition. Those amendments would have made it quite clear that the family of a child who was forced by the Government, or by ministerial direction, to move from one school to another, would not be subjected to any of the expenses involved.

When discussing the amendments we pointed out that the real essence of the repeal of section 20 of the Act was to remove that possibility. It seems quite logical that a provision should be inserted in the Act to provide some protection for the parents of a child who may be forced to go from a school, such as Koongamia, to a remedial school chosen by the Minister.

My attitude has hardened with regard to the Government's refusal to accept the principle. It seems that the Government has adopted a pigheaded attitude and rejected the principle merely because it did not think of the proposal. The Government believes it has an inherent right because of its majority. However, the Government may have the numbers but it does not have the support of those parents involved in this legislation. I make that quite clear. The parents should be able to dictate the terms under which their children will be moved from one school to another. It will be only because of the willingness of the parents, and in the best interests of their children that they will agree to what the Government proposes. That is their right, but the Government does not believe they should have that right.

It is the opinion of the Government, and the Minister, that the parents should face the expenses involved in having a child sent from his normal school to a remedial school.

I disagree with that point of view.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.27 p.m.]: May I say we have just listened to two extraordinarily hypocritical speeches.

Mr Davies: You have said that on 84 occasions.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GRAYDEN: We have just heard a speech from the member for Ascot, and a speech from the member for Swan. It would be patently obvious to members in this House that the two members who have spoken are playing to the gallery.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GRAYDEN: Those two members have been playing to the constituents of Western Australia.

Mr Taylor: How many votes are in the gallery at the present time?

Mr GRAYDEN: The position outlined by the member for Ascot, and supported by the member for Swan, is that there should be no responsibility in respect of meeting the costs of any action taken by the Minister. The member for Ascot has simply said that if there is a change of Government the Labor Party will do certain things. The member is promising anything under the sun in an attempt to

gain the votes of the people of Western Australia. That is typical of the irresponsibility of the Opposition.

The amendments moved by the member for Ascot during the Committee stage of the Bill were all badly drafted. We did accept one amendment even though it was extremely badly drafted, and it will have to be further amended. At the time, I suggested to the member that he should have the amendment presented in another place. He did not accept my advice but, as I have said, the amendment will have to be altered because it was extremely badly drafted—as were the other amendments which he moved in this place. I drew the attention of the member to that particular feature at the time.

I repeat: quite apart from the fact that the amendments were badly drafted, they were quite unnecessary because we can take it for granted that certain things will happen. They do not have to be spelt out in the Act. At the moment the Government is reviewing legislation in Western Australia with a view to making it more concise and explicit. Here we have a relatively simple piece of legislation.

Mr Skidmore: What, the Education Act? You must be joking.

Mr GRAYDEN: The member for Ascot and the member for Swan are trying to include all sorts of unnecessary things into the legislation for absolutely no purpose at all.

To indicate the extent of the hypocrisy of the member for Ascot on this issue, let me refer to a comment he made during the debate. He talked about the organisation Watchdog, and said—

The group of people known as "Watchdog" banded together because of their common interest in this particular section. Those people have suffered the anxiety of having to provide for the education of youngsters who were born blind, deaf, cerebrally palsied, or physically or intellectually disabled in other ways. Without pressure from that particular organisation the members of which were incensed by this part of the Act, I doubt very much whether this Bill would have been before Parliament today. Those people are to be congratulated for the pressure they have applied to members of Parliament representing all political parties.

That is what he said about the group known as Watchdog. He made this comment to emphasise that here is a group closely associated with the problem and extremely concerned about it. In the intervening time I have received a letter from Watchdog and in the light of the comments made during the course of the debate by the member for Ascot it is extraordinarily interesting to see the views of the organisation at this time. Let me just read a few paragraphs.

Mr Bryce: How about reading the whole letter?

Mr GRAYDEN: This is what the group says—

Mr Bryce: Surely we are entitled to hear the whole letter?

Mr GRAYDEN: The letter says—

Our Organisation is very pleased to be able to congratulate the Government on its move to remove Section 20 from the Education Act. The members of our organisation and many other parents of handicapped children have found this section discriminatory to say the least.

Mr Bryce: Exactly what I said.

Mr GRAYDEN: The letter then continued. The member for Ascot got up to tell us the views of this organisation and he said how closely it is connected with handicapped children. However, what does this organisation think? It has written to me along the lines of the letter I have just read out.

Mr Bryce: That is right.

Mr GRAYDEN: In those circumstances it is hypocritical in the extreme for the member for Ascot at this late third reading stage to indicate that if the Opposition were in government it would go much further. Let me tell him it is quite unnecessary to go any further at all.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR RIDGE (Kimberley—Minister for Lands) [2.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill now presented deals with several matters of importance to public health promotion in Western Australia.

Despite the fact that the Health Act was enacted in 1911, and has been amended on many occasions, it does not confer corporate status on the Minister as is the case with many other Statutes. This has not proved a hindrance until recent years.

The Government has implemented radical changes in public health policy. Units of the service now operate within communities throughout the State. This has required the setting up of regional and local bases from which public health teams operate. The Minister requires corporate status to empower him to acquire, hold, and lease premises for the purpose.

The Bill also proposes to reconstitute the Pesticides Advisory Committee. The committee as at present constituted, reflects the position prior to 1964 when

pharmacy practice and poisons control were administered under the one Act of Parliament.

There are two proposals which are aimed at improving the control of venereal diseases. This problem is the concern of Governments around the world.

Attitudes to sexual behaviour have changed in a significant section of society. The relatively easy and accessible birth-control methods now available, together with acceptance of promiscuous behaviour amongst some people, have created a potentially dangerous situation.

There is a belief mistakenly held by many that venereal infections can be rapidly cured without residual effects on health. This may be substantially true in the case of some infections, but it is certainly not true when people contract syphilis.

Whereas syphilis used to be relatively rare, it now looms as a substantial proportion of total infections.

The Bill proposes that laboratories which identify venereal infections should notify the Commissioner of Public Health. Notification would not disclose the name of the patient, but would include the name of the attending doctor.

The venereal diseases branch of the department would ensure that the most advanced medical advice on treatment was available to the doctor.

The second proposal is designed to improve the ability of the venereal diseases branch to identify sources of infection and to encourage infected persons to seek treatment.

The amendment would give legal protection to an infected person who disclosed the name of the person whom he or she believed to have been the infecting party, or to whom they may have passed on the infection. The protection would apply when the information was given in good faith and without malice.

A person so notified would be interviewed in strict confidence and advised to seek medical examination, and treatment if this proved to be necessary.

The final amendment proposed by the Bill identifies the active public health measures now promoted in the community.

These activities provide the dominant and expanding features of the public health organisation in our State.

The original Act made specific reference to drainage, waste disposal, nuisances, and other traditional fields of public health administration.

The amendment introduces reference to community health services and centres, and other preventive and curative programmes which are administered by the Public Health Department.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Davies.

TEACHER EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Members will recall that the Teacher Education Act removed the teachers colleges from the control of the Education Department and established the Western Australian Teacher Education Authority as a statutory body consisting of a council and five constituent colleges—Churchlands, Claremont, Graylands, Mt. Lawley and the Western Australian Secondary Teachers College. Each college has a college board concerned with internal governance of the college and is required to operate within the general policy established by the council.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the principal Act to make it quite clear that for the purposes of the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, awards and industrial agreements, the Council of the Western Australian Teacher Education Authority, and not the separate college boards, is the employer of the staff of the constituent colleges of the authority.

The proposed amendment presents no threat to the academic autonomy of the colleges but has as its sole objective the clarification of the respective roles of the council of the authority and the college boards with the intention of eliminating problems associated with each college board being an employer in its own right.

Mr Skidmore: Ministerial interference!

Mr GRAYDEN: That is the sort of insane interjection one would expect from the member for Swan. Colleges will continue to make day-to-day decisions on the selection, appointment, and deployment of staff.

According to section 51 of the principal Act, subject to any relevant award or industrial agreement under the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, the terms and conditions of appointment and employment of staff or employees of a college, including the salary payable, are such terms and conditions as the Minister, on the recommendation of the council, approves. However, the State Industrial Commission has stated, "that it appears to us from examination of the Act that it is the constituent colleges and not the authority which is the employer of the academic staff of the colleges".

Difficulties have been experienced as a result of this uncertainty regarding the role of college boards as employers and

their involvement in matters to do with conditions of service which under the Act are intended to be the concern of the Council of the Teacher Education Authority and the Minister.

The recent actions of a college board have highlighted the problems associated with some ambiguity in the present legislation and the Government is grateful to the members of the board concerned, who met and discussed the matter with the Minister, for drawing it to our attention so that the situation could be resolved. The Government is acting in the certain knowledge that it is the wish of the majority of college boards to act collectively on industrial matters within a framework of ministerial approval.

The Government has decided that the principal Act should be amended in the interests of the colleges to designate the council as the employer of college staff. In so doing the original intentions of the Teacher Education Act as outlined in the second reading speech upon the introduction of the Act in 1972 will be honoured.

At that time the then Minister referred to the activities of the council for and on behalf of the colleges and in particular to the council's involvement with the terms and conditions of appointment and employment of the staff of the authority and the colleges.

The Bill is simple in purpose and content and is commended to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bateman.

BILLS (4): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills—

1. Health Act Amendment Bill.
2. Teacher Education Act Amendment Bill.
3. Skeleton Weed (Eradication Fund) Act Amendment Bill.
4. Appropriation Bill (General Loan Fund).

BILLS (6): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Parliamentary Commissioner Act Amendment Bill.
2. Acts Amendment (Jurisdiction of Courts) Bill.
3. Medical Act Amendment Bill.
4. Hospitals Act Amendment Bill.
5. Racecourse Development Bill.
6. Child Welfare Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

ROYAL VISIT HOLIDAY BILL*Second Reading*

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

It has been customary on previous visits of Her Majesty the Queen to Western Australia to proclaim a public holiday in recognition of the significant occasion, and to give the public in the centres she will visit an opportunity to celebrate the presence of the Royal party.

Unfortunately when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Australia in 1974, she was unable to visit Western Australia because political events in England at the time caused a British general election to be necessary, and the Queen had to return home just prior to her scheduled visit to Western Australia.

The Queen has expressly asked for her itinerary in 1977 to include more time in Western Australia.

The visit in 1977 will also mark the celebration of her jubilee year as the reigning sovereign as she succeeded to the throne in 1952.

No doubt she will endeavour to spend a little time in each of the British Commonwealth countries during the 25th anniversary of her coronation.

The Royal party will arrive in Canberra on the 7th March, 1977, and will visit Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Western Australia in that order.

They will arrive in Western Australia on Saturday, the 26th March, and depart on Wednesday, the 30th March.

The purpose of passing a special Act to make the holiday possible is in accord with tradition and precedent and is done with the feeling and respect in which the Royal family continues to be held in this State.

The Bill makes provision for the holiday date to be proclaimed and for any variation or cancellation of the date in case a change in plans becomes necessary at a later stage.

The anticipated date for the holiday is Monday, the 28th March, 1977.

The major portion of the 10 standard public holidays given annually to workers fall in the first part of the year and an additional holiday so close to the Easter holidays will cause some difficulties for business.

However, employers generally have been alerted to the position and no doubt any reluctance to agree with the granting of another holiday will be overshadowed by the occasion for which it will be proclaimed.

The Bill will prevail over holidays granted under the Public and Bank Holidays Act, the Public Service Act or any award or industrial agreement to the extent of amending those provisions so as to include the Royal visit holiday additionally as a public, bank or Public Service holiday, as the case requires, without deduction of pay.

Clause 4 of the Bill also will make provision for payment to persons who are required to work on the special holiday.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Harman.

SKELETON WEED (ERADICATION FUND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [2.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I am introducing the Bill at this stage on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture.

The Skeleton Weed (Eradication Fund) Act, 1974, was assented to on the 10th December, 1974. The purpose of the Act is to provide funds for the eradication of skeleton weed and to pay compensation to the owners of grain, crop or seed which may be destroyed in the course of eradication.

Growers delivering 30 or more tonnes in aggregate of grain, and/or seed, are required to contribute \$30 to the fund. Contributions to date have been—

1973-74 crop year \$285 300

1974-75 crop year \$266 730

An estimated \$293 820 will be received from grain and/or seed delivered in the 1975-76 crop year. The Agriculture Protection Board has approved compensation payments of \$7 615 since the Act has been in operation, while an amount of \$444 551 has been spent on control operations.

A total of 56 outbreaks of skeleton weed have been recorded in Western Australia. Eighteen new outbreaks were found last year. Slightly lesser numbers were recorded in the previous two years.

All known outbreaks are relatively small and eradication is still a practical possibility. Skeleton weed has given every indication that it could establish in Western Australian grain and cereal growing areas and prove to be a major weed pest.

