

Legislative Council

Friday, 25 July 1986

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 10.00 a.m., and read prayers.

SUPPLY BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon. J. M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Minister for Budget Management) [10.05 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This measure seeks the grant of Supply to Her Majesty of \$1 900 million for the works and services of the year ending 30 June 1987, pending the passage of appropriation Bills during the Budget session of the next financial year.

The Bill seeks an issue of \$1 700 million from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$200 million from moneys to the credit of the General Loan and Capital Works Fund. The amounts sought are based on the estimated costs of maintaining services and works at existing levels, and no provision has been made for any new programmes, which must await the introduction of the 1986-87 Budget.

Honourable members would now be well aware that unlike the position that has previously applied, the Bill this year does not make provision to enable the Treasurer to make temporary advances from the Public Bank Account. Provision for these advances is covered under the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Bill which was introduced earlier during this session. That legislation supplements the Financial Administration and Audit Act which creates a Treasurer's Advance Account with the Treasurer operating on this account for the purposes and within the monetary limit specified in the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Act for the 1986-87 financial year. The Financial Administration and Audit Act also creates a General Loan and Capital Works Fund.

As members would be aware, parliamentary appropriations for capital works have traditionally been confined to the proceeds of loans raised by the Commonwealth on behalf of the State under the financial agreement with

the authority of a loan Act, the general purpose interest-free capital grant as approved by the Australian Loan Council, and loan repayments. However, with the establishment of the General Loan and Capital Works Fund, it is proposed to widen those appropriations to include finance from other various sources, such as grants and advances provided by the Commonwealth and other contributions of a capital nature. This consolidation substantially increases the amount available for parliamentary appropriation, thereby providing Parliament with greater control over the use of capital funds.

As with the Consolidated Revenue Fund, no payments can be made from moneys standing to the credit of the General Loan and Capital Works Fund except in accordance with the authority of the Governor. To implement the changed funding arrangements, Supply of \$200 million is required for estimated expenditure chargeable to the new account pending the passage of the appropriation Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

HON. JOHN WILLIAMS (Metropolitan) [10.08 a.m.]: This is a traditional Bill with something of a difference this time. It is for appropriations of money to allow the Government to carry on until such time as the budgetary measures are introduced in October.

I understand, and I am sure that you, Mr President, are aware of the fact, that one officer of this House has taken it upon himself to reduce that amount of expenditure by leaving our midst. I refer—and I must take this opportunity—to Les Hoft, the Clerk Assistant at the Table. For the whole 16 years I have been here, so has Les Hoft. We know that a couple of years ago he suffered a nasty bout of ill health, and we are pleased to see that he has recovered completely.

I want to say through you, Mr President, to Les Hoft, that during all that time he has been an absolute tower of strength and help to me personally as a member, not only in this Chamber where his advice has been sought and given, but also within associated clubs within this Parliament for the members. I can well remember his being one of the leading lights in the sports club, and also in its early days, in the cricket team. I am not sure whether we were very good at cricket, although Les Hoft was, but he always seemed to understand that refreshments were essential from time to time in the tortuous cricket matches we conducted with outside bodies.

I wish Les a happy and healthy retirement; he has earned it. I personally shall miss him very much in this place, and I hope the time will come when he will be reacquainted with his favourite watering hole in the city which is to be found within the confines and precincts of this building. My good wishes go with him.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. JOHN WILLIAMS: During the Address-in-Reply debate I raised with the Attorney General a matter which I thought might have saved money. I appreciate that the Attorney has been otherwise engaged on very important business. I hope he will remember the matter I raised about the drug centres to be opened at the Alcohol and Drug Authority and Princess Margaret Hospital, and the increase in staff at the Princess Margaret Hospital poisons information centre. With my little knowledge of the subject, that is one of the best centres in Australia, if not in the world. I ask the Attorney General to write to me between VIP flights and supply me with that information. He may be able to put pen to paper on one of those VIP flights or maybe dictate to a stewardess if he desires. I do not know what goes on on those VIP flights.

One matter that concerns me greatly are reports that one reads about teachers. By and large, teachers are a wonderful bunch of people. They perform a very arduous task and unless a person has actually stood in front of children and attempted to instruct them, he would not know anything about their job. I have no criticism of the majority of teachers in Western Australia. However, I do criticise one or two radical elements in the teaching profession, who, in my opinion—I will illustrate this by documentation in a moment—seem not to be able to keep bias out of their teaching.

I remember listening to my tutor who spoke about impartiality in the teaching profession and how not to present a biased view on a subject. He was a very eminent person and I was lucky to spend some time in his company. I am speaking about Sir David Lindsay Keir who was the master of Balliol College, Oxford. I never knew what his politics were, yet he wrote an authoritative text called *The Constitutional History of Modern England* which every parliamentarian in England considers to be the absolute bible of political life. One could not gain one hint of his politics throughout his book or his teachings. He was giving advice to an education board on a subject in the late 1950s and early 1960s in the United Kingdom on the question of replacing what was called scripture

in schools with religious knowledge. He emphasised the fact that basically 90 per cent or more of people in that country would be Christian-orientated. In turning to religious knowledge, teachers had to be re-educated because they had to teach such religions such as Buddhism, Shinotoism, and Islam, about which they knew nothing. The task of facing a class of nine or 10-year-olds and trying to be impartial and not to offend the parents of the children because of their beliefs proved to be very difficult. However, it was overcome with careful instruction.

The same thing occurs within the community of Western Australia from time to time. Bias sometimes creeps in. A person with very strong convictions about any philosophy could pass that on to the children. That type of thing was brought to my attention recently by someone who would be referred to in the Press as a "concerned parent". However, this concerned parent wrote to me. Mr Studham who lives in Mt Lawley put certain questions to me which I asked in this House on 17 June. The questions and answers were as follows—

- (1) Was the telemovie *Threads* shown to students at Perth Modern School in December 1985?
- (2) What is the classification of the movie?
- (3) What was the average age of the students who saw the movie?
- (4) Was the consent of the parents sought before the movie was screened?
- (5) Prior to the screening of the movie, was the permission of the copyright owners sought by—
 - (a) the school; and
 - (b) the department?
- (6) After the screening of the movie was the permission of the copyright owners sought by—
 - (a) the school; and
 - (b) the department?
- (7) Does the department have the permission of the copyright owners for future screenings of the telemovie *Threads* in Western Australian Schools?
- (8) Does the department understand the "AO" classification of a television show?

- (9) If it does, why did not the department act in December 1985 to ensure that there were no further screenings of "AO" films in its schools?
- (10) Will the department ban the use of all "R" and "AO" material in its schools?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes, a portion was shown to a group of very able science students at the conclusion of a series of lessons on nuclear energy.
- (2) AO.
- (3) About 14.5 years.
- (4) No. In view of the sequence of lessons, the school did not see it as necessary to gain permission to show the chosen extract.
- (5) (a) No;
(b) no.
- (6) (a) Yes;
(b) yes.
- (7) No.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) and (10) The Education Department continually advises schools on policy with regard to the treatment of controversial issues, copyright and the classification of films.

The next such notice will be in the July edition of the *Education Circular*.

In this case a concerned citizen took the bother to write to his member of Parliament. I then asked questions in this Parliament relating to those concerns and found out through the answers that there is a tendency for some teachers or perhaps even some schools to step out of bounds. I consider that case to be one of a teacher or a school stepping out of bounds.

The responsibility for educating children rests in the first place with the parents. Teachers, either educational or religious, certainly have an input also and help to form the lifestyle which one hopes a child will enjoy. However, I believe that parents have the first say about the type of education that they want for their children. That does not mean that parents should insist that a school curriculum include certain things. However, if parents have strong views on certain subjects—I guess every parent in this Chamber has pretty strong views on certain subjects—they should be able to present those views to the schools.

In its wisdom Parliament lays down certain rules and regulations in regard to the classification of films and television shows. In this case, a movie with an AO classification was shown to 14-year-old children.

It is a blatant disregard for the law. In addition to that the rights of the parents and even the rights of the children are being abrogated by a few people who feel it would perhaps be useful to the children as a support for their lessons on the curriculum for the term to have a backup of this type of film.

It is rather sad that AO applies to everybody over 18 years of age. It is not right for people to say it is not important because it is important. I came from a branch of the teaching profession which deals with children who are mentally disturbed and who have to be treated for certain disorders. Certainly, some of the disorders for which those children are treated can be attributed to parents' neglect and even to bullying by their peers.

It is all very well for people to feel that teachers are always right. Some teachers let their colleagues down by stepping over the bounds of propriety. I am not talking specifically about the particular subject that was shown—that does not worry me, but if members have seen that telemovie in full they would know that it is horrific.

Hon. Garry Kelly: So are the effects of nuclear war.

Hon. JOHN WILLIAMS: Who in heaven's name is denying that. Why bring that into it? I said that I was not specifically concerned about the subject matter as such, but I am concerned about someone disregarding the law and getting away with it. To be told not to worry about it and that an item pertaining to this matter will be included in the *July Education Circular* somewhat disturbs me.

Certainly I am well aware of Hon. Garry Kelly's objections about nuclear war. A man would have to be insane not to appreciate what a terrible thing a nuclear war would be—not that I will ever see one and neither will Hon. Garry Kelly.

Hon. Garry Kelly: That is good.

Hon. JOHN WILLIAMS: I have studied history and I know it will never happen.

Hon. Garry Kelly: We have to work at it.

Hon. JOHN WILLIAMS: People of great status have been working at it for a long time. Is it not remarkable that since 1945 the world

has never known such a long time without a war?

Hon. Garry Kelly: There have been a few around.

Hon. JOHN WILLIAMS: Yes, little guerilla actions here and there. I am not going to talk about war with Hon. Garry Kelly because I had enough to do with one before the member was born. I do not like war and I never have.

I appeal to people who have the education of children in their hands to do what teachers have done throughout the centuries; that is, to present the facts without bias. Perhaps the greatest example of this has been shown by a member who is sitting in this House right now and I am referring to Hon. Robert Hetherington. I have been told—and I have no reason to disbelieve it—that despite his political leanings Hon. Robert Hetherington never showed bias in any of his lectures when he was in academe. He is the type of teacher who is appreciated by the community. I have mentioned Hon. Robert Hetherington because he illustrates the point I am making. Unfortunately, some teachers become totally eclipsed by the policies in which they believe and, as a result, it spills over into their teaching. It degrades them as teachers because they are not teaching without bias.

Certainly, there are other forums to which 14-year-olds should not be exposed. Children of this stage are still of tender years and their characters are still being moulded, and they should not be exposed to the breaking of the law. That is what it is all about. One cannot get away from the fact that the law was broken.

I am sure that this matter will be well covered in the next *Education Circular*. With those remarks I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

HON. MARGARET McALEER (Upper West) [10.26 a.m.]: Members are aware that the Supply Bill is being brought down in very difficult times. All the attention that has been given to the Royal Wedding, the boycotting of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, and the wish of so many nations to boycott South Africa, has not been sufficient to take publicity about Australia's bad economic situation from the front pages of the Press.

I represent, with Hon. Tom McNeil, a province that is truly susceptible to these bad times because it is tremendously dependent on the primary industries. The motion about an economic policy which has remained on the Notice Paper throughout the session is concerned

mainly with the plight of the rural sector, particularly the farming sector, and is a reminder to members in this House of the difficulties with which we are faced in Western Australia.

No matter what one's aspirations are for improving the manufacturing industry or developing other industries, Western Australia is basically highly dependent on its primary industries. Although we have not had the opportunity to this moment to debate the economic policy motion, a great deal has been said during this session about the plight of farmers. I will not canvass that point any further on this occasion except to briefly bring to the attention of this House the situation in one of the more favoured parts of my province. The part of my province to which I refer is the local government area of Victoria Plains, which has as its centre the small town of Calingiri. The shire area includes four or five smaller towns.

I point out to the House that the area within the Shire of Victoria Plains is particularly favoured because by and large the soils are good and the climate is very suitable for wheat growing and sheep raising, and it is a drought-free area. Very recently the shire council conducted in its area a rural hardship survey which included six questions, and it received 41 responses which represent about 25 per cent of the farmers in that locality. I would say that they represent the average farmer in the shire. Not all the farmers who responded to the survey needed to make arrangements with banks for financial assistance, but I understand that those who did were successful. I am aware of two doubtful cases but it appears that they were successful in the end. The survey showed that the bulk of the farmers who responded to the survey were more dependent on wheat growing than stock raising.

More than half of the 41 farmers surveyed had at least 50 per cent of their arable land under crop and their income was largely derived from crops. As we all know, the price of wheat and other grains has been steadily decreasing throughout the year. These farmers also had very little debt; a sizeable proportion of them had no debt at all and very few of them had any considerable debt. The area is very productive and all the farmers were quite easily obtaining finance. Given those circumstances, the disturbing thing about the survey was that 12 of the 41 considered their properties were no longer viable, even though they had a comparatively high crop yield. Actually, 17 of the 41 farmers surveyed said that they thought they were viable, but five of them were so doubtful

that one could not consider his response a definite "Yes".

It is not only farmers in the area who have problems. One of the most important industries in the area is the crayfishing industry. Those who know about the crayfishing industry would be aware that we have been through a very light season. The catch in the coming season is likely to be even lighter than this year. Crayfishing has an advantage over farming: It is possible to predict four years in advance just what a season will be like, whether good or bad. The advantage lies in the fact that one can shore up against a possible bad season. However, even with such a long lead time people are not always able to take advantage of this foreknowledge and, as with all things involving humans, there must always be some element of doubt.