The Skeleton Weed (Eradication Fund) Act, 1974, is due to expire after deductions have been made for the 1975-76 crop year. The Agriculture Protection Board, supported by the Farmers' Union of Western Australia (Inc.) and the Pastoralists and Graziers' Association of Western Australia Inc. have recommended that the Act should continue for another three years, as eradication of skeleton weed is still a distinct possibility.

The Bill provides for deductions to be made in the same form as previously for the 1976-77, 1977-78, and 1978-79 crop years.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Davies.

INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.54 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The principal purpose of this Bill is to provide for secret postal ballots for elections to offices in unions of workers and employers registered under the Industrial Arbitration Act.

The object of these proposals is to give every member of a union a full and equal opportunity to influence policy within his union and to choose those officers who it is considered will properly represent the members' views on the committee of management.

It is an inherent right and one to which this Government subscribes, in accord with international principles, that members of unions shall elect their representatives in full freedom.

The postal ballot provisions contained in the Bill safeguard that freedom, more so as they will allow members to vote in the privacy of their own homes without the fear of intimidatory or coercive tactics and to return the ballot themselves, without cost, to a post office box provided for the purpose.

Mr Bertram: Will this be extended to shareholders of companies?

MR GRAYDEN: This will apply to employee and employer organisations.

Mr Bertram: So shareholders of companies will not have the same privilege.

Mr O'Neill: How long has the member for Mt. Hawthorn been here?

Mr Bertram: Quite a while. The Minister has not been in the House for a week or two. Where has he been? It sounds as though this legislation is discriminatory.

MR GRAYDEN: The regulations to be made will require the returning officer to collect the ballot and conduct the count in the presence of scrutineers appointed by each candidate. However, the objective mentioned is not a complete solution within itself.

Voting response at union elections in the past has revealed the fact that many members do not, for various reasons, participate in their union ballots. This lack of preparedness to exercise the privilege to vote can have far-reaching effects.

There comes a time when the average workers, the rank and file who form the broad base of the union movement, must decide to take a stand and interest themselves more in union activities and insist that their voices be heard.

This fresh approach could help develop more responsible attitudes, particularly to industrial problems, for it is vital in these difficult times to regain balance and stability to assure survival, economic well-being, and to maintain the democratic process.

The Government believes that economic recovery is under way. Not all indicators are moving ahead in unison but this is typical of the early stages of recovery.

A return to industrial peace and improved productivity would give added encouragement and the initiative to overcome inflation and its associated problem of unemployment, which has been a great threat to sustained economic development.

Mr Skidmore: This is the so-called great economic step forward!

MR GRAYDEN: The amending legislation does not necessarily overcome irregularities in elections.

Mr Bertram: You can say that again. We heard all that last night.

MR GRAYDEN: The Industrial Arbitration Act already makes provision for dealing with situations of that nature.

A dissatisfied member has always had the opportunity to make application to the Industrial Registrar for a court inquiry into an alleged irregularity and will continue to have that right.

The Commonwealth Government made amendments to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act this year and the full provisions concerning secret ballots for union offices came into effect in August, 1976.

In my role as Minister for Labour and Industry, I had already been in consultation with the Trades and Labor Council and other individual unions on the changes contemplated by the secret ballot provisions and stated my desire to introduce a similar system in Western Australia, at least on a trial basis, say for two years, which would be in close conformity with the Commonwealth proposals.

Concern and objections raised by unions were taken into account and the proposals, consistent with the attainment of Government policy, have been modified to a degree which generally should be more acceptable to unions, that can also stand to gain by savings in administrative work and expense in the operation.

Union criticism has included an assumption that legislation of this nature is eroding from them the affairs of running of the organisation.

They have also questioned whether ILO conventions which Australia has ratified concerning freedom of association and the right to organise would not be contravened.

It is an obligation in the convention to comply with the law of the land and the action contemplated by this amending Bill is believed to be in accord with the spirit of the conventions to ensure the fullest freedom.

The contemplation of this legislation has caused implications to be publicised, of mistrust in unions in properly conducting their affairs or failing to comply with long-standing secret ballot provisions of the Act.

That is inflammatory material in the sensitive field of industrial relations.

The acceptance of this Bill would help to obviate inferences of this type against unions when elections under its new provisions are in operation.

The proposals will therefore require all unions to have postal ballots for the important positions of executive officers and committees of management or any other offices declared by the Industrial Commissioner to be offices for which a postal ballot must be held.

The rules of a union shall not permit a person to be elected to office for a period exceeding four years without being re-elected.

Existing registered unions will be allowed a period of 12 months to bring their rules into conformity with these requirements, but when the new section 36NC in clause 8 is proclaimed, each union will be required to have every election for an office conducted by secret postal ballot subject to the exemption option which is referred to in a subsequent paragraph.

The amendments will provide for regulations to be made for the conduct of postal ballots.

A union will be required to bear the expense of an election, as it does now, unless it decides to request the Industrial Registrar to arrange the conduct of the election. A request can be made by or on behalf of the committee of management or by not less than 5 per cent of or 250 of the members, whichever is the lesser number. This is in line with the recent change in the Commonwealth arbitration law.

In granting a request the Industrial Registrar may conduct the election or make arrangements with the Chief Electoral Officer to do so. A further option is available to a union. Where its rules, at the date the amending Bill takes effect, provide for an election to be by secret ballot, other than a secret postal ballot, the Industrial Registrar may, upon application by the union, exempt it from the postal ballot provisions, if he is satisfied

that the conduct of the election is likely to result in a fuller participation by members than would result from a postal ballot and will afford members an adequate opportunity to vote without intimidation.

Difficulties are caused by reason of the separate industrial arbitration at the Commonwealth and State levels.

A judgment of the Commonwealth Industrial Court in 1969 in the case of Moore v Doyle highlighted problems associated with dual registration and incorporation of unions of workers and employers under Federal and State arbitration systems.

There are in this State many unions which do not seek Federal registration and maintain State registration. Where a Federal union exists—registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—the need to take part in State industrial machinery had led to the formation of State associated bodies.

In most cases these unions, which by reason of their registration under State Acts become separate legal entities, function as if they were also the State branch of a federally registered body.

The complexities of this dual system are further demonstrated in elections of officers. In practice it has been accepted that if an election is held for Federal positions of a State branch, the persons elected are regarded as being elected to equivalent positions in the State union without a further election being held under State law.

The rules of the Commonwealth and the State being in conformity in respect of secret ballots, when the amending Bill is passed, this long-standing practice may continue, particularly as it could mean a considerable waste of money if separate elections had to be conducted for candidates who invariably are the same.

The first nine clauses in the Bill deal with the balloting provisions.

The remaining clause 10 makes provision for the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette* to be printed at least once in each month. At present the gazette is printed at four-weekly intervals and without lessening to any degree the service to the public, it will be printed on a regular day each month. In effect, 12 issues over a year—instead of 13 issues—will occur in future. There will be some economic saving in doing so and it will provide for easier identification by having monthly volumes.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Harman.

HIRE-PURCHASE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

APPROPRIATION BILL (GENERAL LOAN FUND)

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [3.06 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to appropriate from the General Loan Fund, the sums required to finance certain capital expenditure, full details of which are given in the Loan Estimates which will be distributed at the end of my speech.

The General Loan Fund comprises the money from new borrowings approved by the Australian Loan Council for the year and grants from the Commonwealth for general capital purposes. It also receives repayments of sundry advances made from the fund in previous years.

The amount approved by the Loan Council for new borrowings by the State this year was \$84.2 million and we will receive \$42.1 million by way of general capital grants.

In addition to an unexpended balance of \$5.1 million in the fund at the 30th June, 1976, it is estimated that loan repayments will total \$8.8 million during the year.

To supplement these funds, the Government has decided to pay to the General Loan Fund an amount of \$6 million being earnings from the short-term investment of the Treasury's cash resources which were taken to the Consolidated Revenue Fund last year. I will comment further on this move when dealing with the State Energy Commission programme later in this speech.

Thus the total amount available from the General Loan Fund in 1976-77—including the special payment of \$6 million—will be \$146.3 million compared with actual expenditure from the fund last year of \$129.6 million.

Loan Council Programmes

At the June meeting of the Australian Loan Council, the council approved a total State Government borrowing programme of \$1356 million. This amount was the maximum the Commonwealth Government was prepared to support and it represents an increase of only 5 per cent over the approved programme for 1975-76.

The amount offered by the Commonwealth Government was part of a "monetary package", objectives of which were to control inflation, halt massive increases in Government spending and excessive growth of the public sector, and provide capacity for recovery of the private sector.

There can be little argument with the broad thrust of the Commonwealth Government's initiatives of May and August to get the economy moving again. Its policies of restraint in its own spending,

taxation reform, and incentives for investors are designed to arrest inflation and provide more jobs by stimulating the private sector which employs about 75 per cent of the Australian work force.

As I mentioned when speaking to the Revenue Estimates, there is only one economic cake to be shared between the Government and the private sector. The only way that the Government can increase its share of the cake is to take more from the private sector in taxation.

But the point has been reached where the taxpayers have had enough. They do not want to surrender more of their income to the Government to spend on their behalf. Justifiably, they have concluded that they can spend their incomes just as wisely as the Government and in a manner that more closely meets their own needs.

There is no doubt that the rate of growth of Government expenditure has to be reined in, but nevertheless it is important to distinguish between simply turning off the monetary tap and doing it with sensitivity and responsibility.

I pointed out to the Prime Minister at the Loan Council meeting that it was desirable to taper off the level of growth of Government spending rather than turn it off abruptly so that any slowing down in capital expenditure by Governments coincided with an upturn of investment in the private sector.

Mr Bertram: What did he say about that?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I also emphasised that money spent by the States on capital works and housing provides work for the private sector not only in the building industry but also in a wide range of supporting industries. Government capital expenditure therefore has a direct bearing on private sector employment.

I expressed the view that it is important to maintain this type of Government expenditure for the time being until the effects of the Federal Government's policies are more strongly felt in the economy.

In response to the strong representations of all Premiers, the Treasurer agreed to support an increase in the approved borrowing programme for the larger State and local government authorities above the initial offer. As a result, the total amount finally approved for this class of borrowings was \$960 million which represents an increase of \$150.3 million or 18.6 per cent over the 1975-76 programme.

However, the Treasurer was obdurate that he could not agree to an increase greater than 5 per cent in the State Government borrowing programme which of course falls far short of the amount required to maintain the same amount of actual work as last year.

Members will recall that last year the amount which could be raised by the so-called smaller authorities was raised from

\$500 000 a year to \$700 000. The council again raised this ceiling at the June meeting and those authorities are now entitled to raise \$800 000 a year without impacting on the borrowing programme for larger authorities.

This change will benefit a number of local authorities throughout the State as well as many of our smaller semi-governmental authorities.

The total capital resources available to Western Australia this year under the Loan Council general works and larger authorities programmes amount to \$171.7 million compared with \$158.6 million in 1975-76. This is an overall increase of only 8.3 per cent which of itself would not have permitted Western Australia to mount an adequate capital works programme this year and would have had a further depressing effect on employment throughout the State. I will return shortly to the steps we felt had to be taken to overcome this problem.

As I have already mentioned, our share of the total State Government Loan Council programme for 1976-77 is \$126.8 million.

Western Australia's allocation of the approved programme for larger authorities is \$45.4 million. Of this amount \$38.2 million is to be taken up by State authorities and details of that distribution are set out in an attachment to the Estimates. The balance has been allocated to local government authorities borrowing in excess of \$800 000 this year.

The Loan Council places no overall limit on the borrowings by "smaller" authorities; that is, those whose borrowings individually do not exceed \$800 000 in a year. A total of \$12 million will be raised by smaller semi-governmental authorities in this category during the year and details of this are also set out in an attachment to the Estimates.

While I am speaking about the Australian Loan Council I would like to take the opportunity to set the record straight on a very important matter for Western Australia. I refer to the proposal which I have placed before the Loan Council to allow for special borrowings by a State to meet the infrastructure costs associated with major developments. There has been a considerable amount of publicity on this topic recently and regrettably much of it is ill-informed and inaccurate.

The simple facts of the matter are that the world scene has changed since the 1960s and it is now far more difficult to get major resource developments off the ground if companies are to be required to provide the funds for water supplies, schools, hospitals, housing, etc., in addition to the capital requirements of the project itself.

It is true that a number of major projects involving investments of hundreds of millions of dollars were established in the

State during the 1960s with minimal infrastructure contributions from the Government. However, these were supported by firm contracts from buyers anxious to secure a long-term source of raw materials. In these circumstances, companies accepted the obligation to provide all infrastructure costs.

Today, however, large mineral deposits are also being opened up in other countries anxious to compete in the same markets as ourselves.

Greatly escalated labour and associated costs, higher fuel costs, greater difficulty in negotiating contracts, and dearer capital have all markedly affected profits. Many projects currently under examination are at best marginal in today's changed economic climate. In our negotiations with companies it has been made abundantly clear that if we insist upon the conditions that applied in the 1960s many projects simply will not proceed.

The iron ore, bauxite, and nickel projects were a great benefit to the nation and underpinned the tremendous growth of Western Australia through the 1960s and early 1970s. The benefits of these developments were enjoyed by every sector of the community. It is still important for Australia, and particularly Western Australia, that the huge mineral potential of this State be brought into production.

Under a Loan Council procedure so inflexible that the State has barely enough funds to meet even the normal capital needs of the community it is not possible for us to finance the sudden, huge demands which arise from major national developments.

These problems are not peculiar to Western Australia although in our case they have been accentuated by the enormous size of the development that has taken place relative to our population. Other States have experienced the same problems, particularly Queensland, and no doubt in a continent as large and geologically unexplored as Australia other States will do so to a greater degree in the future.

I am convinced therefore that a new dimension must be added to State borrowings under the Loan Council arrangements to meet these extraordinary demands on State Governments. It was because of this that I proposed an alteration to the "gentlemen's agreement" which governs borrowings by State authorities under Australian Loan Council procedures.

We have not sought a *carte blanche* for any State to operate outside the Loan Council. On the contrary we have proposed an amendment to the rules which will require the approval of the council for any borrowings which a State may find necessary for this purpose.

I believe it is important that I place on record precisely what I have put before the Loan Council for consideration.

Firstly, I am seeking an endorsement of the principle that the Loan Council will increase the borrowing programme for larger authorities of a State by special temporary additions to enable it to meet the infrastructure requirements of approved projects.

Secondly, I have proposed an amendment to clause XIII of the "gentlemen's agreement" which refers to overseas borrowing by semi-governmental authorities. The proposed new wording of the clause is as follows—

In the event of Loan Council giving approval for definite negotiations to be entered into for such a loan, the negotiations are to be conducted by the State Government on behalf of the authority concerned and the Chairman shall be kept informed of all details of the proposal under negotiation and be given the opportunity to comment and advise on any aspect of the proposal. No commitment shall be entered into by the State or its authorities without the prior approval of the Loan Council as to the terms of the loan and the underwriters or brokers through whom it is to be issued.

I have in mind that before a project is approved the council would need to be fully informed of the total investment involved and be satisfied with the viability of the project and that the magnitude of the public sector investment needed is beyond the capacity of the State to meet from its allocation for general purposes.

I believe these proposals would provide the States with the flexibility that will be necessary in negotiating with companies for the next phase of resource development in this country. At the same time, they fully preserve the authority and control of the Loan Council over the amount and terms of all public sector borrowing. Indeed, I am convinced they would enhance the Commonwealth Government's ability to regulate the flow of capital from overseas in the overall interests of economic management.

The proposals have been commented on favourably by many leading overseas bankers representing some of the world's strongest and most reputable financial institutions.

I was pleased with the reception my proposals received at the June meeting of the council. Naturally, I did not expect the matter to be resolved on that occasion because of the very heavy agenda at June meetings. The recommendations have been referred to a committee of State and Commonwealth Treasury officers which is to report back to a future meeting of the Loan Council.

I am hopeful that this new dimension will be added to public borrowing in Australia and, at this stage, have no reason to

believe that it will not receive full and favourable consideration by the Loan Council.

Mr Jamieson: There is no reason to believe it will, either.

Commonwealth Specific Payments of a Capital Nature

Sir CHARLES COURT: Payments from the Commonwealth for specific programmes of a capital nature are not subject to the approval of the Loan Council. As full details of these are published in the Commonwealth Budget document "Payments to or for the States and Local Government Authorities", I do not propose to deal with them individually.

Some of these advances are received by the State for direct transmission to other authorities such as the Main Roads Department, the various tertiary education institutions and independent schools, and for this reason they are not included in the Estimates.

Other payments form part of the funds available for the State's works and housing programme and are shown in the General Loan Fund Estimates of Expenditure under the appropriate headings. The total amount included in the Estimates from this source for 1976-77 is \$82.8 million.

Internal Funds

The internal funds of certain State instrumentalities, which are also an important source of finance for capital works, comprise provisions for depreciation, cash balances, profits, and other cash resources such as proceeds from the sale of land.

It is estimated that expenditure to be financed from these sources will total \$78.5 million in 1976-77. Details are given in the Estimates.

Other Funds

Loans raised by local authorities and repaid by the State also provide funds for town water supplies and sewerage schemes. In addition mining companies and property developers make contributions for the provision of Government services.

Funds from these sources are expected to total \$17.3 million during the year.

Works Programme

With the total funds available from the sources I have described, a total works programme of \$375 million is to be carried out in 1976-77 financed as follows—

	\$ million
Proceeds of Commonwealth loans	84.2
Commonwealth General Purpose Capital Grant	42.1
Receipts from loan repayments	8.8
Balance in General Loan Fund at 30th June, 1976	5.1

Borrowings by State Authorities	50.2
Commonwealth specific purpose payments	82.8
Internal funds of Government authorities	78.5
Amount transferred from short-term investment earnings	6.0
Other funds	17.3

Last year a programme of \$315.8 million was undertaken with finance from similar sources and so planned expenditure in 1976-77 is \$59.2 million or 18.7 per cent above the outlay in 1975-76.

The Government is concerned at the present level of unemployment and the key strategy of both the revenue and capital Budgets this year has been to direct as much expenditure as possible to areas that will stimulate employment.

Steps the Government has taken to support the capital works programme from the Consolidated Revenue Fund have contributed in large measure to the lift of nearly 19 per cent in the works programme this year, notwithstanding the relatively low increase in our Loan Council borrowing allocations.

I have already announced some of these steps including the transfer of \$2.5 million to the Metropolitan Water Board from the Consolidated Revenue Fund last year. This sum is available in 1976-77 as part of the internal funds held by the board.

Also, as I mentioned earlier, it is proposed to supplement capital funds by paying to the General Loan Fund \$6 million of earnings from the short-term investment of the Government's cash resources.

In addition, the changes which have been made in funding the Forests Department's activities, to which I referred in the revenue Budget speech, have resulted in an additional amount of \$669 000 being made available for other capital works this year.

Certain other items of a capital nature are provided for in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates including provision of \$500 000 for the Government Employees' Housing Authority for the replacement or upgrading of some of its older houses; \$150 000 for an administration building for the King's Park Board and \$100 000 for further improvements to the park; \$381 000 for the National Parks Authority, mainly for housing and equipment for additional rangers and for additions to Yan-chep Inn; \$458 000 for the Community Recreation Council, principally to accelerate the development of the Sorrento Recreation Complex; and \$217 000 for improvements to the South Perth Zoo.

The extent of the Government's efforts to provide additional funds for capital works and so generate employment in the private sector will be clearly apparent from the moves I have just outlined.

Expenditure from General Loan Fund

Of the total finance required for the planned works programme, an amount of \$146.3 million is to be supplied from the General Loan Fund for purposes listed in the Estimates.

Full details of the programme are set out in the Estimates together with the source of funds employed. The amount to be provided from the General Loan Fund and which is subject to appropriation in this Bill is clearly identified.

As in most cases specific works to be undertaken are set out in the Estimates, it is unnecessary for me to speak on all items of proposed expenditure but there are a number of features of particular interest which warrant some comment.

State Energy Commission

The greatly increased capital requirements of the State Energy Commission this year have created a problem for the Government. Moreover, the commission's capital requirements will increase dramatically over the next five years to cope with the construction of Muja generating units 5 and 6, each of 200 megawatts capacity, the associated high voltage transmission line from Collie to the metropolitan area and the conversion of 200 megawatt units at Kwinana from oil to coal burning.

The total cost of these three projects is in the order of \$209 million out of a total estimated capital funds requirement of \$554 million to 1981-82.

The high cost of fuel oil which has given rise to the need to convert the Kwinana units to coal burning and to press on with additional generating capacity at Muja has also had a serious effect on the commission's operating results. As a consequence, the commission's ability to provide a substantial part of its capital requirements from internal funds has been eroded and it is necessary for it to turn increasingly to external capital raising for its needs.

Unfortunately, Western Australia's Loan Council borrowing allocations are completely inadequate to meet special needs of this magnitude and an additional source of borrowing must be found if we are not to cut back to an unacceptable degree on all other capital works for the next five years.

Indeed, without some means of supplementing the State's Loan Council borrowing allocations over the next few years, the effect on our overall capital works programme could be disastrous.

Consequently I have submitted a strong and fully documented case to the Commonwealth Government requesting a substantial loan spread over six years specifically for the three major works I have mentioned.

There is precedent for Commonwealth assistance in this case in the great benefit gained by New South Wales and Victoria from the Commonwealth-financed Snowy River Scheme and assistance of nearly \$140 million provided to Queensland for the Gladstone power project.

I have had several discussions with the Prime Minister on this matter and am hopeful of an early reply. I am confident that some assistance will be forthcoming.

Total capital resources available to the commission this year, before taking into account the possible Commonwealth loan, amount to \$60.2 million of which \$29.9 million will be raised by borrowings under the semi-governmental programme and \$9.5 million is the proposed allocation from the General Loan Fund. The balance is to be financed from internal funds, principally depreciation provisions.

A Loan Fund allocation of the magnitude proposed was made possible only by the diversion of \$6 million in accumulated Treasury short-term investment earnings to the Loan Fund for this purpose.

This programme is still short of the commission's estimated total requirements in 1976-77 and it will be necessary to reconsider the position when the Commonwealth Government's attitude to our request is known.

Education

Education is one of the yardsticks by which the performance of government is measured.

The growing complexity of almost every aspect of modern life demands a matching growth in the number of people trained to undertake new responsibilities at every level.

Education must not only keep abreast of a changing and growing demand, but also try to stay ahead of it.

To achieve that goal, we have budgeted for expenditure of \$38.6 million on schools this financial year.

An example of the pressure on education planning is the growth in the need for high schools.

During the two years 1975-76 and 1976-77, six new high schools will have been opened.

Because of accelerating pressures on existing schools and extensive residential development in the Wanneroo area, three of those high schools will have been located in the Wanneroo Shire.

Mr Nanovich: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: The three to be opened at the beginning of 1977 will be in Wanneroo, Willetton, and Swanview, at a cost of \$4.7 million.

The school population pressure which required the location of three new high schools in the Wanneroo Shire has also made it necessary to open three new primary schools next year in the same

area, at West Balcatta, West Greenwood, and Craigie. Major additions are also being made to the Allenswood, Koondoola, Warwick, and Davallia schools.

Demands of another fast growing residential area are to be met by the new Willetton High School.

With an expected initial enrolment of 170 pupils, this will not only cater for Willetton and Bullcreek, but will also relieve pressure on nearby Rossmoyne Senior High School.

The new Swanview High School, to be opened during 1976-77 at a cost of \$1.6 million is the first new secondary school in the hills area since Kalamunda High School was opened in 1962.

It will open with over 300 pupils, 120 of whom are currently accommodated in Forrestfield High School. The new school will provide for the needs arising from the housing developments at Swanview and Wexcombe and will also relieve pressure on the Governor Stirling Senior High School in nearby Midland.

Mr Skidmore: Three cheers!

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have mentioned the three new primary schools planned for the Wanneroo Shire.

Apart from these, four others will be opened in February next year, at a total cost of \$1.6 million. They are at Withers in Bunbury, Forrestfield, Kardinya, and Huntingdale.

All new primary schools will have a pre-primary centre, that at Kardinya being unique in that the pre-primary centre was opened in 1976, before its companion primary school.

An amount of \$5.8 million will be spent on adding further stages to existing high schools and a total of over \$13 million is to be spent on additions and improvements to primary and secondary schools throughout the State.

In the increasingly important area of technical education, \$3.3 million is to be spent on new technical schools. The major part of the outlay this year will be on the new technical school at Geraldton but a start will also be made on the Carine technical school.

Major additions and improvements will also be made to a number of existing technical schools at a total cost of \$1.7 million.

Another region of education not generally thought about a great deal by the general public is that devoted to the education of the disadvantaged. An amount of \$673 000 has been provided for facilities for this purpose.

We already have a large commitment in this area of education.

Work has begun at Willetton on a school for children with various forms of physical handicap. This special school will cater for many of those children who live

south of the river, who now have to be transported each day to schools in the north of the city.

The Government has shown itself very keenly aware of the situations and demands inherent in educating our youngsters.

I am quite sure that the provisions of this Budget signal our determination to maintain our progressive outlook in this area.

Hospital and Health Services

One of the more important of our responsibilities as a Government is to provide for hospitals and a wide variety of health services.

In the current fiscal year we plan to spend \$38.6 million on new hospitals, on extensions to existing hospitals and on associated hospital facilities.