The crayfishing industry has many well established fishermen in it as well as a certain number of new fishermen who come in every year. Some new fishermen come from outside the industry; some inherit their interest in the industry from their fathers. In any case, the fishermen need to make a large capital outlay in order to buy boats. Even the established fishermen need to buy new boats. Thus, there is a very heavy capital outlay for anybody in that industry. Hence it can be seen that quite apart from anything else, crayfishermen would suffer greatly from a bad season. A bad season, coming on top of the very high interest rates which have prevailed, would have disastrous effects on the industry.

The crayfishing industry is a slowly vanishing industry. No matter what measures are taken, it appears that the number of crayfish gradually diminishes. This State has a very good record of managing the industry and trying to preserve the resources for as long as possible. Every couple of years sees the necessity to try to reduce the fishermen's effort in order to conserve that resource, with the rather despairing prospect in view that some years hence the industry will, despite all the measures taken, diminish to the point of becoming a very minor industry.

It is very difficult to arrive at any conservation measures which meet with the agreement of all people in the industry. No matter how much agreement there is that the resource should be conserved, conservation measures diminish the income or the return on capital of the fishermen. When it comes to the pinch, few in the industry feel able to accept measures which will seriously diminish their income. For

months now the industry has been in turmoil, canvassing the various measures which might be taken. Many harsh words have been spoken against not only the Fisheries Department or the Minister, but also proposals put forward by different associations up and down the coast. From time to time there has been a great deal of ill feeling. Nevertheless, these problems have had the result of bringing fishermen closer together. The associations have discussed matters together and tried to come up with some common proposals.

The Minister and the Fisheries Department have done their very best to canvass individual opinion throughout the industry. If any fisherman felt he was not being represented fully by the rock lobster industry advisory council, he has had the opportunity to make known his point of view. Whatever the solutions proposed and whatever solutions are eventually accepted there will be a great deal of anguish. Recently I received from the women of Cervantes a letter which outlines the problem as they see it. Although it looks at the very worst outcome of the industry discussions and the conservation measures which will eventually be implemented, it is important that we be aware of the stresses and strains that are suffered by people in these very small coastal towns living lives which for some months of the year are ones of considerable hardship. I will read to the House the letter and the petition which I received from the women of Cervantes. It reads—

Dear Madam,

Please find enclosed a letter that expresses the feelings of the ladies of Cervantes regarding the closing of the crayfishing season by 2 months and the reduction of 10%-15% of the pot entitlement.

We are very concerned that these unjustified measures are going to greatly effect the survival of the fishermen, their families and in turn our town.

Before these measures or any others are implemented please consider what will happen to all the coastal towns from Kalbarri to Esperance.

This is a following document to the letter you will have received from the Ratepayers and Progress Association of Cervantes.

That document is headed, "A Woman's View". It reads—

These points no doubt have already been thought and said before.

If the proposals prepared by the Rock Lobster Advisory Committee are adopted there could be many repercussions affecting families involved in the cray industry, living in coastal towns.

Is this proposed season adjustment for the year 1986/87 only or a permanent closure? Why does the A & C zones lose more fishing days than other areas?

- A Zone..... 64 days
- B Zone..... 42 days
- C Zone..... 61 days
- D Zone..... 23 days

There is no other industry or profession in the world that is restricted, by law to work only 5½ months of the year.

If this results, men will need to seek employment elsewhere to provide adequately for their families. Some men who know nothing but fishing will find other employment hard to find during these times of high unemployment. Many will be forced to live on unemployment benefits during this extended *off season*, another drain on government resources.

Perhaps some of the more fortunate fishermen will be able to diversify into other business taking them and their families from the coastal towns. Crayfishing could well become a secondary job.

But why should a fisherman have to diversify when he has invested between \$150 000 and \$750 000 in this industry.

Primary schools will be affected and staff numbers will be reduced as will all businesses in coastal towns. The Primary schools will be affected because of forced transient lifestyle causing greater fluctuations in school numbers. Staff numbers will be without a doubt affected.

Business houses will feel the effect of reduced cash flow and decline in population of towns.

The enforcement of pot reduction in 1987/88 by either strategy 1 or 2 will without a doubt cause hardship to many fishermen.

Fishermen who have purchased licenses in recent years would not have anticipated these many proposed restrictions and the

many others already imposed each year over the past years.

ie a. Reduction of season 30th June-15th August.

b. Banning of traps.

c. Reduction of pot size.

d. extra escape gaps.

Many could be forced into bankruptcy.

At current market value fishermen would be losing between \$20 000 and \$80 000 of capital outlay. Should there not be compensation for this loss?

If vigneron, potato and apple growers have been compensated in the past from Government revenue—Why not Fishermen? We are all primary producers.

Will pot reduction cause crayfishermen to become a less viable industry—less percentage return for capital outlay.

Will the industry be taken over by the large corporations similar to the prawning industry?

The only conservation measures that have been effective is the gauge size for minimum size crays and the gauging of crays as each pot is pulled. Many others have not worked, or have not been given enough time to show any effectiveness before another restriction is forced on to the fishermen.

And what of seasonal conditions ie: tides, winds, storms and El Niño Currents?

These determine where and if perilous resettlement occurs along the coast.

The loss of wages to skippers and crew alike has already caused a great deal of concern and stress this season, but what of the years to come?

Conservation is necessary for prosperity and posterity, however in the meantime we need to survive in the 80's.

That letter was signed by 59 women from Cervantes.

A great deal of responsibility in trying to find the way back from our economic difficulties at this time rests not only on the Federal Government but also on the State Government. It is necessary not only to take measures for today but also to remember that we must preserve these industries in order that they may continue. It is not a question of having a shake-out so that a few people on the margin of the indus-

try will have to leave it; it is a question of preserving the very core of the industry.

I hope and I am sure that the Government will be doing its best to take these matters into account. It is a very serious responsibility for the Government and for all members of Parliament to spend time and thought on trying to produce suitable solutions.

I also express my regret that Mr Les Hoyt will be leaving the Parliament. I have received the greatest kindness and help from Mr Hoyt for many years, as I am sure every other member has. He has always been a very cheerful and happy person to deal with. We shall all miss him a great deal.

Members: Hear, hear!

HON. GARRY KELLY (South Metropolitan) [10.43 a.m.]: Some of the things we do in this place are to a large extent fairly irrelevant when compared to the greater questions facing the future of the world. I refer to the question of nuclear disarmament and the need for an effective disarmament policy.

I digress from my comments to remark upon points raised by Hon. John Williams in his speech about the movie *Threads*, parts of which were shown to some Year 9 and 10 students at a high school. His argument was that the film was classified "AO" and, therefore, the teacher in the school was breaking the law by showing excerpts from the film. That may be the case technically but from Mr Williams' comments I got the impression that these excerpts were shown in the context of a debate on nuclear energy and they indicated the effect that nuclear weapons would have on the world.

With regard to the classification of the telemovie, the person who gave it the classification must have had rocks in his head; it is an outrageous classification bearing in mind the subject matter. It dealt with the future of the world and what would happen in the event of a nuclear war. If any group has a stake in the future of this planet it is young people and to say that those young people may be traumatised or horrified by a film showing the effects of a nuclear war, seems to be missing the point completely.

I concede that if the film had been shown out of context, if it had been brought into the school and shown without comment or prior debate, there would have been a case to answer.

Hon. N. F. Moore: It has an "AO" classification and should not be shown to children under 18 years.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: The children had been studying course material on nuclear matters and central to that discussion is the effect of nuclear explosions on the future of the world. Hon. John Williams said that he is confident that we shall not see a nuclear war. I wish I could share his confidence. Nations are squandering resources on the arms race at an alarming rate. In response to an interjection, Hon. John Williams said that he would not go over historical facts but we had had world peace by and large for the last 40 years. I replied that that did not include small guerilla outbreaks such as Vietnam, Korea, and the Gulf war in the Middle East which has been raging for six years. Many people are being killed around the world and to say that the world has been at peace since 1945 is stretching the truth.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: There has not been a global conflict.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: There have been some fairly big stoushes which have had a shattering effect on the people involved.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: I could not agree more.

Hon. N. F. Moore: Were you going to say that they were caused by American imperialism?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I am not getting into that argument at all.

I am trying to make the point that some of the issues we discuss in this place when stacked up against the crucial problems facing the survival of the planet do not matter much.

I wish I could share the enthusiasm and confidence of Hon. John Williams about there not being a nuclear war in the future. However if we consider world history, it can be seen that people have used whatever weapon systems have been developed. We have used atomic weapons once and thank goodness they were used only once in anger in Japan.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: It certainly saved me.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: It also cost many lives. We have very accurate weapons of mass destruction and unless the temperature of the world political climate is reduced there will always be the possibility of some minor dispute erupting into nuclear conflict.

Hon. N. F. Moore: Do you think we should ban nuclear ships at Fremantle?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I think it would be better if they did not come.

Hon. N. F. Moore: You do not agree with the Premier?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: It is the policy of the Australian Government to allow the ships to visit Fremantle but I would prefer that they did not come. With the presence of nuclear powered and armed warships it cannot be denied that there is an inherent risk of something going wrong with the weapons or the reactor on board. Also, if the flotilla is big enough there is always the possibility that it will attract nuclear retaliation.

Hon. N. F. Moore: Do you support Senator Vallentine?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I do not really think that nuclear weapons add one jot to the security of the world.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: You do not want to defend Australia either.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: That is absolute rubbish.

Hon. V. J. Ferry: How will you do it? With popguns?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I do not subscribe to the view of the honourable member that we must be protected by a nuclear arsenal. I am not an advocate of unilateral disarmament; unless nuclear stockpiles are abandoned on both sides the world will be on a course towards nuclear destruction.

We cannot assume there will be no nuclear war and we have to work towards making sure it does not occur. We cannot afford to leave the future of the world in the hands of the leaders of the super powers because I am not convinced Messrs Reagan and Gorbachov will make decisions in the interests of the whole of mankind.

Hon. N. F. Moore: I think you are making a big mistake.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: They have their own political interests to play to. I am not sure that those two people, the heads of the most powerful nations in this world, will make decisions which are good for Australians, Nicaraguans, Czechoslovakians, or anyone else.

Hon. N. F. Moore: Who should make the decisions?

Hon. GARRY KELLY: We are all responsible for this planet and we should all take an interest in trying to put pressure on the nations with nuclear weapons to reduce their stockpiles and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons from this world. If we take Mr Williams' suggestion there will not be a nuclear war. The amount of resources committed to the development of these weapons is an absolute scandal. If a fraction of that money could be diverted to ad-

ressing some of the health problems in the world, the unequal distribution of resources to the great bulk of the world's population, then the sufferings in the world would be reduced and the need for such sophisticated weapon systems, even in the minds of those who advocate them, would be reduced.

Nineteen eighty six has been designated by the United Nations as a year of peace. Nations and community groups have been engaged in activities to promote the objectives of world peace. In September this year to that end a conference will be held in Fremantle, to be known as the Indian Ocean Zone of Peace People's Conference. It will be held between 19 and 22 September. The venue will be the South Fremantle High School.

A number of speakers have been invited from around Australia and around the nations which border the Indian Ocean. It is a people's conference. The organising committee has been given a small amount to spend by the Federal Government, something like \$4 000 or \$5 000. The committee is busily fund raising to cover the costs of the conference.

I receive regular bulletins from the organising committee because my electorate secretary, Kath Gallop, is also the secretary of the committee. Those people are working extremely hard to put this conference together. It has achieved a wide measure of support from people in this State and the country as a whole.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: It is a very good group and I have sent a donation.

Hon. N. F. Moore: I take it it is a tax deduction.

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I thank Hon. Fred McKenzie on behalf of the IOZOPP Committee. This matter of the Indian Ocean Zone of Peace People's Conference was adopted by the United Nations in 1981. Because the matter is of such interest and importance, I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* the declaration of the United Nations and a statement explaining why the IOZOPP conference is to be held in Fremantle.

The following material was incorporated by leave of the House—

United Nations International Year of Peace Paper 1986 Indian Ocean Zone of Peace People's Conference, Fremantle September 19-22, 1986

UN RESOLUTION OF INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE—Dec. 1971

The General Assembly,

1. *Solemnly* declares that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space

above and the ocean floor sub-jacent thereto, is hereby designated for all time as a zone of peace;

2. *Calls upon* the great Powers, in conformity with this Declaration, to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to:

(a) Halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean;

(b) Eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations, logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry;

3. *Calls upon* the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, in pursuit of the objective of establishing a system of universal collective security through regional and other co-operation, to enter into consultations with a view to the implementation of this Declaration and such action as may be necessary to ensure that:

(a) Warships and military aircraft may not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or independence of any littoral or hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Subject to the foregoing and to the norms and principles of international law, the right to free and unimpeded use of

the zone by the vessels of all nations is unaffected;

(c) Appropriate arrangements are made to give effect to any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the progress that has been made with regard to the implementation of this Declaration;

5. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" in the provisional agenda of its twenty-seventh session.

Resolution 2832 (XXVI) 14 December 1971, since reaffirmed.

WHY FREMANTLE?

Because there has already been one very successful conference on this subject, held in 1980, sponsored by the United Nations Association of Australia (W.A.) and the Fremantle City Council.

Because the Port of Fremantle and the Australian Naval Base of Stirling, 27 kilometres south, have received regular visits from US nuclear warships and submarines since 1977. Aircraft carriers, tank landing ships and various classes of guided missile cruisers have also used the "Sound".

Because a strong protest movement has developed.

Because the Australian Labor Government policy states:

"A Labor Government will not allow permanent basing or the establishment of foreign military bases on Australian soil in time of peace, and ensure, in consultation with its allies, that the frequency and pattern of naval visits is not such as to constitute in practice the home porting of such vessels in Australia . . ."

(As at 1/7/86)

Debate Resumed

Hon. GARRY KELLY: I thank the House. The declaration of the resolution of the United Nations which supported the establishment of the zone of peace is a very important document. Like many statements of the United

Nations, due to problems of the sovereignty of the various nations, some of its decisions are not always implemented. This decision was made 15 years ago, and it has still not come to pass. If the people of the Indian Ocean region put pressure on their Governments and on the super powers, the coming into being of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would be a big step towards the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons in the world as a whole.

I wish the organisers of the Indian Ocean Zone of Peace People's Conference the very best, and I hope members of this Chamber who are interested might contact the organisers for material relating to that conference if they have not seen any. The organisers would be only too pleased to send material, and the list of speakers is very comprehensive. The conference will go a long way towards achieving the stated aims of the organisers.

Before I sit down, I pass on my best wishes to Les Hoft on his retirement. I hope that he will have a long, happy, and healthy enjoyment of the activities he has planned for the future. I wish the other members of the House an enjoyable recess. I hope when we return on 7 October or thereabouts, the weather will be a little warmer and drier.

HON. N. F. MOORE (Lower North) [10.57 a.m.]: I want to raise a few matters in the debate on the Supply Bill. First of all I want to respond to some of the comments made by Hon. Garry Kelly.

Hon. John Williams raised what I consider to be a very important matter of principle, and that concerned AO movies, and the fact that they ought not to be shown in schools unless parental approval is obtained. The purpose of the AO classification is to prevent young people from seeing those films.

Hon. Garry Kelly says that because this movie *Threads* was in some way related to the nuclear issue, it was justifiable for the teacher to show it in the context of that debate.

Hon. Garry Kelly: No, the students were doing a course.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I mean in the context of that course. The point I am making is that if a teacher can argue that any movie with an AO, M, or R rating is in some way related to the context of a course he is teaching, is the honourable member suggesting that that teacher can show that movie, regardless of the classification?

The classification of movies is set down by the Commonwealth film censor, based upon many years' experience and upon what is considered to be appropriate to the age groups looking at the movies.

Hon. Garry Kelly: *Threads* was a good film.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: The classification was AO—adults only.

Hon. Garry Kelly: I think that was wrong.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is the honourable member's view.

Hon. Garry Kelly: That is right, it is.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: Everyone has his own views on these subjects; that is why we have a film censor—someone to whom we give the responsibility to make these decisions. We have given the Commonwealth film censor the responsibility to make decisions in respect of films like *Threads*. The decision was that it should be AO. The least that school could have done was to obtain parental approval for children to watch it.

That is the question Hon. John Williams is raising; not whether children should be able to debate nuclear war or the consequences thereof. That point should be made very clear, because considerable concern has been expressed from a variety of sources, particularly from a number of parents, to me as shadow Minister for Education about what is being taught in some schools.

I am a great admirer of the vast majority of schoolteachers. They work very hard, for long hours, at what is often an arduous job. The tensions are enormous and I have a great deal of respect for the majority of them; but I regret to say that there are some who sometimes allow not just their political bias but their personal views on subjects to intrude into what they are doing. It does cause parents some concern, bearing in mind that those teachers are providing an education to the children of the parents. The parents are entitled to express concern if a teacher seems to be going down a path that the parent considers inappropriate for the child. They are the children of the parents, and the parents ought to have the ultimate say as to what sort of education their children get.

In this context I express a view about the new K-10 health education syllabus. This syllabus has recently been written for health education across the school curriculum, from kindergarten to year 10. It was written by a group of people, some of whom I know very well and

hold in the highest regard. However, I have received numerous letters from people expressing concern about the content of this course. If I can generalise, the main complaint has been from people who consider that the course content is being taught to children at too young an age.

For example, children in pre-primary schools—that is, at four years of age—can be taught about death, divorce, and separation. I do not dispute that children ought to be taught about or given some guidance or assistance in those subjects, but I do believe that the age of four years is a bit young to be taught about that sort of thing. I have a daughter of five years who attends pre-primary school. To me, the concepts of death, divorce, and separation are concepts completely alien to her thinking at the present time. I do not think she could possibly conceive of her parents being divorced, or separating. It is out of the context of her thinking at that age, and it is my view that it would do her no good at all to be told now that there is a potentiality for her parents to separate or to divorce, or for somebody close to her to die, and for her to try to cope with this sort of knowledge at her age.

No doubt there are children of that age who will actually experience those problems, and they can be assisted by teachers and others in the community on an individual, one-to-one basis; but I do not believe that every child in pre-primary school ought to be told about death. It may well be that a very sympathetic, understanding, and compassionate teacher of a pre-primary class could discuss those topics in such a way that every child would come away from that class enhanced by the experience. I acknowledge that, but I also acknowledge that many newly-graduated teachers fresh from teachers' colleges may not have the ability to communicate that sort of subject to children of four or five years of age, simply because they do not have the experience, or perhaps the years of understanding, that one requires to be able to put across such sensitive subjects to young children.

That is an example I use to illustrate the concerns that people are expressing to me. Their view is that while the content of the curriculum is not necessarily objectionable, they feel it is being taught to children who are too young. Many people have suggested that the course should be moved up the scale so that those subjects are discussed in classes of children who are somewhat older.

There is much concern by parents also about the sex education content of the health education syllabus. I do not want to be seen to be prudish about this; I think there is a place in schools for sex education of some description, but I also argue very strongly in support of the idea that parents are ultimately responsible for the education of their children, especially in the field of sex education. If parents wish to remove their children from courses at schools and provide a different form of education for those children, they should be entitled to do so.

Hon. B. L. Jones: They can.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: They can, but there are situations where some parents have not been given the opportunity on the right occasions to know exactly what is being taught and then been given the opportunity to make a decision about whether their children should stay in that course. Education Department policy is that, in the areas in the syllabus which are considered to be controversial, parents can withdraw their children. One of the problems is that not many parents know what is in the syllabus, and until they know that, they find it very difficult to know whether it is suitable for their children.

Hon. B. L. Jones: If they are the sort of parents concerned about their children's education, they will find out.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I know they will, but many parents are very busy. They might have large families, or the mothers might work. Of course they take an interest, but how many parents know what is in every syllabus, in every school, in every subject? I certainly do not, and I was a schoolteacher. We have a new health education syllabus, yet quite a number of the teachers' guides for the syllabus have yet to be written. I would venture to say a vast number of schoolteachers in Western Australia could not tell us what is in the health education syllabus because they do not yet know.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: The teachers who are teaching it do not know what is in it?

Hon. N. F. MOORE: It is not being taught right across the board yet. The guides have not yet been written, but the general programme work has been determined. There ought to be a mechanism whereby every parent is at least made aware of what will be taught in these subjects. A conscious effort should be made by schools to ensure that every parent knows what is going on in these courses. I think most schools probably do that, but some do not, and some take exception to parents who argue

about their children being involved in such courses.

If it were at all possible, I would like the Education Department to give a little more consideration to the likely impact of this health education programme. I know it has been praised by educators and health education workers, and I have already said that I know very well and admire very much some of the people who wrote it. However, I have some reservations about certain aspects of it, and many people have similar reservations. I do not suggest that it be disbanded but that more research be done on the kind of impact the syllabus is likely to have. Perhaps it should be a pilot project throughout a series of schools.

I am a little concerned in respect of the health education syllabus, as I am in respect of the McGaw report, that these new ideas are being brought in and everybody will be involved, with no trial or pilot projects to find out if they are suitable or in the best interests of every child in every school. I recall the introduction of the achievement certificate programme in secondary schools.

Hon. B. L. Jones: They are not new ideas. I taught them myself, years ago. If kids do not know about sex from their parents by year 9, they are certainly picking it up from around the playground.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: Isn't that fantastic! That every child, by the age of nine—

Hon. B. L. Jones: I said year 9—second year high school.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I am sorry, I misunderstood Hon. Beryl Jones. I will not pursue that line any further.

The point I am trying to make is that this is a new course, a new health education syllabus, which contains elements, particularly in the pre-primary course, that disturb me as a parent. I believe I am as broadminded as most people on this subject but I suggest that we look at trialling this new course. We should have trialled the McGaw recommendations and many other things before we brought them in and said, "Every child is going to be taught this and is going to be subject to these requirements."

Hon. Kay Hallahan: They have been trialled.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I do not believe they have been trialled to a sufficient extent. I made the observation earlier that the achievement certificate was brought in only after it had been trialled for a number of years in several schools

to see whether it would work or not. If one starts mucking around with children's education and makes a mistake, one cannot fix it up very readily.

Hon. B. L. Jones: Shouldn't we do that with every subject?

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I think so. One must err on the side of conservatism when it comes to changing anything in schools, because if one makes a mistake the group of children who were being educated at that particular period must wear that mistake for the rest of their lives. One cannot allow that to happen without being absolutely certain in one's mind that what one is doing is absolutely correct.

Hon. B. L. Jones: That is presupposing that it is something totally new which they have not had before. In fact all of this evolved out of something which has already been done, and is simply improving on it.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I do not know whether children in pre-primary are being taught about death and divorce at the present time. I do not want my child to be taught about these subjects at this early age.

Hon. John Halden: Surely the process of education is to prepare children for life?

Hon. N. F. MOORE: One can prepare them for all the negatives, nasties, or whatever one likes, but four-year-old children going to school believe that life is wonderful—they like their parents, they like their teachers, and they like the other children. They do not have their minds full of attitudes about death, divorce, and nuclear wars. Give them a chance to enjoy something about life rather than to go to pre-primary school and be told that there is some chance that their mothers and fathers will separate, or their mothers might die, or something else might happen to them.

Hon. B. L. Jones: Every child probably has had a pet which has died and there has been an explanation for it. It just depends on how it is approached.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is exactly right, and that is what I said. A teacher could handle this in a magnificent way. The teacher teaching my child at pre-primary could probably do that, but I know lots of teachers who could not because they are not capable of using the sensitivity and understanding necessary to get messages across about subjects like death in a way which would not cause some children trauma. Children do not need trauma at the age of four.

This course could—I am not saying “would” but “could”—result in some four-year-olds suffering trauma which they would not otherwise need to experience.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: It could also resolve a lot of trauma.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: Perhaps it might, but that is why I am suggesting that we should look at this much more closely than we have done at the present time.

I am not being negative about this but I am simply saying that we should progress slowly and take it easy because there are people out there in the community who are concerned. These people have written to me in droves saying, “We are concerned about this K-10 syllabus”. I am not going to go overboard and say, “toss it out”, as I could easily do. I am not going to take a reactionary view; but I believe we should tread very warily in these areas because parents are entitled to be concerned, and they are concerned.

Members of the Government can argue all they like about what they believe is right for children. However, people who have children ultimately make the decision about what happens to those children and their education.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: The course is a response to community concern.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I do not care; I do not want to live in a society where the community collectively decides what I am going to think.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: So what do we do? Just listen to you and your few letters?

Hon. N. F. MOORE: Not at all. Let parents make their own decisions about these sorts of things. We should trial this course very carefully.

Hon. B. L. Jones: Every subject being taught depends on the particular teacher who is handling it. People always have some criticism, but we have to assume that the teachers have been taught and know what they are doing; and by and large they handle it correctly.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: If a teacher is teaching a child that $2x + y = 3$, in order to find the value of x , it is pretty difficult to cause trauma for the child.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. Garry Kelly): Order! I have let the interjections go on this topic, but I think there have been a few too many. If the members who are interjecting feel strongly about this matter, they should make a speech.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: An excellent observation, Mr Deputy President, if I may be so bold.

There are some subjects in school which cannot cause too many problems for children; for example, mathematics and science. One can be totally insensitive to everybody's feelings in respect of these subjects and never upset anyone. However there are other subjects which can cause difficulties for young people.

I refer to a matter in respect of the Minister for Education, Mr Pearce. I was recently given a copy of a document which had on the cover “Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission”, “The Green Paper”, and “The Future of Post Secondary Education in Western Australia”. The cover also indicated that it was brought out in March 1985.

Hon. B. L. Jones: Is that the first or second draft?

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I do not know. I do not have the vaguest clue but it has “The Green Paper” on the cover. The second page of this document is headed, “The Future of Post Secondary Education in Western Australia”, and it reads as follows—

In my statement to the Legislative Assembly on 11 October 1983, I made clear the Government's strong support of tertiary education and of the standards which exist at the institutions in this State.

I did say, however, that the shape of tertiary education should be adjusted so as to better meet the future needs of Western Australia and that I would seek a significant community input into the moulding of the Government's policies and strategies.

This is the important bit—

As a first step in obtaining this input, I asked the Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission to prepare a discussion document, or “Green Paper”, to which I now invite reactions and responses. The “Green Paper” should not be taken as a statement of intended Government policy; this will.

The green paper was written in response to a request by the Minister for Education to the Post Secondary Education Commission. I had not heard about this green paper until I received a copy of it; and I asked the Minister on 23 July—

- (1) Has the Government commissioned a green paper on the future of tertiary education in Western Australia?

The answer to this question was, "No". My second question to the Minister was—

- (2) If so, who was commissioned to do the work?

The answer to this question was, "Not applicable"—which is a pretty common answer these days. My third question to the Minister was—

- (3) Is this green paper now available for public perusal?

The answer to this question was, "No", while the answer to the fourth question was, "Not applicable".