In adjusting individual hospital plans to minimise unnecessary duplication of resources, we have been guided by the report of hospital consultants engaged last year.

Time does not permit mention of all the work going on in this area but I do want to draw attention to a few very significant figures. They are a measure of our effort in this field and an indication of the massive programme there is ahead of us.

The following sums are to be spent on four major metropolitan hospitals this year—

	\$ million
Sir Charles Gairdner/Perth Medical Centre	9.9
King Edward Memorial Hospital	6.2
Royal Perth Hospital	2.0
Fremantle Hospital	3.5

This is a total of \$21.6 million this year on only four projects and only part of the \$142 million it is estimated will be spent on these four hospitals over the period to 1981-82.

If the latter figure is added to the \$554 million needed by the State Energy Commission in the same time span, and something over \$39 million a year for the school building programme, members will get some impression of the capital task facing the State in the next few years.

But the hospital figures I have referred to are by no means all of the programme this year. Full details of other work to be undertaken are shown in the Estimates.

However, I would like to mention the excellent work which has been done in Port Hedland in the wake of the cyclone last year.

Within 12 months of that disaster the replacement and rehabilitation of all buildings will have been completed and a new 36-bed ward, kitchen, dining room, and medical store added, at a cost of almost \$5 million.

This is a fine achievement and all concerned warrant our warm appreciation of a job well done.

In the field of public health, a total of \$2.2 million will be spent on new community health centres at Claremont, Geraldton, Karratha, Lake Varley, and South Hedland.

All of these projects will be begun or completed in 1976-77.

New dental clinics in primary schools will cost \$1.6 million, while \$702 000 will be spent on additions to the Schools of Dental Therapy at Mt. Henry and Warwick.

A further \$618 000 is to be expended on additions to the State X-ray Laboratory and State Health Laboratories.

An amount of \$2.5 million is to be spent on mental health facilities in 1976-77.

The largest single item in the programme is the regional workshop at Pyrron on which \$1 million is planned for expenditure this year.

Hostel construction and remodelling at a total cost of \$654 000 will be carried out at Innaloo, Inglewood, Kwinana, Ross Memorial, and Yokine.

Other major works to be completed include outpatient psychiatric clinics at Armadale and Swan.

Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage

The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board will undertake an expenditure programme totalling \$52.1 million in 1976-77. This is a slight increase on last year despite a reduction in Commonwealth advances under the national sewerage programme from \$12.1 million to \$8.9 million.

The first contracts have been let for the construction of the \$11 million Wungong dam project located south-east of Armadale and just over \$5 million has been allocated for work on the project this year. The dam, which is scheduled for completion by June, 1978, will reduce the strain on the facilities currently servicing the metropolitan area.

Mr Blaikie: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: To meet the urgent need for water this summer, priority has been given to the completion of the first stage of the Wanneroo groundwater scheme.

Mr Blaikie: Hear, hear!

Mr Jamieson: You must be the greatest sychophant we have had in this House.

Sir CHARLES COURT: When completed, the total scheme will provide an estimated 17 million cubic metres annually and will serve the expanding requirements of the north-west corridor.

Almost \$27 million will be outlayed on sewerage works, \$1.5 million more than actual expenditure last year despite a \$3.4 million cutback in Commonwealth funds under the national sewerage programme.

Provision of \$9.8 million has been made for work on the Beenyp and Westfield treatment plants. Capacity of these plants will be substantially increased to enable additional connections to be handled.

A programme of \$21.4 million is proposed for country water supplies, sewerage, irrigation and drainage to provide or upgrade services to towns, farmland, mine and holiday centres.

Mr Blaikie: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: Time, as usual, does not permit a full account of the work to be undertaken this year but some of the more important features of the programme are as follows—

On the Albany regional scheme begun last year, \$755 000 is to be devoted to extending the south coast bore-field, and to a start on the Albany-Mt. Barker main.

In the face of growing demand at Geraldton, we have allocated the sum of over \$1 million to bring in additional bores at Allanooka headworks, and a pumping station at Walkaway.

Similar mounting demand at Port Hedland and South Hedland has necessitated expenditure this year of \$637 000 on increasing the daily capacity of the Yule River scheme to 28 000 cubic metres.

\$570 000 will be spent to have the new Mullewa water supply in operation for the coming summer.

The sum of \$755 000 has been provided for water supply work at Mandurah, of which \$550 000 is to commence the main to the South Dandalup Dam.

Mr Shalders: Well done.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The mineral sands industry in the Eneabba area will benefit from expenditure of \$262 000 to develop a permanent water source at Mt. Peron.

This will immediately secure the existing reticulated area at Leeman and in time will cater for the Greenhead development as well.

A sum of \$900 000 has been provided for the Carnarvon and Gascoyne groundwater supply which will enable the work to be accelerated to supply water to the town and adjacent plantations.

Mr Laurance: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: A start will be made this year on the provision of new water supply schemes to Dunsborough-Quindalup and Rocky Gully and major improvements will be made to existing water supply schemes at Denmark, Denham, Jerramungup, Three Springs, and Halls Creek.

Mr Grewar: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: In association with this wide-ranging approach to ensuring adequate water supplies to country areas, the Government is also making steady progress on the provision of country sewerage schemes.

Works costing over \$5 million are planned this year of which \$1.8 million will be raised under the local authorities borrowing programme.

New sewerage works will begin at Mukinbudin, Manjimup, and Narembeen.

An allocation of \$1 million will finance development of reticulation sewers, sewer mains and pumping stations at Bunbury as part of the progressive installation of deep sewerage facilities in that area.

At Mandurah, a further \$600 000 will be spent on extending sewerage reticulation.

Mr Shalders: That is very good.

Ports and Marine Works

Sir CHARLES COURT: We are determined that facilities for the growing flood of exports from Western Australia will not be hindered for the lack of the most up-to-date facilities and equipment.

For that reason, the Government is allocating substantial resources to updating and improving harbour facilities and \$12.9 million is to be provided this financial year for the programmes of port authorities and for improvements and extensions to harbours, rivers and other marine work throughout the State.

Mr Sibson: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: The three major items of expenditure proposed by the Fremantle Port Authority are—

\$830 000 for a roll-on roll-off ramp at No. 12 berth, North Quay. This will complement a new shipping service to Western Australia using ships equipped with stern doors and requiring shore-based articulated ramps;

\$100 000 for the Portainer Crane lift on North Quay; and

\$700 000 for bulk cargo jetty extension at No. 2 berth in the outer harbour.

At Bunbury, an important outlet to many industries in the south of the State, we propose expenditure of \$2.3 million.

This will cover the final payments for the dredging of Bunbury Inner Harbour; the completion of services currently being installed in the harbour; and further work on No. 2 berth.

Mr Sibson: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: At Geraldton, the harbour deepening will be completed and work commenced on No. 5 berth.

At Albany, \$981 000 has been earmarked to begin a \$5 million programme of dredging the harbour to enable Albany to take deeper draught ships.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.03 p.m.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The co-ordinated programme progressively to improve facilities for our important fishing industry is to be continued this year with an outlay of \$756 000.

The principal item of expenditure will be the commencement of a new fishing boat harbour at Port Denison for Dongara fishermen.

The Carnarvon fishing boat harbour will be completed during the year and a new slipway built there. Facilities will also be upgraded at Fremantle and Geraldton.

To encourage the use of the river by commuters to the city from south of the river, we have allocated \$358 000 for construction work on jetties.

Reconstruction of Mends Street jetty and No. 1 and No. 2 Barrack Street jetties will be completed and a start made on No. 4 jetty at Barrack Street.

Fishermen, yachtsmen, and holiday makers generally will benefit from extensions to the existing ferry berth and upgrading of other marine facilities at Rott-nest.

A sum of \$668 000 has been provided for remedial and investigation work on coastal erosion at Ledge Point, Mandurah, Busselton, Cottesloe, and Quinns Rock.

Railways

The Railways Commission will undertake a programme of work involving expenditure of \$21.3 million in 1976-77.

The programme allows for the virtual completion of work on the rail link between Eneabba and Geraldton to cater for haulage of mineral sands.

Expenditure on rolling stock includes the completion of wagons to transport ilmenite from Eneabba, alumina from Pin-jarra, and woodchips from Dimond. Provision has also been made for the construction of wagons for transport of coal from Collie, and additional narrow gauge wheat wagons.

The delivery of the first of 11 main line diesel locomotives is expected in December, 1976, with the others scheduled for arrival over the following seven months.

Provision has also been made for upgrading the line between Brunswick and the Western No. 2 mine at Collie, and for rail facilities in Bunbury Inner Harbour area. It is proposed to commence a programme to upgrade the line between Millendon and Narngulu.

The \$9.5 million terminal and administration complex at East Perth will be officially opened in November this year. It has been built on the site of the old steam locomotive depot and greatly enhances that area of the city.

The building will accommodate the administrative and professional staff of West-rail and it will be the first time that the entire staff has been housed in a single building since the turn of the century.

The terminal will provide modern facilities for east-west rail passengers, travellers on the standard gauge passenger service to Kalgoorlie, and passengers on country road bus services. The main interstate and country booking office will also be located in the terminal.

Other Items

Time will not allow me to go into the detail of other votes and I will therefore limit my remaining comments to some items of particular interest.

A number of new land farmers are finding it difficult to obtain access to capital funds necessary to develop their properties. They are trapped in a vicious circle in which their properties cannot generate sufficient income to service further borrowings, and without access to additional capital they cannot increase their earnings. Ever increasing costs further compound their problems.

The Government has therefore allocated \$300 000 this year for loans of up to \$10 000 to be made available to new land farmers at the concessional rate of interest of 6½ per cent to finance crops or further farm development. Loans will be repayable over a period of up to five years and will be secured by a lien over crops.

Conditions of the loans will be that a farmer must be in working occupation of his property, is unable to obtain finance from normal sources, and with the inclusion of the loan in his liabilities will retain an equity in his farm.

The loans will be provided through the Rural and Industries Bank under delegated agency.

As previously announced, an amount of \$500 000 has been allocated in the Estimates to provide grants primarily to local authorities for the relief of drought-caused unemployment.

The purpose of the scheme is to retain in the area, farm workers and employees in country towns who have lost their jobs because of the drought.

The basis of the scheme is that the Government meets the wages bill for approved projects and the local authority provides the materials and equipment.

A sum of \$260 000 has already been allocated to local authorities in declared drought areas and a further \$44 000 to the country areas water supplies to enable construction of a water main from Dal-wallinu to Wubin.

A start is to be made this year on construction of the District Court complex in Irwin Street. The total cost of the building is in excess of \$19 million and an amount of \$633 000 has been provided in 1976-77 for planning and the commencement of on-site works. The project involves the acquisition and demolition of

Anzac House and demolition of the Children's Court on the site. The new building will provide accommodation for the RSL as part of the overall plan.

An allocation of \$50 000 has also been made for the planning and design of the new Children's Court in Aberdeen Street, expected to cost in excess of \$950 000 and scheduled for completion in 1979. The Children's Court will be temporarily located at the old East Perth school while the new court is constructed. An amount of \$100 000 has been allocated for the upgrading of the school premises for this purpose.

New courthouses are to be constructed at Kununurra and Pingelly and \$679 000 has been provided for this work in 1976-77. In addition, as part of an ongoing improvement programme, the courthouses at Derby and Midland will be air-conditioned, while \$100 000 has been provided for upgrading the old courthouse at Roebourne.

A sum of \$1 705 000 has been provided in the Estimates for police buildings. Of this amount, \$665 000 will be spent on the provision of new police buildings including court and lock-up facilities in country centres. Buildings will be completed at Eucalyptus, Jurien Bay, and Kalbarri and a start will be made on the Donnybrook and Cunderdin projects.

A further \$453 000 has been provided to complete the relocation of the horse stables and the found property and ballistic sections at Maylands.

A start is to be made on the replacement of police building and lock-up facilities at Fremantle and expenditure on planning and preliminary work in 1976-77 is estimated at \$150 000. The whole project is expected to cost about \$1 million.

Further progress will be made on the provision of facilities for the Road Traffic Authority and a sum of \$744 000 has been provided in the Estimates for this purpose. Regional centres at Boulder, Bunbury, and Midland will be completed and a start is to be made on a new centre at Karratha.

The programme provides for \$1 024 000 to be expended this year on conversion of the old CIB building in James Street for the Art Gallery administration and on construction of the new Art Gallery. This is the first effective step in the long-term plan for development of the Cultural Centre.

To provide access to the Art Gallery it is necessary to relocate Perth Technical College classes using the old Girdlestone school. It is therefore proposed to make an early start on the final stage of a new technical college on the Aberdeen Street site and \$263 000 has been provided in the allocation for school buildings to enable this work to proceed.