The Minister in response to my first question said that no green paper had been commissioned, yet I have a copy of it which was commissioned by the Minister on the second page of that paper. The paper does not say that it is a draft, or a discussion document; it says it is a green paper which was to be sent out to people for their comments. I gave a copy of the green paper and the questions and answers on it to the journalist who wrote a story which appeared in *The West Australian* this morning. This article reads in part as follows—

Mr Pearce said outside the House that he had not commissioned WAPSEC to produce a green paper.

I refer back to the second page of the green paper in which the Minister said that he asked the Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission to prepare a discussion paper, or green paper, to which he invited responses. This was signed by Bob Pearce, MLA, Minister for Education. If this is not a green paper, I do not know what it is. The Minister in an answer to a question says that he did not commission such a paper and says the same thing to a newspaper; but one exists. The Minister is telling a lie.

Hon. B. L. Jones: It was a discussion paper, wasn't it?

Hon. N. F. MOORE: It says, "The Green Paper". Mr Pearce referred to it as a green paper, and copies of it were sent to tertiary institutions for their response. The Minister may have ignored that response. I do not care whether it is a discussion paper, but it is called a green paper and the Minister has answered my question on this subject by telling a lie.

Withdrawal of Remark

The PRESIDENT: Order! The member cannot say that the Minister has told a lie. That is out of order! If he wants to accuse a Minister or

indeed any other member of Parliament of telling a lie, the proper procedure for doing so is for the member to move a motion specifically dealing with the matter. In the meantime, it is out of order, as the member well knows.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I withdraw that remark.

Debate Resumed

Hon. N. F. MOORE: I have a difficulty. I asked a simple question and there was no need for the Minister to say he did not do it. He could have given me some information. He could have said, "I had commissioned a green paper; a discussion paper came out at the end of the day", but he did not take that course of action. He said, "No". I asked, "Has the Government commissioned a green paper on the future of tertiary education in Western Australia?" The Minister's answer was, "No".

The facts do not support the Minister's answer. I am not sure how else I can describe it. In this morning's *The West Australian* the Minister is again reported as saying that he did not commission a green paper, but he says in this green paper that he did. I do not care about this green paper. I found it interesting in relation to a couple of areas; WAPSEC recommended that WAIT be not made into a university. It recommended that TAFE be separated from the Education Department and be run on similar lines to a post-secondary institution, matters which are contrary to the Minister's point of view. I am not very fussed about that, but I am fussed about the way in which this Minister seeks to completely denigrate the institution of Parliament, not by refusing to answer questions, but by giving the wrong answers. He could have taken any number of courses in response to my question. He could have said, "I have one but I am not going to give it to you because it is confidential", which would not have worried me in the slightest; but he has decided to go down this path of saying that he did not do it.

Why would he do that? I think it is just the man's plain, blatant arrogance, his almost contempt for anybody who seeks to question what he does. His total attitude towards what is going on in the education system is demonstrated by the ad hoc way in which he makes decisions. I really am very concerned at the manner in which this Minister goes about his business. I am entitled, as is every other member of Parliament, to ask a question in the House and to expect to receive a truthful answer; and it appears the Minister has not told the truth in this

case. It would certainly appear that way to anyone else who saw the document. They would be disappointed to think the Minister could answer a question in the way he did.

Action, of course, is available to me as a member of Parliament and I could take action in respect of the question of privilege; but in view of the time and the fact that we are concluding this session today, I will not go down that path. The Minister should be on notice that I do not accept, and I am sure no other member of Parliament would either, a situation where a Minister gives answers to questions which appear to not indicate the truth.

Finally, on the subject of education, I deal with the Minister's proposition to have one large State university in Western Australia which would be a combination of the Western Australian College of Advanced Education, Murdoch University, and the Western Australian Institute of Technology. I indicate quite clearly to the House and to anybody else who is interested that the Opposition is categorically opposed to Murdoch University being usurped by any other organisation. We believe that Murdoch University should remain as a discrete and independent tertiary institution. It will not become part of another institution.

I understand that Mr Pearce has given consideration to the proposed State university because of his concern over the binary system of funding for tertiary education, and I share his concern for that and can see why he would argue that a State university might overcome a binary system problem. That problem could be overcome without having to amalgamate all these organisations into one large university. So while the Opposition is considering what we will do in respect of the WACAE, we are adamant at this stage that in no way will Murdoch University assume or be consumed by any other institution. Murdoch University will remain as an independent university. It has our support. Murdoch University was set up initially by a Liberal Government, and we have continued to support its operation as an independent institution.

I have always been of the opinion that before WAIT could become a university, legislation of this Parliament would be required to change its name. I know a lot more attaches to the issue than just changing its name, but the legislation which set up WAIT has called it The Western Australian Institute of Technology. I now find in a document entitled "*Tertiary Education '87, Information for Prospective Overseas Students*", released by the Tertiary Institutions Service

Centre, which operates on behalf of tertiary institutions, reference to the Curtin Institute of Technology. The front page of the document mentions Curtin Institute of Technology in the same context as it mentions Murdoch University, the University of WA, and WAIT. The second page of the document is a summary of contents and the second section talks about the "Curtin Institute of Technology (formerly known as Western Australian Institute of Technology)".

There is no such thing as the Curtin Institute of Technology. If this Parliament agrees to change the name of the institution, that will be done. I am not sure that we can do much to change its status in the eyes of the people who want to use that institution, but we can change its name. We have not done that and I suggest that the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre is certainly jumping the gun. It is snubbing its nose at the Parliament by presuming we will make a certain decision, and it is not right to make that assumption at all.

I wonder if the Minister will come out and tell this organisation that it is not allowed to use the name Curtin Institute of Technology until it actually exists, until it has been set up by legislation. I ask the Minister to also advise that centre that it is not entitled to refer to the "former" Western Australian Institute of Technology until this Parliament has made that decision. I would not be the slightest bit surprised if the Minister completely ignores that proposition because he has already indicated in respect to the question I asked that he could not really care less about what this Parliament does.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: Come on!

Hon. N. F. MOORE: That is a fact.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: It is not a fact.

Hon. N. F. MOORE: He gave me an answer which bears no relationship to the facts of the matter.

With those comments, I support the legislation.

HON. A. A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [11.29 a.m.]: My comments will be extremely brief, members will be pleased to know. I rise only to mention a few people who are retiring from this place in the next few weeks.

Hon. John Williams has already mentioned Les Hoft, and I join with him and other members in wishing Les a good and healthy retirement. He looks too young to retire. I hope to

see him in the usual place as often as he can get in here.

To your secretary, Mrs Turton, and I link with her Miss Pick in another place, I extend the same good wishes. I guess Hon. Jim Brown, Hon. Mick Gayfer, and I have had a fair bit to do with both of them, having previously been in the other place. The courteous way they have helped us with our work has always been appreciated. Some of the newer members may not be aware that at one stage there were two typists for all members of Parliament other than Ministers. We used to queue in the corridor downstairs waiting for our typing to be done, and these women did a superb job because most of our letters were handwritten. We thought we were doing pretty well when we sent a typewritten letter to one of our constituents as a result of the work done by Mrs Turton and Miss Pick. We wish them well in their retirement.

Finally, John Reed, the attendant on the front door, is also leaving us. Members in this place are extremely lucky with all the staff with whom we deal. Courtesy is shown to us that sometimes is not returned, maybe through bad temper or bad manners, but the staff put up with us extremely well. I believe it is our duty to indicate where we can that we appreciate their work, and I am sure all members join me in wishing the people I have mentioned well.

With those few remarks, I support the Bill.

HON. ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South-East Metropolitan) [11.32 a.m.]: I had not intended to indulge myself today, but as my name keeps being mentioned in this House at various times during debates I thought I should get up and bite the hand that has fed me. Hon. John Williams referred to me as teaching at university and being completely impartial.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: He did not say anything about how tough you were in marking.

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: That is true, but I was fairly impartial one way and another. Of course, I was not impartial because nobody is. When I was teaching at university I showed my prejudices to people so they could judge them, and I tried to get an insight into what other people thought. The process of education is one where one trains people to be critical. Some of my best students were those who disagreed with me at the end of the year because they had learned to exercise their critical faculties, seek their own evidence, and make up their own minds about things.

This is one of the problems that faces us in educational matters. There are two views in education—what I call the “right-liners”, the people who believe they have the truth which must be inculcated into students; and those who believe they should try to train people to think for themselves so that they are better citizens and grow up as what I call responsible, moral people—moral human beings capable of making choices. This is quite important.

One of the things I always tried to do as a teacher, and which I try to do in this House with very little effect, is to point out to people that sometimes what they think is rational commonsense is in fact a matter of prejudice. Most of us hold our views as prejudices because we have grown up with them and we do not think about them. Some of the remarks I have heard in this House this session about the sanctity of the family were trotted out without any depth or explanation and come under the notion of prejudice. We have to have another look at things in our own society.

I take Hon. Norman Moore's point about the rights of parents. But as far as I am concerned I would not allow the right of parents to introduce creationism into our schools because I think it is utter nonsense and all the evidence suggests it is. Where do we go, and how far do we go? I would not allow the right of parents to have a course indoctrinating Nazism into our schools. We draw the lines, and they are always difficult to draw; Hon. Norman Moore would be the first to recognise this.

There are two types of educationists with failings: Those who believe they must teach and receive truth, and that those who disagree are subversive—and I have had that accusation levelled at me plenty of times—and those who believe that teaching children to be critical means challenging everything there is for its own sake. This is the reverse side of the coin where people go out of their way to challenge for the sake of challenge and think their own reverse truth is something that has to be indoctrinated, and that it is teaching people to be critical when it is not.

I am not sure about what the honourable gentleman said in relation to trialling and the new K-10 course because I think it has many good features. I am also not sure I agree with what he said about four-year-olds, but I do not wish to debate that now. The point I want to take up is that he said the achievement certificate was trialled. It was trialled, but it finished up an utter disaster. Now we have got rid of it, and that is a good thing because it destroyed

many children. It was something that good teachers could educate their students to get themselves through and bad teachers sat back and did nothing and let children wither on the vine. Even when we trial things, they are not always successful.

One problem is that we take ideas presented by very able teachers and expect them to be taught right across the board. This raises problems. I do not want to go too far into that except to say that my view when I was a teacher was not that I was unbiased but that I should tell people my biases and get some insight into what people thought. One of these days, if honourable gentlemen want to me to, I will give an argument for being a member of the Liberal Party. I also have a good argument as to why we should be fascists. I do not believe any of them, of course.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: When do we know you are saying something we can believe?

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: When I say so, I am honest.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I do not want members interjecting, bearing in mind the time at which this House has to rise today and all the business which has to be completed. I appeal to members to allow the member on his feet to say what he wants to say as quickly as possible so that the House can conduct its business before it has to finish today.

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Thank you, Mr President.

I will make a passing reference to the green paper. A number of documents float around—if they were ever dropped off the back of trucks—which are drafts put before the Minister with draft Press releases on them.

Hon. N. F. Moore: Not this particular one.

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Let me finish. There are a number of drafts with draft Press releases on them which if they came out of the department people would think were genuine and what the Minister thought. I understand this green paper may have been circulated privately in some areas, but as far as I know it has never been accepted by the Minister as something to be released publicly for discussion, which is what the original idea was, as I understand. As far as I can establish, this green paper is a non green paper; that is, there are one or two drafts floating around which have not been released. A green paper is something released for public discussion.

Hon. N. F. Moore: The question was, did he commission a green paper?

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: As far as I know he did not.

Hon. N. F. Moore: He said he did.

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: No, he did not. The honourable gentleman said there is a Press release that states that the Minister commissioned the green paper.

Hon. N. F. Moore: No, it is not a Press release.

Hon. ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I have read it. I know what is in it. I am suggesting it is a draft which has not been approved and therefore it will not be commissioned until it is approved. It is as simple as that. It is something that was not suggested and has not been commissioned in the proper sense.

I will take some questions up, and particularly the question of nuclear war, in the next session because I do not want to spend the time now talking about them.

Having made a few passing references to bias and prejudice, I believe, as a university teacher, that one should tell students one's biases, particularly with regard to politics, so that allowances can be made. I used to do that and then argue the questions on their merits. That was generally accepted and respected by the students. They knew they did not have to agree with me because I do not believe in the "custard pie" approach where I throw things at them and they throw them back. I believe they should challenge what I think. Unfortunately, not all teachers are as tolerant as that.

When I first came into this place in 1977, Mr Les Hoft was second Clerk Assistant. In all of my dealings with him over the last 9½ years, I have found him to be courteous and generous in the support he has given to me. My relations with him have been entirely good relations. As far as I am concerned, he is everything that a good clerk should be. I remember when I was on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies with Mr Hoft servicing that committee. He was extremely pleasant to be with and he was extremely useful. I will miss him very much and I certainly wish him well in his retirement. I hope that he lives for many years to enjoy his retirement and to thoroughly enjoy and develop a whole new life which he must now do at his age.

John Reed was on the front door when I first came to this place. He has always been courteous and unfailing in his service. He is a good

person. In fact, I know of no-one in this House who has not given me good service. Everyone has always been polite and helpful and has gone out of his way to assist me when I needed it. Somehow John Reed presented a good front to Parliament and we will miss him. The place will not be the same without him.

I did not have as much to do with Norma Turton or Cynthia Pick. What little I had to do with them has been pleasant and I know of no reason to believe they have been anything other than efficient and good people. Really, the Parliament will be quite different when we return, with old and friendly familiar faces gone. We will have to get used to a new set.

I support the Bill.

HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South) [11.45 a.m.]: This place is unpredictable. I was told that I was to be the only speaker today.

I wish to raise matters on behalf of the people of Gnowangerup who find themselves in considerable turmoil at this time because of what is taking place in their town. This matter of their hospital board is of great concern to them. They fear they could not only lose their doctor and their chemist, but also their hospital could close down. This matter is of terrific importance and significance to a small rural community such as Gnowangerup with a population of about 2 000 people.

I do not know whether members have ever pondered the problem that occurs in rural areas when communities lose their doctors and hospitals. They are placed in rather more difficult circumstances and put at higher risks than people in metropolitan areas. Should they have a major road accident or should someone have a heart attack, the chance of getting an ambulance or a doctor to them in a hurry is not very great. I recall a tragedy that befell someone and which had left a great mark on me. He was a very wealthy American who owned a property adjacent to mine at Esperance. In fact, he was in partnership with David Rockefeller who is said to be one of the richest men in the world. He and his son were working on the property when the son had a very bad motor bike accident. His wealth was of no use; the father had to sit and nurse his son with his head broken open until he died in his arms about 30 minutes later. He knew full well that as they were over 100 km from Esperance there was no chance of getting a doctor or an ambulance to him. These are the sorts of problems that country people can and do face with when they live a long distance from the nearest doctor or hospital.

It is for that reason that the people of Gnowangerup are so concerned about what has occurred in their town. They are filled with fear that their doctor will leave them. They have seen two other doctors leave the town in the last few years. The town and the hospital board have both been trying to resolve the problem.

We have set up about 38 hospital boards in this State. We gave them responsibilities under legislation to run those hospitals. The people on the boards volunteer their services. They understand the problems of the area and they do their best.

The hospital board at Gnowangerup has been attempting to resolve the problem with the matron of the hospital since November last year. It has not received the help or consideration that it should expect from the Minister for Health and from the Government. The situation has become so critical that the people wrote a letter to the Governor of this State.

I asked a question in this House about the Executive Council and received a smart alec reply from the Leader of the House informing me that the Executive Council is private and that I ought to know better than to ask questions about its activities. Everyone in this House has the booklet entitled "Acts and Other Information Relating to Parliament". One does not have to read too far into it to understand what the Executive Council is. I know what it is and I was endeavouring to help the public also understand what it is.

In the section on the instructions to the Governor, paragraphs IV and V state—

IV. The Governor shall attend and preside at the meetings of the Executive Council, unless prevented by some necessary or reasonable cause, and in his absence such member as may be appointed by him in that behalf, or in the absence of such Member, the Senior Member of the Executive Council actually present shall preside; the seniority of the Members of the said Council being regulated according to the Order of their respective appointments as Members thereof.

V. The Executive Council shall not proceed to the despatch of business unless duly summoned by authority of the Governor, . . .

It then goes on to explain what a quorum is and paragraph VI states—

VI. In the execution of the powers and authorities vested in him, the Governor shall be guided by the advice of the Execu-

tive Council, but if in any case he shall see sufficient cause to dissent from the opinion of the said Council, he may act in the exercise of his said powers and authorities in opposition to the opinion of the Council, reporting the matter to Us without delay, with the reasons for his so acting.

That is the reason I asked what advice had been given to the Governor, if he assented to it, and if reasons were printed in the *Government Gazette*. The Leader of the House did not provide me with a reasonable answer.

In order that members will understand the significance of the feelings of the hospital board I will read the following letter it sent to the Governor—

As a body of very concerned people we wish to vehemently protest at the underhanded undemocratic manner in which you and Mr Ian Taylor abolished the Gnowangerup Hospital Board. Those people have spent many years in administering our Hospital and have done a fine job. They are intelligent, conscientious people with the health of our community their biggest concern.

We, the Hospital Ladies Auxillary also have worked many years in raising funds to keep our Hospital comfortable and well equipped. We have worked very closely with the Board over those years, and we are shattered at your actions.

In a community made up of sincere hard working people you have taken away their right to help administer their Hospital as they see fit. These people have spent many years in administering our Hospital, and in doing so saving the Government many tens of thousands of dollars. This seems to be of no concern in these trying economic times.

We deserve a reasonable answer to our complaint, and this was not forthcoming from Mr Taylor.

We wish to see an open inquiry into the whole affair, as this is the only democratic way of solving this problem. It would appear that the meaning of democracy is not understood by you or Mr Taylor.

Since the Gnowangerup District Hospital was established in 1937 a large component of the Hospital personnel has been of a voluntary nature, even the Hospital Secretary was initially an honorary position.

We would like now to see this matter resolved in a democratic manner by totally independent arbitrators.

The letter is signed by the honorary president and the honorary secretary. An addendum is attached to the letter which states—

As an addendum to our attached letter, we advise for your information some of the Civic Awards bestowed on members of the Board you had "No option to abolish":

I presume that refers to the information I was trying to obtain from the Leader of the House about the reason for the dismissal of the board. The addendum includes information relative to civic awards bestowed on each member of the board—on these very responsible people—and I will read it to the House as follows—

ATHOL STEWART—Admission as a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John 1986. A Life Membership to the West Australian Centre of the St. John Ambulance. A Life Membership to Gnowangerup Sub-Centre St. John's Association. Certificate of Appreciation from the Government for 20 years service to the Gnowangerup Hospital.

SUZANNE PRITCHARD—Rotary Award for outstanding service to the community 1979.

ROD DAVIES—Rotary Award for outstanding service to the community 1981.

TOM BRADE—Rotary Award for outstanding service to the community 1983.

RON WHYATT—Justice of the Peace. Meritorious Award for voluntary service to Gnowangerup Bushfire Brigade. Special commendation of the Commandary for work with St. John Ambulance.

EVELYN DOLLEY—Justice of the Peace.

Those people were dismissed from the hospital board by the Governor-in-Executive-Council on the advice of the Minister for Health.

The Gnowangerup community has a right to be hostile about what has happened. The board endeavoured to meet with the Minister for Health to explain the predicament which prevailed at the hospital, but he refused to discuss it unless the matron was first reinstated. This sort of action by the Minister is contrary to the intent of the Act.

I will read, for the information of the House, the letter forwarded by the board to the Minister for Health. It is unfortunate that the situation reached the stage where the board had to obtain the services of a solicitor to prepare the

letter and that is the reason it is written in the following way—

We act for the Gnowangerup Hospital Board in relation to its dismissal of Matron Ruth Griffiths.

Our understanding of the Hospitals Act is that the Board is responsible for the control, management and maintenance of the hospital (Section 18(1)). It alone has power to appoint and remove matrons (Section 19(1)). However, we recognize your power to give the Board directions as to the exercise of its functions, but only after consultation with the Board (Section 18(2)).

It is the Board's desire for you to consult it and we confirm that five members of the Board came to Perth for consultation on the 8th instant, but that you would not consult them without the Board reinstating Matron Griffiths, even on a temporary basis. The Board will not do this and indeed, the period of one month's notice has now elapsed and the Matron has received her severance pay.

We respectfully believe that the requirement of the Act for you to consult with the Board before providing directions does not enable you to impose conditions upon consulting. The requirement to consult means that the Board ought to be given reasonable opportunity for providing you with sufficient information and advice so that you can properly take counsel from the board before issuing any direction.

The situation has been outlined clearly in the letter and I will not read the rest of it—if members are interested they can read the debate which ensued in another place.

Gnowangerup is a close-knit community, and the board was trying to operate in the proper way. The matron is the wife of a nearby farmer, and the board was trying to take all precautions in an endeavour not to split the town. However, it realised that the situation had to be resolved.

The difficult situation had prevailed since last November and the board had reported the circumstances to the Government. The Health Department sent industrial relations officers and others to Gnowangerup to resolve the issue. However, it appeared that the situation could not be resolved, and that the hospital had been without patients since last November.

The board could see that its only way out of the situation was to dismiss the matron, but it did not want to publicly release the reasons for

her dismissal because it felt it would split the community. It wanted to resolve the matter quietly and it did not receive the help that it should have received from the Minister for Health.

It is an utter disgrace and one would not find a more loyal group of people than those who wrote.

Hon. S. M. Piantadosi: Are you saying that the Minister is not loyal?

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: I am referring to the letter which was written to the Governor; as I do not think the situation should have arisen where a community was forced to write to the Governor in the terms it did. Members of the hospital auxiliary are loyal citizens, and they would not want to write to the Governor in that manner, but the situation has to be resolved.

A meeting which was attended by about 700 people was held in the town when the board was dismissed. I was endeavouring to find out the reasons for the dismissal of the board because the schedule contained in the Hospitals Act states—

2. If a member—

- (a) is an incapable person within the meaning of section five of the Mental Health Act, 1962;
- (b) is an undischarged bankrupt or has his affairs under liquidation by arrangement with his creditors;
- (c) is convicted of an indictable offence; or
- (d) has his appointment terminated by the Governor for inability, inefficiency or misbehaviour,

his office becomes vacant and he is not eligible for reappointment.

Once again the Leader of the House treated my question with utter contempt.

We must consider the effect of the Minister's action, not only on the hospital board and those individuals who have given their time to serve on the board, but also on the system of voluntary work in rural communities and in cities. What about others who sit on boards or participate in local government? Will the Government pull the carpet from underneath them and have them dismissed in such an insulting way?

Hon. Fred McKenzie: Don't you think the matron has some rights too? She was unfairly dismissed. The Industrial Relations Commission found that.

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: I have endeavoured not to say anything bad about the matron.

Hon. Tom Helm: Except, "Sack her."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): Order!

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: The board asked the Minister to meet with it so that its members could verbally tell him the reasons for dismissing the matron. They did not want to have to put those reasons on paper. As it happens, the reasons have now come out. The matron was forging the signatures of doctors and the like. There were some very serious charges.

Hon. Graham Edwards: How come the staff of the hospital all stand by her?

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: As it happens, quite a few of them are her relatives.

Hon. Graham Edwards: Nepotism, is it?

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: I will not continue with this aspect of the matter, but the board had plenty of reasons to ask the Minister to meet with it to discuss the matter. The point is that the Minister refused to do that. He said that he would meet with the board if it reinstated the matron. He then made an announcement which was printed on the front page of *The West Australian* that the jobs of members of the board were up for grabs.

As we all know, this Government does not believe that the board should have had the right to hire and sack hospital employees. However, the Act makes provision for that right. It would be preferable for the Government to change the Act rather than bring disgrace upon the board for carrying out the authority it is given in the Act.

Hon. T. G. Butler: Nobody said the board did not have the right.

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: The Minister did. He said he would not meet with members of the board until the matron was reinstated.

Hon. Mark Nevill: The board did not consult him before it sacked the matron.

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: It did not have to. The board asked whether it could meet the Minister. I will not go into that aspect, because I realise that time is short.

The community has been ripped apart by this Government. Other hospital boards also now do not know where they stand. The Government will not stand by them or the responsibilities given them in the Act. The

Government has its own ideas about who should hire and fire employees. If the Government does not want boards, it should amend the Act in the Parliament to resolve the issue, instead of making a mockery of the situation by ridiculing members of boards who are acting in a voluntary way throughout the State. I ask the Government to consider that proposal seriously. I am sorry that the Governor was brought into this and was embarrassed in this manner. I am sure that he would have said some fairly hot words to the Executive Council. I am sorry that I had to raise this matter before the House.

I join with others in wishing Les Hoft and others a happy retirement and thank them for the help that they have given us.

HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [12.04 p.m.]: Firstly, I offer my very best wishes to our Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod, Mr Les Hoft. Mr Hoft has served this Parliament for a number of years and it has been my very great pleasure to have been associated with him. His pleasant countenance and ever-willing attitude has made our work here all the more efficient and certainly far more pleasant, not only in that area, but also in many other ways outside the Parliament. I am sure we all regard him as a very close friend.

To others who are retiring—Cynthia Pick, Norma Turton, and John Reed—I offer my very best wishes and thank them for their assistance to me.

I was not going to speak this morning, but an item appearing in the *South Western Times* prompted me to do so. Before I get onto the matter, I mention my disappointment at Bunbury's having missed out on a fertiliser plant. It seems that Bunbury has been dropped as a possible site for a proposed \$450 million ammonia-urea fertiliser plant. It has been suggested that if the plant is established in Western Australia it will probably be established in the Kwinana area. That is unfortunate indeed for other regional centres that wish to have it in their locality. I cannot but remark that despite the Government's effort in the south-west, very little has happened with respect to regional development in that area. It is well known that the alumina smelter failed to originate after being talked up vigorously by the Government. That talking-up raised the expectations of people in Bunbury and the surrounding region. It caused a great deal of economic harm. The decision not to establish the fertiliser plant in the area is another nail in the economic coffin of the area, and it is very

disappointing indeed. One waits with bated breath to see whether the projected establishment of DTX Australia Ltd will go ahead. It has been talked about now for some 18 months or two years and one still hopes that it will be established. One hopes that it will not be another false alumina plant or a false ammonia plant. I hope that it will eventuate.

The article to which I wish to refer concerns SCM Chemicals Ltd and its plant at Australind near Bunbury. I offer my congratulations to the firm for its upgrading of its processing system, which will be converted from a sulphate to a chloride-based system in a deal with the State Government. That is a major undertaking and a new process which will assist the firm in its products and will relieve the chronic effluent disposal problem which has always plagued what was formerly Laporte and is now SCM Chemicals Ltd.

This firm was established in the 1960s as Laporte after a great deal of negotiation. The *South Western Times* of 24 July 1986 reports—

The Government will help fund the conversion to the tune of \$8.5 million

In return, SCM will relieve the Government of its obligations to dispose of effluent from the plant and will end effluent disposal on the Leschenault Peninsula by December 1989.

...