Negotiations are proceeding with the Perth City Council for the construction of a three level car park adjacent to the new gallery providing parking for 400 cars. The roof of the car park, which will be at the same level as the entrance to the gallery will form a plaza and forecourt to the Art Gallery linking it to other buildings in the Cultural Centre complex.

An amount of \$245 000 will be made available this year to upgrade the Department of Tourism's Melbourne travel centre. Melbourne has proven to be a highly lucrative tourism market for Western Australia and trade will receive a substantial boost with the sealing of the Eyre Highway.

Provision of \$400 000 has been made for improvements to prisons and related facilities operated by the Department of Corrections. Current estimates of the cost of the proposed Canning Vale maximum security prison as presently designed indicate a total cost of at least \$19 million to house 250 prisoners. While accepting the need for a new prison, the Government's existing capital commitments make it impractical for a further commitment of this magnitude to be incurred at this stage. We have therefore requested a full review of the project to find ways of reducing the cost and, if practicable, staging the work.

The proposed expenditure programme for the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust amounts to \$4.6 million this year, an increase of almost 95 per cent on the 1975-76 allocation. Included in this year's provision is an amount of \$3.8 million for the completion of 38 new buses and for the purchase of 22 chassis. The new buses will replace those in the current fleet that have been in service over 20 years.

Provision of \$100 000 has also been made for the equipping of some buses with two-way radios; \$167 000 for a bus depot at Gosnells; and \$222 000 for the construction of transfer stations at Kwinana and Inna-loo.

An amount of \$100 000 has been provided in the loan allocation of the Department of Agriculture to meet the cost of a new pavilion at the Claremont Showgrounds. The building has been designed to double as a lecture room and conference venue for meetings and seminars. This will ensure maximum utilisation of the pavilion by both the department and various industry and farming organisations throughout the year.

With the aim of reducing waiting time for homes and to enable emergency cases to be housed more quickly, the State Housing Commission has adopted a record \$60.5 million capital programme in 1976-77. This plan provides for the completion of—

1 055 new units,

upgrading 2 591 existing units, and

additional regional office accommodation at Port Hedland, Meekatharra, and at a suburban location to be determined.

In addition a record \$9 million will be spent on maintenance of existing rental homes.

The Government has decided to increase from 30 per cent to 35 per cent the proportion of Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement funds allocated to building societies. More than \$12 million will be distributed in this financial year to finance low-interest loans for qualified applicants.

The Industrial Lands Development Authority plans a capital programme of \$5.3 million this year; \$4.2 million will be financed from internal funds generated principally from the sale of land to the Swan Brewery Company last year and further sales are expected in the current year.

The major part of the expenditure for the year will be on development of the first phase of the Canning Vale industrial estate. It is presently estimated that it will cost about \$20 million to fully develop and service this estate.

Conclusion

That concludes my survey of the State capital works programme for 1976-77. With judicious management of the total resources available to the Government, I believe we have mounted a most satisfactory programme. Employment prospects in the building and construction industry should be improved and a balance has been achieved between the competing needs of various Government services.

I now turn to the main purpose of the Bill which is to appropriate from the General Loan Fund the sums required to carry out the capital works detailed in the Estimates.

This measure also makes provision for the grant of supply to complete requirements for the year.

Supply of \$50 million has already been granted under the Supply Act, 1976, and further supply of \$96 299 000 has been allowed for in the Bill now under consideration.

This total of \$146 299 000 is to be appropriated for the purposes and services expressed in a schedule to the Bill.

As well as authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the measure seeks ratification of amounts spent during 1975-76 in excess of the Estimates for that year. Details of these excesses are also given in a schedule to the Bill.

Those who are in any way students of Government finance will have observed as a result of Tuesday's general revenue

Budget and this loan funds Budget today that the Government has endeavoured to use its total financial resources to the very best purpose. Not only are these programmes well spread, but also we have endeavoured to maintain the thrust in the economic development of the State by using what must be an unprecedented amount of our revenue for the purpose of ensuring that our loan funds programme is an adequate one and will do the maximum, not only to maintain, but also to generate, employment in the community. For that purpose I believe members will find that the two Budgets, when considered together, give a picture of the exact strategy behind the Government's financial programme.

I commend the Bill to members and in so doing, I table the Estimates for 1976-77.

The Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending June, 1977, were tabled (see paper No. 467).

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamieson (Leader of the Opposition).

COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

QUESTIONS (36): ON NOTICE.

1. STATE FINANCE

\$8 Million in Suspense Account

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Referring to the suspense accounts set forth at page 3333 of *Government Gazette* No. 54 of 9th September, 1976, will he state the amounts apportioned to the various accounts appearing therein from the \$8 million wages or salaries paid to suspense during the year ended 30th June, 1976?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The amount in question formed part of departmental receipts in suspense which is a single account in the Treasury ledgers.

As for the subsequent apportionment of accrued salaries, the member for Mt. Hawthorn is referred to my reply to question No. 18 of the 23rd September and to the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1976-77, a copy of which he now has, and to page 11 of the printed Budget speech.

2.

RAILWAYS*Geraldton Marshalling Yards*

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Transport:

In view of the recommendation of the Geraldton region planning study that future marshalling yards for Geraldton be located south of the Wonthealla area; and in view of his answer to question 16 of 14th April indicating that the Government has accepted the report as a strategic plan—

- (1) Does Westrail concede that it no longer requires the land acquired from Mr G. K. Allen, at Wonthealla, for that purpose?
- (2) Does Westrail concede that Mr Allen did not wish to sell his land to Westrail?
- (3) Is Westrail aware that Mr Allen wishes to repurchase the property if it is no longer required for marshalling yards?
- (4) Is Westrail prepared to return the land to Mr Allen at cost?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4), when will this take place?
- (6) If "No" to (4), under what circumstances, and when, will Westrail allow Mr Allen to repurchase the land?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes.
 - (4) No.
 - (5) Not applicable.
 - (6) Provision of marshalling yards south of Wonthealla is an objective of long-term planning in the concept of the Geraldton Region Planning Study Report.
- Westrail has no plans for disposing of the land in question until the need for a new marshalling yard in the Geraldton area has been established. When the land is disposed of Mr Allen will be given first option to make an offer to purchase.

3.

CHILD WELFARE*Residential Care Institutions: Report*

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) When is it intended the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the role and finances of residential child care institutions will be tabled?
- (2) Will the report be printed so that it is available to interested members of the public?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Tuesday, the 12th October, 1976.
- (2) Yes.

4.

CHILD WELFARE*Residential Care Institutions: Grants*

Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What is the amount of the per capita grant in respect of children resident in institutions, as announced in the Budget?
- (2) What is the nature and scope of salary assistance to be paid to key staff in such institutions?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The amount provided in the Budget is sufficient to implement the committee of inquiry's recommendations for operating subsidies, including *per capita* payments and salary assistance for key personnel.

The committee's report contains recommendations on matters other than finance which are still being considered by the Government.

I hope to be in a position to announce the Government's decision and to release the report on the 12th October, 1976.

Until then, I would prefer not to release details of some of the recommendations, as I consider the report should be read as a whole.

5. *This question was postponed.*

6.

TOWN PLANNING*Non-Government Schools: Sites*

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Further to the answer to question 11 of 14th September directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Education—

- (1) Has the submission from the Western Australian parents and friends federation requesting that provision be made under the Town Planning and Development Act of sites for non-Government schools in developing areas, been referred to him?
- (2) Will he please state the attitude of the Government to this proposal?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Until I have received and considered the submission, I am not in a position to comment.

7. DENTAL CLINICS

Geraldton

Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

With regard to the four dental clinics that are proposed to be built in Geraldton—

- (1) Will they be mobile clinics (e.g., caravans, etc.) or will they be fixed buildings?
- (2) If fixed buildings—
 - (a) will he please indicate exactly where each will be built;
 - (b) when will the building commence?
- (3) When will the clinics be in operation?
- (4) How will the clinics be administered?
- (5) Will each clinic have its own fully qualified dentist or will local dental practitioners be involved, e.g., for supervision of dental therapists?
- (6) If local practitioners are involved will the Minister please detail the extent of their involvement?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Four fixed; one mobile.
- (2) (a) Rangeway Primary School, Bluff Point Primary School, Allendale Primary School, Geraldton Primary School;
- (b) expected building will commence in December, 1976-January, 1977.
- (3) May, 1977.
- (4) By the Public Health Department.
- (5) It is hoped local practitioners will be involved.
- (6) This aspect is not finalised.

8. TECHNICAL SCHOOL AT GERALDTON

Commencement and Courses

Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) When is it proposed that the new Geraldton Technical School will first come into operation?
- (2) Will the Minister please provide a general statement of the extent to which courses will be upgraded and extended with the introduction of the technical school?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Late May, 1977.

- (2) Courses will be provided in the following areas:

- (a) When stage A is completed—
 - Commercial courses,
 - Language courses (Foreign English and Remedial),
 - Hairdressing,
 - Catering,
 - Dressmaking,
 - Science.
- (b) When stage B is completed—
 - Workshops and other facilities will be provided for:
 - Automotive trades,
 - Electrical trades,
 - Plumbing and Sheet Metal trades,
 - Carpentry and Joinery trades,
 - Welding and Metal Construction trades,
 - Painting and Decorating,
 - Art.

9. RURAL AFFAIRS INQUIRY

Public Meetings

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Will he please provide a list of all centres in which public meetings of the rural affairs inquiry were held?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Public meetings of the rural affairs inquiry were held in the following centres—

Jerramungup,
 Hopetoun,
 Mt. Barker,
 Albany,
 Margaret River,
 Busselton,
 Harvey,
 Wyalkatchem,
 Kellerberrin,
 Bencubbin,
 Trayning,
 Meekatharra,
 Exmouth,
 Karratha,
 Port Hedland,
 Marble Bar,
 Broome,
 Fitzroy Crossing,
 Kununurra,
 Dongara,
 Geraldton,
 Dalwallinu,
 Calingiri,
 Wongan Hills,
 Dandarragan,
 Lake King,
 Esperance,

Ravensthorpe,
Augusta,
Dunsborough,
Capel,
Dowerin,
Quairading,
Mukinbudin,
Koorda,
Laverton,
Carnarvon,
Wittenoom.
Wickham.
South Hedland,
Newman,
Derby,
Halls Creek,
Wyndham,
Mullewa,
Three Springs,
Eneabba,
Gingin,
Moora,
Jurien.

10. **IRRIGATION**

Geraldton: Water Quotas

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) How many tomato growers in the Geraldton area have quotas for usage of water for irrigation purposes?
- (2) What annual quantity of water is involved with such quotas?
- (3) What is the procedure that has been followed in deciding the size of these quotas?
- (4) How often are these quotas subject to review?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 76.
- (2) 128 500 cubic metres.
- (3) Quotas were fixed in 1966 for those growers supplied directly from the town supply on the average of their previous five years' consumption plus 20%. Fourteen growers who carted from the Waggrakine tanks had an overall quota regulated by the Geraldton Tomato Growers' Association.

When domestic mains were laid in Waggrakine-Glenfield in 1971-72 these 14 growers were each allocated 910 kilolitres per year. This figure was limited to some extent by the capacity of the reticulation mains but was assessed on the basis of being at least equivalent to the maximum amount which they had been allocated previously under the quota system.

- (4) Annually.

11. **SPECIAL SCHOOL AT GERALDTON**

Funds

Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:
Will the Minister please advise the source of funds for the new special school in Geraldton?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:
The States Grants (Schools) Act 1973.

12. **PENSIONERS**

Drivers' Licences: Free Issue

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Treasurer:

Further to my question 16 of 18th August last would he please advise whether a decision has been made, or will be made in the matter of concessional motor vehicle registrations for invalid pensioners so as to relax the means test and so make the concessions more meaningful especially in the case of a married invalid pensioner?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

This matter is being examined but there are a number of complexities which have delayed the completion of the study.

However, I have asked that it be given priority and it is hoped a decision will be made shortly.

13. **SILVER AND LEAD DEPOSITS**

Kununurra Area

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will he confirm the alleged existence of silver and/or lead deposits within approximately 64 kilometres of Kununurra?
- (2) If such deposits are confirmed, is there potential for a commercial enterprise?
- (3) If exploitation of such deposits is possible, will the process be impeded by tidal levels which could flood mining operations?
- (4) Is there any truth in the assertion that French and local financial interests are involved in the exploitation of such deposits?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not yet established—evaluation is continuing.
- (3) Not on present knowledge.
- (4) French interests discovered the deposits and are carrying out exploration on mining tenements approved according to the provisions of the Mining Act.

14. DIAMONDS

Mitchell Plateau and Kimberley

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Have diamonds recently been found—
 - (a) in any quantity; and
 - (b) if so, of what quality, in the Mitchell Plateau area of the Kimberleys?
- (2) If not in this area, in what if any other area of the Kimberleys have diamonds been discovered in recent times?
- (3) Is any commercial exploitation of diamonds from the Kimberleys being contemplated, and if so, are there any overseas interests involved?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Not to the knowledge of the Mines Department.
- (2) Discovery of diamonds has been reported from the Cape Londonderry and Bedford Downs areas.
- (3) No.