Announcing details of the SCM deal yesterday in Bunbury, Minerals and Energy Minister David Parker fired a broadside at previous Governments which had sanctioned the 1961 Laporte Agreement.

"The \$8.5 million is the price we have to pay for making good the mistakes of previous Liberal administrations in accepting responsibility for the disposal of effluent in the first place," Mr Parker said.

"Whatever the attractions at the time, the deal has cost the State many millions of dollars and raised serious environmental concerns on the peninsula.

I find it passing strange that a Government which has poured millions of dollars into the "Bunbury 2000" strategy criticises former Governments for doing something similar to create industry in the area some 25 or 26 years ago. I find it absolutely incredible that the Minister criticises another Government for regionalisation policies and helping industry in the area, policies which this Government today champions. The Minister was not correct when

he criticised previous Liberal Governments. The matter must be placed on the record. I will quote from *Hansard* volume 3 of 1961 at page 1987. At that time, the Laporte Industrial Factory Agreement Bill was being debated in this Parliament. Hon. John Tonkin was then Mr John Tonkin, member for Melville and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. With respect to the Bill he said—

Frankly, I am prepared to admit that the Government has made a real achievement in the establishment of this industry, at this point of time. After having gone into the matter very closely in London, I believed that it was not likely the industry would be established in Western Australia under four to five years. However, having regard to the fact that the company intimated it was not abandoning the project completely, but was only deferring it for the time being, I felt justified in believing that sooner or later Laporte would be established in Western Australia.

I listened carefully to the recital of events by the Minister for Industrial Development, and I could follow very closely what took place in London, calling upon my own experience with this company. I can appreciate that it was a very difficult matter on which to arrive at final agreement; so I do not hesitate to give the Government full marks on getting the industry at this time.

The Government had the advantage of a good deal of spade work and of the negotiations which had taken place previously. The Government was entitled to use and did use these to the best possible advantage. I thought it was an excellent method to follow. I could see the hand of Sir Russell Dumas in these negotiations quite easily, when the company was asked to state what was holding it back and to make available to the Government its appraisal of the situation. That obviously was the key to the situation, and it enabled the Government ultimately to break through. I congratulate the Minister and those associated with him on following that line, and ultimately on getting this industry for Western Australia.

That statement was made by John Tonkin when he had a hand in the early negotiations for the establishment of this industry at Australind. It was followed by the Liberal-Country Party Government of the day which was able to put the industry into Bunbury

under the conditions which then applied and were acceptable to the community. It is all very well for Mr Parker to say that it has cost millions of dollars to have the industry at Australind. However, the industry has provided a tremendous opportunity for people to be employed and for their families to live in a good environment in the Bunbury area using the natural resources of that region, the mineral sands. It ill behoves the Minister for Minerals and Energy to make those remarks; it is not right, true, or consistent with the Government's policy of helping that region. I find it absolutely incredible that the Minister would criticise the establishment of that industry 25 years ago on that basis. It is quite extraordinary that he can go to these lengths. I wish the company well in its future.

Last week I mentioned the problem of industrial strife with the Austmark tower, and I now refer to a further article which appeared in the *South Western Times*. The article referred to comments made by the developer, Mr Keith Turner, as follows—

Speaking from Perth earlier this week Mr Turner said, "I won't be moving a single brick until I know the union won't be saying in 18 months time that the project won't be finished until they have another project to go on to."

The article continued—

However, he did say the delays suffered by the Austmark Tower did have a marked influence on his decision to shelve the Sharee Towers apartment block project.

In March, 1984, Austmark International Ltd went on record as saying the construction phase of the work would start in June of that year.

It said both the office tower and hotel would be completed by October, 1985.

Latest predictions have put the completion date at October this year—

It went on to say—

"Look at Bunbury's track record. Unionists go down to Bunbury and have raped it to make it impossible for any major development to take place.

"It's a tragedy. The people of Bunbury should look at the shop stewards and the unionists and throw them out of town. They are costing tradesmen their livelihood."

I do not need to say more.

HON. TOM HELM (North) [12.15 p.m.]: I rise to support the Bill and also to add to the remarks made by my colleague, Hon. Garry Kelly. In doing so I should say that I agree wholeheartedly with Hon. John Williams' statement that people should obey the law and abide by the decisions made by councillors appointed to make certain decisions on our behalf. I refer of course to the movie *Threads*.

I must also admit that I have transgressed the law in this regard on more than one occasion, and I will probably be forced to do so again. I refer also to Hon. Norman Moore's comments about parental responsibility. My son was aged 10 or 11 when this film was shown on television in Perth. The film was not shown in country areas, but I managed to obtain a copy of it. I was aware of the fact that it had been classified AO, adults only.

I was also aware of a movie produced in the 1950s by the civil defence department in the United Kingdom, for the information of volunteer civil defence workers, to demonstrate the effects that a limited nuclear war would have on the United Kingdom. That 8mm movie was eventually withdrawn by the civil defence department because of its horrific overtones and graphic description of scientific opinion on what people could expect in the event of a nuclear war. It was decided by the then Labour Government that the black and white movie was so frightening that it was not even suitable for hardened ex-servicemen because of the fear and panic it might create in the population.

Referring to the movie *Threads*, I had to make a conscious decision as to whether a committee should decide which films I should allow my son to see, bearing in mind that scientists and people recognised as having the expertise to project the damage that a nuclear war would cause in a country, had dramatised the events and made a movie. It was my parental responsibility to decide whether my son should be exposed to that film. Of course, my son is already exposed to television programmes such as "The A-Team", which depict death, murder, and mayhem in the most antiseptic way and suggest to young people that such violence is quite painless, and there is no blood or trauma. Our newspapers and news broadcasts also contain a fair amount of violence. My son enjoys these types of television programmes and he is not prevented from watching them; but I had to make a balanced judgment as to whether that view should be pushed on him with the result that he believes it is okay to bomb and shoot people because nobody gets hurt. I

reached the decision that to balance his perspective he should be allowed to see the movie *Threads*.

The film was based on scientific evidence and to the best of anyone's knowledge represented the effects of a nuclear holocaust. I wanted him to be aware that programmes such as "The A-Team" are okay for entertainment value, but they bear no relationship to real life.

Perhaps it is also relevant to refer to the movie *Midnight Express*, which is based on a true story. I believe it was classified R. The Chambers and Barlow case was being presented on the television and in the newspapers, and I could not hide the facts of that case from my son—perhaps I should not anyway. Nonetheless because of the legalised murder of those two men on the excuse that it would prevent others from following the same course, I believe I should allow my son to watch *Midnight Express*. It would expose him to the situation of those people suffering from drug abuse and those who are part of the drug scene.

I have done it twice. I admit that. Whatever penalty I have to pay I would pay to do that. It is something we should be aware of. It is a personal judgment. I share Norman Moore's view that parents have certain responsibilities. I accept I would not know as much as educators, people who have been trained to educate children.

As a parent I am entitled to join parents and citizen's associations and take the course I want to in order to effect changes. Nonetheless certain things are open to public view which I feel will improve and enhance and warn my children of the dangers surrounding us. A number of parents feel that when it comes to television and law, that judgment must be made.

I support the motion.

HON. NEIL OLIVER (West) [12.21 p.m.]: I would like also to have spoken on matters affecting my electorate but time will not permit

so I shall confine my remarks to the Supply Bill itself. The Estimates are based on the estimated costs of maintaining services and works at existing levels. No provision has been made for any new projects. That is fair comment.

This Bill seeks an amount of \$1 900 million. To give members an idea of that mind-boggling figure, in 1983, just three years ago, the amount was \$1 240 million. In 1983 there was an increase of \$110 million in the first four months of the Burke Government. It was just getting itself cranked up. In the 1984 Supply Bill the figure increased by \$160 million. In 1985 the figure increased by \$310 million. This year, with some form of restraint, it has gone up only \$190 million.

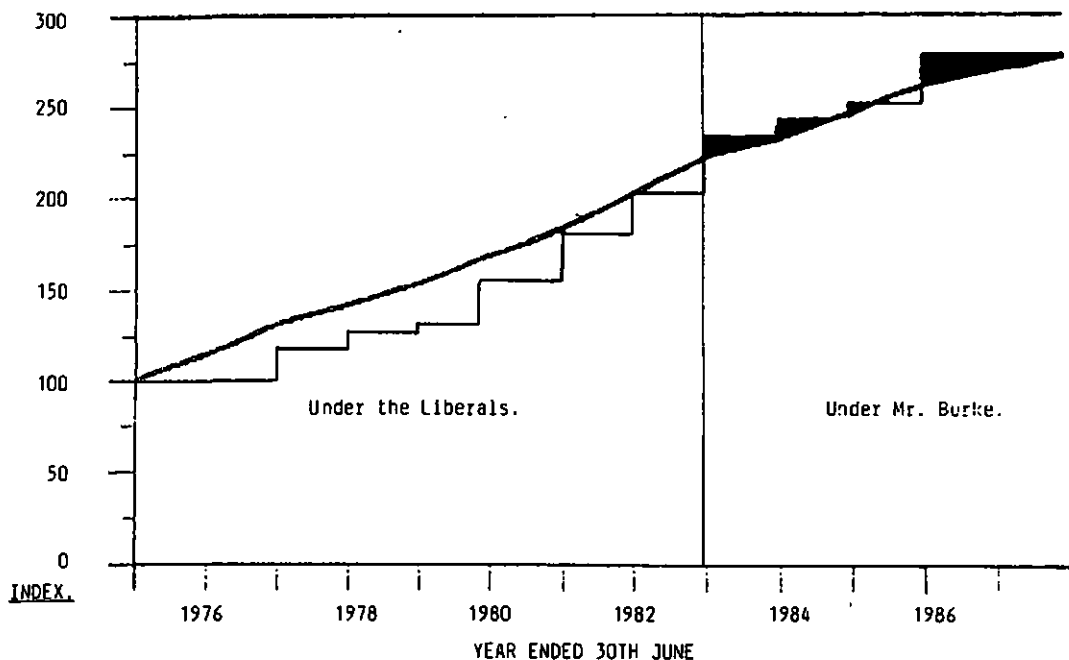
The second reading speech says that we must await the introduction of the 1986-87 Budget to make provision for new programmes. This is of great concern to me and I hope the Government takes into account the need to give an example of restraint to the community. It should not take note of what Senator Peter Cook is on record as saying, "Labor will always be a high-taxing party". At least he was honest, Labor is and always will be a high-taxing party. Premier Burke might try to pretend that charges are lower, but the total take in real terms under his Government has been increasing.

To give an example, the extract from the State Energy Commission annual report for 1984-85, which is updated to June 1987, takes into account the CPI increase. Premier Burke has promised that no increase will exceed the CPI. The graph shows that this is not so.

I seek leave of the House to have this document incorporated in *Hansard*.

The following material was incorporated by leave of the House—

RELATIVE PRICE OF DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY
AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.



■ Indicates increases in electricity charges above inflation.

□ Indicates increases in electricity charges below inflation.

This is an enlarged extract from the State Energy Commission Annual Report for 1984/85, updated to June, 1987.

Debate Resumed

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: To continue, in the Premier's economic statements and through the Press he has talked about the serious position confronting this State. He actually spoke of an impending \$302 million deficit. If one is prepared to confront the Government departments in a proper manner there will be no deficit. This figure is what the Government departments have asked for.

What the Government should be looking at is restraining what the departments are asking for. That increase represents 15.4 per cent. The CPI is now running at 8.7 per cent—a slightly deflated figure due to the decline in petrol prices. It is about time a lead was given to show the departments that they cannot ask for such increases. It is time the Premier said he would restrain increases to around seven per cent, which was his estimate of inflation.

We now know that he has been proved wrong. His idea was to provide some increases in this current year. His estimates were \$91.1 million. Based on my opening remarks, though, that is not true. We already have an increase of \$190 million in this Supply Bill.

The Government has proposed more taxes over the last few months, together with less services. There have been broken promises and less for Government workers. We have just covered payroll tax this week, which is up by 11.3 per cent. The liquor tax is up by 51 per cent. Petrol taxes are up by 86.7 per cent.

A Government member: How would you have done it?

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: We have not yet heard about hospital bed charges. Medical insurance costs are unspecified. The CPI yesterday indicated that segment represented 4.3 per cent in the last quarter. Departmental fees and charges are up seven per cent or more.

Government-announced taxation measures alone will increase State taxes by \$84 million in a full year. That is 11.6 per cent or more. There are charge increases still to come. Departmental fees and charges, we are told, will be increased also.

The ALP policy document "People in Business" released before the 1986 election—just 6½ months ago—was central to this Government's policy "that taxes and charges must be kept to the absolute minimum". Accordingly it was said that the economic strategy of the last two State Budgets of minimising taxes and charges would be maintained.

"This stringent policy has meant that most State Government taxes and charges have risen by less than the rate of inflation", which is, of course, totally incorrect.

In *The West Australian* of 23 January 1986, on page 16, in an interview with the Premier prior to the State election, the Premier was asked whether he could expect to keep the lid on State taxes and charges in the first year after the election. He replied, "I think we could continue our policy of increases that did not exceed the inflation rate. Remember that we have adhered to that for two successive Budgets".

That is totally incorrect, because in the first two years of this Government its charges increased by 43 per cent. This State Government should immediately seek to reopen the national productivity superannuation hearings and coordinate the private and public sector submissions urging that in line with Australia's deteriorating terms of trade, which now exceed \$1.4 billion each year, the proposal for a union superannuation scheme should be rejected outright.

The Government should give an immediate commitment and actively campaign in support of the Confederation of Western Australian Industry's application to the Industrial Relations Commission to eliminate the 17½ per cent annual leave loading. That has already been done, but some two years ago, when this was proposed by the Confederation of WA Industry—and it is only a small fraction of the real problems—this Government did not support it. It is only since the pressure came on that it began supporting this proposal.

I became concerned when I read *Business Weekly* of 28 March, where Tim Treadgold said—

Against the glittering backdrop of the America's Cup the WA economy is plagued by uncertainty.

Of course it is plagued by uncertainty because of the state of the mining and agricultural industries. He has this to say—

Western Australia will be flying on a wing and a prayer until it meets next February. The wing will be underwater on the keel of Australia III (or IV). The praying will be heard in the boardrooms in St George's Terrace and on the farms, that world commodity prices can stage a miraculous recovery.

At this stage it looks like the wing has the best chance of being the key to maintaining what had been a buoyant economy up to about last October.

He then goes on to talk about the Western Australian State Government's policy secretariat. It knows the problem but is able to find a silver lining. The article continues—

"Future growth in the WA economy will depend on the local business environment as well as growth in the Australian economy generally," the secretariat announced. "There are indications that Australia is currently entering a period of major investment growth. The devaluation of the dollar has made the domestic economy considerably more competitive with our trading partners."

The government policy body noted that world-wide commodity prices would remain weak during the second half of the 1980s, but the outlook for world economic growth, particularly in Pacific rim countries, was much more favourable.

... The state's future economic development will also depend on the extent to which the economy becomes more diversified and reduces its dependence on cycles in the fortune of mining and agriculture.

This is what is actually happening. I refer to what Premier Burke had to say after the Premiers' Conference. He gave a blast to Australian business leaders stating, "They have not shown the foresight, courage and wisdom that is expected of them." He accused Australian businessmen of taking profits out of Australia to invest in other countries such as the United States.

The Premier said that Australian business generally had failed to take advantage of the good climate for investment that the Federal Government had created and Federal calls for restraint were falling unfairly on the States. That is really topsy-turvy. He said that the Federal Government's special purpose spending had been rising faster than that of the States in recent years.

He is already making further demands, as I have already commented on, in his economic statement. There is one glimmer of hope: He attacked the Federal Government on its proposals for the introduction of a gold tax. I only hope he maintains that. The statements he has made could be regarded as irresponsible by our overseas trading partners and will certainly not underline what little credibility we have left

with our trading partners. However, with the plunging Australian dollar, I only hope that this attack on the Federal proposal for the introduction of the gold tax, which is enhanced as our dollar falls, is not falling on deaf ears. The value of gold is in the vicinity of \$A530 compared with the dollar value in the United States.

In conclusion, I refer to a statement which appeared in *The West Australian* of 23 July with the heading, "Warning of \$100b. debt", by the Chairman of the Western Mining Corporation, Sir Arvi Parbo. He was speaking at one of the Premier's decision-makers luncheons and he said—

More than 80 per cent of current exports were rural and mineral products and it would take years to develop new industries to make a significant contribution to exports.

He went on to say that there was some light in the tourism industry.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The audible conversation that is going on is preventing the member addressing the Chair from concentrating on what he is saying.

Bearing in mind that this House passed a resolution last night to rise at 1.00 p.m., if at 12.45 p.m.—and I know the amount of business that has to be done—I find that the House will not be able to rise at 1.00 p.m., it will be my intention to leave the Chair at 12.45 p.m. in accordance with our normal practice, with a view to the bells ringing at 2.30 p.m. If members are to keep talking and preventing the member from finishing his speech, that is what is in store for them. I have four messages.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: Sir Arvi Parbo went on to say—

For Australia to break into the competitive markets it needed to be even better.

To do so Australians had to get rid of their entitlement mentality, established in the early 1970s when it was thought that because of Australia's mineral wealth, the flow of wealth was assured.

"Despite our national income falling by three per cent we still gave ourselves a 2.3 per cent wage increase with more on-costs," he said.

Our inflation rate needed to come down to the zero inflation of Australia's major trading partners.

Japan has a zero inflation rate and Germany has an inflation rate of about 1.2 per cent.

Unfortunately, in a period of high unemployment we see the export growth of this country and opportunities for greater employment diminishing. They are diminishing at a time when better conditions and our standard of living are falling beyond our reach. There is no doubt industrial confidence is at an all time low and as a corollary to this, so is the confidence of our investors which is mirrored by our falling Australian dollar.

For the first time in the history of Western Australia, we are in real danger of losing the momentum of our great progress. I believe we need to have a new look at the industrial legislation; a departure from the legally structured industrial commission, whose regulation of wages and conditions often has the appearance and character of judicial acts, is needed.

Participants in our industrial relations systems—which is a concern that hits us when we travel overseas—need to accept the basic moral obligations and their social responsibility for the results of their actions as they affect the whole of the community.

HON. P. G. PENDAL (South Central Metropolitan) [12.36 p.m.]: Like other members, I had intended to speak during the Supply Bill on matters relating to my electorate and other matters relating to areas for which I have responsibility in the Opposition.

In view of the hour, I do not intend to do that but I do want to pay my own tribute to those people who are retiring from this Parliament. In particular, I pay tribute to Les Hoft who, after today, will no longer have a formal association with this House.

It is perhaps not realised that apart from the other functions that Mr Hoft has performed, he is the Usher of the Black Rod, a long and honourable role, which has its roots in our earliest colonial times in this State, first being established in 1891.

I understand Mr Hoft came to the House about 25 years ago. What a passing parade he has witnessed in that time. From my own reckoning, he has seen five leaders of the Government—I was going to say come and go but Hon. D. K. Dans might be a bit cross at that—appointed. They were Sir Arthur Griffiths, Hon. Neil McNeil, Hon. Graham MacKinnon, Hon. Ian Medcalf, and the present Leader of the Government.

Mr Hoft has also seen seven Leaders of the Opposition in this place. He has seen three people, including yourself, Sir, occupy the high office of President.

Mr Hoft is an individual who, I am sure members would be aware, has his own sense of history. Perhaps that has been of some value in occupying this role of historical significance.

It has been mentioned that in 1982 Mr Hoft played a particularly significant role in the 150th anniversary celebrations for this House. I hope that it will be possible that the services of people like Mr Hoft might continue to be made available to the Parliament, particularly because of my own critical comments in the past about the lack of attention given to retaining our history as it is recorded in this Parliament. I for one would like it to be part of the record that Les Hoft's services, talent, and expertise in this area ought to be tapped and made available to the Parliament, notwithstanding his imminent retirement.

I hope, like others, that his health holds out. As one who has had some difficulty in that area in the past, I have some feeling of kindred spirit with him. I hope good health is maintained by him for many years into his retirement. I pay tribute to him along with Mrs Norma Turton who is also retiring as your secretary, Sir. She is a lady, who, like Les Hoft, has shown great diligence and attention to detail.

I pay my tribute to John Reed, an attendant, who is also retiring. He has always shown great courtesy to the many visitors I have had at Parliament House.

I support the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon. J. M. Berinson (Attorney General), and passed.

BILLS (4): ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGE

Messages from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council to the following Bills—

1. Liquor Amendment Bill.

2. Acts Amendment (Actions for Damages) Bill.
3. State Government Insurance Commission Bill.
4. Reserves and Land Revestment Bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [12.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date to be fixed by the President.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: ORDINARY

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [12.44 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Legislative Council Staff: Retirements.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Before the House adjourns, I place on record my appreciation of Leslie Albert Hoft who is to retire next week. In placing that appreciation on record I am sure I speak for all the members of the Government, and indeed, all the members of the House.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not want to go through all of Les's record, but it seems he has been a very faithful servant of the Government since 1945, having commenced as an office junior in Wyndham on 15 May 1945, and of course having ended up here in the Legislative Council prior to his retirement.

When I first came into the Parliament in the Tonkin Government, I can very well recollect the great assistance Les Hoft afforded me. In fact, it was not a pleasant experience to walk in from outside, especially as a parliamentary bowling carnival—which used to be much more popular in those days—was being held and the place seemed to be deserted. An attendant who has just retired, Mr Jim Green, saw me in the passageway and said, "Hey, mate, what are you doing in here?" I nearly turned turtle and ran out again, but I told him who I was and he directed me to Les Hoft. That is a true story.

From that day until this Les has been of great assistance to me, and a very firm friendship has built up between us which I hope will continue after he leaves the Parliament. Some people may not know that Les was a very good

footballer for West Perth, which is certainly not a club that I support; but it is a matter of record that my late father and two of my uncles played for that club. I have never held that against Les, though I have often suggested to him it would be better for him to come down to South Fremantle, and we would have a much closer association.

A Government member interjected.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Someone just remarked that he might get a game with them now, and I would not discount that, either.

I do not think the Parliament can function without all the people who go to make up the staff in this place. Of that staff, there are none more important than the Clerks of the Parliament. It is pretty easy for us to roll in with a hazy idea of a motion and how it should be put together, plonk it on the Clerks' table and say, "Fix that up." The Clerks are really the unsung heroes who make our system work, and for that I am very grateful to have been associated with Les.

In the 16 years I have been here, I do not think Les has ever displayed bad humour when I have approached him. We know he has been sick and I suppose on many occasions he may have been feeling a bit off-colour and wanted to say something like, "Get going", but he has always been able to accommodate any request with a smile. That in itself is a genuine achievement.

Les, we all like you and will miss you, and I hope you have a long, happy, and fruitful retirement; one in which you can keep yourself occupied. I know you and your wife, and I am very sure you will achieve all those things.

I would like also to pay tribute to Mrs Norma Turton who is retiring today. Norma was one of the two or three typists when I first came to this place. When I look around this place now and see the staff we have, I often wonder whether I get any better service today than I did in those days. I hope some people listening outside do not take that wrongly, but those two or three typists used to accommodate the requirements of the members quite easily. On the other hand, the pressures on members have increased tremendously and I very much doubt whether the small staff of those days would still be appropriate today.

I wish Norma a happy and useful retirement. She has played a great part in the operation of this Parliament and I hope to be able to thank her personally before she leaves.

Another person who will retire in the near future is John Reed, an attendant. I have had a very long association with John, and I do not think there has ever been a better attendant in this place. He has a wealth of knowledge of all the things in and around Parliament. Many of us have had groups of school children visit Parliament House and—we might as well be honest—they are not always easy to handle. John always managed to handle them and to display great good humour. He was never brusque and always had enough time to explain and to show the children around. That is no easy task. I remind members that when the children do come through here in droves, one needs all the resources at one's disposal just to maintain one's cool. I have often been on the verge of yelling at the children—it is one of my bad habits.

I wish John Reed a very happy, useful and gainful retirement. I hope to see him privately after he has retired. I would like to make mention of the fact that if there is any one thing that being in Parliament over a period of years does to one, it is that one becomes aware of how quickly the years run by. I have not been here all that long—about 16 years—and many members have been here longer, but when I added up how many people who I knew were members of this Chamber, along with the number of members presently here, the number of members in the other place and parliamentary staff, the total was terrific. I can well recall John Tonkin's retirement as can you, Mr President, and Hon. Vic Ferry and Hon. Mick Gayfer. John Tonkin said at his retirement that he had seen something like 400 members go through this place in the 43 years he had been here. I told myself that this was rather an exaggeration, but since I have done some adding up, I realise that it is quite possible because this Parliament really is a passing parade of life.

To Les, Norma, John and Cynthia Pick—who is retiring from the Legislative Assembly—I extend my wishes for an enjoyable retirement. I have known Cynthia only socially, at parliamentary functions and so on, and I have occasionally met her once or twice outside the Parliament, and she has always been friendly and helpful. I cannot say I have had as much to do with Cynthia as I have with Les, Norma and John but again I wish her a very happy retirement.

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Leader of the Opposition) [12.53 p.m.]: I want to add my best wishes to those which have already been expressed by Hon. D. K. Dans.

In doing so, I particularly wish to direct my remarks to Les Hoft. He was one of the first staff members I met when I first came to Parliament, as no doubt was the case with other members, and he certainly gave me a great deal of advice and directions to take, particularly in my early days here when I thought, as we all do, that I knew it all.

When looking at Les' background, I was interested to see that he started in a temporary position as a trainee junior clerk for the princely sum of £3.0.11 1/2 in 1947. I do not know what the halfpenny was for; it probably rounded off the figure. In 1960 he was promoted to the Audit Department, and his rate of pay was £437 per annum. So times have changed since that period. He became the Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Council and the Usher of the Black Rod on 1 August 1978.

In the 12 years I have been in Parliament, I have had reason to be grateful to Les for his advice and help. The Liberal Party sincerely wishes him the very best for his retirement. In particular I have an association with Les which is different from that of other members. I well recall our trip to the Abrolhos Islands in my yacht. We left the Port of Fremantle and within an hour ran into one hell of a storm and had to run for Rottneest, which was probably for the best. Les turned out, even in the worst possible circumstances, to be an excellent cook, although none of us wanted to eat. At one stage he even baked bread in heavy seas. Les proved himself to be an effective fisherman once we got to the Abrolhos. I do not know whether he cheated but all his fish were bigger than ours. The only one he did not get up was a reef which he had hooked, and then he lost a line.

With those comments, the Liberal Party thanks Les Hoft very sincerely. Members of the Liberal Party wish Les the best of health and we look forward to seeing him around the House even if only to enjoy the odd ale, whenever he wishes to do so.