15. POLICE AND ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Personnel: Number

Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Police:

What is the actual strength, including recruits in training of—

- (a) the police force;
- (b) the Road Traffic Authority?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) 1808 (including 46 recruits in training);
- (b) 508.

16. STATE FINANCE

Budget: Vote for Wage Increases

Mr JAMIESON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) With reference to his statement in the Budget speech that an amount of \$29.1 million has been allowed to cover increases in wages awarded during 1976-77, what overall percentage increase does this allocation assume?
- (2) In framing the Budget for 1976-1977 what annual inflation rate did he assume for Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) An overall increase of 15 per cent in the total payroll was assumed to cover carry-on costs of last

year's award variations, increments, and new increases to be granted during the current financial year. Provision for the full year effect of last year's award variations and increments is included in departments' estimates of salaries, and a separate provision of \$29.1 million was required to cover new increases.

- (2) 15 per cent on wage costs, in line with Commonwealth Treasury assumptions used in estimating personal income tax yields, and 13 per cent on contingency items.

17.

OIL

BP Storage Tank: Government Use

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Has the State Government by written agreement or otherwise an arrangement with British Petroleum for the sole use or occasional use of a fuel storage tank or tanks within that company's North Fremantle depot?
- (2) If "Yes" for what purpose?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) The SEC has had an agreement with British Petroleum since 1967 for use of land in that company's North Fremantle depot on which an SEC-owned tank is located. The tank was used to store light distillate for gas making. After natural gas was introduced the tank was not required, and the agreement was amended to allow British Petroleum to use the tank.

18

SCHOOL AT WATTLEUP

Projected Enrolments

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are projections of student enrolments in each grade during the first year of operation of the proposed new Wattleup Primary School?
- (2) Is it anticipated that there will be a net loss of students from the present South Coogee school when the new school is opened?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what is the projected loss in numbers of students to the new school?
- (4) Is it anticipated that when the new school is opened the South Coogee school could be—
 - (a) reclassified;
 - (b) likely to lose staff numbers?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) On the assumption that the school opened in 1978 the enrolment would be expected to be as follows:

Year—

1	53
2	50
3	47
4	35
5	30
6	38
7	24

Total 277

- (2) Yes.

- (3) On 1978 estimates the projected reduction would be 277 pupils.

- (4) (a) and (b) Yes.

19. GAS

East Perth Depot

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

With respect to the East Perth gas supply operation depot:

- (1) Are there fuel tanks on site?
- (2) If "Yes" what are the capacities of each?
- (3) (a) What types of fuel are presently contained within them; and
(b) approximately what quantities of each type of fuel?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There is one approximately 1½ million, one approximately ¾ million, and two approximately 45 000 litre capacity tanks.
- (3) Now that no gas is manufactured some of the tanks have a varying quantity and quality of fuel from time to time for SEC vehicle usage.

20. ARTS

Funds for Training: Commonwealth Policy

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Minister support the Federal policy of discontinuing funding for artistic training through Australia Council and Western Australian Arts Council?
- (2) Does the Minister intend supporting this training under the Education budget?

- (3) Is the Minister aware that there are only two organisations affected and that one is in this State?

- (4) Is the Minister aware that The Graduate College of Dance (WA) Inc. is the only tertiary college in Australia providing classical dance at advanced levels and currently is faced with possible closure because of this decision?

- (5) Can the Minister give an assurance that funds for 1977 will be made available from the sums allocated for education, an amount less than \$100 000?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes, training in the arts is essentially an educational matter.

- (2) Support for artistic training is already provided through the Education Department for special courses in drama, dance, and music in certain high schools. Substantial developments in theatre and performing arts, music and dance are taking place in tertiary education institutions in WA.

- (3) The Minister is aware that one private organisation in WA is affected by the change in Australia council policy. He is unaware of its effect on organisations in other States.

- (4) Courses at the Graduate College of Dance (WA) Inc. have not been recognised at tertiary level by the Australian Council on Awards in Advanced Education. The college has indicated to the Minister that its future funding is uncertain.

- (5) The Minister can give no assurance that funds for 1977 will be made available to the Graduate College of Dance (WA) Inc. from the sums allocated for education. The Minister will ask the new WA Post Secondary Education Commission to examine how artistic training including dance, can be improved and extended.

21.

STATE FINANCE

Reconciliation of Suspense Account

Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

Will he reconcile the suspense account total of \$47 764 027 as appears in the balance sheet shown at page 7 of the Auditor-General's Report with the figure previously published by him, namely \$47 678 797?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The suspense account at the 30th June, 1976 was made up of the following debit and credit balances—

Credit balances	47 764 027
Debit balances	85 230
Net credit balance	47 678 797

Details of these accounts appear in statement ID on page 13 of the Public Accounts for the financial year ended 30th June, 1976, attached to the Auditor-General's report.

22.

STATE FINANCE

Expenditure Commensurate with Growth

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Does he contend that he and his Government have held Government expenditure to a rate commensurate with the natural growth of revenue over the past three years, during which his Government has been in power?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The member for Mt. Hawthorn should appreciate that it takes time for an incoming Government to slow down excess expenditure trends established by its predecessors, as is exemplified by the budgetary problems faced by the present Federal Government. My Government has endeavoured within its present term of office to bring revenue and expenditure into balance and to contain the growth of expenditure to the revenue increase obtained from normal growth.

This is no easy task at any time given the demands placed upon Government; it is much more difficult during a period of high inflation of wage and other costs. The measure of our success is a matter of record, culminating in this year's Budget which provides for many worthwhile forward moves and tax concessions while still being in balance.

I can assure the member that we will continue our policy of responsible Government and sound financial management during the next three years.

23.

STATE FINANCE

Budget: Principles of Sound Management

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What are the principles of sound financial management to which he refers in this Budget Speech and which he says he has sought to establish?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I refer the member for Mt. Hawthorn to the explanation given in pages 1 to 4 of the printed Budget Speech, which I suggest he read carefully.

Also, this Budget, and its predecessors, spell out the sound financial management successfully practised by the present Government.

24.

STATE FINANCE

Budget: Socialistic Expenditure

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that his Budget includes a record level of spending in accordance with socialist policies?
- (2) Is it not a fact that he habitually urges the people to fight socialism?
- (3) Is it not a fact that his increased spending amounts to open defiance of the Prime Minister's directive to keep public spending down?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Inasmuch as expenditure every year is greater than in the previous year, the Budget does provide for a record level of spending, but in accordance with the responsible approach followed by the Government. The member for Mt. Hawthorn fails to understand the basic difference between our philosophy and that of the socialists who spend other people's money without the slightest regard for the individual's right to the rewards from his own labour or for the effect on the economy of their irresponsible attitude to expenditure of public funds.
- (2) Yes, for which I make no apology.
- (3) No. In fact, our efforts to keep our accounts in balance this year and to avoid spending beyond our resources would be applauded by the Prime Minister.

25.

COLLIE MINING UNIONS

Deputation to Minister

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Further to his reply to question 13 of 6th October, 1976, can he now advise—

- (a) any further development relevant to part (a) of that question; and
- (b) now any further decision relevant to part (b) of that question?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (a) and (b) Not as yet; an explanatory letter has been sent to the member.

26. **SETTLEMENT AGENTS
CONTROL BILL**

Resumption of Debate

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) When is it now expected that the Settlement Agents Control Bill will be debated next?
- (2) What is holding up this Bill?
- (3) How much notice does he intend giving the Opposition of his intention to resume the second reading debate?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) I am unable to state when the debate will resume on this Bill because the Government, in keeping with its undertaking to all concerned, is carefully evaluating representations received—especially as the Bill covers new legislative ground.
- (3) Adequate reasonable notice will be given.

27. **TECHNICAL SCHOOLS**

*Students: Cockburn and Murray
Electoralates*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students whose home address is given—
 - (a) within the Shire of Rockingham;
 - (b) within the Shire of Kwinana (i.e., Medina, Calista, Parmelia, Orelia or Naval Base);
 are enrolled either in day or evening classes in each of the undermentioned technical schools:
 - (i) Wembley;
 - (ii) Newcastle Street;
 - (iii) Perth (James Street);
 - (iv) Perth (St. George's Terrace);
 - (v) Leederville;
 - (vi) Carlisle?
- (2) How many students whose home address is given as within either the Mandurah or Pinjarra Shires, attend classes at the Fremantle Technical School?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Subject (not student) enrolments are as follows:

	Rockingham	Kwinana	Total
(i)	17	18	35
(ii)	99	111	210
(iii) + (iv)	23	24	47
(v)	17	19	36
(vi)	12	16	28
			<hr/> 356

- (2) There were 81 such subject (not student) enrolments in 1975.

28. **FORREST PLACE**

Future Use

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) With reference to question 9 of 6th October, 1976 regarding Forrest Place, is the tenor of the discussions that the land and buildings will be taken over by the State?
- (2) If not, what is proposed?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) In view of the stage of negotiations, it is inappropriate to conjecture about the final basis of arrangements between the Commonwealth Government, the Perth City Council and the State Government.

Suffice to say, the negotiations are proceeding in a sensible atmosphere of mutual understanding.

29. **SUGAR PRODUCTION**

Kununurra

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

- (1) How many acres of sugar cane will be grown at Kununurra in 1976?
- (2) In what ways will the \$363 000 which will be made available for sugar research through the recent Budget be expended?
- (3) What will happen to sugar cane grown at Kununurra in 1977?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) 8 hectares of experimental sugar.
- (2) The funds provided for sugar research will be expended as follows:—
 - (a) Expenses payable to the Government's sugar consultants (Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations) for the supervision of the experimental programme.
 - (b) Land preparation on the sugar cane pilot farm.
 - (c) The purchase of machinery and equipment and operating expenses for the sugar cane pilot farm.
 - (d) The purchase of machinery and equipment and operating expenses for the sugar research programme conducted on the Kununurra Experimental Farm.
 - (e) Salaries of the sugar cane farmer and research staff.
 - (f) Other expenditures relating to research and developmental work on the Kununurra Experimental Farm.

- (3) The 8 hectares of experimental sugar cane planted in 1976 on the Kununurra Experimental Farm will be harvested in 1977 and used for further plantings and possibly cattle feeding trials.

40 hectares of sugar cane will be planted on the pilot farm in 1977 and about 10 hectares grown on the Kununurra Experimental Farm.

30. APPLES

Tree-pull Scheme: Funds

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

What is the total amount of funds which will be made available for tree-pull in the apple industry in 1977?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied: Western Australia has a definite Commonwealth allocation of \$40 000 for 1976-77 and in addition will share the \$1 million made available to all States.

The State Budget allocation (\$40 000) is based on an estimated total approval for tree pull assistance of \$133 333 to be funded in the ratio of 3½ (Commonwealth) to 1½ (State).

31. *This question was postponed.*

32. NATIONAL HIGHWAY No. 1

Renumbering

Mr WATT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the road known as National Highway No. 1 running from Norseman to Esperance and from there roughly following the coastal route to Perth, via what has become known as "The Leeuwin Way" been renumbered?
- (2) If not, is there any proposal to relocate Highway No. 1?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is "Yes" what reason is given for the change, on whose recommendation, and what route does Highway No. 1 now follow?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (3) This section is not part of the National Highway system but is part of National Route 1. There has been no change.
- (2) No.

33. WATER SUPPLIES

Rates: Payment System

Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

Will the Government consider allowing water supply accounts to be paid in both the city and the

country in a similar way to the system applying to the State Energy Commission?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

In relation to country water accounts it is considered that adequate facilities for payment exist at the present time in the majority of country towns. It is also possible to pay accounts in the metropolitan area at the following centres:

Treasury Department, 32 St. George's Terrace, Perth;

Public Works Department, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth;

Metropolitan Water Board, Perth, Fremantle and Midland (Friday only).

In relation to metropolitan water accounts, the Metropolitan Water Board has collecting agencies at its head office; the Superannuation Building, Midland and Fremantle. It renders its accounts annually in the early months of each financial year and ratepayers have six months for payment before recovery action is taken.

In these circumstances, consideration is not being given to altering the current practice.

34. ENDOWMENT LAND

Development by Local Authorities

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Which towns in Western Australia have endowment lands which they can at the initiative of the local governing authority develop for sale?
- (2) Under what conditions and financial terms between the local governing authority and the Lands Department can such lands be released?
- (3) Is there any intention to vary the present arrangements between the Government and local governing authorities involved?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), in what way and to what degree are such changes proposed?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The City of Perth has fee simple endowment lands provided in part by the Crown which can be developed and sold pursuant to the provisions of the City of Perth Endowment Lands Act.