My best wishes to Norma Turton who has been in this Parliament for a long time. I understand she started with the architectural division of the Public Works Department in 1953, and left in 1964. In that year she commenced with the Joint House Committee, and, as Hon. D. K. Dans has already said, she was one of two typists serving both Houses. That demonstrates once again how times have changed, and how effective she was in her job. It is important to note also that she has worked for all political parties. She has worked for Bert Hawke, David Brand, John Tonkin, Sir Charles

Court and Ray O'Connor—all Premiers of Western Australia. She has really seen quite a few people come and go. She also worked for Hon. Arthur Griffith, who was Leader of the House, Bill Willesee, Frank Wise and Graham MacKinnon—all Leaders of the Legislative Council. She also worked for Hon. Les Diver. Thus Norma has seen many people come and go, but she has also served perhaps the most effective people who have been through these Houses of Parliament over past years.

I think it is fair to say that as Norma has worked for you, Mr President, since 1977 you would not want the occasion to go by without my perhaps expressing on your behalf the very sincere thanks that are due to her. I know that while in the Chair you cannot do that; but you have had occasion to be grateful for her work and her services. She has been absolutely loyal and has always performed well and truly above the call of duty. I know that Norma's health has been deteriorating lately and therefore she finds it necessary to retire. On behalf of all members, I offer her sincere thanks for all that she has done.

I also add my best wishes to those given to John Reed and Cynthia Pick, who are two fine servants of the Parliament of Western Australia. There is always a gap when people such as they leave, and although people will come forward and replace them, they have made a great contribution. The Liberal Party wishes them well.

HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central) [12.58 p.m.]: I would like to add my observations at this stage.

Despite the time, I feel I must pay tribute in full to the people who have been referred to. I was watching Les Hoft when he was reading for the last time the third reading of a Bill, which in fact was the Supply Bill—a quite onerous task—and I was reminded of the comments of an air hostess on a midnight flight. As the plane taxied into the airport terminal she said, "Would the passengers please remain seated with their seatbelts done up until the plane comes to a halt and the captain puts on the 'unfasten seat belts' sign—or else you will all fall flat on your bloody faces!" We found out later that that flight had been her last and she was retiring that night.

I was rather interested to know what Les would read out when he read that last Bill. I can assure the House that had I been in his position, I would have said something; but no, Les observed the priorities of this House in the

way he has always done, and for that all members are extremely thankful.

I have known Les Hoft for 23 years, and our families are close friends. Les has been a great friend to my wife and to me over those years. May I say, Les, that your record has been extolled by both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. I will not go into it much more except to say that nobody has mentioned the fact that at one stage Les was the Sergeant-at-Arms in the other place. That came about as a result of the unfortunate death of Phil Thornber. A frantic SOS was sent to the Legislative Council—"Please, we need a Sergeant-at-Arms"—and this House's very good Clerk of Records, as Les was then, was nominated to go down and serve in the other place. He was in fact one of the only two officers up here who has that record. The other officer is Ian Allnutt, who is sitting in the officer's chair behind me at the moment.

From March until June of 1982 Les was the Acting Clerk of the Legislative Council, not the Clerk Assistant. He has been Secretary-Clerk to many Legislative Council Select Committees and for many years was honorary secretary of the parliamentary sports club, as has already been mentioned. During those years at his direction we had some of our most enjoyable events and, as Hon. Vic Ferry would say, some of our most remarkable wins in true Sir Francis Drake style.

I do not know whether many people know that Les in his private life performs a great deal of community work. He holds many executive positions in community service organisations. He has had a lifelong commitment to Lions International. I would hate to count how many offices he has held over many years. He is currently Treasurer to the Melville Aged Persons Trust and the Australia-Britain Society.

Hon. Jim Brown, Hon. Graham MacKinnon, Hon. Colin Jamieson, and myself served with him on a Select Committee set up to organise the Legislative Council 150th anniversary celebrations. It was a good committee which performed monumental work. I must give credit for the way that celebration was so efficiently orchestrated by the President; naturally it had to be good. It was a success. The celebration organisation fell completely into Les Hoft's hands.

Talking about hands, the painting that was commissioned to celebrate the 150th anniversary which now hangs upstairs outside the Premier's office depicts Les Hoft's hand; so

your hand, if not your fingerprints, Les, will see perpetuity in this place. I do not know why it was decided to paint your hand—I have had a good look at the painting—but there must have been something about your hand that appealed to the artist. Perhaps he was short of a hand when he reached that point!

My wife joins with me in thanking you for your friendship over the years.

I cannot let the opportunity pass without paying my respects to, in the first instance, Miss Cynthia Pick who, for the 12 years in which I was a member of the Assembly, gave me guidance and did a lot of work for me which she managed to find time to do when only two other secretaries were looking after all other members. I really appreciate her efforts over those years.

I also mention Norma Turton. I have known both ladies for 25 years. They have slogged away at typewriters for all that time, but they have maintained their sense of humour and they still produce letters of such quality that it makes members wonder how the hell they even dictated such a brilliant letter in the first place. Members have asked them if they really dictated such a good letter, and they have said, "Yes", but members know damn well that they did not dictate so well. If they could not read members' notes the letters were written for the members.

What a mighty man John Reed is. He has shown many people through Parliament House. I have listened in on some of his tours and have learned things myself. That is the best way to go and I suggest that new members could learn something about Parliament in this way. They should talk to the tour guides who have been conducting tours of Parliament House for years and when members come to show their own constituents through the House they will have this knowledge to impart. Most of the kids nickname him "the professor", because he is fairly wise and observant.

It should be a sad occasion, but it is a happy occasion when one thinks back over those years. Those four people have each been here for a quarter of a century. We will miss them terribly; it is like the break up of a school, and knowing that when one comes back some people will not be with us.

I know that you, Mr President, have had a very close association with them business-wise—far closer than I have had—but we appreciate their services and we cannot speak too highly of the help they have been to all of us. Thank you again, Les; it has been great to know you.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 1.05 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

South West Development Authority: Land Purchases

272. Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for The South West:

Further to question 150 of 26 June 1986 concerning the South West Development Authority, what were the circumstances behind the purchase of the properties mentioned in part (4) of the question?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The Minister will advise the member in writing in due course.

BILLS

Proclamation

298. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Attorney General:

This being the Thirty-second Parliament, how many Bills of the Thirty-first Parliament—apart from the State Government Insurance Commission Bill—have not been proclaimed?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

RACING AND TROTTING

Revenue

307. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Budget Management:

What was the total revenue received by the State Government from all sources of racing and gaming for the financial year ended 30 June 1986?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

FAMILY COURT

Access: Tribunal

309. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware of calls for the establishment of a special tribunal beyond the Family Court to hear cases where a parent has been denied child access because of alleg-

edly false accusations by the custodial parent?

- (2) Does the Government support such a call?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

FISHERIES: SNAPPER

Shark Bay: Limited Entry

316. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fisheries:

With regard to the Shark Bay snapper fishery—

- (1) Did the Minister take into consideration the report of the Department of Marine Research after its five-year survey before alterations were made to limit entry into the fishery?

- (2) If so, was the recommendation agreed to by an appointed working party adhered to?

- (3) If not, why not?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) to (3) The report of the snapper working group took into account the results of the department's research into the snapper fishery.

The working group was divided on the matter of access into the core area by the holders of A and B authorisations during the prime months.

As a consequence, the working group set out two options for ministerial consideration. The temporary access granted to holders of B authorisations to the core area during the prime fishing period falls between the two options.

The temporary access to peripheral areas of the snapper fishery was provided on appeal as a matter of equity.

The matter of temporary access will be considered in the light of the research reports of the 1986 fishing season and the Government-industry discussions.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Credit Cards

322. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney General:

With reference to question 183 of 8 July 1986—

- (1) How much has been charged by the two officers issued with American Express credit cards for the year ended 30 June 1986?
- (2) What verification is required by the Minister supporting expenditure of the amounts charged to the Government by the card holders?
- (3) Does the Minister approve each docket prior to the account being passed to Treasury for payment?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

See answer to question 320.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Credit Cards

323. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney General:

With reference to question 183 of 8 July 1986, who are the two officers with American Express cards?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

See answer to question 320.

LAND ACQUISITION

Lot 1, Kew Street, Kewdale

328. Hon. FRED McKENZIE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is it likely that the house situated on lot 1, Kew Street, Kewdale (corner Kew Street and Abernethy Road) will be required in the future?
- (2) Will it be required for road widening purposes?
- (3) If it requires the demolition of the house, could he provide me with an approximate date?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The balance of lot 1 is reserved for parks and recreation in the metropolitan region scheme.

- (3) The likely date for the road widening is not known.

ROADS

Eastern Corridor: "D" Option

329. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Planning:

With reference to the Travers Morgan Pty Ltd eastern corridor major road study, which is currently being exhibited for public opinion, why was the option D route gazetted before this study was undertaken?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The option D route is essentially the same as proposed under metropolitan region scheme amendment No. 387/33. Preliminary approval was granted to this amendment in August 1981 by the then Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning.

The amendment was gazetted, submissions received and hearings held as required under the Act. However, in view of the eastern corridor major roads study the commission decided not to proceed with this amendment which consequently does not have the force of law. No statutory reservation exists over the alignment proposed for option D.

"EDWIN FOX"

Restoration

332. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to my earlier activities aimed at securing the 19th century convict ship for WA.

- (1) Have any approaches been made to the Edwin Fox Restoration Society in New Zealand on the matter either by the Government directly, or by the NZ Consul General, as a result of approaches on behalf of the WA Government?
- (2) If so, will he give details?
- (3) Has the Government been able to establish whether the Edwin Fox Restoration Society has clear title to the wreck?

- (4) Arising out of the 4 August 1985 story in the *Sunday Times*, is it a fact that negotiations were instigated by the WA Tourism Commission with the Consul General or the EFRS?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4), what was the outcome?
- (6) I refer to his 19 July 1985 letter to me in which he advised some details on transporting the *Edwin Fox* and ask—
 - (a) was an estimate prepared of the cost of transport;
 - (b) if so, what was the estimate;
 - (c) who prepared it and was a survey made by a salvage company; and
 - (d) would he make these estimates or the survey report available?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The member will be advised in writing in due course.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Geraldton

335. Hon. MARGARET McALEER, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

Would the Minister advise me what is the reason for the delay in the necessary departmental approvals for the commencement of the Geraldton Community Centre?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I am not aware of any delays. Funding for the facility has been finalised, and, I believe, the Geraldton Town Council will be putting the project to tender this weekend.

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Central Midlands: Renovations

336. Hon. MARGARET McALEER, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

Would the Minister advise me as to the progress being made with the renovations and additions to the Central Midlands Hospital at Moora?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The project is at the planning stage. Preliminary work schedules have been developed.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

Mandurah: Sand Bar

337. Hon. C. J. BELL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:
- (1) What is the current state of the sand bar at Mandurah?
 - (2) Where is the dredge currently operating in the channel?
 - (3) When did it move to that location?
 - (4) What is the approximate cost of moving the dredge?
 - (5) When is it expected to be in the proximity of the bar again?
 - (6) When will the bar be opened to the fishing fleet?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

EDUCATION

Textbook: "Fortress"

338. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:
- (1) Is the book *Fortress* by Gabrielle Lord in use in some or any State high schools?
 - (2) Does it contain a four-letter word which means sexual intercourse, along with words such as "bastard" and "bitch"?
 - (3) Is he aware that parents object to—in this case—a daughter having to read such a book?
 - (4) What steps are being taken on the matter?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

LAND

West Toodyay: Unimproved Capital Value

339. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

(1) Will he advise me, acting for my constituent Mrs B. Nash, 36 Todd Avenue, Como, what the Valuer General has determined the unimproved capital valuation to be on land holdings Moramgup 686 and 137 and Portion 12 at West Toodyay?

(2) If revaluations are in progress, when will they be completed and issued?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Old Government Printing Office: Sale

340. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Works and Services:

I refer to question 310 answered on 23 July 1986 and ask—

(1) Was the old Government Printing Office ever owned by the State Government?

(2) If so, when was it sold to the Commonwealth?

(3) For what purpose was it sold?

(4) What was the sale price?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) 17 August 1962.

(3) and (4) The old Government Printing Office was subject to an exchange of land with the Commonwealth for the purposes of extending the Royal Perth Hospital in Murray Street.

TOURISM

Country Bureaus: Grants and Subsidies

341. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Tourism:

(1) Are the "grants and subsidies" contained at page 57 of the 1985-86 Estimates of Expenditure the heading

under which grants are made to country tourist bureaus?

(2) If so, is it correct that grants and subsidies rose from \$780 000 in 1984-85 to \$1.2 million in 1985-86?

(3) If so, why with such a generous increase in available money is an emergency grant not available to the Mandurah Tourist Bureau?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

TOURISM COMMISSION

Income

342. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Tourism:

(1) Is it correct that \$2 016 198 was earned as commission income by the Tourism Commission in 1984-85?

(2) Was only \$1 729 000 estimated to be income from this source in 1985-86?

(3) Why was this source expected to fall by such a significant amount?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

TOURISM

South-East Asian Development: Allocation

343. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the \$750 000 allocated to the Tourism Commission for 1985-86 for "South East Asian Development" and ask—

(1) Specifically how was this amount expended?

(2) Is a similar amount being sought for the new financial year?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

Jetties Act: Contravention

344. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) In each of the past five years how many people have been charged with offences for contravening the Jetties Act in the following categories—

- (a) section 8, non-licences and non-licence of a jetty;
- (b) for a fire near a jetty; and

(c) section 11, fastening a vessel to a public buoy?

- (2) In the event that the department cannot break up the figures into these areas, what is the total figure in each of the past five years?
- (3) What is the basis for seeking an increase in penalties to \$2 000?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