The City of Fremantle has fee simple endowment lands provided by the Crown which can be developed and sold with the approval

of the Governor and subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act. However, it is understood that any remaining endowment land is to be retained by the City of Fremantle.

The details of fee simple endowments lands granted to local governing authorities by private persons are not known to the Lands and Surveys Department. These lands would be dealt with pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act.

- (2) It is necessary for the approval of the Governor in Executive Council to be obtained for the transfer of endowment lands by the City of Fremantle.
- (3) and (4) No.

35. TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Rockingham Road-Barrington Street Site

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that an area of land on the south-east corner of Rockingham Road and Barrington Street is shown on regional plans as the site of a future technical school?
- (2) As a site at Coogee Beach has since been acquired for use as a future tertiary educational institution, and as it is apparently still intended to establish a technical school at Kwinana, would his department give consideration to relinquishing any claim to this area?
- (3) If "Yes" would his department be prepared to discuss with the Town of Cockburn the future of the land in question?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

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

36. DROUGHT

Grain Seeds: Availability

Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many farms are registered as having grain available suitable for seed for drought affected areas?
- (2) How many farmers are registered as requiring grain for seed?
- (3) What amount of the following would be required—
 - (a) wheat;
 - (b) barley;
 - (c) oats;
 - (d) white lupins?

- (4) What steps are being taken to certify areas for seed as being free of declared weeds?
- (5) Will action be taken to expedite approval of applications for sale of wheat and barley from farm to farm?
- (6) Will arrangements be made to see that grain for seed is available at a fair and reasonable price?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) to (6) The member's concern is noted and appreciated and the attached Press release has been issued to cover the situation.

DROUGHT COMMITTEE SEES FEW PROBLEMS OVER SEED GRAIN.

The State Drought Consultative Committee does not anticipate many problems with seed grain supplies for sowing in drought areas next season.

The chairman of the committee, Mr T. E. McDowell, said today that as a result of improvement in the crop situation following August and September rains in most districts, only relatively few farmers would be unable to harvest enough grain for their own seed supplies next season. Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. had advised that a recent survey by its field staff had indicated that farmers would deliver wheat at all but three receipt points.

Farmers who needed seed grain should have little difficulty in obtaining suitable supplies from neighbours or farmers in nearby districts.

The committee believed that there was now no need for it to become involved in arranging seed grain supplies. Farmers who needed grain, or those near drought districts who had suitable grain for sale could advertise in the rural press.

Because of the relatively good supplies now available prices should be reasonable.

Mr McDowell suggested that farmers who expected to have to buy seed grain should look now for potential supplies and if possible inspect the crops before they were harvested, to ensure that the grain would be satisfactory.

The Australian Wheat Board and The Grain Pool of WA had indicated that there would be no difficulty in arranging permits for farmer-to-farmer sale of grain for seed.

QUESTIONS (7): WITHOUT NOTICE 3.

STATE FINANCE

1. TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

RTA Officer: Wanneroo Road

Mr NANOVIICH, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Could the Minister advise how seriously injured was the officer of the Road Traffic Authority involved in the accident at the 10-mile peg, Wanneroo Road, at about noon today?
- (2) Has he any information as to what caused the accident?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

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

- (1) and (2) I have not had time properly to research the matter, but I believe the accident was caused by a dog running across the road and under the vehicle. The vehicle was extensively damaged, but the officer was not seriously injured.

2. PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

Bungaree and Safety Bay

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the Education Department's valuation of the Buildings and grounds of—
 - (a) Bungaree Pre-Primary Centre; and
 - (b) Safety Bay Pre-Primary Centre,
 and when were they established?
- (2) What is the area of land that is incorporated in—
 - (a) Bungaree Pre-Primary Centre; and
 - (b) Safety Bay Pre-Primary Centre?
- (3) What is the Education Department's current approximation of the value of the buildings and grounds of—
 - (a) Bungaree Pre-Primary Centre; and
 - (b) Safety Bay Pre-Primary Centre?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (3) The Education Department does not obtain valuations of buildings and grounds which it leases.
- (2) (a) 0.2759 hectares;
- (b) Part of an "A"-class reserve of 1.333 hectares.

Short-term Investments: Return

Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

Early in his second reading speech this afternoon on the Appropriation Bill (General Loan Fund), he referred to the sum of \$6 million. Have earnings from the short-term investment on Treasury cash reserves previously been withheld from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and paid to the General Loan Fund?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In answer to the member for Mt. Hawthorn, the treatment of earnings from the short-term money market, in which the Government does participate, has been varied from time to time by different Governments. If the honourable member wishes to know the different treatments for each year, I would be only too pleased to supply him with the varying treatments which for a variety of reasons have taken place from year to year and from time to time. I would be only too pleased to let him have the movements which have taken place.

4. PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

Bungaree and Safety Bay

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

My question follows upon the Minister's answer to my last question without notice; I apologise for lack of notice of this question, but perhaps the Minister could bear with me. In his reply to the first part of my question, the Minister stated that the Education Department does not obtain valuations of buildings and grounds which it leases. Can the Minister explain why the Minister for Education in the Legislative Council this afternoon gave \$31 900 as a valuation of the Bungaree Pre-Primary Centre and \$18 000 as a valuation of the Safety Bay Kindergarten?

The SPEAKER: Order! I should like to inform the member for Rockingham that the Minister for Labour and Industry is only representing the Minister for Education in this place, and I do not believe he is able to answer that question. Members should have regard for Ministers representing other portfolios. Does the Minister wish to reply?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I certainly cannot give an answer to the question now, but I will ascertain the answer as quickly as possible and advise the honourable member.

5. **SPEECHLEY, K. J.**
Authority for Parole

Mr Harman (for Mr T. H. JONES), to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

I am not sure whether this question should be addressed to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice, or the Minister representing the Attorney-General, or both.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think you should direct it to one of those Ministers.

Mr HARMAN: In view of Mr Colin Campbell's statement which appeared in *The West Australian* of this morning regarding the parole of Kevin John Speechley, will the Minister advise who authorised the parole?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

I represent both Ministers to whom the honourable member wished to direct his question. I have had absolutely no prior knowledge of the question. I suggest that if the honourable member puts his question on the notice paper, an answer will be provided.

6. **MEDIBANK**

Agreement with Commonwealth: Correspondence

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did I understand the Minister correctly when he requested the postponement of question 5 on today's notice paper?
- (2) If so, and in view of the fact a similar question was foreshadowed about a week ago, would the Minister be good enough to indicate the reason for the postponement?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes, the honourable member did understand me correctly.
- (2) I do not know, because I only represent the Minister for Health in this place, and he did not indicate to me why he wanted the question postponed.

7. **BUSES**

Perth-Albany Service: Replacement by Train

Mr T. J. BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

I apologise for giving no notice of my question, but perhaps the Minister may be able to supply me with an answer. In view of the fact that eight buses are to travel to Albany this weekend, has the Minister given consideration to providing the alternative of one train, which would provide all the transport necessary probably at a more economical rate, and in this way recommence the train service between Albany and Perth?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:
No.

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 21st September.

MR A. R. TONKIN (Morley) [4.45 p.m.]: The Opposition does not oppose the Bill. We applaud the fact that there is a possibility of preserving rare species of flora under the terms of the measure, but we make the comment that the greatest vandals and the greatest destroyers of flora are Government departments and instrumentalities, and local governing bodies.

Although we would not in any way condone the destruction of flora by individuals, nevertheless the scale at which this has been done by individuals pales into insignificance compared with the tremendous damage that has been done by Government departments and instrumentalities. So, we are concerned that the greatest damage being done to the flora of this State is by Governments, and it ill-behoves Governments to tut-tut about the damage being done when, in fact, they are causing the greatest amount.

This legislation seems to be logical. Of course, one cannot separate fauna from its habitat, and therefore the bringing together of the two forms of conservation is not opposed by members on this side of the House.

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife) [4.47 p.m.]: I thank the member for Morley for his support of the measure on behalf of the Opposition. So far as damage caused by instrumentalities of the Crown is concerned, we share his concern. That is why any omission that might be considered to lie in section 9 of the parent Act in not

binding the Crown is being rectified by the provisions in the Bill, so far as flora is concerned.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

As to Third Reading

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife) [4.50 p.m.]: I move—

That leave be granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr P. V. Jones (Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife), and transmitted to the Council.

LIQUOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Recommittal

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Works) [4.51 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be recommitted for the further consideration of clauses 9, 10, 13, and 40.

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [4.52 p.m.]: I propose to move an amendment to the motion. If members turn to page 9 of today's notice paper they will see an intimation of the Minister's intention to move for the recommittal of the Bill. At the bottom of the first column I also gave notice of my intention to have the Bill recommitted for the purpose of adding a new clause. All I am seeking to do is to have the Bill recommitted for the further consideration of the clauses mentioned by the Minister, and also for the addition of the new clause standing in my name.

I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion—

and for the purpose of adding the following proposed new clause—

New clause 38—To insert after clause 37 a new clause to stand as clause 38 as follows:—

Section 176A added. 38. The principal Act is amended by adding immediately after section 176 the following section—

Advertising to be accompanied by a warning. 176A. Every advertisement which is either in writing or is communicated by word of mouth or pictorially (whether by television or radio or any other

medium) and which advocates or encourages the purchase or consumption of liquor shall be followed immediately by a warning by the same medium in the following terms—"Medical authorities warn that drinking can be a danger to health".

I propose to give my reasons for my amendment, so that members might be prepared to accommodate me. It will be recalled that my amendment to add the new clause was previously before the Committee and had been discussed a little, although there was not much participation in the debate on it by members on the Government side, except for the Minister for Works; and he said only a few words.

No other Minister spoke to the amendment at all. I am intimating that unmistakably they must be perfectly happy with the extraordinary and adverse impact which alcohol is having upon the community at large. Not even the Minister for Transport mentioned one word about this new clause. The Minister for Labour and Industry whose concern is to reduce traffic accidents and absenteeism in the work force did not speak to it either. Perhaps we can deal with this aspect in the future in view of certain comments made yesterday. For instance, the member for Scarborough intimated to the House that he was interested in fairness, so he might like to participate in the debate on the amendment on this occasion.

Mr Young: Not likely.

MR BERTRAM: Apparently we cannot believe the remarks the member for Scarborough made yesterday. To return to the occasion when my amendment was before the Committee previously, after some debate on it the member for Mt. Marshall who took this matter seriously—and for this he should be given the greatest credit—and who was a lone voice on the Government side, sought to bring before the Committee an amendment stronger than the one I had foreshadowed.

To hasten the proceedings generally it was thought that instead of having the amendment of the member for Mt. Marshall and mine before the Committee at the same time—thus causing confusion—I should withdraw mine and allow the member for Mt. Marshall to proceed with his. This was a matter of co-ordination between members, and seemed to be the prudent course of action.

The SPEAKER: Were the two amendments identical?

MR BERTRAM: No. The amendment of the member for Mt. Marshall was stronger than mine; he was dissatisfied with mine, and he contended that mine did not go far enough. I think his amendment, if agreed

to, would have brought about a situation in respect of the consumption of alcohol in this State as currently obtains in respect of cigarette advertising across the length and breadth of Australia, brought about by the legislation passed recently in the Australian Parliament by the Liberal Government, and earlier foreshadowed by the previous Labor Government.

Since the amendment of the member for Mt. Marshall was stronger than mine, and since it was proper he should be given the opportunity to move his amendment rather than that I should persevere with my less rigorous proposal, I withdrew mine. Having done that it would be less than fair dealing—his amendment having been defeated—if I am forbidden to move my new clause. My new clause was not moved previously in the Committee stage.

The SPEAKER: Did the Committee give the member for Mt. Hawthorn permission to withdraw it?

Mr BERTRAM: Yes.

Mr O'Neil: You could have objected yourself if you wanted to discuss your proposal.

The SPEAKER: At this juncture I would like to point out that there is a distinction between a matter being withdrawn and a matter being discharged. Under Standing Orders one can be pursued again and the other cannot.

Mr BERTRAM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since my new clause has never been put to the Committee, and because it was withdrawn in order that I might contribute to the better management of the affairs of the Committee, it would seem to be harsh, unconscionable, and unheard of for the Committee now to be barred from the opportunity to debate my new clause and take a vote on it to carry it or defeat it as the case may be.

It is worth remembering at this time that since the matter was last debated—that is, the matter dealing with advertisements in respect of liquor—the Law Reform Commission of Australia has made a pronouncement on the matter, and I have busied myself seeking to obtain a copy of the relevant report from Canberra. Unfortunately to date, for reasons beyond my comprehension, it has not arrived. However, I am told that in the report Mr Justice Kirby and others recommended that there should be applied to liquor a total ban on advertising. If someone knows that is an inaccurate summary of that LRC report, I invite him to correct me at the appropriate time. However, that is my understanding of it. I have done my best to get the report here so that I can read it chapter and verse, but it has not arrived. I have also ascertained since that a member—I think he is a conservative, in Victoria called a Liberal—has also

introduced a Bill directed at some form of either absolute or partial ban on liquor advertising.

So it will be seen that the whole environment for this debate has been fortified—that would seem to be the appropriate expression—since it last ensued.

The Attorney-General was reported the other day as having said that it is a bad thing when Governments treat an LRC as one ordinarily treats a too-hard basket, by shovelling things off to the commission, not for the bona fide purpose of letting it function in the manner it should, but for the purpose of getting a difficult matter off a particular Government's plate. Surely when a subject is referred to the Australian LRC—and that is our commission as much as it is anyone else's; that is to say, the people of Western Australia are entitled to expect action on a report of that commission—this Parliament at the very least should concern itself with it and act upon it just as quickly as may be.

It is not a new concept, as I pointed out to the Committee and the House previously. There is nothing new about the banning of liquor advertisements. There is no reason Australia should have to trapse miles and miles behind the rest of the world. As I have said, Mr Justice Kirby, whose standing in this community ranks exceptionally high with the general public and the legal profession—and he would not have been appointed the Chairman of the LRC of Australia without very good reason—has brought in this recommendation which happens to be completely in line with, or ever stronger than, the proposal put forward by the member for Mt. Marshall and defeated.

So they are further developments and therefore it is very fortunate for this House and the people of Western Australia that my amendment was not discharged from the notice paper, but merely withdrawn, because the House now has a further opportunity to have a look at the matter. I should imagine that in any other ordinary legislative Chamber the opportunity would be seized with great relish because we do not want to be dragging around behind the field always and unnecessarily. By the expression "we" I mean the people in the Opposition; and I am quite sure the member for Mt. Marshall would think this is a wonderful opportunity to review the matter.

Whether one goes along with the proposition of banning the advertising of alcohol wholly or partially is to a large extent at this stage irrelevant. What is relevant—and it will be interesting to see how the Government faces up to this question—is that when a member does the right thing in the course of proceedings in this Parliament or a Committee of

the House to enable the better management of the Chamber to proceed by giving another member a fair and proper opportunity to be heard and to have a proposition put to the Chamber, surely it is elementary decency, courtesy, and justice—the works—that the member who co-operated in the first place should not be punished for having done so. I am asking members not to punish me for having given precedence in an appropriate situation to the member for Mt. Marshall's amendment so that he might put it in the way he did.

As I say, this is a matter which, in a sense, has nothing to do with the substance of the motion at all, but with the ordinary dealing in and proper conduct of this House. However, since I have not been stirred to dizzy heights about the justice of decisions in this place, and since the numbers do not reside on this side, I propose to mention a few other matters, going now further to the merits of the amendment.

I remind members of the existence of the Senate Select Committee which inquired into the matter of drug trafficking and drug abuse a year or so ago. Members will appreciate that that was an all-party Senate Select Committee of, in many cases, well-known members of Parliament with some reputation.

On page 3 of the report of that committee, issued in 1971, under the heading "Principal Conclusions" amongst other things one finds the statement—

Alcohol and tobacco are the most widely abused drugs . . .

If one goes to page 5, under the heading of "Treatment and Rehabilitation", one reads as a follow-up to that—

The sum of \$5 000 000 should be made available immediately for distribution to the States for the provision of facilities and staff for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependance, including alcoholism.

As I have already mentioned, it is accepted by world experts that alcohol is a drug. I make the observation that those who advertise it are drug pushers. There were those who rebelled against that piece of logic, but none of those thus far who rebelled has risen to his feet to justify his rebellion.

If liquor is a drug and if advertising is a process by which one sells or pushes more of it, quite obviously the people who do the advertising are, in that context, pushers of drugs and as I understand it, are not very popular in the community or with the Minister for Police who recently saw to it that there was a headline in *The West Australian* to the effect that more severe penalties would be imposed on drug pushers. I sympathise with his activities.

What I cannot understand for a moment is why he comes out in glaring headlines of that nature, but remains completely mute in this place on a comparable or, more correctly, an identical issue dealing with the pushing of liquor.

On page 9 of the same report the committee adopted the following definition of "drug"—

Any substance that, when taken into the living organism, may modify one or more of its functions.

The report states—

The Committee adopted this definition, recognising that in doing so it would be impossible to embrace the broad spectrum of substances coming within the definition. Therefore it was decided to concentrate on those drugs used and abused, or likely to be so, in Australia. After considering medical opinion the Committee accepted that alcohol and tobacco came within the adopted definition of a drug.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has two more minutes.

Mr BERTRAM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. So the world health authority has submitted a definition and the Senate committee adopted it.

As I have only a moment or two left to spare I will merely repeat once again for the benefit of those members who may have forgotten or may not have heard me previously that my new clause has nothing to do with the use of liquor or its advertising. It has to do with the abuse of liquor and the abuse of advertising, more particularly to the extent that the abuse is aimed at the younger brigade of people—the more susceptible, the ones likely to kick up their intake of liquor and buy greater quantities and varieties. That is what it is aimed at.

I repeat that this is not an issue to do with the merit of the amendment, but with whether you people will punish me for having done the right thing by the Committee and the member for Mt. Marshall by withdrawing—not discharging—my amendment in order that the member for Mt. Marshall might go ahead with his in circumstances which were obvious to all; that is, that his amendment should be taken before mine.

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Works) [5.15 p.m.]: I trust the Chamber will join with me in opposing the move by the member for Mt. Hawthorn. It may have been noticed that in his last remarks he referred to "you people". Persistently during the conduct of the debate on this measure it has been clearly indicated by the Government and accepted by the Opposition that this Bill is not a Government versus Opposition Bill.

Mr Speaker, you have had considerable experience in this Chamber and you would know that invariably matters relating to amendment of the liquor laws have not been dealt with on a Government-Opposition basis. There has been evidence of that fact in the debate on this Bill. On occasions the honourable member's colleagues on his side of the House have crossed and voted against him and on other occasions members on this side have supported him. If he does not regard that as a clear indication of the Government's oft-repeated statement that it does not regard this as a Government Bill but that the Government is simply a vehicle for amendment of the liquor law, he is much denser than I thought him to be.

The honourable member has the view that this is what should be done. He is pleading for the right to have his amendment, which he withdrew in the Committee stage, reconsidered in Committee. If a sufficient number of members in the House believe he is likely to be dealt with unfairly by rejection of his proposal, they can indicate that by the way they vote.

On the introduction of this amendment we have heard the same speech in respect of this matter for the fourth or fifth time. The first occasion was when the member for Mt. Hawthorn attempted to amend another clause of the Bill in Committee which gave regulation-making powers in respect of advertisements. On that occasion the principle was thoroughly canvassed in Committee and his amendment was defeated. He then moved a further amendment to add a new clause in the form he now proposes to ask the Committee to consider and, as he has explained, he withdrew that amendment and allowed the member for Mt. Marshall to move one which was phrased in much stronger terms. So again we had a further debate on the very principle the honourable member is now seeking to have the Committee discuss again.

I believe the honourable member should be congratulated on his persistence but he should also appreciate the fact that on a number of occasions the Committee has clearly indicated it is not prepared to support his proposition.

Mr Skidmore: As it is a conscience vote, how do you know what other members think?

Mr O'NEIL: I have already indicated that if a sufficient number of members of this House are prepared to support the member for Mt. Hawthorn and thus discuss the principle again, that is no skin off my nose; but, quite frankly, I am sick to the back teeth of the principle. In my personal view it has been debated *ad nauseam*, and for that reason I oppose the move by the member for Mt. Hawthorn.

Mr Sibson: So does everyone else.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—18

Mr Barnett	Mr Hartrey
Mr Bertram	Mr Jamieson
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr McPharlin
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Skidmore
Mr Carr	Mr Stephens
Mr Davies	Mr Taylor
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr A. R. Tonkin
Mr Fletcher	Mr J. T. Tonkin
Mr Harman	Mr Bateman

(Teller)

Noes—20

Mr Blaikie	Mr Ridge
Mr Crane	Mr Rushton
Dr Dadour	Mr Shalders
Mr Grayden	Mr Sibson
Mr Grewar	Mr Sodeman
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Thompson
Mr Laurance	Mr Tubby
Mr Mensáros	Mr Watt
Mr Nanovich	Mr Young
Mr O'Neill	Mr Clarke

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr Moller	Mrs Craig
Mr McIver	Mr Old
Mr T. H. Jones	Mr Coyne
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr Cowan
Mr Bryce	Mr O'Connor
Mr May	Sir Charles Court

Amendment thus negatived.

Question put and passed.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Thompson) in the Chair; Mr O'Neill (Minister for Works) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 9: Section 26 amended—

Mr O'NEIL: I move an amendment—

Page 7, lines 34 to 36—Delete paragraph (b).

I think the Committee is aware of the intention of the amendment to clause 9. I will explain in general terms the purpose of all the amendments; then I trust it will not be necessary for me to do anything else other than move the remaining amendments.

During the Committee stage of this Bill on a previous occasion the Committee agreed to delete all the provisions in clause 7. Clause 7 no longer remains a part of the Bill as a result of the Committee's previous decision. Other amendments moved by the member for Toodyay and one or two other members were accepted, but the deletion of clause 7 necessitated tidying up the Bill.

I assure members of the Committee that the sole purpose of the amendments which the Committee is now considering is to cater for the deletion of clause 7. There is no other purpose. These amendments were drafted by the Parliamentary Draftsman to cater for that contingency, and that contingency only. I therefore trust that if the Committee agrees to the amendment I have just moved it will not be necessary for me to give any further explanation.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 10: Section 29 amended—

Mr O'NEIL: I move an amendment—

Page 8—Delete the clause.

It seems to me that is a motion the Committee must reconsider on recommitment rather than vote against the clause, because members have previously supported it.

Clause put and negatived.

Clause 13: Section 35 amended—

Mr O'NEIL: I move an amendment—

Page 8, line 32—Delete the passage
“, (1aa)”.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr Skidmore: If you are going to be like that I will get up and protest.

Mr O'NEIL: I refer the honourable member who just interjected to page 9 of the notice paper. The passage deleted was simply a numerical prefix.

I move an amendment—

Page 9, lines 13 to 36—Delete paragraphs (d), (e) and (f).

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 40: Transitional provisions—

Mr O'NEIL: I move an amendment—

Page 21—Delete the clause.

Mr BERTRAM: This clause contains something like 12 lines. It is not easily comprehended. I do not know whether the member for Swan fully comprehends it. I would like to hear what his understanding of the clause is.

It may be that you, Sir, have studied the clause closely and can follow it. I thought the Chamber would have dealt with my amendment to the recommitment motion a little differently, and the debate on that would still be proceeding now. I have been taken by surprise, because the earlier decision staggered me. I can assure you, Sir, it is not a decision this place has heard the last of. I think the public would want to know how it is that on a nonparty Bill members divided on party lines.

Mr O'Neil: They didn't, of course.

Mr Taylor: Two of the three parties did.

Mr O'Neil: There was not a division on party lines.

Mr Taylor: That is just using words.

The CHAIRMAN: The member must confine his remarks to the matter before the Chair.

Mr BERTRAM: If I may digress for a split second, when making his last denial the Minister had difficulty in controlling his tongue to prevent it from poking from his right cheek.

Mr O'Neil: You can do that well; I can't.

Mr BERTRAM: This is a complicated clause on which the Committee should spend a little time. If it is deleted we may well do irreparable harm to the Bill, and after all these months we do not want to send to the other place legislation that is not desirable.

I would like the Minister to give a more detailed explanation of why it is necessary to remove this clause. The member for Swan may well have some reasons to advance regarding why the clause should not be deleted. He may advance reasons to show it would be better to amend rather than delete the clause.

Mr O'NEIL: I am sure no member is under any misapprehension regarding what is going on: a bit of stonewalling on the part of the member for Mt. Hawthorn. I cannot understand how the member, with his legal background, could talk about this complicated clause. He referred to its wording very slowly, and I found I knew more about it when I finished listening to him referring to it than I did before.

It is a long clause, but it is certainly not complicated. If we remove the various frills surrounding the operative words we see it refers to the day on which paragraph (c) of clause 7 of the Bill takes effect—that is, section 7 of this Act when it is proclaimed. In fact there is now no clause 7, so the reason for the removal of this clause is clear: it is superfluous.

The clause refers to the transitional provisions for hotels and licensed premises which are outside a zone proposed in clause 7. That is the reason for its removal, and the honourable member knows it very well. I am certain the member for Swan also knows that. Perhaps if I indicate that we may adjourn when we have dealt with this Bill the member for Swan might be persuaded not to respond to the appeal of his colleague.

Mr Skidmore: You didn't have to appeal!

Clause put and negatived.

Bill again reported, with further amendments.

House adjourned at 5.38 p.m.